



SEIU 517M
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The *E-Former*

The Official Electronic Newsletter of
SEIU Local 517M

August 2025

Recap of Ice Cream Social

On Monday, July 28th an Ice Cream Social was held at the State of Michigan softball tournament at Sharp Park in Lansing. Thankfully the rain held off, but it was super-hot. Everyone enjoyed the ice cream especially after each game. There was a large dash for ice cream at the very end at 8:15PM. SEIU Swag was distributed by (pictured below L-R: Local 517M President Greg Merricle, Scientific and Engineering Unit Board Member Bryan Grochowski, and Member Strength Director Marian Wilcox.



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STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG

www.seiu517m.org



[@seiu.517m](#)

State Unit Seniority Lists Now Available

Twice a year the State prepares a seniority list that shows the continuous service hours of our members. The list is used for many purposes, such as employment preference, overtime, and retirement.

The most recent list was run as of April 26, 2025. Please review it for accuracy. Members have found errors in the report in the past. You must notify your Human Resources Division if you believe any of the hour counters are inaccurate.

[Human Services Support Unit](#)

[Scientific and Engineering Unit](#)

[Technical Unit](#)

State Unit Contracts Now Available

The finished versions of the three state employee unit contracts are now available. The agreements went into effect on January 1, 2025 and will expire on December 31, 2027. Click on the links below to access your specific contract.

[Human Services Support](#)

[Scientific and Engineering](#)

[Technical](#)

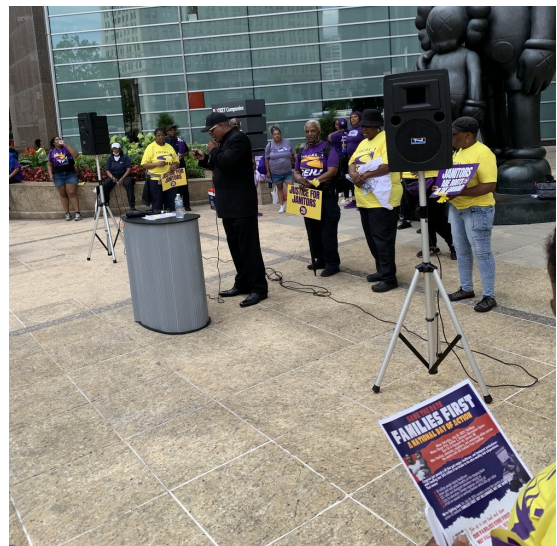
Local 517M Stood “Boots on the Ground” in Rally for Janitors

On July 16, 2025, Member Strength Director Marian Wilcox stood “Boots on the Ground” in solidarity with SEIU Local 1 Janitors in Detroit. Community members, fellow union members, and faith leaders came together and took part in a powerful prayer vigil in support of the continued fight during their contract negotiations. We came together collectively to fight for fair wages, job security, and dignity in the workplace. Our Local 1 Brothers and Sisters are responsible for cleaning and sanitizing Detroit Public Schools, sports arenas, Detroit Airport, and many



commercial buildings in the City of Detroit. Their work is an essential part of keeping the City of Detroit and businesses functioning and this fact is why we must continue to raise our voices collectively and demand what is truly deserved.

Continue to fight and remember that we are “Stronger Together.”



Family First Rallies Across the State

On Saturday, July 26th, Local 517M participated in rallies in Detroit and Lansing as part of the Families First movement. From rural towns to major cities, Families First actions brought people together to collectively demand an end to policies that harm children, seniors, and our families.

In Detroit, Local 517M, SEIU Michigan, SEIU Local 1, and SEIU Healthcare Michigan joined forces at Rouge Park in Detroit with our Families First coalition partners for a powerful Day of Action. The Detroit event drew hundreds of attendees and amplified our collective voice in support of working

families, in opposition against cuts to vital programs like FEMA and Medicaid.



In Lansing, Labor Relations Specialist Brandell Tomanica joined advocates, workers, and community members at the Families First Rally in Downtown Lansing, standing in solidarity with those impacted by devastating financial cuts to essential programs and services.

These cuts threaten the backbone of our communities, and many of our own SEIU 517M members will feel the effects firsthand. We represent a wide range of dedicated workers across Michigan, including those in community mental health organizations, local government, state government, and public schools. They all are dependent to a degree on federal funding for services that will be impacted by funding cuts.



Tech Notes - News for Technical Unit Members

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to the issues being faced by our State of Michigan Technical Unit members. Below is a letter that was sent to fellow technicians in the Michigan State Police by fellow technician Michael Boylan. It is being shared with all technicians here.

Good afternoon fellow technicians,

My name is Michael Boylan, Chapter 9 president and board member of the SEIU Technical Unit and SDU Technician at the Metro Detroit lab. I am reaching out to you today to solicit your help in convincing the Civil Service Commission to remove from the Rules and Regulations for the prohibited subjects of bargaining (PSB's) that were put in place on January 1, 2019.

In 2019 transfer rights, seniority, assignment, overtime assignment, layoff/recall, were removed from our contract by Commission action. The new Commission has taken action by proposing to repeal that action at their May meeting and are looking to reinstate our right to negotiate these items. The proposed changes are currently in the comment period. Any comments you would like to make to support reinstating the Union's ability to negotiate these rights can be made by emailing the Commission at civilservicecommission@michigan.gov.

I have included some talking points that you may use in your email below:

- This will allow employees to collectively bargain rights that were negotiated, approved, and ratified by previous civil service commissions. In 2019 these contract items were yanked away from union contracts and became "prohibited subjects of bargaining."
- With the change these previously negotiated rights became completely controlled by management, and in some cases the right was virtually eliminated. (i.e. Transfer Rights).
- The system of collective bargaining under civil service has been in place since 1984. Maintaining good faith negotiations provides good will and helps with recruitment of talented workers, and helps retain the high performing experienced workers.

Exclusively Represented employees expect to have their agent (Union) at the table to negotiate wages, hours, benefits, and working conditions. Assignments, OT Assignments, Transfer Rights, Seniority, Layoff/Recall, and Union Leave are important to employees.

Thank you for your assistance in this endeavor, and please feel free to reach out if there's anything else that you would ever need from me.

Yours in solidarity,

Michael Boylan
SEIU Local 517M Technical Unit
Chapter 9 President

Michael is a Forensic Technician in the Seized Drug Unit with the Michigan State Police Forensic Science Division at the Metro Detroit Forensic Laboratory.