



SEIU 517M
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of
SEIU Local 517M

October 2020

Staff Directory

Please contact the appropriate staff person using the phone directory below:

Dues & COPE Deductions:

[Andrea Valerio](#) - 989.797.4241

Labor Relations Questions:

Region 1:

[Clint Bryant](#) - 989.797.4258

Region 2:

[Christine Stressman](#) - 616.696.2141

[Andy Johnson](#) - 269.978.1994

Region 3:

[Dominic Barbato](#) - 313.314.6511

HSS Unit:

[Janice Cosey](#) - 313.456.2911

Scientific and Engineering Unit:

[Howard Gordon](#) - 517.267.2070

Technical Unit:

[Kevin Karpinski](#) - 517.267.2088

Executive Director:

[Jeremy Tripp](#) - 517.267.2065

Information Services/PDF/

Member-Only Benefits:

[Dave Corrie](#) - 517.267.2090

Lansing Office Manager:

[Olivia Toretta](#) - 517.267.2095

State Employees—Reauthorize Today to Continue Your Membership!

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff

First, we would like to thank those members who have taken the time to strengthen our union by reauthorizing their membership. If you haven't done so already, please [reauthorize now](#).

These are the final few days to reauthorize your union dues before they are automatically terminated at the beginning of the new fiscal year. It is absolutely critical for all state employees to reauthorize today so we have the strength and resources to protect our raises, healthcare, benefits, job security, rights and quality public services for Michigan. There is strength in numbers and we all need to have each other's backs now more than ever.

Here's what you will be losing if you don't take action:

- Participation in the bargaining process. As a non-member, you have no input in the collective bargaining process. You are not allowed to voice your preferences using a bargaining survey or to vote on any Tentative Agreement that is negotiated.
- You will lose access to the member-only benefits that we provide. These include free college tuition, discount legal services, discounts at many great retailers, and the SEIU Local 517M Scholarship program.
- You will not be able to run, or vote for, your elected union leadership or have any input into the direction of the union.

You must complete your reauthorization by Saturday, October 3rd to remain an active member. By reauthorizing now, you will be in reauthorized status until 10/01/2022!

[REAUTHORIZE NOW](#)

[Learn more about reauthorization](#)

State Employees Tell Why They Reauthorized Their Union Membership



Watch a short video and hear SEIU members explain why they decided to reauthorize their union membership.

[Click to view the video.](#)

STAY SAFE — STAY INFORMED

www.seiu517m.org

[Twitter at: @SEIU517M](#)

[Facebook at: SEIULocal517M](#)

Governor Whitmer Visits the DHHS Laboratory

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff and Tonya Heyer, SEIU Executive Board Member

For many months, SEIU Local 517M has asked for Governor Whitmer to visit the Department of Health and Human Services laboratory in Lansing. This lab performs COVID testing for the State and we felt that she could benefit from seeing the testing in person and talking to the people who perform the tests. On Friday, September 25th, she toured the facility and talked to SEIU members about the essential testing they perform.

She met with the Department of Infectious Disease staff that does the COVID testing. She thanked them for their dedication and hard work not only with COVID, but all the tests they perform to keep the citizens of Michigan healthy and safe. After that she did a quick tour of the lab, including Virology (grand central station of the COVID testing), Chemistry, Newborn screening, DASH and Microbiology.

SEIU 517M Executive Board Member Tonya Heyer was on-hand to explain to her the essential work that our members perform for the citizens of Michigan.



L-R: SEIU 517M Executive Board Member Tonya Heyer is pictured with Governor Gretchen Whitmer outside one of the laboratories within the Department of Health and Human Services laboratory in North Lansing.

Suicide Prevention from Employee Service Program

Submitted from the Civil Service Employee Services Program

The Employee Service Program (ESP) has created a short weekly video series outlining tips and suggestions to support wellness and foster resilience during these unprecedented times. Each video is around three minutes long and covers a different topic. These topics can also be applied to non-state employees as well!

Videos:

[Tip of the Week #1: Create a Purposeful Stress Management Plan](#)

[Tip of the Week #2: Try Mindfulness](#)

[Tip of the Week #3: Practice Reframing](#)

[Tip of the Week #4: Exercise Works!](#)

[Tip of the Week #5: Stay Connected!](#)

[Tip of the Week #6: Rethinking Drinking](#)

[Tip of the Week #7: Parenting During COVID-19](#)

[Tip of the Week #8: Practicing Compassion](#)

[Tip of the Week #9: Focusing on What's in Your Control](#)

[Tip of the Week #10: Managing Anxiety by Utilizing Breathing Techniques](#)

[Tip of the Week #11: Gratitude](#)

[Tip of the Week #12: Healthy Sleeping Patterns](#)

[Tip of the Week #13: The Benefits of Pets](#)

[Tip of the Week #14: Remember to Laugh](#)

[Tip of the Week #15: Effective Communication for the Workplace](#)

New Technical Unit Vice President Takes Office November 1st

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff



Nominations were accepted for the position of Technical Bargaining Unit Vice President starting August 1, 2020 and ending on September 4, 2020. The only candidate to submit a nomination for this position was current Technical Unit Chapter 13 President Roderick Jackson.

Rod works for the Department of Transportation as a Transportation Technician in the Oakland TSC. He has been very active with the Local in various capacities including the Local 517M COPE Committee, Technical Unit Board, Technical Unit Negotiating Committee, and as a Steward and Chief Steward.

Being the only candidate to submit a nomination for this office, he was declared the winner by acclamation without the need to hold an election. His three-year term of office will begin on November 1, 2020 and will expire on October 31, 2023. Congratulations!

Member Only Benefit—Free College Classes Begin October 26th

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff



#EarnADegreeDebtFree

Use the Free College SEIU Member Only Benefit and receive free tuition. The program is administered through Eastern Gateway Community College in Steubenville, Ohio. It is open to all eligible SEIU full dues paying members in good standing, and their spouses, domestic partners, children, parents, siblings and financial dependents. Retirees and their families are also eligible.

The Free College Tuition Program combines PELL or other federal grants with available employer reimbursement, then covers any remaining costs for tuition, fees and online books. There is NO COST to the student and we never ask students to take out any loans.

According to the US Department of Labor, having a college degree increases your earning power and employability. With the Free College benefit, you can earn your degree with maximum flexibility and no cost to you.

Your NEXT STEP is to complete the application to the college. [Click here to apply](#), or visit EGCC.edu!

[Click for more information about the program.](#)

Latest COVID-19 Information is Available on our Website

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff

SEIU Local 517M is working diligently to keep you informed with the latest information on the spread of COVID-19 and the steps taken to contain the virus from the Governor's office and SEIU International. We have dedicated a section of our website as a resource to members containing this information.

Please keep checking back for the [latest information on our website](#).