

November 12, 2025



Greetings,

As many of you know, earlier this summer **Great Lakes Public Employers Labor Relations Association** (GLPELRA) was formed and we are an affiliated state chapter with National PELRA. GLPELRA is an organization representing a diverse group of public sector employers (state, cities, counties, townships, other agencies of local government, colleges and universities, and public schools throughout the State of Michigan) working together to share insights, foster collaboration and drive positive change within our own organizations.

The foundation of our membership is full-time professionals working in public sector labor relations and human resources – which could also include Police and Fire Chiefs, City Managers and Assistant City Managers, Public Works Directors, Education Administrators or any public sector leader. Over the last four months our membership has grown, and we anticipate continued growth as we look to launch educational training and networking opportunities in addition to promoting the training offered through National PERLA. Our membership is also growing through the interest of many attorneys or private consultants serving public employers.

There has been a lot of energy spent over the last several months to stand up this group and we have accomplished the following:

Created and finalized our first Board and Officers who are:

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| President            | Jordie Kramer (Great Lakes Water Authority)  |
| Vice President       | Eric Herppich (Oakland University)   |
| Treasurer            | Sarah Mistretta (Chesterfield Township)  |
| Secretary            | Joellen Haines (City of Rochester)   |
| Directors            | Carla Allen (City of Oak Park)<br>Morgan McKittrick (CMH for Clinton/Eaton/Ingham)<br>Graciela DeLeon (County of Saginaw)<br>Erik Tungate (City of Oak Park)<br>Chelsea Ditz (Northville Township) |
| NPELRA Advisor       | Brent Long   |
| Social Media Advisor | Chaunda Burton (Great Lakes Water Authority)   |

The Board is in the final stages of approving the by-laws and they will be posted on our website [Great Lakes \(MI\) | NPELRA](#) in December, in addition to information related to sponsorship opportunities.

If you are interested in becoming a **NEW MEMBER** please contact Eric Herppich at 248-370-4166 or at [eherpich@oakland.edu](mailto:eherpich@oakland.edu) or Chaunda Burton @ [chuanda.burton@glwater.org](mailto:chuanda.burton@glwater.org).

Current GLPELRA members will receive an invoice in December from National PELRA to renew their 2026 membership dues. This will be for an individual membership that includes your GLPELRA membership and your National PELRA membership, so you will get two (2) valuable memberships for one price and through just one invoice and payment. Dues for this dual membership is \$185. Please visit [NPELRA | Official Website](#) to see the incredible value of a GLPELRA membership that is affiliated with the National PELRA.

**What you will get for your new or renewed membership:**

GLPELRA is proud to announce our first educational offering on **December 16, 2025** which will be offered at no cost. We will have a familiar face and well-respected labor and employment attorney Rick Fanning, Senior Counsel at Clark Hill.

During this educational opportunity Rick will be presenting on current trends in public sector labor relations matters to include Act 312 arbitration in higher education, trends with defined benefit retirement plans, PA 152 updates and much more. Rick will also be providing legal insights and updates for 2025 and what issues may arise in 2026 to help us prepare our employers to deal proactively with these issues.

The GLPELRA Board is committed to providing relevant educational training and networking opportunities to members through regular in person and virtual training on relevant labor relations and human resource matters. GLPELRA is planning to offer three (3) in person and two (2) virtual education opportunities during 2026. These will be offered in addition to extensive training and certification programs offered by National PELRA.

As we continue to build a strong foundation of our membership we expect to expand on our educational offering / opportunities in 2027 and beyond. The GLPELRA Board will commit every effort to make these offerings cost effective while providing quality learning and networking opportunities, in a welcoming environment.

**Jordie Kramer**  
President

**Eric Herppich**  
Vice President