



MAGE

Michigan Association of Governmental Employees
OPEIU Local 2002

THE QUARTERLY REPORT

July 2025

Message from the President

In April, MAGE staff members had the opportunity to attend the OPEIU Educational conference. This was a chance to meet with other locals of OPEIU and continue to collaborate on organizing efforts. The most important tool in organizing is YOU. Current members sharing the word about MAGE is one of the best ways to grow membership. One of our members at KPH has already helped recruit many new members.

Early this year MAGE was made aware of the transition of the Detroit Detention Centers ownership from the State to the City of Detroit. We continue to work with our members and the department to have as many members as possible placed in their preferred facility. The transition is set to be completed in July.

In July our Vice President, Brant Wimbush and Legal Counsel, Peter Neu, will be participating in another labor management meeting with the Department of Health and Human Services. They are taking this time to discuss the continued pay compression supervisors are facing and the issue of being on call without pay.

As the summer continues and we move towards fall, MAGE has begun our preparation for the upcoming Coordinated Compensation Process. We will continue to advocate for the major pay compression experienced by our workers in DHHS and Corrections. We will also be addressing additional pay scale issues that have been brought to our attention by our members.

Our international union, OPEIU has recently announced a new user-friendly website for the discount college benefit. Members can now go directly to the site for the college of their choice while they review the degree options available. You can find the links on the MAGE website under Member Resources or on the OPEIU website under the Member Resources section.

Labor Relations Team in Action

Over the spring, our Labor Team participated in multiple lunch/dinner meetings across the state to speak with both members and potential members. These meetings were a great opportunity to learn more about MAGE and hear any pertinent updates impacting NEREs.

Labor Relations Tip: Supplemental Employment

It is important to remember that if you are looking for additional employment you must receive the proper authorization. Civil Service Rule 2-8.3 states that an employee must report all supplemental employment to the employees appointing authority and must receive approval from the appointing authority to engage in supplemental employment. As a current employee, this means obtaining approval before engaging in the additional employment. As a new hire, this means disclosing the nature and extent of the existing supplemental employment. If you have any questions, please call the MAGE office.

Benefit Spotlight

Don't forget! MAGE members have access to numerous benefits! This quarter we want to highlight the MAGE Scholarship and Student Debt Reduction Awards!

- June 1st the application period for the MAGE scholarship and student debt reduction awards was opened. Don't miss your chance to receive a \$1,000 to help pay for school, or to reduce your debt!
- Members are eligible to win this one-time award after a year of membership in good standing!
- Visit the website to download the application!
- Applications close August 29th.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

HIGHLIGHTS

(Provided by MAGE Lobbyist Todd Tennis)

House Continues to Refuse to Obey Court Rulings and Michigan Constitution

Taking pages from the federal executive branch, the Michigan House has refused to transmit 9 bills to the Governor for her signature despite the fact that these bills were passed by both the House and Senate last December. Judge Sima Patel issued a ruling in February that made it clear the House could not refuse to transmit legislation that had been passed by both chambers. Nonetheless, Speaker Matt Hall chose to ignore that ruling. The House has appealed the verdict to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Of the nine bills stuck in limbo, two packages are very important to state workers. House Bill 6058 would amend PA 152 – the so-called “80/20” law. The bill would change PA 152 so that public employers would be required to pay at least 80% of health care costs for their employees. This reverses the current statute that requires public employees to pay no less than 20% of their health care costs. The current law interferes with employees’ right to collectively bargain their wages and benefits and burdens them with sharp health care benefit cost increases.

The other bill package being delayed consists of HB 4665-4667 that would provide law-enforcement-related state workers an option to join the Michigan State Police Retirement System – a vast improvement over the current state employee defined contribution plan. Those bills have been touted as a way to address critical staffing shortages in the Michigan Corrections Department – as well as other departments – as employees leave state employment to take similar jobs in municipalities that offer better retirement benefits.

A rally led by the Service Employees International Union and its affiliate the Michigan Corrections Organization took place at the capitol earlier this year. Activists called upon Speaker Hall to obey the court and Michigan Constitution and finally transmit the bills to the Governor. Unfortunately, it appears that House leaders are willing to drag this out as long as they can, and it is likely that the Supreme Court might end up making the final decision in the matter. Of course, that assumes that the House will not refuse an order even from Michigan’s highest court – something that until very recently would have been unthinkable.

Reintroduction of MPSERS and SERS Bills in Process

Efforts are underway to redraft legislation that failed to pass last year regarding state employee and public school employee retirement benefits. Representative Matt Koleszar (D-Plymouth) and Representative Regina Weiss (D-Oak Park) introduced bills last year – HB 6060 and 6061 – that sought to improve retirement benefits for both state employees and public school employees.

House Bill 6061 focused on state workers, and sought to give state employees an option to join a hybrid pension plan significantly similar to the Pension Plus 2 currently available to public school employees. The overall goal of both bills was to give public school and state workers a better retirement option than the anemic defined contribution plans they are currently in. Both bills passed the House in the Lame Duck session, but failed to move in the Senate.

We are waiting for drafts to be prepared by the Legislative Service Bureau. In the meantime, we are attempting to identify possible Republican sponsors or co-sponsors to broaden the partisan appeal of the legislation.

Visit the MAGE website for the full legislative report.

Announcements:

- Would you like a MAGE informational meeting to be held at your office or in your local area? If you would like to set up a lunch meeting for members and potential members to speak with MAGE Labor Representatives, call the MAGE Office today! 1-800-477-6243.