

Membership Matters

Quarterly News from The 501 Alliance

June 2020

And the Winner is...

From a field of 21 candidates, the winner of the Harry and Shirley Klein Legal Scholarship award of \$2,500 was Ms. Tamar Alexanian. She is currently enrolled at the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor and her GPA is 3.61. She will also be invited to attend the annual meeting in August to share her winning essay.

In addition to pursuing her law degree, she has worked or has volunteered at a number of organizations; including the Refugee Clinic in South Africa, the Orran Orphanage in Armenia and the Legal Aid Society in New York.

The Harry and Shirley Klein Legal Scholarship was established by The 501 Alliance and the Human Services for Workers Compensation boards in honor of Mr. Klein. Harry was a nonprofit advocate and was instrumental in forming the unemployment compensation group-reimbursing plan for nonprofit organizations.

This scholarship was funded by contributions from the two boards and is posted at various law schools in Michigan. Candidates submit essays indicating how their background and qualifications fit with what Harry Klein tried to do with his life. Members of the board, along with a family member and judges, form the selection committee.

Mark Your Calendar for the Annual Meeting

All member agencies are invited to attend the annual meeting of The 501 Alliance on Friday, August 14, 2020. The meeting will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the University Club of Michigan State University in Lansing. A complimentary lunch will also be provided immediately following the meeting.

Topics of discussion at the meeting will include the results from the annual audit, a review of last year's claim activity, director nomination voting and the scholarship winner will be invited to attend. We will also be asking the members in attendance to ratify two amendments to the By-Laws. The first amendment would decrease the required number of directors on the board and the second amendment would reduce the percentage of directors who need to be agency employees or agency board members. The second amendment would also allow members to nominate an authorized representative to become a director on the board. Additional information on the suggested changes to the By-Laws is provided in the annual report.

We will be sending an invite to members in July to attend the meeting and the annual report was posted to our website in April. If you would like to review a copy of the report, log into your account on our website (501alliance.org) and click on the annual report link under the member menu. If you have any questions about the report or attending the annual meeting, please contact the Administrator at 800-968-9675, option 3.

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Imposter Claims on the Rise Again

You may remember the term “imposter claims” from two years ago and unfortunately, these claims are on the rise again. An imposter claim is a form of identity theft and it occurs when an individual steals the personally identifiable information of another person and then files a claim for unemployment benefits.

While imposter claims are not new, there has been an increase throughout the state of Michigan and nationwide as well. To help us notify the state correctly, please follow the steps listed below if we send your organization a request for separation information for an employee who is currently employed.

- Verify the employee did not file the claim for unemployment benefits.
- Select “Not separated – employee did not file the claim” as the separation reason within CaseBuilder.
- Even though the individual is still employed, provide the most recent day the employee worked.
- Answer any additional questions and submit the information.

For employees who have had their identities stolen, they also need to report it to the state and we have provided information that you can share with them below.

- Direct them to the Unemployment Insurance Agency’s website at https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-78421_97241---,00.html
- On the home page, click on the “Report Identity Theft Now” link.
- Next, click on the “Report Identity Theft” link under the “Online Services for Claimants” menu.
- Finally, click on “Individual” and provide the requested information.

The state also provides a Fact Sheet on Protecting Unemployment Benefits from Identity Theft. From the UIA’s website listed above, click on “Tools and Resources,” which is toward the bottom of the page. Next, under “Fact Sheets” click on “More Fact Sheets” and then scroll down to Fact Sheet #166. This fact sheet has also been posted on our website (501alliance.org) under the FAQ section.

If an unemployment claim is filed using the identity of one of your employees, we will notify the state that an imposter claim has been filed based on the separation information you provide to us. It is important to note that even though we notify the state, your employees still need to follow the items outlined on the fact sheet to protect themselves, as it was their identity that was stolen. We will also monitor your employer account and write a protest letter to the state if any charges appear on your account.

If you have any additional questions about our processes or imposter claims, please contact the Administrator at 800-968-9675, option 3.