



**SEIU 517M**  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

## *The E-Former*

The Official Electronic Newsletter of  
SEIU Local 517M

### September 2025

#### New Executive Director Hired



Claire Corr has been hired as the next Executive Director of SEIU Local 517M. Claire is a dedicated labor relations and community engagement professional with more than 25 years of experience in union leadership, advocacy, and organizational development. Throughout her career, she has built a reputation for fostering strong relationships, advancing fair workplace practices, and driving strategic initiatives across labor, healthcare, nonprofit, and government sectors.

Most recently serving as a Community Engagement Manager at Piper & Gold Public Relations, Claire has led partnerships with businesses, nonprofits, and civic organizations to strengthen public trust and expand community impact. She previously directed member relations and statewide outreach for the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, and earlier held

leadership roles with Sparrow Health System as their labor liaison, and with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan as a union president and customer service representative.

Claire's career reflects a consistent commitment to advocacy, equity, and collaboration. She has successfully navigated contract administration, stakeholder communications, and coalition building, while also managing multimillion-dollar operations, budgets, and nonprofit foundations. Her board and volunteer service includes leadership roles with the Old Newsboys Association of Greater Lansing, CASA for Kids, and the Capital Area United Way, reflecting her passion for community service.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Multidisciplinary Studies from Siena Heights University and has completed additional coursework in public administration, business, and marketing. Known for her strategic vision, clear communication, and inclusive approach, Claire continues to champion partnerships that empower individuals, strengthen organizations, and support community growth.

We welcome Claire to the SEIU Local 517M family!

#### Staff Directory

**Executive Director:**  
[Claire Corr](#) - 517.267.2065

**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

[Brandell Tomanica](#) - 517.237.0426

[Lamont Williams](#) - 313.314.6511

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



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## In Memory of Andy Johnson



We are saddened to report to the membership the passing of Labor Relations Specialist Anderson (Andy) Johnson. Andy has been on staff with SEIU Local 517M since 2014. He handled contracts in Region 2 of our School and Local Government Division.

Before coming on staff, Andy was an active member and leader of SEIU Local 517M and SEIU Local 466M when working for the City of Saginaw. He was SEIU Local 517M Secretary/Treasurer immediately prior to retiring and joining our staff. He has served as President of the Saginaw Municipal Employees Chapter, School and Local Government Region 1 Board member, Local 517M Executive Board member, President of SEIU 517M AFRAM (affiliate of the National African American Caucus of SEIU), and President of the Central Region AFRAM Caucus providing leadership for AFRAM caucuses in six states.

We offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to his family.



## Actions Over State Budget Scheduled in Lansing

We The People Action Fund will be holding actions in Lansing to make our voices heard. Michiganders value our freedom to provide for our families, and deserve a budget that ensures every one of us can thrive.

But the budget passed by the Michigan Legislature slashes funding for healthcare, education, water safety and so much more that our cities and towns rely on to make our communities vibrant and prosperous.

That's why we're heading to Lansing September 9th, 10th and 11th to raise our voices. There will be actions on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Please select the day you can join us. After you register, a WTP organizer will reach out to you to share next steps and the location.

We know when we come together, we can defend our communities and make this a state that's vibrant and prosperous for all, not just the wealthy few.

[Click Here to Register](#)

## 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. An article that appeared in the Labor Day 9/1/25 edition of the Detroit Free Press talks about the privatization of technician jobs at MDOT. Click on the link below to read the article.

***MDOT shifts work to private firms - Union says move by state drives up costs for fixing roads***  
*Paul Egan - Detroit Free Press - USA TODAY NETWORK*

[Read the Article Here](#)

## Labor Day Parade 2025

Members from Local 517M joined with fellow union brothers and sisters to attend the annual Labor Day Parade in Detroit. It was a celebration of labor and what we have done to build this country. Thanks to HSS member Rabia Keo for the photos below.



L-R: Robert Sartell, Rabia Keo, Gloria Steward, Terry Johnson

## Saginaw Paraprofessionals Plan Action at Saginaw School Board Meeting

Paraprofessionals continue to be the last to be considered and are often left behind when it comes to an increase in wages and benefits. A fair and livable wage is what we are demanding. Our roles are critical in the classroom and without paraprofessionals, there is a breakdown in the functionality of the classroom. We are the glue that holds everything together. The impact that we have in the classroom and with the kids we serve should be fairly compensated and appreciated. We do this job because we love and care about the kids, but we need to be taken care of too. We cannot continue to do the work without a livable wage. We kindly ask all of our fellow paraprofessionals to come out and join us in solidarity and let your presence be known at the next Saginaw Public School Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 beginning at 5:00 pm. Your presence will show district officials that we are serious and that we are not backing down during this contract negotiation. Paraprofessionals deserve more than praise - they deserve a fair contract! If you would like to speak under union comments at the meeting, please contact Labor Rep. Clint Bryant by September 10th at 989-797-4258.

[Register to Attend the Meeting and Select Your Shirt Size](#)