



SEIU 517M
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The *E-Former*

The Official Electronic Newsletter of
SEIU Local 517M

November 2025

Securing Economic Justice & Employer Dues Deduction with Dedication!

By: Clint Bryant, Labor Relations

"Our family is Union. I got my tennis shoes on and I'm ready to march the five blocks to the Board of Education building because my daughter and these guys deserve a raise! This is ridiculous!"

- Ms. I.O., 82 yrs. & Proud Mother of SPSD member



3 Year Contract - Highlights:

Employer Dues Deduction
Annual Winter Bonus Language-
Revenue Exceeding Expenditures
(REE)

Non-Paraprofessionals:
11% Wage Increase

Paraprofessionals
25.5% Wage Increase

A team of over a dozen unit members from Saginaw Public Schools joined forces across classifications and attended school board meetings to build strength throughout bargaining. They regularly organized in-person and by zoom to discuss strategy and ongoing member actions. Paraprofessionals shared their individual stories and struggles through writing postcards to the School Board and Superintendent.

Staff Directory

Labor Relations: State Units

Scientific & Engineering: [Howard Gordon](#) - 517.267.2070

Human Services Support: [Kevin Karpinski](#) - 517.267.2088

Technical: [Kevin Karpinski](#) - 517.267.2088

Labor Relations: School and Local Government Units

[Clint Bryant](#) - 989.797.4258

[Christine Stressman](#) - 616.696.2141

[Brandell Tomanica](#) - 517.237.0426

[Lamont Williams](#) - 313.314.6511

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

Information Services:

[Dave Corrie](#) / [Jacob Tkaczyk](#) - 517.267.2090

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

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

Member Strength Director/

Member Only Benefits: [Marian Wilcox](#) - 517.744.5393

STAND TOGETHER — STAND STRONG

www.seiu517m.org



Solidarity Builds Between Saginaw Members with Team Trunk or Treat Events!

By: Clint Bryant, Labor Relations

On October 22nd, Region 1 members and leaders from Saginaw Public Schools, Buena Vista Charter Township (BVCT), Public Libraries of Saginaw, and Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority participated in three local events including two with employers: BVCT and the City of Saginaw.

These events, including a Trunk or Treat event, held by the City of Saginaw, led to over 1,000 contacts with our youth and our Union members.

GO TEAM!



Bus Drivers Boost Membership

By: Clint Bryant, Labor Relations

"I'm thankful for the Union. Before retirement, I belonged to another Union too. I gotta say, I really appreciate Brenden. We had lunch and he told me about the insurance stuff in the contract. I wouldn't know or have half of what I do if he didn't take the time to show me the benefits." -Gary Z. Member Sturgis Transportation & Maintenance .

A little over a year has passed since Brenden Oldenburg accepted the nomination and by acclimation become Unit President of Sturgis Schools Transportation & Maintenance.

After some tough membership meetings, the unit got right to work. Since then, they've recruited a diverse bargaining team, added a bulletin board coordinator, established unit by-laws, scheduling regular Union-Management meetings and are excited to learn more!

With Brenden leading the way, their unit successfully boosted membership from 40% to 86%. The unit is also seeking to organize the transportation aides into the contract!

Members plan to build more momentum this Spring by engaging fellow members with creative, new ideas as they work to win a fair contract. When asked why he's a member-leader, Brenden simply responded, "That's just what we do, help people."



SEIU Asian Pacific Islander Summit

By Rabia Keo, SEIU API Midwest Region Committee

I wanted to share some details about the recent biennial SEIU Asian Pacific Islander Summit held on October 3-4, 2025, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

I served as the MC for the API Talent Show and Fashion Show, highlighting our diverse cultural attire. My workshop attendance grew significantly, increasing from 30 to almost 50 participants, which prompted a move to the ballroom..

I was also involved in registration and decoration, so I was quite busy!



With the largest Hmong community in the United States and huge communities of other AANHPI heritage, a growing number of AANHPI lawmakers, and a rich history of showing up for Black Lives and cross-racial solidarity, we made it rain purple in the “land of 10,000 lakes!”

<https://www.seiuapi.org/summit2025>



New Information Services Specialist Hired at Local 517M!



SEIU Local 517M would like to welcome our newest staff member Jacob Tkaczyk. He is the new Information Services Specialist. He will be responsible for managing the Local 517M’s communication channels and will be the Local 517M’s database administrator.

Before joining SEIU, Jacob worked for the United Way of South Central Michigan’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) as the Capital Area VITA Associate. Prior to that Jacob worked briefly as a substitute teacher at Mason Public Schools, worked for the City of Ann Arbor, and worked in the non-profit sector.

Jacob got his bachelor’s degree from Central Michigan University (Fire Up Chips!). Upon graduation, Jacob became an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Capital Area College Access Network, where his passion for serving his community grew.

He is looking forward to working with the staff to serve the members of SEIU Local 517M. Jacob will be working with current Information Services Specialist, David Corrie, to learn from David’s expertise to support our members.

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.

Jackson to Continue as Technical Unit President



The nomination period for electing the Technical Bargaining Unit President ended October 8, 2025. Current Technical Unit President Roderick Jackson was the only candidate to submit a nomination for this position.

Being the only candidate to submit a nomination for this office, he was declared the winner by acclamation without the need to hold an election. His new three-year term of office will begin on November 1, 2025 and will expire on October 31, 2028.

Roderick has been a Transportation Technician for 32 years and has served in many different leadership positions including Steward, Chapter Vice President, Chapter President, and Unit Vice President. He also serves on the Local's COPE Committee, and the unit Grievance Committee. He was appointed Unit President in 2020.

Congratulations Roderick!

Thank you, Veterans!

This Veterans Day, we salute all veterans and active service members.

