

**MICHIGAN PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, SEIU LOCAL 517M**  
**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
*Thursday, November 10, 2022 – Zoom Meeting – 5:30pm*

**I. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**A. Roll Call, Declaration of Quorum:**

Secretary Treasurer Bryan Grochowski took Roll Call. Board Members Kevin Mercado, Greg Merricle, were excused. A quorum was declared at 5:35 PM. The meeting was held over Zoom.

**B. Approval of Minutes:** The meeting minutes from the July 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 Joey Combs. Motion carried.

**II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

**A. Member Engagement** – HSS Held a 517M Member Engagement Picnic in Detroit where members from across the Local attended. The Board was made aware of an upcoming event in the City of Saginaw on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, called Holiday in the Heart of the City at the new Saginaw office. All members are welcome to attend. This will be the Locals opportunity to show off the new office, host members/ tour the facility.

**B. MI Strength in Action Council (Political Endorsements):** Discussion was held around the 2022 elections, and which endorsed candidates won election/ re-election. President Combs spoke about working with Governor in 2023 around Local priorities as a Strength In Action Council.

**C. November Election Results/Impact on Local:** President Joey Combs spoke about the engagement of members leading up to the 2022 elections and stated turnout and participation was high. The Board discussed the potential impacts the election results could have on both Labor and 517M specifically and general elation/happiness was expressed by many members

regarding election results. Secretary Treasurer Bryan Grochowski commented on the leadership elections in the House and Senate. President Joey Combs discussed the impending appointment of a new Civil Service Commissioner and mentioned Gale Wilson had been endorsed by the five State Unions - MSEA, UAW, 517M, MCO, AFSCME.

**D. Constitution and Bylaw Committee (Approval Needed):**

Secretary Treasurer Bryan Grochowski presented the work of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and asked for other committee members to offer comments on the work. DVP Yolanda Johnson, commented that she was pleased with the final language being brought to the Board and that it would be in line with the IU. President Joey Combs, stated that the committee was created to look at deficiencies of the current C&B, acknowledge the difficulties of RTW and move the Local into compliance with the International Union requirements. DVP Janice Cosey commented that Dave Corrie and Olivia Jelinek taking the lead to explain and provide materials was a great help.

ED Tripp commented that putting the C&B all together into one document matches the other SEIU Locals and our legal council recommended the Local proceed with one document as well. President Joey Combs – International legal department has approved the current draft.

**Motions Concerning the Constitution and Bylaws – Motion 1:** Motion 1 – Constitution amendment requirements

Motion made by Director John Eck and seconded by DVP Rod Jackson.

I MOVE that the proposed Constitutional amendments (with amended Bylaws, as

one document) be presented to the membership pursuant to Article XI of the Constitution for a ratification vote.

Discussion: Director John Eck questioned the definition of a “member” in the document. Recommended we drop member in good standing and just use member. Amendment to Motion regarding this. Strike definition in two places. SEIU states it is a dues paying member. Last meeting was regarding this and will get back to Director John Eck.

Amendment called to vote by Director John Eck and seconded by DVP Rod Jackson. Amendment passed with changes.

**Motion 2 – Bylaws amendment requirements** made by Secretary Treasurer Bryan Grochowski, seconded by DVP Rod Jackson.– I MOVE to amend the Bylaws pursuant to Article XII of the Constitution and Article IX of the Bylaws to consolidate the Constitution and Bylaws into one document and send to the membership for a ratification vote.

Motions passed.

**Executive Director Search (Update):** President Joey Combs apologized to the Board for not calling all Directors about Executive Director Jeremy Tripp leaving to focus on his health and explore other opportunities. ED Tripp thanked the Board regarding the last four years working with them. President Joey Combs then discussed the hiring process of the new ED and explained there were 37 applicants, 9 initial interviews and then 4 second round interviews. Of the applicant pool, Jonovan Luckey was selected. Confidentiality was kept ensuring no conflict of interest. Executive Director Jeremy Tripp commented regarding Jonovan Luckey that both professionally and personally he had a great skill set for the way ahead and feels confident he can lead 517m and the membership.

Board called for a break and went into closed session.

**E. 2023 Board Meeting dates (1/28, 4/29, 7/29, 11/4):** President Combs reminded

Board members of upcoming Board dates and then commented on the need for training going forward. We do not want people who are appointed or elected and create unfair labor practices. Blind spots on both sides, members, or officials. Saginaw Building for January meeting.

**III. 2023 Board Meeting Dates: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Executive Director Jeremy Tripp gave an introduction of Ashley Konyha as the new Office Manager and Quintanilla Dowdell as Region 3 labor representative.

**A. 2022 – SOM Reauthorization Campaign (Final Numbers):**

ED Tripp presented the Board with the final numbers regarding reauthorization and reported that the Local finished just under 96%, which meant roughly 95 people were dropped. The 2022 campaign involved calls, texts, and email. Detailed report included in Board packet. Overall SEIU state and SLG signed up 666 members. Ed Tripp assessed the campaign as solid but noted that even with a good campaign it still results in \$70k loss in revenue.

**B. Growth Campaign (SLG/State):**

Detailed report included in packet.

ED Tripp was asked by Secretary Treasurer Bryan Grochowski if there was anything for SLG to keep them moving in a positive direction?

ED Tripp responded that the IU - 20% plan could help with continuing this work and mentioned a possible partnership with the International regarding professional organizers to help with the Locals goals. If member organizers are brought on, ED Tripp recommends that the Board participate in trainings to help get the tools to help sign up members.

**Information Services Report:**

ED Tripp presented the Information Services report prepared by Dave Corrie. Full details of report in packet. Noted the launch of the new website, mentioned Steward manual is being updated and that it had not been updated since 2012.

Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski reported that the COPE Committee is working to meet again to discuss potential COPE ideas.

**C. Legislative/Advocacy Work:** ED Tripp noted that several pieces of legislation would need to be reintroduced in 2023 but might have more favorable chances with a blue trifecta. Also noted that Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey was still pursuing privatization of Community Mental Health and the union was working with a coalition of groups to push back and lobby legislators against it.

**D. Transition and Year End:** Executive Director Tripp assured the board that he wanted the new ED had help and training before he leaves at year end and would stay on to help ED Luckey with the transition. ED Tripp said the Local cannot take its foot off the gas and the future was bright. We have corrected a lot of issues but there are still items that need to be addressed and I will make sure the new ED knows what these items are.

Secretary Treasurer Bryan Grochowski commented that Executive Director Jeremy Tripp has laid the foundation of success and got us financially where the Local needs to be and now we need to work on membership organizing.

**V. UNIT & REGION REPORTS:**

A. Detailed reports included in Board packet.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. There was no new business.

**VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

A. Elected board thanked and will miss Executive Director Jeremy Tripp and wished him well on his health and future endeavors.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** MOTION by Director John Eck. SUPPORTED by President Joey Combs. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

**IV. SEC/TREAS FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**A. September 2022 Financial Report & Audit:** Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski presented the September 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 42% toward our goal at the end of September.