



SEIU 517M
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of
SEIU Local 517M

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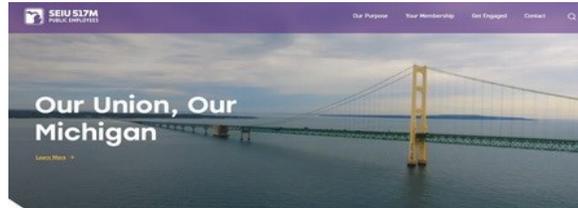
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Click on the map to find out which Region your unit is in.



New Website Launched



After months of development, the newly re-designed SEIU Local 517M website is here!

It is our hope that this site will provide members with a user-friendly platform that allows easier access to resources and information, while creating an online presence that is more reflective and representative of the amazing work SEIU members do each and every day.

Some of the great new features of this interactive site include the ability to Manage Your Membership, Get Engaged and learn more about Our Purpose as a Union.

The new site was designed to have a fresh new look, highlight feature articles and stories, and show the value of having a Labor Union that leads from the front and puts its members front and center.

With that said, please take a minute to explore the new site.

Executive Board Approves Proposed Constitution and Bylaws — Proceeds to a Membership Vote

Earlier this year, a Committee was charged with reviewing the current Constitution and Bylaws of the Local. The Local Constitution and Bylaws were in violation of several provisions of the SEIU International Constitution and Bylaws and also needed to be updated due to Right to Work.

At the November 10, 2022 SEIU Local 517M Executive Board meeting, the Board approved the new proposed Constitution and Bylaws be sent to the membership for their vote.

This election will take place beginning in January, 2023 and the votes will be counted in February, 2023. If approved by the membership, the new Constitution and Bylaws will become effective when the SEIU Local 517M Executive Board certifies the election results.

A postcard with voting instructions will be sent in January.

STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG

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

Local 517M Invited to Presidential Event in Great Lakes Bay Region

By Clint Bryant, Region 1 Labor Relations Specialist

A forty-foot American flag was on display as President Joe Biden entered SK Siltron, a chip manufacturing giant in Bay City Michigan where 200 invitees comprised of union and community leaders welcomed the 46th President.

American manufacturing and creating union jobs were the themes throughout the conversation with the President. Congressman Dan Kildee (D-Flint) also highlighted the necessity for chips to be made in America and the supply chain struggles throughout the pandemic due to the shortage.



Along with 13 other labor organizations, SEIU Local 517M was invited to participate in the discussion with the President. During the conversation, President Biden touted the accomplishments of Labor Unions: “the best workers in the world, you’re the most qualified workers in the world.” He further exclaimed: “The middle class built America, and unions built the middle class,” he said.

“In the few moments I had with the President, I wanted be sure our conversation focused on the essential work our state, school and local government workers provide on a daily basis.” Clint Bryant, Labor Relations Specialist.

517M Members Celebrate Saginaw Office Open House and Holidays in the Heart of the City

By Clint Bryant, Region 1 Labor Relations Specialist

Dozens of members from several Local 517M units joined with their families to celebrate the Open House at new Saginaw office location within the Central Michigan Resource Center in downtown Saginaw.

“It was nice to attend the Open House at the new Saginaw Office. Two of my favorite parts were seeing so many of my union brothers and sisters with their families enjoying the union event and the Holidays in the Heart of the City. It was really something special to see other union members fill out post cards to send to our Library board of Directors to urge them to provide on their promise for our longevity bonuses.” We have been in a labor dispute since July and it felt great to have the support of our union family”
LaRunja Brown, Unit President - Saginaw Public Libraries.



After the Open House event, members attended Holidays in the Heart of the City, the event featured free Christmas Concerts, Horse-Drawn wagon rides, events the Children’s Zoo, Andersen Enrichment Center, Japanese Tea House, The Montague Inn and the Mexican American Council. Members children were able participate in free pony rides for in Borchard Park.

“My family and I enjoyed the open house offered by SEIU before the Holiday in the Heart of the City. It gave us a chance to meet fellow brothers and sisters from other chapters and offered a fun inviting environment to enjoy refreshments before the event. I am excited to see what future events will be held to grow our friendships with fellow brothers and sisters.” Megan Murphy, City of Saginaw Grievance Chair

Update: Flint School Board Action Successful— Wages to Increase for Parapros

At the September 14, 2022 Flint School Board Meeting, members spoke about the hardships that the low wages put upon the paraprofessionals working for the district. Examples were given of members that have worked there for 20 years aren't making \$15 an hour and full time employees still qualify for assistance. The School Board at that meeting voted to reopen wage negotiations with SEIU.

On November 18, 2022 the Flint School Board unanimously voted to raise the wages of paraprofessionals in the SEIU Local 517M Flint Community Schools Unit.

Under the union's old hourly wage scale, paraprofessional wages ranged from \$10.53 to \$15.39 an hour.

Under the new wage scale for the 2022/2023 academic year, Flint paraprofessional wages will now start at \$15 per hour and increase incrementally using a sliding scale based on their years of service:

Zero to five years seniority: \$15.00
Six to 10 years seniority: \$16.50
11 to 15 years seniority: \$17.50
16 to 20 years seniority: \$18.50
21 or more years seniority: \$20.00

These wages will also increase by \$1 per hour in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

Carmella Johnson, unit president and a paraprofessional at Eisenhower Elementary School, thanked the Board for moving forward with the wage increase.

"It's been a long time coming," said Johnson. "We just appreciate the Board and the members who voted with us."

Parapro workloads have mounted over the last decade given the staff vacancies in the district, according to Johnson. She said the wage increase will help the district address the shortage of parapros and attract more of them to work at Flint Schools.

Jan Martin, a union representative who has worked at FCS for 35 years, was full of emotion following the Board's vote.

"I'm very overwhelmed," said Martin, a paraprofessional at Southwestern Classical Academy. "I'm overjoyed. It's just unbelievable that it took 35 years for me to actually make a decent wage. Since I've been working for the district, I've always had to work a second job, sometimes a third job, to make my ends meet, and I am so glad that I can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Over the years, Martin could have left for another district, she said, but she has stayed for the scholars at Flint Schools.

Martin added, "The best feeling in the world is seeing a child that has graduated from high school, and they remember me and say, 'I remember you. You were really hard on me, but I see why and I understand why.'"