



**SEIU 517M**  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

*The* **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of  
SEIU Local 517M

## December 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:**

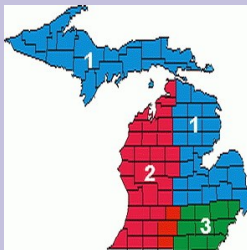
[Christine Stressman](#) - 616.696.2141

[Andy Johnson](#) - 269.978.1994

**Region 3:**

[Lamont Williams](#) - 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 ratification ballots for the three SEIU Local 517M state units were counted by members of the SEIU Local 517M Election Tally Committee. The results showed overwhelming support for the negotiated wage reopener.

The results were:

Human Services Support unit: **99.2% approval margin**. Total returned ballots equaled 73.1% of the bargaining unit voting membership.

Scientific and Engineering unit: **95.2% approval margin**. Total returned ballots equaled 61% of the bargaining unit voting membership.

Technical unit: **95.9% approval margin**. Total returned ballots equaled 68.5% of the bargaining unit voting membership.

The Civil Service Commission will vote on the agreements at their December meeting. If approved, the 5% base wage increase will be effective October 1, 2024. The additional ratification bonus of \$2,250 will be paid as soon as "administratively feasible" in calendar year 2024.

### 2023 Annual Meeting Recording Posted



The recording of the 2023 SEIU Local 517M Annual Meeting is now available. Please use the link below to access.

<https://youtu.be/vSerTVuUmo8>

### 2024 SEIU Local 517M Calendars Are Here!

Click on the link to download the State Employee or School and Local Government 2024 SEIU Local 517M calendars.

[State Employee Calendar](#)

[School and Local Government Calendar](#)

**STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG**

[www.seiu517m.org](http://www.seiu517m.org)

## New Labor Relations Specialist Hired at Local 517M



SEIU Local 517M would like to welcome our newest staff member Lamont Williams. He is the new Labor Relations Specialist responsible for School and Local Government Region 3. He will be responsible for working with local members, handling grievances, and contract negotiations to further the mission of Local 517M.

Before joining SEIU, Lamont worked in Workforce Development for Michigan Works in Detroit. Prior to that, he brings over 20+ years of union experience where he served as Chief Steward, Executive Board member, Contract Negotiator, and Joint Leadership with the UAW (Chrysler). Thereafter, he also worked at UFCW as a Regional Union Representative.

Lamont got his bachelor's degree at Wilberforce University. While working for Chrysler he developed a passion for the Labor movement which led him to training at the UAW Black Lake Conference Center and the Labor Studies program at Wayne State University.

He looks forward to this tremendous opportunity at SEIU Local 517M working alongside the members and his colleagues. Lamont replaces Quintanilla Dowdell who left in July of this year. Units will be transitioned to Lamont over the next few months so continue to work with the current staff assigned to your particular unit until he takes over.

## Michigan Applesauce Recall

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) are advising consumers that specific brands of applesauce containing cinnamon have been voluntarily recalled due to high levels of lead.

This advisory applies to WanaBana brand apple cinnamon fruit puree pouches (available online and sold in Michigan Dollar Tree stores). WanaBana has initiated a voluntary recall of all batches of this product. Included in the recall are out of Michigan brands Schnucks and Weis cinnamon apple sauces.

Parents of children who have eaten the recalled products or have other suspected sources of lead exposure should contact the child's health care provider about blood lead testing. Consumers are urged to stop using the affected products immediately and discard the products or return them to the place of purchase for a full refund.

There have been multiple cases in Michigan of elevated blood lead levels in children due to eating one of these products. An elevated blood lead test result is one that measures greater than or equal to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter. To learn more about blood lead testing, visit the [MI Lead Safe webpage](#). You can monitor updates about this recall at [bit.ly/FDA-Applesauce-Recall](http://bit.ly/FDA-Applesauce-Recall).

