



**SEIU 517M**  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

*The* **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of  
SEIU Local 517M

**May 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

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[Andrea Valerio](#) - 989.797.4241

**SOM Labor Relations Questions:**

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[Clint Bryant](#) - 989.797.4258

**Region 2:**

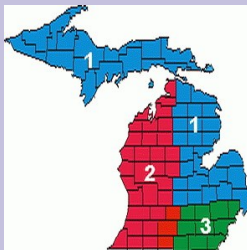
[Christine Stressman](#) - 616.696.2141

[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.



## Scholarship Fund Bowling Fundraiser is June 14th



Instead of a golf outing, we will be holding a scholarship fundraising bowling event on Friday, June 14, 2024. This will take place at the Royal Scot Golf and Bowl located at 4722 W. Grand River, Lansing.

Cost will be \$100 per lane rental for a 2-hour block (Noon – 2:00, 2:00 – 4:00, or 4:00 – 6:00) and will include 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental, 1 pizza per lane, 1 pitcher of pop per lane, and a SEIU T-Shirt

for up to 5 bowlers.

We will hold a “Mystery Game” for each 2-hour block. This game will consist of a random drawing of one team’s score to win a prize. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and silent auction at each 2-hour block. Bumper lanes will be available.

Contact Ashley Konyha ([akonyha@seiu517m.org](mailto:akonyha@seiu517m.org), 517-267-2095) or Dave Corrie ([corried@seiu517m.org](mailto:corried@seiu517m.org), 517-267-2090) at the SEIU 517M Lansing Office with any questions.

Gather your team and complete the registration form online and we hope to see you on the 14th! [Register your team here.](#)

## Scholarship Application Deadline is May 24th

The deadline for submission of the SEIU 517M - Tomorrow’s Michigan Today Scholarship is Friday, May 24, 2024. The 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 will be 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.

2024 Scholarship Applications are now available. [Click here.](#)

**STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG**

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

## Battle Creek Easter Egg Hunt was Fun in the Snow!

By Yolanda Johnson, City of Battle Creek Unit President



The Annual City of Battle Creek employees Easter Egg Hunt was held on March 23rd in the snow-covered grass of Leila Arboretum in Battle Creek. Temperatures and conditions were better than last year's event even with the snow!

Our wonderful Firefighters came out to greet everyone and give each child a little something special. The children and the parents enjoyed themselves. Our volunteers were great with assisting children and maintaining control over the attendees. Many thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers, especially the EASTER BUNNY!

On behalf of our Unit Officers, and this year's organizer, Unit Vice President Penny Hepler, we wish to thank all volunteers, Lori Hill, Marcie Thompson, Lynette Winstone, and their assistants. We would also like to thank those who donated candy, or cash, those who stuffed eggs, and our firefighters. This event would not have been possible without the support of this bargaining unit, Region 2, and the Local. You all made this year's event a success.



## Unions for All Statewide Tour 2024

Imagine if working people had more say over our future. Join the SEIU Michigan State Council at one of their summer convenings to learn more! These convenings are being held throughout the Spring and Summer at various locations across Michigan. The schedule is below:

May 4, 2024 - Flint, 9:00 am – Noon at the Berston Field House, 3300 Saginaw St, Flint, MI 48505.

June 5, 2024 - Lansing

July 20, 2024 - Marquette

August 10, 2024 - Detroit

When working people join together in a union, we gain strength in numbers to fight for quality jobs that lift our families up. Join other SEIU members to discuss how we can empower more working Michiganders to join unions, so we can all have a stronger voice about our jobs and future.

Register for any of the meetings [here](#).

Our hard work keeps Michigan going. Let's make sure more of us — no matter what zip code we live in — have a seat at the table to build a state that puts working families first.

## MDARD Member In-Service

By Michelle Kusnier, Scientific and Engineering Unit Board



The Annual Training Conference for the Bureau of Food Safety and Animal Health/Human Food Division/Dairy, Feed and Produce Division was held the week of April 22nd in Frankenmuth. This training occurs yearly for continuing education credits for inspectors.

SEIU 517M setup a table to talk to members and also to encourage non-members to join with their co-workers. Everyone was super excited to see their union “in person” again and there were a lot of good conversations during breaks.

## Earth Day Recycling Event in Saginaw

By Clint Bryant, SEIU 517M Staff

City of Saginaw SEIU 517M members joined the Saginaw Green Team to celebrate Earth Day by hosting a Foam Recycling Event, in partnership with the Saginaw Children’s Zoo’s “Party for the Planet”, on Saturday April 27, 2024. The exciting event took place at the Saginaw Children’s Zoo, 1730 S. Washington Avenue. The goal of this year’s event focused on educating and motivating others to recycle and care for the environment.

The mission of the Saginaw Green Team is to raise awareness of sustainable practices and to facilitate education to help stimulate ideas and actions for a greener Saginaw. The Green Team members plan several exciting events throughout the year to educate and motivate the public to recycle and care for the environment. The Foam Recycling Event is a new event for the Green Team and promises to be an enjoyable and educational day for all who attend.

“I had a great time at the event. As members of the City of Saginaw’s Green Team, we were able to encourage visitors to recycle, pass out information about protecting our watersheds, and tell them about the Dart Foam (#6 Plastics) recycling drop-off center at the Saginaw Children’s Zoo. The giveaways



and Priority Waste truck were a big hit with the kids. It was refreshing to see the community excited about helping the planet.” Shaela Madlock (517M City of Saginaw Member and Region 1 Board Member)

Pictured: SEIU Members Alex Shepard (Far Left) and Shaela Madlock (4th from Left)

## Save the Date for the 2024 Annual Conference

The 2024 SEIU Local 517M Annual Conference will be held on Sunday, July 28, 2024 at the William G. Milliken State Park & Harbor located at 1900 Atwater Street in Detroit.

More information will follow.