



**SEIU 517M**  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

# The *E-Former*

The Official Electronic Newsletter of  
SEIU Local 517M

## October 2024

### Union Election Process

Elections for officers and board members in all School and Local Government Regions and all 3 State Employee Units will begin October 1st. There will also be a vote on changes to two articles in the current SEIU Local 517M Constitution and Bylaws. These will appear on the same ballot. A description of the positions that are available for election is on the next page of this newsletter.

The election calendar is stated below:

**October 1 - 31, 2024** - Candidate Petition Form and Photos accepted.

**November 11 – December 1, 2024** - Voting Period. Voting begins at 8:00 a.m. on November 11th and concludes at 5:00 p.m. on December 1st.

**November 22, 2024** - Final deadline for requesting a paper ballot in lieu of electronic voting.

**December 2, 2024** - Ballots are counted and election certified by the Election/Tally Committee.

**January 1, 2025** - Newly elected leadership takes office.

If you are interested in running for a union office, the [Candidate Petition Form](#) with the offices up for election is available on the website and through links in this story. Petition forms will be accepted between October 1, 2024 and 4:00 pm on October 31, 2024. You must have been a member in good standing for the last 12 consecutive months in order to be eligible to run for office.

If you have questions about the election process, contact Dave Corrie at [corried@seiu517m.org](mailto:corried@seiu517m.org).

### State Employees, Don't Forget to Reauthorize!



Time is running out to reauthorize your membership. If you haven't already done so, you can call the HRMN Self-Service Hotline at 877-766-6447 between 8:00am — 5:00 pm., or you can access the HRMN Portal by using this link: [Reauthorize Now!](#) The HRMN Portal link is closed today and tomorrow so call the Hotline on those days. The HRMN Portal link will be active starting this Thursday.

Don't lose your ability to vote on the new contract and Union leaders this Fall!

### Staff Directory

**Interim Executive Director:**  
[Joey Combs](#) - 517.267.2065

**Information Services/PDF/  
Union Member Discounts:**  
[Dave Corrie](#) - 517.267.2090

**Office Manager:**  
[Ashley Konyha](#) - 517.267.2095

**Dues & COPE Deductions:**  
[Andrea Valerio](#) - 989.797.4241

**Member Strength Director:**  
[Marian Wilcox](#) - 517.744.5393

**State 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 and Local Government Labor  
Relations:**

[Clint Bryant](#) - 989.797.4258

[Christine Stressman](#) - 616.696.2141

[Andy Johnson](#) - 269.978.1994

[Lamont Williams](#) - 313.314.6511

[Brandell Tomanica](#) - 517.237.0426

**STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG**

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

## Union Positions Up for Election

Positions that will be up for election and a brief description of what the position entails.

### Local President

The President shall preside over, and determine the order of business for, the Annual Meeting, Executive Board meetings, and any special meetings of the membership. The President can call special meetings, create special committees, appoint committee members, and have general oversight of all activities of the Union. The President is authorized to attend any meeting of this Union to carry out the goals incorporated in this Constitution and Bylaws.

### Local Secretary/Treasurer

The Secretary/Treasurer shall oversee all financial accounts of the Union, be responsible for the collection, custody and properly approved disbursements of all funds and shall make periodic reports to the Executive Board of receipts and disbursements. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be sufficiently bonded by the Union. The Secretary/Treasurer is authorized to attend any meeting of this Union to carry out the goals incorporated in this Constitution and Bylaws. The Secretary/Treasurer shall oversee records of the proceedings of all meetings, oversee membership lists and all official records of the Union and shall be responsible for Union elections and ratification votes. The Secretary/Treasurer shall assist in the discharge of the President's duties and in the absence of the President, perform those duties.

### Divisional Vice President

The Divisional Vice President shall represent their respective membership and may be assigned specific duties as needed by the President. This person is elected the Unit President for their respective state employee bargaining units, and geographically for the school and local government regions.

### School and Local Government Region Boards

The School and Local Government Division has established Regions with each Region having an elected Regional Board for purposes of servicing its membership and selecting its Executive Board Members. The Regional Boards must be inclusive of all bargaining units in the Region. The bargaining units elect their own representatives based on a formula; however, grouping of smaller bargaining units together for electing a representative on the Regional Board is acceptable. It is left to the individual Regions to determine their representatives to the 517M Executive Board.

### State Employee Unit Boards

Each State Employee bargaining unit maintains their own bargaining unit board. These boards have initial responsibility for grievances, contract negotiations and contract administration. The bargaining units elect their own representatives based on classification, department or geography depending on which bargaining a formula. It is left to the individual State Employee bargaining units to determine their representatives to the Union Executive Board, in accordance with the representation formula, provided the selections are members of the Bargaining Unit Board.

Any election related questions can be directed to Dave Corrie at [corried@seiu517m.org](mailto:corried@seiu517m.org).

[Access the Candidate Nomination Petition here.](#)



### Grand Rapids Habitat Day

SEIU Local 517M members joined with other EGLE employees for the 18th Annual EGLE Grand Rapids Habitat Work Day.

This occurred on Tuesday, September 24, 2024. The volunteers worked on flooring, trim, siding, and painting.

SEIU Members active in their community!

## Detroit Halloween Roller Skating Event on October 30th



There will be a Roller Skating Event for SEIU Local 517M members and families at the Northland Roller Rink located at 22311 West 8 Mile Road, Detroit, MI 48219 (West of Lahser Road).

Admission is Free and skate rental is \$3.

Halloween costumes are allowed but not required.  
Goodie Bags provided for kids 12 and under.

Please [RSVP by clicking here](#) before 4:00 pm on Friday, October 25, 2024. Registration is limited to the first 100 individuals so RSVP now!



## Saginaw Township School Members Ratify Wage Reopener

On August 9th, members of the Saginaw Township Community Schools (STCS) Transportation Unit ratified their negotiated wage reopener tentative agreement. Thanks to the vigilance and diligence of the Bargaining Team, highlights of this historic settlement included:

- Elimination of previous “**downtime**” language that negatively impacted members for *years* in the past. The workers now get paid an hourly rate for this *down time* while they’re still at work
- Bringing back outsourced athletic trip work **back to the Union!** The Union was able to uncover and demonstrate financial value to the District avoiding having to pay private carriers, and having athletic team trips posted in advance for our Union drivers to select or be assigned to be paid for these regular trips
- Significant increase in wages.

Congratulations to the membership on their victories!

## Saginaw Holidays in the Heart of the City Event

SEIU 517M will host a Holidays in the Heart of the City pre-event for members and their families at the SEIU Local 517M office located at 203 S. Washington Ave., Saginaw, MI 48607 on Friday, November 22nd. Members will take the historic elevators to the second floor where refreshments will be provided prior to the tree lighting ceremony. The time of the pre-event will be 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

The Holiday Lighting Ceremony begins at 5:45 pm at the Water Treatment Plant with the lighting to begin at 6:00 pm.

RSVP before Noon on Tuesday, November 19th. [Register Here.](#)



*Holidays in the Heart of the City will take place on Friday, November 22, 2024 from 5:30 to 8:30PM. We will feature free Christmas Concerts, Horse-Drawn wagon rides on Ezra Rust Drive, open houses at many venues including the Childrens’ Zoo, Andersen Enrichment Center, Japanese Tea House, The Montague Inn and the Mexican American Council. Free pony rides for the kids in Borchard Park, food vendors on the streets and much more.*

## New SEIU College Benefit Program

The SEIU College Benefit powered by Edvance, gives you and your family (member’s spouse or domestic partner, children or dependents, and grandchildren) exclusive access to discounted education opportunities at a growing network of regionally accredited schools.

Courses and programs are designed for working adults to meet your schedule, interests, and budget.

- ◆ College tuition benefit – Get exclusive tuition discounts of up to 50% off. Individual qualifying financial aid may be available.
- ◆ Conscious program design – waived or no application fees, minimal book costs and maximum value.
- ◆ Flexible learning schedules – 100% online degrees and certificates plus multiple class starts per year that cater to working adults.
- ◆ Generous transfer credit policies from regionally accredited schools help you complete your degree or certificate faster.
- ◆ Diverse program and school offerings through the Edvance network of colleges and universities. Use the best-fit match system for a personalized educational journey.
- ◆ Career-focused, in-demand degree and certificate programs give you the skills employers value. Edvance is a higher education member-benefit provider focused on supporting SEIU members and their families. Edvance helps identify the best-fit school and program for eligible individuals while also providing support and guidance through the application, financial aid, and enrollment process..

### DEGREE & CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS THAT WORK FOR YOU

**Trine University (TrineOnline):** A regionally-accredited non-profit institution founded in 1884 and based in Angola, Indiana with additional locations in Arizona, Michigan and Virginia. Some of the degrees available include Accounting, Industrial Engineering Technology, Information Systems, Human Resource Management, Marketing, Psychology, Organizational Leadership.

**William Woods University (WWU):** A private, regionally accredited nonprofit institution of higher learning founded in 1870 based in Fulton, Missouri. WWU is committed to a student-centered learning environment. Some of the degrees available include Communication, Education, English, Legal Studies, Cybersecurity, Paralegal Studies, Workforce Management.

**Cambridge College (CC):** A private, regionally accredited nonprofit institution of higher learning founded in 1971. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, CC is committed to affordable, and accessible undergraduate degree programs. Some of the degrees available include Interdisciplinary Studies, Healthcare Administration, Digital Marketing, Social Entrepreneurship Management and Quality Systems Management.

**Southeastern University (SEU):** A private, regionally accredited nonprofit institution of higher learning founded in 1935. SEU is a Christ-centered institution dedicated to equipping the next generation to go into the world as influential servant leaders in their careers and their communities. Some of the degrees available include Humanitarian Compassion, Global Education, Communication and Mass Media, Nursing, Tourism and Hospitality Management.

**Herzing University:** A regionally accredited institution founded in 1965 with 11 campuses located in eight states, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin, committed to the education, training and advancement of career-focused individuals. Some of the degrees available include Business Management, Accounting, Science in IT, Criminal Justice, Psychology, Computer Networking, Cyber Security and Information Technology.

**Central Community College (CCC):** A regionally accredited public institution founded in 1966. Based in Nebraska, this multi-campus community has been offering online education for more than 30 years. As a two-year institution, CCC focuses on career and technical certificate and associate degree programs. Areas of study include Early Childhood Education, Environmental Health and Safety, IT and Systems and Quality Technology.

Find your best-fit school and program today.

1. Make sure you’re signed in to your SEIU Member Benefits account.
2. Click the “Get Started” button above.
3. On the SEIU College Benefit page powered by Edvance, fill out the no-cost, 3-step form—it takes as little as 3 minutes. You’ll immediately get matched to your best-fit partner school and program within the Edvance network.
4. Review your best-fit school match and/or explore the full list of schools in the Edvance network.
5. Apply to get started and receive specific information on your program, costs and transfer credits.

[View FAQ about the program here.](#)