



SEIU 517M
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of
SEIU Local 517M

January 2024

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

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[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:

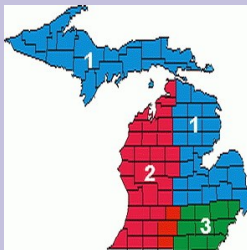
[Christine Stressman](#) - 616.696.2141

[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 Wage Reopener Approved by Civil Service Commission

The Civil Service Commission voted to approve the negotiated wage agreements at their December 13, 2023 meeting. 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.

This completes the final year for the current Collective Bargaining Agreement expiring on December 31, 2024. All three state employee units will begin negotiations for a new contract this summer. We thank the bargaining teams for their work on this wage reopener. Bargaining surveys for the next full contract will be sent out in the Spring.

Ludington Members Give Back to the Community

Every year, the SEIU Local 517M City of Ludington Department of Public Works employees spread Christmas joy to a local organization. This year, a \$300.00 donation was made to the Lakeshore Food Club. SEIU members giving back to the community and making a difference!

Lakeshore Food Club is a non-profit grocery store offering a wide range of food options for low income families. Qualifying members pay a low 30-day membership fee and select food using points based on household size. Members personally shop and select food as often or as seldom as they choose during their 30-day membership. Their aim is to promote dignity, respect, and the reduction of stigmas while supporting the concepts of Love, Feed, Connect.



Picture: L to R:
Kirk Caithamer, Unit President

Alison Glossinger,
Lakeshore Program Manager

Ellie Ruba, Lakeshore
Operations Manager

Erich Brooks, Unit Sec/
Treas.

Brandon Fisher, Unit Chief
Steward

STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG

www.seiu517m.org

Local 517M Committee Appointments—Will You Serve?

Member engagement is the engine of our UNION. The more members that are engaged, the more powerful and visible we are. Did you know your Union has several standing and special committees you can join? We are currently recruiting new members to come and join us as we get ready for 2024. All appointments will expire at the end of the President Comb's term on December 31, 2024. All committee members are open for reappointment by the next President at that time.

The following standing committees currently have positions available:

Election/Tally Committee: Oversees the general elections of the Local and shall be responsible for nominations and the preparation, tallying and certification of general election ballots. Members who are not running for a leadership position that the Committee would count are eligible for appointment.



Ethics Committee: Works with the ethics liaison to review and maintain the SEIU Code of Ethical Practices and Conflict of Interest Policy, approved by the International Executive Board. This Committee is responsible for educating all members, officers, and staff on these codes and practices.

Member Engagement Committee: Promotes membership in the Union, "Members-Only" benefits, and initiate organizing activity for, and on behalf of, the Union.

Political/Legislative Committee: Oversees and promotes the Union's political and legislative programs, as well as promote member involvement in the Committee on Political Education (COPE).



The following special committees currently have positions available:

New Member Orientation and Sign Up: Membership is the fuel that runs our UNION. The Committee helps individual units with member to member outreach in new hire orientations.

Community Partnership Committee: Focuses on opportunities for members to partner with community allies and others with a common goal. The committee works to build solidarity with other unions, organizations and neighbors to unite and advance our vision. As we continually find ways to increase our public visibility as advocates for quality public services, we will need community partners!

Leadership Development: Leaders are the drivers of our UNION. The Leadership Development Committee is responsible for facilitating the Leadership Academy. The Academy is comprised of various modules of 4-hour sessions, which are spread over 4 Saturdays which will be in-person and on Zoom. The participants are fellow members who apply for the Leadership Academy and are selected based on certain criteria.



Article 13, Section 3 of the SEIU Local 517M By-Laws states:

Standing Committee Members shall serve until discharged by the President, or until the conclusion of the President's term. Special Committee Members shall serve for the term of the committee as established upon committee assignment. Any Committee Member may resign upon written notice to the President.

To be appointed to one of the above committees, you need to contact President Joey Combs at jcombs@seiu517m.org and let her know who you are, which unit you are from, your contact information, and which committee(s) you are interested in serving on.

2024 Scholarship Applications Available Beginning in February



SEIU 517M - Tomorrow's Michigan Today Scholarship is open to dues-paying members in good standing (as defined in the SEIU Local 517M Constitution and Bylaws), their spouse, children, step children, adopted children or grandchildren with college or trade school expenses.

There are 15 scholarships available and the amount of each scholarship is \$600. These non-renewable scholarships will be awarded to students based on successful completion of the application process and meeting certain criteria. Awards will be made via a lottery system from all eligible submissions.

Applications will be available starting in February, 2024.

Financial Wellness Webinar—Financial Tips for the Sandwich Generation

SEIU Member Benefits and Prudential will offer a financial wellness educational webinar, through Prudential Pathways, on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. This Zoom webinar offers practical, down-to-earth information that may help you and your family today, tomorrow, and beyond. It is designed to give you an understanding of the fundamentals of financial wellness through educational seminars. The session discusses issues faced by those caring for children and parents at the same time. If this describes you, you may be part of the "Sandwich Generation".

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Session 1 (12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M., EST) Session 2 (7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M., EST)

[Register Now for One of the Sessions!](#)

Looking Forward to 2024 - What Events are Planned?

There are many events that are already planned for 2024 for Local 517M. From Executive Board meetings, trainings, and member meetings, there are many opportunities to get involved in your Union. More details about the events will be coming in the future.

You can always get the latest information about meetings from the SEIU website calendar. [Access it now.](#)

SEIU Local 517M Executive Board Meetings (meetings could be Zoom or in-person)

March 30, 2024

June 29, 2024

September 28, 2024

December 14, 2024

SEIU Local 517M Steward Training

Saturday, March 9, 2024—Sunday, March 10, 2024

This training is being held in Lansing.

SEIU Local 517M Annual Meeting

This meeting date has not been scheduled yet. Details to follow.

SEIU Lobby Day

This event has not be scheduled yet. Details to follow.