



SEIU 517M
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of
SEIU Local 517M

November 2023

Staff Directory

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

Interim Executive Director:

[Joey Combs](#) - 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:

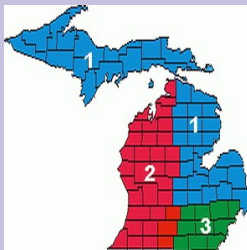
[Christine Stressman](#) - 616.696.2141

[Andy Johnson](#) - 269.978.1994

Region 3:

[Labor Relations](#) - 313.314.6511

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



State Ratification Election Results

On Monday, November 6, 2023, the SEIU Local 517M Election/Tally Committee met to count ratification ballots for the recently negotiated wage reopener for the three state bargaining units.

The Human Services Support unit results showed overwhelming support for the negotiated wage increase with a **99.2% approval margin**. Total returned ballots equaled 73.1% of the bargaining unit voting membership.

The Scientific and Engineering unit results showed overwhelming support for the negotiated wage increase with a **95.2% approval margin**. Total returned ballots equaled 61% of the bargaining unit voting membership.

The Technical unit results showed overwhelming support for the negotiated wage increase with a **95.9% approval margin**. Total returned ballots equaled 68.5% of the bargaining unit voting membership.

The Civil Service Commission votes on the agreements when they meet on December 15th. If approved, the wage increase will go into effect on October 1, 2024. The negotiated ratification bonus will be paid as soon as "administratively feasible" in calendar year 2024.

Members Helping in the Community



SEIU Local 517M members working in the Grand Rapids District office of EGLE recently participated in the 17th Annual Habitat for Humanity Kent County workday.

STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG

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

Annual Meeting Recap

The 2023 SEIU Local 517M Annual Meeting was held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, October 7, 2023.

Participants were welcomed by SEIU Local 517M President Joey Combs setting the stage for the day's program.

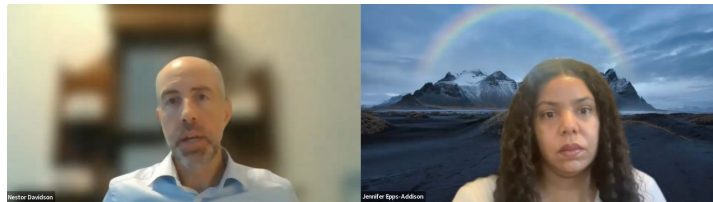
SEIU Local 517M Executive Director Jonovan Luckey spoke about the State of Our Union and the challenges that we face and how we are rising to meet them.



Nick Ciaramitaro, a former state legislator and current President of the Coalition for Secure Retirement talked about various pieces of retirement legislation that is being considered in the legislature.

There was a presentation on the SEIU Legal Services Program from Hope Effross of SEIU Member Benefits and Dana Jubran of U.S Legal Services. They discussed the many items that are covered under the program. Their slide presentation is available [here](#).

A presentation on preemption was given by Professor Nester Davison of Fordham Law School and Jennifer Epps-Addison J.D. of the Local Solutions Support Center. They discussed what preemption is and what needs to be done to make our communities safer, stronger, and healthy.



SEIU Member Benefit Legal Services

No Deductibles, No Co-Pays, No Claim Forms. \$16.90 per month.

Covered services include, but are not limited to:

Civil Litigation

Family Law (*Contested matters subject to 15-hour limitation discount thereafter. Subject to 120-day waiting period.*)

Immigration Matters

Traffic Violations

Criminal Law

Consumer-Seller Protection

Contingency Matters (*First \$1,000 exempt from fee. Subject to State and Federal Statutes.*)

Document Preparation & Review

Estate Planning

Financial Matters

Real Estate Transactions

Attorney's fees are paid in full for all covered legal matters when you utilize a Network Attorney. Receive a 33.3% discount off attorney's fees for pre-existing and other non-excluded legal matters. Coverage does not include fines, court costs, or other incidentals relating to the legal matter. Out-of-network benefits available.

Once you enroll in coverage, you will receive a certificate describing the exact coverage benefit purchased. This flyer explains the general purposes of the insurance, but in no way changes or affects the insurance afforded under the policy issued. All coverage is to be subject to actual policy conditions and exclusions. Not sponsored or approved by the United States Government or any Department or Agency thereof.

Employees and their families - coverage stops when dependent child reaches age 26—are covered for all their personal legal needs.

Staff Update: Joey Combs is the Interim Executive Director since the departure of Jonovan Luckey.