



**SEIU 517M**  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

*The* **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of  
SEIU Local 517M

## July 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:**

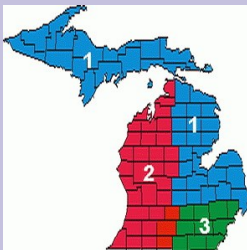
[Christine Stressman](#) - 616.696.2141

[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.



### The 2023 SEIU Local 517M Virtual Annual Meeting is July 29th

The 2023 SEIU Local 517M Annual Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, July 29th at 12:30 p.m. This is following the SEIU Local 517M Executive Board meeting. The Annual Meeting session will be 90 minutes long.

The first 100 members who register will be able to attend. Please register here so we can include you in the count by [clicking here](#).

Login information will be sent to registered members Friday, July 28th. We hope to see you there!

### SEIU 517M Leader Speaks Before Senate Committee

On June 21, SEIU Local 517M Divisional Vice President and Flint Community Schools paraprofessional Carmella Johnson represented SEIU Michigan and gave powerful testimony before the Senate Labor Committee in Lansing in support of SB171 which repeals "Preemption" laws.



These laws have been used to hinder local elected leaders from making decisions and creating policies aimed at enhancing the well-being of workers. Decisions on issues such as local wages and working conditions have been left up to the State instead of local municipalities, silencing the voices of local elected leadership, local workers, and residents.

She spoke to the failures of state intervention in municipalities, specifically citing the lead in Flint's water, and the impact it has had on the students she has worked with.

[View her testimony here.](#)



**STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG**

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

## 2023 SEIU 517M Tomorrow's Michigan Today Scholarship Winners

SEIU 517M Tomorrow's Michigan Today is proud to announce the recipients of our annual scholarship program. This year we had 36 eligible entries from members, as well as, eligible spouses, children, grand children and step children. Award winners were drawn at random from all eligible submissions.

**Blaine Barkovich**, studying Kinesiology at Michigan State University. The stepchild of Jeremy Wiest of the Scientific and Engineering Unit.

**Jill Carlson**, studying Business Administration at Central State University. She is a member working at Mott Community College.

**Jania Clowers**, studying Journalism/Communication/Sports Broadcasting at Michigan State University. The child of Torlease Patrick of the Human Services Support Unit.

**Jayanti Collins**, studying Human Biology at Michigan State University. The child of Shawn Collins of the Human Services Support Unit.

**Christian Gross**, studying Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology at Saginaw Valley State University. The child of Jeremy Gross of the City of Saginaw Salaried Unit.

**Savanna Hoin**, studying Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Michigan. The child of Laura Badalamenti of the Scientific and Engineering Unit.

**Richard Huff**, is in the Interdisciplinary Studies program at the University of Michigan—Flint. He is a member of the Human Services Support Unit.

**Julia Kirkey**, is an undecided major at the University of Michigan. The child of Kimberly Kirkey of the Scientific and Engineering Unit.

**Braden Johnston**, studying Electrical Engineering at Michigan Technological University. The child of Jody Johnston of the Technical Unit.

**Sophia Lozmack**, studying Respiratory Therapy at the University of Akron. The child of Steven Lozmack of the Scientific and Engineering Unit.

**Haley Nagel**, studying Pre-Veterinary Medicine at Northern Michigan University. The child of Susan Nagel of Wayland Union Schools.

**Karianne Rodeman**, studying Secondary Education and Integrated Science at Grand Valley State University. The child of Kevin Rodeman of the Scientific and Engineering Unit.

**Danielle Seedorf**, studying Magnetic Resonance Imaging at Kellogg Community College. She is a member working at the City of Battle Creek.

**Lashawn Williams**, studying Education at Delta College. He is a member working for Saginaw Public Schools.

**Garrett Zuber**, studying Environmental Engineering at Michigan State University. The grandchild of Dean Barr of the Scientific and Engineering Unit.

Congratulations to the winners and all the best for a successful future on behalf of the members of SEIU Local 517M. Information about next year's scholarship program will be available in January, 2024 so watch the website, the E-Former and your email for details!

## SEIU 517M Is NASHTU

As members of 517M, we understand what our union is, and the principles we uphold. Did you know that SEIU 517M played a pivotal role as one of the founding groups of NASHTU, and currently maintains its position as a sustaining member? In 1999, our former Executive Director, Phil Thompson, contributed significantly to the establishment of NASHTU. Since its inception, NASHTU has expanded to include 38 unions and has associates from 20 distinct states.

NASHTU, an acronym for the National Association of Highway Transportation Unions, works toward the fair and equitable allocation of federal and state transportation funds. This task is done by promoting the continued use of public employees to accomplish the monumental task of constructing and maintaining our national highway system. This system serves as the lifeblood of our nation, supporting its commerce, defense needs of our country, and facilitating the daily transportation needs of our populace, whether for work or pleasure.

This year it was my honor to attend the NASHTU National Convention as a representative of the Technical Unit of 517M, and to have as my partner representing the 517M Scientific and Engineering Unit, Leni Steiner-Zehender. During this year's convention we were privileged to have speakers from various groups such as OSHA, AFL-CIO, AAHSTO, and the FHWA. Along with these labor, safety, and infrastructure groups we had visits from several of our nations political leaders. This year Representatives Seth Moulton (D-MA), Pat Ryan (D-NY), Senators Ed Markey (D-MA), and Alex Padilla (D-CA) along with my Representative from Michigan's 3<sup>rd</sup> District Hillary Scholten (D-MI) gave us an insider's view of current funding, infrastructure needs and the legislation that gets our roads funded and built. These speakers gave informative presentations but in my opinion some of the most informative discussions were shared between members from the other States in attendance. This year there was a constant theme presented from every State, and Union. The recruitment and retention of union members and employees is at a critical point. The simple reason for this is the continued and expanding use of contracted employees, and the high cost associated with their use on public projects. It's simple math to understand that higher overhead costs drain the funds that could be used to expand and maintain our road system, or to be more competitive in public employees' wages and benefits. This use of contracted employees is found in every facet of the transportation industry from the engineers, and technicians to the maintenance workers and garage mechanics. With the continued use of contracted employees an increased cost of building and maintenance of our infrastructure is being felt by every taxpayer.

With these facts in mind, it was a great sense of pride to hear what other unions are doing. It was pride because many of the programs are what SEIU 517M has been doing for years. We continue to recruit new members from the ranks of new employees and to prove to existing employees that union dues are a small price to pay for the security that a union provides. 517M has a scholarship program, a recruitment and retention committee, we have engaged members, and leaders along with a hard-working staff that puts SEIU 517M in a great position for continued success now and in the future.

Please when you have time go to [www.nashtu.us](http://www.nashtu.us) to get a better understanding of this valuable organization.

George Heath  
Past President SEIU 517M

Leni Steiner-Zehender  
S & E Executive Board Member

*Member Organizations: AFSCME International, Council 32, Local 11, Local 375 DC37, Local 882, and Minnesota Council 5, American Federation of Teachers, Association of Engineering Employees of Oregon, Communications Workers of America, Connecticut State Employees Association, Council of Engineering and Scientific Organizations, CSEA Local 1000, International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers International, Local 21, and Local 400, Minnesota Government Engineering Council, Montana Federation of Public Employees, New York State Public Employees Federation, Oklahoma Public Employees Association, Service Employees International Union International, Local 285, Local 503, Local 517M, Local 1984, and Local 1989, Transportation Employees Association of Missouri, Teamsters Local 916, and Wisconsin State Engineering Association.*

## Golf Outing Supports Scholarship Fund

On Friday, June 9, 2023, 47 golfers participated in the 2023 SEIU 517M Tomorrow's Michigan Today Scholarship Golf Outing held at the Wheatfield Valley Golf Course in Williamston. The annual event raised over \$3,500 for the Scholarship Fund to help members and their families with college or trade school expenses. The Fund awards fifteen \$600 scholarships annually.

The winners of the outing were:



First Place - The Seve and Sons Team of Steve Holmi, Dan Dell, Gary Simons, Barry Burns



Runners Up - The MSEA Team of Erik Bailey, Troy Summers, Logan Bailey, Dave Schaumburger

The prize hole winners were:

- Hole #2 Closest to the Pin on Green - Dave Schaumburger
- Hole #6 Longest First Putt Holed - Steve Fowler
- Hole #7 Closest to the Pin on Green - M. Kiura
- Hole #10 Long Drive in Fairway Women - Chris Karpinski
- Hole #14 Longest First Putt Holed - Mark Moody
- Hole #15 Closest to the Pin on Green - Rod Jackson II
- Hole #17 Long Drive in Fairway Men - Dan Dell



We would like to thank our sponsors who helped make the event a success:

### Gold Level Sponsor

SEIU Local 517M Executive Board



**SEIU 517M**  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

### Silver Level Sponsors

Michigan State Employees Association



### Bronze Level Sponsors

Michigan Corrections Organization  
SEIU Michigan  
SMART Local 7 Zone 1 Youth-to-Youth



**SEIU**  
**Michigan**

### Hole Sponsors

David Berridge, Retired Scientific and Engineering Unit  
Driven Collision  
Inland Press, Mark Moody  
Phil Thompson, Retired Executive Director  
Tripp's Collision  
Union Staff Association



We hope that you join us for a great day of golf, fellowship and supporting a great cause next year!