



SEIU 517M
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of
SEIU Local 517M

February 2020

SEIU Staff Phone and Fax Number Changes

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff

The new year has brought several technology upgrades to SEIU Local 517M offices. These upgrades will enhance staff productivity and put us in a position to service the membership effectively in the years to come.

The conversion to a digital faxing system took place on January 16th. There are now only two fax numbers for the Local. The Detroit number (313.456.2915) remains the same and services the HSS Unit and Dominic Barbato. The Lansing number (517.482.7870) handles all the other offices and staff.

A new phone system was installed on January 13th in all offices. The new Voice Over Internet phone system is a huge improvement over the obsolete system we had previously. All staff are now on one phone system so calls can be transferred amongst the different offices. Each staff person now has a direct dial phone number. A staff listing is below. Calls to the Lansing and Saginaw main numbers now go through an auto-attendant. Staff can be reached directly using the following numbers:

Lansing Office

Cassandra Tate 517.267.2066
Dave Corrie 517.267.2090
Howard Gordon 517.267.2070
Jeremy Tripp 517.267.2065
Kevin Karpinski 517.267.2088
Olivia Toretta 517.267.2095

Saginaw Office

Andrea Valerio 989.797.4241
Clint Bryant 989.797.4258
Marianne Woods 989.797.4249

Region 2 Offices

Andy Johnson 269.978.1994
Christine Stressman 616.696.2141

Detroit Office

Dominic Barbato 313.314.6511

SEIU Scholarship Applications Are Now Available

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff

SEIU Local 517M is proud to offer our own scholarship program to help dues-paying members in good standing, their children, or grandchildren with college expenses.

Funding for the scholarship comes from our Annual Scholarship Golf Outing and other fundraising activities by our local units. We hope you are able to participate in any or all of these events throughout the year. Please check our SEIU Local 517M website for our calendar of upcoming events.



Eight \$500 non-renewable scholarships will be awarded to students based on successful completion of the application process and meeting certain criteria. Awards will be made via a lottery system from all eligible submissions. Scholarships are awarded without regard to gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or political affiliation of the applicant. Scholarships are limited to one per household for each academic year.

Applications must be received by May 31, 2020. The winners will be notified July 1, 2020.

For full details and the application, [please click here.](#)

Steward Training Registration Closes February 5th!

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff



The annual SEIU Local 517M Steward training will be held on Saturday, February 29th and Sunday, March 1st at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Lansing. There is still time to get registered. **Registration closes February 5th.** Contact your individual staff labor representative for the registration form

The tentative agenda includes an arbitrator panel, guest speakers in the labor relations field, region and unit specific breakout sessions to discuss specific issues and exercises

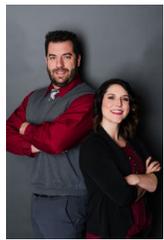
designed to help strengthen your skills as a steward and member leader.

Technician to Participate in United Way Fundraiser

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff

One of our Technical Unit members, Laura Vibber, will be performing in a United Way fundraiser entitled “Arts United” on Thursday, March 5th at the Heritage Center at Alma College.

Arts United is an Alma College event to raise money for the United Way of Gratiot and Isabella Counties. During the show, you will be able to bid on a variety of artwork in a silent auction, as well as enjoy a variety of music, song, dance, painting and theatrical performances from both the local and Alma College communities. The eight dancing duos performing that night will be working hard not only on their dance routine, but fundraising efforts as well.



Event information is available at: <https://www.uwgic.org/artsunited>

Click to know more about “[Team Vibber](#)” and to donate to their team [click here](#). Select “Adam & Laurel Vibber” when asked which team to donate to.

All Dues Paying Members Receive \$2,500 of Free Insurance!

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff



In January, a mailing went out to SEIU Local 517M dues paying members announcing the new \$2,500 of Accidental Death and Dismemberment coverage through American Income Life Insurance Company (AIL). This coverage is **free** to SEIU 517M dues-paying members!

You were asked to return the yellow card or go online to designate your beneficiary. After you designate your beneficiary, a licensed AIL representative will contact you to arrange a convenient time to deliver your benefit information and review other supplemental insurance benefits that may be available to you. These additional benefits include a Child Safe Kit, Family Information Guide, and Health Services Discount Card. These additional benefits are not insurance but are a discount plan that may be used to lower health care expenses. Some additional discount services are available for a yearly fee.

They will also perform a **no-cost, no-obligation** Needs Analysis to evaluate your insurance needs and what programs you may qualify for.

[Click here to review the mailing.](#) [More information on the program is available here.](#)

* This benefit is intended to enrich and enhance your membership in SEIU Local 517M and we want to make sure your experience and interactions with AIL are both informative and professional. If for any reason this is not your experience we want to know about it immediately. Please send an email to corried@seiu517m.org or call the office at 517-267-2090.

2020 Leadership Applications Being Accepted Now

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff



The deadline for member leaders to submit an application for the 2020 Leadership Academy will be the last week of February 2020 with the first workshop starting in March.

The goal of the Leadership Academy is to identify, educate, and inspire future leaders who wish to pursue other positions of leadership within the Union, personal career, or the community-at-large. We believe that with intensive training, member leaders will gain and cultivate the knowledge and skills necessary to confidently lead and influence others.

The 2020 Academy will follow the same format as the past two years. Workshops will be one Saturday each month from March through June. The requirements to graduate from the Leadership Academy are to attend and participate in at least 3 of the 4 Saturday workshops during 2020 and complete a project that will be assigned during the 3rd workshop.

We currently have 7 applicants for the 2020 Leadership Academy. The Leadership Development Committee wants to recruit at least 3 member leader applicants from each region and division. The applicants so far include 1 member each from the Human Services Support, Scientific and Engineering, and Technical state employee units. We also have 1 member applicant each from the School and Local Government Division Region 1 and Region 2. We currently have 2 applicants from the School and Local Government Region 3.

Potential applicants follow the directions for submitting the [Leadership Academy Application](#) at the top of the form and can also view the [Informational Flyer here](#).

SEIU Local 517M Scholarship Committee Members Needed

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff

SEIU Local 517M Scholarship Committee is in need of more members. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Committee to review submissions and select the yearly winners of the scholarships. We are in need of committee members to represent School and Local Government Regions 1 and 3, and also the Scientific and Engineering and Technical bargaining units.

The SEIU 517M Golf Outing is the main fundraiser for the scholarship fund. Committee members would also assist in running of the golf outing which is scheduled for August 14, 2020.

We have awarded \$8,000 in scholarships for the first two years of the program and interest is growing every year!

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact President Joey Combs at jcombs@seiu517m.org **BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020** so that you may be considered for appointment.

Calendar of Upcoming Events - February, 2020

February 3: Scientific and Engineering Unit Board Meeting, Lansing Office

February 7: Deadline to Express Interest in Serving on a Union Committee

February 17: SEIU and State Offices Closed for President's Day

February 29: Steward Training, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lansing

For more information on the above and future events, consult our on-line calendar at:

<http://www.seiu517m.org/events/month/>

Deadline for Committee Members is February 7th!

By Joey Combs, SEIU 517M President

Member engagement is the engine of our UNION. The more members that are engaged, the more powerful and visible we are. Did you know your Union has several standing committees you can join? We are currently recruiting new members to come and join us as we get ready for a new year. The committees that are currently available are:

New Member Orientation and Sign Up. Membership is the fuel that runs our UNION. The new member orientation and sign-up committee helps units with member to member outreach in new hire orientations.

The Member Engagement Committee promotes membership in the Union. Member engagement is the engine of the UNION. Member engagement has been done via member events and activities such as general membership/chapter meetings, conferences, bargaining surveys, brown bag lunch activities, ice cream socials, bingo, bowling outings, community garden events, hustle/salsa lessons during lunch breaks, picnics, and our Annual golf outing.



Leadership Development. Leaders are the drivers of our UNION. The Leadership Development Committee currently holds a yearly Leadership Academy. The members of the committee facilitate the various modules of the 4-hour sessions, which are spread over 4 Saturdays. The participants are fellow members who apply for the Leadership Academy cohort and are selected based on certain criteria.

Political/Legislative Committee shall oversee and promote the Union's political and legislative programs, as well as promote member involvement in the Committee on Political Education (COPE).



The African American Caucus (AFRAM) is committed to enhancing opportunities for education, training, mentorship, leadership development and networking for SEIU members and staff of African descent. This committee is open to all races.

The Election/Tally Committee oversees the general elections of the Local and shall be responsible for nominations and the preparation, tallying and certification of general election ballots.

The Community Partnership Committee focuses on opportunities for members to partner with community allies and others with a common goal. The committee works to build solidarity with other unions, organizations and neighbors to unite and advance our vision. As we continually find ways to increase our public visibility as advocates for quality public services, we will need community partners!

According to Article VII, Section 3 of the SEIU Local 517M By-Laws:

Section 3: Standing Committee Members shall serve until discharged by the President, or until the conclusion of the President's term. Special Committee Members shall serve for the term of the committee as established upon committee assignment. Any Committee Member may resign upon written notice to the President.

To be appointed to one of the above committees, you need to contact President Joey Combs at jcombs@seiu517m.org **BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020**, and let her know who you are, which unit you are in, and which committees you are interested in serving on.