



**SEIU 517M**  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

*The* **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of  
SEIU Local 517M

## November 2022

### Staff Directory

Please contact the appropriate staff person using their phone or email (click their name) below:

**Executive Director:**

[Jeremy Tripp](#) - 517.267.2065

**Information Services/PDF/Member-Only Discount Benefits:**

[Dave Corrie](#) - 517.267.2090

**Office Manager:**

[Ashley Konyha](#) - 517.267.2095

**Dues & COPE Deductions:**

[Andrea Valerio](#) - 989.797.4241

**SOM Labor Relations Questions:**

**Scientific and Engineering Unit:**

[Howard Gordon](#) - 517.267.2070

**Human Services Support Unit:**

[Janice Cosey](#) - 313.246.1137

**Technical Unit:**

[Kevin Karpinski](#) - 517.267.2088

**School & Local Government**

**Labor Relations Questions:**

**Region 1:**

[Clint Bryant](#) - 989.797.4258

**Region 2:**

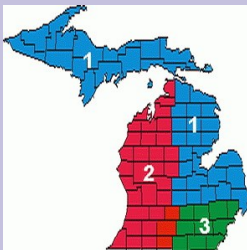
[Christine Stressman](#) - 616.696.2141

[Andy Johnson](#) - 269.978.1994

**Region 3:**

[Quintanilla Dowdell](#) - 313.314.6511

Click on the map to find out which Region your unit is in.



### Loutit District Library Employees Vote to Unionize with 517M



Please welcome the Loutit District Library employees to the SEIU Local 517M family!

On September 29, 2022 the supervisory and non-supervisory employees made their voices heard and voted to become the newest members of SEIU Local 517M to ensure that they would have a voice in their workplace regarding wages, hours, and conditions of employment. Both groups (supervisory and non-supervisory) have begun the process of establishing bargaining teams and leaders as we move forward in the work of constructing and negotiating their first Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Loutit District Library is located in the City of Grand Haven, a Lake Michigan coastal community well known for its annual Coast Guard Festival. SEIU currently represents several units in Grand Haven and the increase in community strength will help all units.

Exciting times and congratulations Loutit District Library employees!!!



**Remember to Vote on  
Tuesday, November 8th!**  
State of Michigan Offices will be closed  
that day

**STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG**

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

## Saginaw Holidays in the Heart of the City



On Friday, November 18th from 4:00 pm – 6:00, SEIU Local 517M will be hosting an Open House for all member and their families before the Holidays in the Heart of the City event.

The Open House will take place at the new SEIU Local 517M office located at **203 S. Washington Ave., Saginaw, MI 48607**. Members will take the historic elevators to the second floor where refreshments will be provided prior to the tree lighting ceremony. RSVP for the Open House before Noon on Wednesday, November 16th. [RSVP Now!](#)

The Holiday Lighting Ceremony begins at 5:45 pm at the Water Treatment Plant with the lighting to begin at 6:00 pm.

There are many activities in conjunction with this event:

- Activities and Open Houses from the Mexican American Council (South on Washington, along Ezra Rust Drive to Old Town Saginaw.)
- Castle Museum Cookie Hut, free pony rides and Santa at the Gazebo in Borchard Park.
- Free transportation across the bridge provided by First Student.
- Horse Drawn Wagon Rides sponsored by the Frank N. Andersen Foundation begin at the Andersen Enrichment Center and travel along Ezra Rust Drive until 8:00 pm.
- HAP/WSGW Cookie House Competition at the Andersen Enrichment Center and The Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market "Holiday Market."
- Open House and Live Nativity by Nouvel Catholic Central High Schools at the Montague Inn.
- Free admission to the Saginaw Children's Zoo. (There is a fee for riding the carousel and train.)
- Activities at the Japanese Tea House, and the Mexican American Council.
- Food vendors on the street.
- The Santa Clause Movie with Tim Allen at the Court Theater at 6:30 pm. (\$6 ticket includes small popcorn & small beverage.)
- Holy Cross Lutheran Church – music on the porch and indoors, free cookies and hot chocolate.
- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm, Free Concert at Michigan Ave. Baptist Church – Saginaw Area Concert Band (Donations of new hats, mittens and scarves accepted at the concert for those in need)
- Fireworks begin at 8:30 pm from Ojibway Island. Free parking will be available at the Andersen Splash Park, Hoyt Park, City Hall and Old Town Saginaw. Be advised that the Court Street Bridge will be closed starting at 3:00 pm.

## New Labor Relations Specialist Hired at Local 517M



SEIU Local 517M would like to welcome our newest staff member Quintanilla Dowdell. She is the new Labor Relations Specialist responsible for School and Local Government Region 3. She will be responsible for working with local members, handling grievances, and contract negotiations to further the mission of Local 517M.

Before joining SEIU, Quintanilla worked at the State of Michigan as a Human Resources Technician.

Quintanilla got her bachelor's degree in Public and Nonprofit Administration from Grand Valley State University and received her master's degree in Human Resources Administration from Central Michigan University.

She looks forward to this tremendous opportunity at SEIU Local 517M working alongside the members and her colleagues.

Quintanilla replaces Dominic Barbato who left in October of this year. We wish Dominic the best of luck in his new endeavors and thank him for his service to the SEIU Local 517M membership.

## Gov. Whitmer Recognizes November as Veterans and Military Families Month

*This article was provided by the Governor's office as a press release.*



Governor Gretchen Whitmer proclaimed November 2022 as Veterans and Military Families Month to honor veterans and military families throughout the state by recognizing their sacrifices and celebrating their successes.

“This month, we thank Michigan’s brave service members and veterans for their service and sacrifices to keep us safe and secure our freedoms,” said **Governor Whitmer**. “We also recognize the families of service members for supporting their moms or dads, aunts and uncles, brothers or sisters, sons or daughters while on deployment. We owe those who serve and their families our gratitude and we pledge ourselves to work together to help them thrive.”

“The dedication and strength of military families during rotational deployments and long separations is an inspiration to us all,” said **U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers, adjutant general and director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**. “Michigan understands that families also serve and is honored to pay tribute to them.”

This month, there are many ways to celebrate Veterans and Military Families Month. One of the best ways to show support for the military is to donate to a charity that supports them. The Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is accepting donations to help support military families with grants funding financial assistance: [Military Family Relief Fund Donate Page](#). Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) is seeking monetary donations to support the life enrichment fund which is used to improve the quality of life for veteran members: [MVH Donation Page](#). The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) is accepting donations to help connect veterans to the services and benefits they have earned: [MVAA Donation Page](#).

“Michigan is home to more than 550,000 veterans and their families,” said **MVAA Director Zaneta Adams**. “Michigan’s veterans are brave and selfless individuals who, when duty called, willingly put themselves in harm's way to defend the lives and liberty of others.”

Michigan is committed to making the state the premier choice for military service members, veterans and their families to live, work, serve and play. In support of this effort, the MVAA helps connect veterans with federal, state and local benefits and resources they earned for their service. To learn more about employment, healthcare, education and quality-of-life benefits, veterans can contact the Michigan Veteran Resource Service Center at 1-800-MICH-VET or visit [www.michigan.gov/MVAA](http://www.michigan.gov/MVAA).

For more information on upcoming ceremonies and activities to honor veterans and military families, please visit the MVAA events calendar at [www.michigan.gov/mvaa/events](http://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/events).

View the proclamation [here](#).