



SEIU 517M
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of
SEIU Local 517M

September 2023

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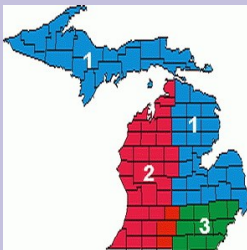
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Click on the map to find out which Region your unit is in.



Labor Day Parade in Detroit

On this year's Labor Day, the city of Detroit witnessed a historic moment - the first Labor Day March since the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the countless banners, union members, passionate chants, and jubilant faces, the four SEIU Locals in Michigan came together to celebrate labor and our accomplishments.



Members from SEIU Local 517M, SEIU Local 1, SEIU Healthcare Michigan and the Michigan Corrections Organization participated. The Labor Day parade marched through Detroit and ended at Savage Park. Our participation in this march carried a profound message: the importance of unions coming together to show their strength on Labor Day.

The COVID-19 pandemic undeniably disrupted the world as we knew it, affecting every aspect of our lives, including the way we work and organize. Unions, the bedrock of labor rights and workers' voices, faced unprecedented challenges.

However, Labor Day 2023 marked a turning point. It was a day when unions, along with various other community organizations, and legislators, came together to celebrate the progress we have made, and the resilience and strength of the labor movement.

Labor Day serves as a testament to the enduring power of unity among workers. Our participation in Detroit's Labor Day March is a reminder that, even in the face of adversity, unions will continue to stand together and fight for a brighter, more equitable future for all workers.



(Photo at left L-R: Divisional VP Rod Jackson, President Joey Combs, Executive Director Jonovan Luckey, HSS member Gloria Steward) (Photo credits to Beth Kelly and Jennifer Root)

STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG

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

SEIU Hosting Student Debt Relief Webinar



SEIU is holding an informative webinar on Student Debt Relief on September 20 at 8 pm, to understand, navigate, and manage student debt. The Department of Education will offer guidance on available relief and forgiveness options, such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), income-based repayment plans, and more. They will also preview the Biden administration's new student debt forgiveness plan and explain how participants can take part in the process.

[RSVP TO THE STUDENT DEBT RELIEF WEBINAR ON SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 8PM HERE!](https://seiu.co/seiu-student-debt)

We encourage you to share this invitation with your union siblings who may also benefit from this webinar. It is imperative, morally and economically, that we ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to pursue a college education that is fully funded and debt-free so there are opportunities for career advancement and job security. We look forward to working with you towards that goal!

SEIU Local 517M Annual Meeting Rescheduled

The 2023 SEIU Local 517M Annual Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.. The Annual Meeting session will be 90 minutes long.

If you RSVP'd for the July event you will need to RSVP again for this event due to the new date and registration link. All RSVP's need to be submitted by October 5, 2023.

[RSVP Today!](#)

Login information and agenda will be sent to registered members Friday, October 6, 2023. We look forward to seeing you there!

State Employees Reauthorize Your Membership!

Time is running out to reauthorize your membership. After October 13, 2023, any non-reauthorized union member will have their union membership cancelled by Civil Service.

The Civil Service rule changes that went into effect in 2020 require state employees to reauthorize their union membership every year, or their membership will expire.

Members who allow their membership to expire will lose all the benefits of membership at that time, including, voting rights on the upcoming wage reopener that we are currently negotiating, access to information, and the great member-only benefits you receive as a SEIU Local 517M member.

[Reauthorize Now!](#)

Poll Shows Strong Public Support for Unions

A poll commissioned by the AFL-CIO and conducted by GBAO of registered voters found widespread support for unions across party lines. Voter support comes from unlikely sources with Republican and Independents supporting unions, and younger voters likely to support them.

Support for unions was highest among the youngest voters. For voters under 30, 88% support unions and 77% say unions are needed more now than in past years.

If you wish to read the findings of the survey, [please review it here.](#)