

MICHIGAN PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, SEIU LOCAL 517M
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, July 30, 2022 – Zoom Meeting – 10:00am

I. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:

A. Roll Call, Declaration of Quorum:

Secretary Treasurer Bryan Grochowski took Roll Call. Board Members Kevin Mercado, Yolanda Johnson, and Molly Mott were excused. Board Member Lori Steele was absent. A quorum was declared at 10:09am. The meeting was held over Zoom

B. Approval of Minutes: The meeting minutes from the April 30, 2022, Executive Board meeting were presented by Secretary Treasurer Grochowski. A MOTION was made by Director John Eck to approve the meeting's minutes. SUPPORTED by President Combs. Motion carried.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

A. Member Engagement: President Joey Combs reported that she has shifted gears to phone banking members that need to reauthorize, and she may call on member leaders to help with outreach. President Combs stressed the importance of reauthorization as we have lost 5% of our members in each of the first two years of reauthorization. President Combs reported that she has not personally done any site visits, but ED Tripp reported that there is a lot of activity at the DHHS Lab in Lansing with member leaders actively trying to sign up new members and get current members to reauthorize if necessary. ED Tripp also reported that there will be outreach within the Technical and S&E Units because of recently signed LOU's that would increase wages for certain classification and bring their pay closer to what similar positions in the private sector make.

B. MI Strength in Action Council (Political Endorsements): President Combs reported that a flyer is in the board packet with the list of the endorsements from the MI Strength in Action Council. The Council did not move forward with an endorsement for the 13th Congressional District, as was directed by the 517M Executive Board

because they were not comfortable with endorsing Adam Hollier after he would not move off his anti-union bill in the Michigan Legislature. President Combs reported that the GOTV messages that we are also pushing has resulted in 517M having a large amount of voting members at 90% having voted in 2020.

C. Labor Day Action: President Combs reported that the Labor Day Parade in Detroit is back and the four SEIU locals in Michigan will be holding a joint picnic afterwards. Once more details are finalized, they will be shared with everyone. Additionally on September 11, 2022, there will be a picnic for SEIU 517M members in Detroit and once those details are finalized, they will be shared as well.

D. 2022 Board Dates (Nov. 10): President Combs reminded board members of the final 2022 board date, November 10, 2022. Because this is a weekday, the meeting will be held in the evening at a time to be announced. DVP Kusnier shared that the Saturday meetings make it difficult for her to fill vacancies and get members excited about leadership positions so having the meetings in the evening may work better for people. She also suggested that while holding the Annual Conference on a Saturday is a good idea, holding it during the summer may possibly hurt our attendance. ED Tripp also supported the idea of moving the Annual Conference to another time of year, especially due to reauthorization.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. Growth Campaign (SLG/State): ED Tripp reported that the Local's new member goal, as set by SEIU International, is 980 people that the Local is trying to sign up in this calendar year. Through the month of July, we are about 81% on track to meeting that goal and have signed up 445 members so far in both state and SLG units. However, because of attrition in our units we have not

netted that 445 and we are staying fairly even without falling into a negative with members leaving the bargaining units. The progress of this campaign can be seen in the SLG Growth Chart and the State of Michigan net membership reports that are in the board packet. ED Tripp asked that our Executive Board members try to rally the troops, and make the ask, in their own individual units to continue to see a growth in the Union.

B. 2022 – SOM Reauthorization Campaign:

517M has been actively reaching out and communicating with our members/non-members that need to sign up or reauthorize and ensuring that any positive news is tied to a membership ask. In addition, we have asked our members to reauthorize as soon as possible. As of July, we are at 42.5% of the membership reauthorized. Civil Service will begin emailing members that need to reauthorize on August 11, 2022 and the Local generally sees a large uptick in reauthorization from these communications. The HSS limited term members are scheduled for termination on September 30, but we are still advocating for them to be moved to full time status.

C. Constitution and Bylaws Special Meeting:

ED Tripp made the Board aware that the meetings of the Constitution and Bylaws Workgroup had concluded and the documents that the committee completed had been sent to SEIU's legal department for review. Once we receive the documents back from SEIU, the Board will likely conduct a special meeting to approve the new document. After that, it will be sent to the membership for approval.

D. Information Services Report:

There are several updates enclosed in the Information Services Report, including the new website. ED Tripp stated that after Board Meeting there would be a presentation by Message Makers (the company we are working with to create our website) on the new website. The golf outing scholarship winners are also listed in the report.

E. Union Staff Association Bargaining:

ED Tripp reported that himself and DVPs Trevino and Cosey have been meeting with the staff union and have made a lot of progress, but had not reach an agreement as of yet, specifically on wages.

F. Legislative/Advocacy Work:

ED Tripp reported that there was a rule change in the

Federal Government that could send private contractors back into unemployment insurance agency work. We are opposed to allowing non-state employees to do this work and have worked with SEIU International to fight any rule changes within the Department of Labor that would change this. ED Tripp also discussed HB 6132 that would allow certain engineering positions to retire from the State and collect their retirement, but return to work in the private sector? HB 6132 is not being supported by any labor unions, despite a hired lobbying firm reaching out asking for support.

IV. SEC/TREAS FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. May 2022 Financial Report:

Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski presented the May financial statements. DVP Michelle Kusnier made a MOTION to accept the financial statements; SUPPORTED by DVP Rod Jackson. Motion carries.

B. COPE Report:

Secretary-Treasurer Bryan Grochowski presented the COPE report. Our 2022 goal is \$24,644 and we are currently 29% toward our goal at the end of June. Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski reported that the COPE Committee is working to meet again to discuss potential COPE ideas.

C. Approval of SEIU Local 517M Budget (FY 2022-2023):

Secretary Treasurer Grochowski presented a proposal for the 2022-2023 FY Budget. ED Tripp provided context for the proposal stating that the State Employee Units had been made aware of upcoming changes in healthcare costs for certain State Employees, depending on the plan they were enrolled in. As a result, the changes were expected to significantly increase premium share costs, in some cases possibly doubling. With that in mind, the Executive Officers had met to discuss the ramifications of these increases and were recommending with this budget that the Board not increase the state employee dues by the 5% raise as was traditionally done. Instead, they were recommending that the Board leave the dues at the current rate of \$29.66 for the State Units. ED Tripp made Board members aware that this would mean a \$55,000 drop in our previously projected budget and that approval would impact the Unions bargaining with staff as we had been

negotiating, up to that point, under the presumption that the state employee dues would increase by 5%. No increase would make negotiations on wages difficult. ED Tripp reported that the negotiating team was scheduled to meet with a mediator on August 9 with the staff union. There was discussion about the healthcare changes for state employees and why not increasing dues is being proposed. DVP Rod Jackson expressed his disappointment in the situation the Union is in but stated we must put membership first and if freezing dues helps members sign up or reauthorize, we have to do that. A motion was made by Director John Eck to approve the budget as presented; SUPPORTED by DVP Trevino. Motion carried. Secretary Treasurer Grochowski stated that we need to continue to make a culture of making the ask and signing members up in all of our units and our member leaders can help in this process.

V. STATE UNIT & REGION REPORTS:

- A. President Combs asked that Board members please read the state and region reports at their leisure and reminded people of the Annual Conference scheduled to start after the Board meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. There was no new business.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

- A. DVP Rod Jackson said that he and the member leaders will continue to try to increase the membership in the Tech Unit because they know how important it is. He also reported that he did speak up at the Civil Service Commission meeting and he will continue to do that when they meet. He intends to ask them to give back provisions that were taken away over the years at the next meeting. Secretary Treasurer Grochowski stressed the importance of the upcoming Gubernatorial election.
- B. President Combs stated that as leaders, none of us signed up for these battles, but we have to continue to fight and stand up for our members. ED Tripp stated that we're not in this fight alone

and we will continue to work with other unions in the state to be successful for our members.

- C. ED Tripp stated that the Annual Conference is at 12:30 and encourages everyone to attend.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Director Oldenburg to adjourn. SUPPORTED by DVP Rod Jackson. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM.