



**SEIU 517M**  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

*The* **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of  
SEIU Local 517M

## April 2023

### Staff Directory

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

**Executive Director:**

[Jonovan Luckey](#) - 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:**

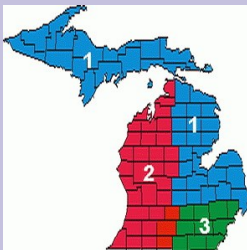
[Christine Stressman](#) - 616.696.2141

[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.



### City of Battle Creek Easter Egg Hunt April 1st!

Submitted by Yolanda Johnson,  
City of Battle Creek Unit President



The City of Battle Creek Membership will be hosting a Community Easter Egg Hunt on April 1, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. The event, organized by Unit Vice President Penny Hepler, takes place at the Historic Leila Arboretum (928 W. Michigan Ave., Battle Creek).

There will be face painting, fire trucks, prizes, and of course, the Easter Bunny. The participation age range for this is 12 years old and under. Each child will need to bring their own basket.

"I believe supporting the community where you work is very



crucial to the growth and support for our membership." said Yolanda Johnson, Unit President, City of Battle Creek Employees, SEIU Local 517M. "We are not only stewards of our membership; we must be stewards of our community".

L-R: Penny Hepler, Eric Morris, Yolanda Johnson, Bryce Hamilton (Easter Bunny), Kim Brown, and Jerrod Lepper.

### Michigan's Repeal of "Right to Work" Laws

Last Friday, March 24, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed House Bill 4004 and Senate Bill 34, making Michigan the first state in 58 years to repeal a "right to work" law. These bills were not given immediate effect because current State Senate Rules require a 2/3 vote to attach immediate effect to legislation.

While Senate Bill 34 will restore workers' rights for private sector workers in the early months of 2024, unfortunately, public sector workers will not be able to enjoy the impact of House Bill 4004 due the U.S. Supreme Court's 2018 Janus decision.

[Continued on Page 2]

**STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG**

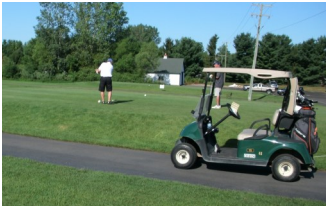
[www.seiu517m.org](http://www.seiu517m.org) Facebook at: [SEIULocal517M](https://www.facebook.com/SEIULocal517M)

## Register for the 2023 Scholarship Golf Outing by June 2nd!



Our annual golf outing to raise money for the SEIU 517M Tomorrow's Michigan Today Scholarship Fund will be held on Friday, June 9, 2023 at Wheatfield Valley Golf Course in Williamston. Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m.

The outing's proceeds help fund scholarship awards for SEIU Local 517M members and their family members. A link to the scholarship application and rules can be found in the article below.



The cost is \$80 per player which includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch at the turn, BBQ dinner after the round with burgers and jumbo hotdogs, prizes, a donation to the fund, a card for a future round of golf at the course, and more!!!

[Download the Registration Form!](#)

Get your foursome ready, and join us for a great day of golf to support a great cause! Contact Dave Corrie at (517) 267-2090, or e-mail at [corried@seiu517m.org](mailto:corried@seiu517m.org) with any questions.

**The registration deadline is June 2nd so reserve your spot today!**

## 2023 Scholarship Applications Now Available



The SEIU 517M - Tomorrow's Michigan Today Scholarship is open to dues-paying members in good standing (as defined in the SEIU Local 517M Constitution and Bylaws), their spouse, children, step children, adopted children or grandchildren with college or trade school expenses.

There are 15 scholarships available and the amount of each scholarship is \$600. These non-renewable scholarships will be awarded to students based on successful completion of the application process and meeting certain criteria. Awards will be made via a lottery system from all eligible submissions.

Applications are now available. [Click here.](#)

### [Continued from Front Page]

In 2018, the United States Supreme Court ruled in the Janus v. AFSCME case that public sector unions could not compel non-members to pay their share of the cost of collective bargaining. This means that the restoration of workers' rights for public sector employees in Michigan would require either a ruling by the United States Supreme Court that reverses or limits the 2018 Janus v AFSCME decision, or the ratification of an amendment to the United States Constitution.

To read the full bills, use the following links:

HB 4004 - <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/publicact/pdf/2023-PA-0009.pdf>

SB 34 - <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/publicact/pdf/2023-PA-0008.pdf>

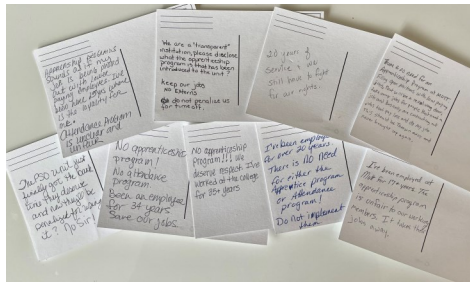
# Attendance and Apprenticeship Programs at Mott Community College

By Quintanilla Dowdell, Labor Relations Specialist

On Wednesday, March 8, 2023, SEIU Local 517M’s three units at Mott Community College gathered to unite and stand against the College’s implementation of Attendance and Apprenticeship Programs.

These programs had the potential of eroding the bargaining units and increasing restrictions on sick leave usage. The current Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA’s) indicate the procedure that was established, during negotiations, to address each target matter within the proposed programs. Accordingly, in December 2022, SEIU Local 517M issued Mott Community College a formal letter articulating its’ intent to decline modifying the existing language of the CBA’s to implement the proposed programs. The Union’s Unit Officers communicated their concerns, offered alternative proposals, and requested written details of the programs. Ultimately, the programs continued to appear as an agenda item during the regularly scheduled joint labor management (JLM) meetings.

We were not able to reach a resolution during these meetings.



Unit Officers acted swiftly by educating unit members about the latest developments and preparing them to take action against the implementation of the Attendance and Apprenticeship Programs. Members shared their personal stories and wrote on postcards that were distributed to Mott College Board Members to build strength against programs that would diminish our collective bargaining rights.

Our Union will not give up its’ rights and accept one-sided programs.

Instantly, SEIU’s response to push back against the programs was heard throughout campus by non-SEIU members and management. The College contacted the Union on March 9, 2023, to withdraw the proposals.

Our voices were heard. Our action was seen. Our rights have been protected.

## SEIU Starbucks Day of Action



We’re in a really pivotal moment in the Starbucks Workers United fight. Starbucks has a new CEO, thousands of workers went on strike ahead of the annual shareholder meeting, the company’s founder and former CEO has been summoned to the Senate to be held accountable for his union-busting actions – momentum is growing fast! To seize on this momentum built by SBWU members and the opportunity of a new CEO, we need your help.



We’re going to keep the heat on Starbucks by sending 1 million messages to Starbucks in support of SBWU from across the globe in a social media flood on April 11. We are asking people to post to their social accounts and inundate Starbucks.

This is going to be a massive show of force that Starbucks won’t be able to ignore from customers, allies, and members of SEIU, Workers United, AFL-CIO, and IUF locals, and more. There’s so much happening, but we know that we can win this fight.