



SEIU 517M
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of
SEIU Local 517M

January 2025

Newly Elected Leadership Take Office



Local 517M President Greg Merricle and Local 517M Secretary/Treasurer Joey Combs were sworn in on January 2, 2025 to lead Local 517M for the next three years. The remaining Executive Board members will be sworn in at their January 11, 2025 training.

The 2025-2027 Executive Board is:

President: Greg Merricle
Secretary/Treasurer: Joey Combs



Divisional Vice Presidents: HSS: Janice Cosey, S&E: Brad Laskosky, Tech: Rod Jackson, Region 1: Barb Rasche, Region 2: Yolanda Johnson, Region 3: Carmella Johnson.

Board Members:

Region 1: Roberta Oldenburg
Region 2: 1 vacant seat awaiting appointment
Region 3: Jan Martin
HSS: Roland Whitelow
S&E: David Lawrence, 1 vacant seat awaiting appointment
Tech: Jason Jackson

The final meeting of the 2021-2024 Executive Board was held at the SEIU Local 517M Lansing Office on Saturday, December 14, 2024. We thank the board members for their service to their union and fellow members.

The gavel is being passed by outgoing President Joey Combs to incoming President Greg Merricle.



Staff Directory

Interim Executive Director:
Joey Combs - 517.267.2068

**Information Services/
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 Unit Labor Relations:
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 Unit
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

Members Needed for Committee Appointments!

By Greg Merricle, SEIU 517M President

Member engagement is the engine of our Union. The more members that are engaged, the more powerful and visible we are. Every election term, the SEIU Local 517M President makes appointments to standing and special committees. These appointments last the duration of their 3-year term. We are currently recruiting committee members to come and join us as we get ready for the new term.

To be considered for appointment or to be reappointed to one of the committees listed below, please contact President Greg Merricle at president@seiu517m.org.

Committees currently available are:

Standing Committees

According to Article 13, Section 3 of the SEIU Local 517M Constitution and Bylaws as adopted December 14, 2024: 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.

Election/Tally Committee: The Election/Tally Committee shall be responsible for nominations and the preparation, tallying and certification of general election ballots.

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

Social and Economic Justice Committee: The Social and Economic Justice Committee is charged with the responsibility of carrying out the Social and Economic Justice programs as proposed by the Executive Board.

The African American Caucus (AFRAM) is committed to enhancing opportunities for education, training, mentorship, leadership development and networking for SEIU members and staff of African descent. This committee is open to all races.

Special Committees

In accordance with Article 13, Section 1 of the SEIU Local 517M Constitution and Bylaws as adopted December 14, 2024: Special Committees may be established with committee members selected by the President and notice provided to the Executive Board. Committee members to serve with the duties as assigned and regular reports given to the Executive Board.

New Member Orientation and Sign Up. Membership is the fuel that runs our UNION. The new member orientation and sign-up committee helps units with member to member outreach in new hire orientations.

The Member Engagement Committee promotes membership in the Union. Member engagement is the engine of the Union. Member engagement has been done via member events and activities such as general membership/chapter meetings, conferences, bargaining surveys, brown bag lunch activities, ice cream socials, bingo, bowling outings, community garden events, picnics, and our Annual golf outing.

The 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!

Voting Opens for Constitution and Bylaw Changes



The SEIU Local 517M Executive Board proposed at their December 14th meeting the following additions and changes to the SEIU Local 517M Constitution and Bylaws. The changes to Article 6, Article 15 and the addition of an Appendix D, allow for electronic meetings of boards, committees, and membership with specific instructions on the conduct of such meetings.

The ballot is accessible now and voting closes at 4:00 pm on January 30, 2025.

You may view the proposed changes [here](#).

You may access your [ballot here](#). You will need your Member # to vote.

If you prefer to cast your vote via paper ballot, contact Ashley Konyha at akonyha@seiu517m.org to request one. The deadline for requesting a paper ballot is January 21, 2025. Paper ballots must be received in the SEIU 517M Lansing Office (836 Centennial Way, Suite 150, Lansing, MI 48917) no later than 4:00 pm on Thursday, January 30, 2025.

Board of Auditor Nomination Period Continues

With the passage of the Constitution and Bylaw changes a three-member Board of Auditors is being created to examine the financial books of the Local. These individuals will work with, and be trained by, our accounting firm.

The Auditors will submit recommendations to the Local 517M Executive Officers and Executive Board. Self-nominations for these positions begin today, December 16th and will end on January 17, 2025.

Nominations are open to dues paying members who are not currently serving in a leadership capacity.

[Complete the Nomination Form](#)

Any questions should be directed to Ashley Konyha at akonyha@seiu517m.org.