

# MICHIGAN PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, SEIU LOCAL 517M

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, April 29, 2023 – Zoom Meeting – 10:00am

### I. ROLL CALL /ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

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

Secretary-Treasurer Bryan Grochowski conducted roll call. Board Members President Joey Combs, Secretary-Treasurer Bryan Grochowski, DVP Leticia Trevino, DVP Carmella Johnson, DVP Janice Cosey, DVP Michelle Kusnier, DVP Roderick Jackson, Director Jason Jackson, Director John Eck, Director Leni Steiner-Zehender, Director Molly Mott, Director Roland Whitelow, Director Jan Martin were **present**. DVP Yolanda Johnson, Director Greg Merricle, Director Roberta Oldenburg, Director Kevin Mercado, and Director Lori Steele were **absent**. A quorum was declared at **10:05AM**. The meeting was held via Zoom.

**B. Approval of Minutes:** The meeting minutes from the January 28, 2023, Executive Board meeting and C&B Special Meeting on March 2, 2023, were presented by Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski. Director Eck made a **MOTION** to approve the meeting's minutes. **SUPPORTED** by DVP R. Jackson. The **MOTION** carried.

### II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

**A. Opening Remarks:** President Combs thanked the board for being in attendance to the meeting.

**B. 2023 Board Meeting (July 29) and Annual Meeting Date:** President Combs announced the meeting dates and stated that the annual meeting will take place after the July 29 meeting. President Combs informed the board that the next EO Meeting will be held May 16, 2023.

**C. Constitution and Bylaws Changes:** President Combs gave an overview of the Constitution and Bylaw changes that impact the Executive Board and Officers. The changes discussed were as follows:

- Divisional Vice President positions are now based on 350 Members instead of 500.
- Terms of office will now start on January 1<sup>st</sup> and not July 1<sup>st</sup> for all Board and Officer positions.
- Election cycles moved from June to December for all Board and Officer positions.
- Attendance requirements changed from 3 consecutive unexcused absences to 3 total absences (regardless of reason) in a calendar year. Violations will be charged under Article 17 of the Constitution & Bylaws.
- President and Secretary-Treasurer are authorized to attend any meeting of the Union to carry out the goals of the Constitution & Bylaws.
- SEIU Convention delegates stay the same for the President and Secretary-Treasurer. The process to fill the other positions also remains the same.
- Removed the 2 staff positions (Executive Director and Political Director) since they are not Members.
- Post-Convention Review – President will appoint 3 Executive Board members to work with staff after each SEIU International Convention to review our Constitution and Bylaws to ensure compliance with SEIU International C&B.

D. **MI Strength in Action Council:** President Combs spoke about the Democratic trifecta and how that has affected unions.

E. **SEIU MI Strength in Action Council State of Play – Jennifer Root:** President Combs welcomed Jennifer Root, Executive Director of the Michigan SEIU Strength in Action Council. Ms. Root introduced herself. She top five priorities of the Michigan SEIU Strength in Action Council:

- Right to Work repeal
- School Employees choice to have dues deducted from their paychecks
- Package of bills for nursing home workers
- Preemption repeal
- Bills to help home care workers to have the right to organize.

Ms. Root spoke about SEIU International's Presidential Endorsement of current U.S. President Joe Biden.

Ms. Root explained details regarding the recent SEIU Michigan Lobby Day and the Fight for Fifteen campaign. She thanked everyone who turned out for the Lobby Day and stated that legislators are still reaching out to her and telling her about the effect that the lobby day had on them.

President Combs spoke about the intention of the Strength in Action Council with a six-month plan with legislator.

Ms. Root discussed the new laws that were enacted in Florida that are stripping away rights from workers and unions.

The Board thanked Ms. Root for her time.

### III. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

A. **Legislative/Advocacy Work:** Executive Director Luckey discussed a couple pieces of legislation that the union is monitoring and actively speaking to legislators about.

Bills:

- SB 169 (Sen. Cherry) This bill will require public employers to provide certain contact information of public sector employees hired into a

bargaining unit to their exclusive bargaining representative.

- HB 4233 (Rep. Churches) Restore the right of K-12 employees to pay dues through payroll deduction.

These bills will not have immediate effect, so if passed they will likely not go into effect until March 2024.

ED Luckey stated that the main focus of the legislature at the moment is the state budget. He stated that the budget should be done before the legislature breaks for the summer.

ED Luckey mentioned that there has been some discussion about expanding secured retirement benefits to all public employees. He mentioned that is a goal of this union to pursue stronger secured retirement options for our members by creating more choice and having plans that better address the needs of the employees both young and old. The Michigan SEIU Strength in Action Council renewed their membership for the Coalition for Secured Retirement.

B. **Information Services Report:** ED Luckey presented the Information Services Report prepared by Dave Corrie. Full details of the report are in the packet. ED Luckey went over the Constitution and Bylaws changes. The 2023 Tomorrow's Michigan Today Scholarship Application due by May 26, 2023, is available on the website. Golf Outing June 9, 2023, cost per golfer is \$80.00.

ED Luckey discussed the expansion of Unionware and the use of additional features of the website.

C. **Member Strength – (Olivia Jelinek):** ED Luckey welcomed Olivia Jelinek to the meeting. Ms. Jelinek presented her report on the union's current member density and plans for moving forward with organizing and reauthorization.

DVP Kusnier and Ms. Jelinek will be a pilot email program to target new employees and enhance the union's engagement with them.

The Board expressed their gratitude to Ms. Jelinek for her time and contributions.

#### IV. **SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- A. **December 2022, January and February 2023 Financial Report:** Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski presented the December 2022, January 2023, and February 2023 financial statements. DVP C. Johnson made a **MOTION** to accept the financial statements. **SUPPORTED** by DVP R. Jackson. The **MOTION** carried.

Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski discussed the union's investments through PNC Bank. He continued that we are moving money into investments to make sure the money is FDIC insured.

BBL1 discussion requested with Director Eck.

Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski discussed the fact that BBL1 is currently \$1,604.21 over the approved line-item amount.

- B. **COPE Report:** Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski presented the COPE report. Our 2023 goal is \$23,770. As of the end of March we are 13% to our goal.

Director Eck is joining the COPE committee with Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski, DVP R. Jackson, and Director J. Jackson.

#### V. **UNIT & REGION REPORTS:**

- A. Detailed reports included in Board packet.

#### VI. **NEWBUSINESS:**

Director Eck asked about SLG dues compliance, and when the dues increase was to be instituted.

Director Eck asked the EO board to look over the membership percentages.

#### VII. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

President Combs stated that we need to reimagine and be more creative with member engagement. Specifically, we need to increase our text message outreach to members and create a stronger process to acquire cell phone numbers so that we can have a robust outreach program.

DVP R. Jackson gave appreciation to Jennifer Root regarding the Lobby Day.

President Combs spoke about her experience being in the Senate Chamber when they passed the legislation to repeal Right to Work, noting the cohesiveness between all the labor groups on that day. She then stated that we need to use the power that we have as labor to achieve more victories for our members.

President Combs spoke about her op-ed in the Detroit News about Public Employee Recognition Month and important work that 517M members do in Michigan.

DVP R. Jackson stated the importance of organizing and communicating with new employees about union membership.

#### VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** The **MOTION TO ADJOURN** was made by President Combs. **SUPPORTED** by DVP C. Johnson. The meeting adjourned at **1:01 PM**.