



SEIU 517M
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of
SEIU Local 517M

September 2021

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](#) - 313.246.1137

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 Bargaining Update

Bargaining teams from our 3 state employee units (Human Services Support, Scientific and Engineering, and Technical) have been meeting with the Office of the State Employer and various departmental representatives for about a month. Bargaining thus far has focused on unit specific contract language.

The 3 bargaining teams attended a financial outlook presentation from the Michigan Department of Treasury in August. This is the first step to bargaining economic issues. These issues include wages, healthcare, and professional development/tuition reimbursement just to name a few. Bargaining for economic issues will begin in the coming weeks.

We are hopeful that we will be able to bring a new tentative agreement for a membership vote later this Fall.

State Employees Don't Lose Your Voice - Reauthorize Today!

The state employee reauthorization campaign is in full swing. Any non-reauthorized union memberships after October 2, 2021 will be cancelled by Civil Service.

A Civil Service rule change in 2020 requires all state employees to reauthorize their union membership every year or their membership will expire.

Members who allow their membership to expire will lose the benefits of membership at that time. This includes the great member-only benefits you receive as a SEIU Local 517M member such as free college, discount plans for insurance, loans, travel and more!

More than losing great benefits, **you will lose the right to vote on the new contract that is currently being negotiated!**



Stand Together

Stand Strong

Don't lose your voice in determining your future, [reauthorize today!](#)

[Reauthorization instructions are available here.](#)

STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG

www.seiu517m.org [Facebook at: SEIULocal517M](#)

Deadline for Filing for Technical Unit Positions is September 3rd!

By Dave Corrie, Information Services Coordinator



Time is running out to apply for the 2021 Technical Unit election for Chapter Presidents, Chapter Vice-Presidents, and Unit Secretary/Treasurer. If you are interested in running for one of these offices, you will need to complete the Candidate Petition Form which is available on the SEIU 517M website and can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Candidate Petition Forms will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on September 3, 2021. The election calendar is shown below:

September 3, 2021	Deadline for Return of Candidate Petition Forms & Photos at 4:00 p.m.
September 7-10, 2021	Ballots prepared.
September 13-30, 2021	Electronic voting; Electronic voting deadline is 4:00 p.m. on September 30 th .
September 22, 2021	Deadline for requesting a paper ballot.
October 4, 2021	Ballots Counted and Election Certified by Election/Tally Committee. Deadline for Paper Ballots is noon.
November 1, 2021	Newly Elected Leadership takes office.

Human Services Support Unit Election Deadline is Friday

By Dave Corrie, Information Services Coordinator



The deadline to participate in the Human Services Support Unit election for Unit President, Unit Vice President, Unit Board, Steward and Alternate Steward positions is this Friday, September 3rd. If you are interested in running for one of these offices, you will need to complete the Candidate Petition Form which is available on the SEIU 517M website and can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Candidate Petition Forms will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on September 3, 2021. The election calendar is shown below:

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SEIU Local 517M Executive Board Minutes

By Dave Corrie, Information Services Coordinator



Below is a link to the April 17, 2021 SEIU Local 517M Executive Board Minutes. These minutes were approved by the Executive Board at their July 24, 2021 meeting.

[April 17, 2021 Board Minutes](#)

Saginaw Member-Leaders Conduct Back to School Supply Drive

By Clint Bryant, Labor Relations Representative



L-R: Saginaw Public Schools Data Specialists Kim Henderson and Roberta Oldenburg display some of the collected school supplies.

Members working in the Saginaw Public Schools and Saginaw Libraries partnered with the United Way of Saginaw County to collect school supplies for children in area homeless shelters.

Members collected donated items at their various facilities and dropped them off at the Local 517M Saginaw office. This three-week campaign was a great success and will put much needed supplies in the hands of the students who need it the most.

"I've worked in education support services for nearly 40 years. Anytime I have the opportunity to support our students, I will. The children in these homes truly need these items and I am glad that we could play a small role in helping them to achieve success as they once again enter the classroom" -----Roberta Oldenburg, Region 1 Board and SPSD Unit Secretary

A Message from the Department of Labor for Labor Day 2021



This Labor Day will be like no other. As we continue to address the pandemic, we're honoring the resiliency of our workforce while building a future that empowers all workers. The Department of Labor stands with America's workers — and the unions that support them. We're committed to empowering and supporting workers in every type of career and at every stage of life.

Investing in the nation's care economy - We are building the care infrastructure needed to ensure workers have the opportunity and support to thrive in their jobs. Whether staying at home to care for a sick family member or getting access to mental health resources, no one should have to risk their job to care for themselves or a loved one. We are also committed to ensuring care workers are valued, trained and paid fairly for the critical work they do.

Building a modern, inclusive workforce - We are focused on building a future where everyone has access to jobs that are safe, pay a fair wage and are free of discrimination. We are empowering workers to take a seat at the table and have a say in their work, and are encouraging employers to create new opportunities for advancement.

Supporting a lifetime of worker empowerment - We are committed to ensuring that the loss of a job doesn't lead to the loss of financial well-being. That means making sure everyone can save for retirement, has access to health care, and that if something goes wrong, they have the support they need to get through it.

"From investing in a care economy that allows workers to thrive in their jobs while caring for their families, to building a more inclusive workforce and ensuring that the loss of a job doesn't mean the loss of financial well-being, we stand with America's workers — and the unions that support them."

— U.S. Labor Secretary Marty Walsh

From <https://www.dol.gov/laborday>

A Labor Day Guest Article From the Department of Labor

Thank You, Unions

By: Jeffrey Freund • August 27, 2021

Labor Day is around the corner, and what has so often for many been a day off of work, filled with family and friends, this year gives us a lot to reflect on. It's the unofficial end of summer, and many will take the day to look back at these last few months and start thinking about next year. There is no doubt that Labor Day this year feels a little different than it has in the past, but let's take a look back at the history of the day and, more impactfully, of organized labor, while also looking forward to getting back to baseball games and picnics once we have successfully overcome the challenges COVID-19 has brought us.

How did Labor Day come to be? Well, you can thank the labor movement for bringing it to you. Labor Day was an invention of the labor movement. The first Labor Day celebration was in New York in 1882 organized by the labor movement in New York City to honor union members and the work they and their unions did for working people everywhere. Between 1882 and 1894, when it officially became a federal holiday by an act of Congress, many states recognized it as a holiday for government employees. Over time, the holiday spread to all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories, and it now applies to all state and local government employees. It is generally recognized by the private sector as a holiday as well, although many employers remain open and workers must be on the job – including the essential workers providing critical services to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. At least among union-represented workers, those who have to work are typically paid a premium for working that day.



Members of SEIU Local 1 marching in a Labor Day parade in the 1940s, downtown Chicago.

But Labor Day is not the only thing workers can thank unions for. While my agency, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Labor-Management Standards, is in the business of instilling confidence in the labor movement by serving as a watchdog over union finances and elections, it does that so the labor movement can continue its role as a credible spokesperson for fairness and safety in the workplace.

Over the years, dating well before the enactment of the LMRDA (the law OLMS enforces), the labor movement has rightfully earned that reputation, and it is only fitting that we at OLMS acknowledge an undeniable fact: virtually every significant piece of modern social safety net legislation, and other laws that strive to make America a just and compassionate society, were enacted with the support – and often the leadership – of organized labor.

From the first workers' compensation and unemployment compensation laws and the 40-hour week, to Social Security, Medicare, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Affordable Care Act, America's labor movement has been a driving force for progress.

Many of these laws are now enforced nationwide by the Department of Labor. But before those laws were enacted to provide benefits to workers broadly, unions negotiated similar protections in their collective bargaining agreements on behalf of the workers they represented. The first workplace retirement and health plans, and limitations on the length of the workweek, were products of collective bargaining and served as models for what later became government-provided benefits many workers enjoy today. Rules to help protect people from work-related injuries and paid leave provisions also were staples of collective bargaining. Oh yes, and Labor Day became a paid holiday for union workers long before it became a holiday for others.

So if you have Labor Day off, thank your local union leaders for bringing it to you. And while you are at it, you can thank them for so much more.

Jeffrey Freund is the director of the Office of Labor-Management Standards. This article is shared from the US Department of Labor Blog site <https://blog.dol.gov/2021/08/27/thank-you-unions>