

**SEIU Local 721 Executive Board Minutes
February 13, 2007
Ventura Regional Office**

-Rollcall: Present: Grajeda, Schoonover, Austria, Boggs, Dent, Hagans, Martinez, Sims, Sterker, Mulvey, Corse, Portillo.

Absent: Jeffries, Butler, Elam, Ramirez, Jones

Also present: Tim Burke, Local 721 member City of Hemet; John Tanner, Local 721 staff; Matt Witt, SEIU staff.

-Member poll: Matt Witt presented the results of a poll conducted early February, 2007 of Local 721 members. The poll was conducted of a random sample of all members proportionally by former local unions that united to form Local 721. Discussion and questions followed the presentation.

-The Board discussed a draft of principles based on the poll results. Amendments to the draft were made. Motion made by Schoonover, seconded by Dent and carried unanimously to adopt the United For Quality principles for SEIU Local 721 (attached to minutes).

President Grajeda indicated a letter to all members will be sent soon that will include the United For Quality principles. John Tanner indicated that a press release will be sent to an extensive list of media to inform them of the polling results and adoption of the principles.

-There was discussion of planning for a leadership conference in May. The goal is for large member participation. A plan will be developed by the Board and staff.

-Executive Board operational procedures: the Board discussed how often and where to conduct its meetings. By consensus the Board decided to meet monthly on the second Monday of the month, from 10am to 2pm for at least the next six months: March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13. The frequency of meetings may change after the Board retreat for which potential dates of April 20-22 or May 4-6 were established. The goals of the Board retreat are for the Board to get to know each other, develop goals for the union and to spend time on the local budget. The Board discussed its purpose to be to provide oversight for the local and to develop the direction and goals for the future. The board envisions that committees will be established to advance the local's work in their subject areas under the Board's direction.

-Financials: Motion by Dent, second by Hagans, carried unanimously that each former local union work within their current budgets. If there is a need for an extraordinary expense – including but not limited to travel, IT, lease agreements – the local chapter must request and receive approval from the 721 board or its four officers.

-Motion by Dent, second by Martinez, carried unanimously that the SEIU Local 660 policy re: mileage reimbursement is rescinded.

-Motion by Boggs, second by Martinez, carried unanimously that provisional Executive Board members be reimbursed automobile mileage at the IRS rate for travel from home to the host chapter meeting location except those board members from the host chapter. Carpooling is encouraged. Each board member must submit a mileage reimbursement form to the local chapter until further notice.

-Transition to Local 721: Anelle presented a report that there is a workgroup consisting of local accounting and IT staff that are working to strengthen and integrate IT issues and form membership service centers. A presentation will be included in the Board retreat agenda. Dan Burke has been meeting with each local chapter's accounting staff to develop a Local 721 budget. This is a large and complicated process involving the review of building and equipment

leases. A workgroup of local union attorneys has been meeting regarding transition of staff to the new local. The process will be that staff will be laid off from their current locals then offered employment in the new local. In the event a staffer is not offered employment in the new local a new severance package has been negotiated for the Local 660 field staff. Other staff already have a severance package in their contracts. February 20 & 21 are the dates for individual meetings with staff. The Board will be informed of any staff that are not offered employment in the new local. Regional Directors for Local 721 are: Sandy Stewart, Ventura Co.; George Daniels, Inland Empire; James Johnson, Pasadena Social Services office; Julie Butcher LA/Orange Co. cities.

-Issues: Major contract negotiations for 2007 include L.A. City and Ventura Co., expiring in June. Contract campaigns are underway in both jurisdictions. SEIU is working with various organizations in the Better Healthcare Coalition to win health care coverage for all persons in the U.S. by 2010. SEIU continues to support WalMartWatch to get WalMart to change its healthcare and employment policies. For the 2008 presidential election each SEIU local union is required to contribute \$20 per member. Candidates will attend and be interviewed at the SEIU Impact Conference in September in Washington DC.

-Growth Plan: Greg Pullman has been hired as the Organizing Director for the SEIU CA Public Services organizing program. John Tanner presented a PowerPoint description of the CA organizing program, including Local 721's opportunities.

-Motion by Dent, second Mulvey, carried unanimously to adjourn.

United for Quality

The 85,000 public service workers of southern California who have united to form the new SEIU Local 721 are committed to the following principles:

- 1. Our mission is to ensure that public service workers can provide our communities with quality services we can be proud of.** We will work with elected officials, agency managers, and community organizations to systematically examine every public service and draw on the experience and expertise of public service workers themselves regarding how to make improvements. Priority areas to address include better staffing, equipment, training, and communication with management and the public we serve.
- 2. We will focus on expanding opportunities and job satisfaction for all public service workers.** Work is central to public service workers' lives, and our union must be an effective vehicle for achieving hopes and dreams, as well as ensuring fairness and respect. At the same time, we will continue to experiment with the most effective ways to get members prompt responses when they need to solve problems on the job.
- 3. We will build public support for quality public services,** particularly now at a time when they are under political attack. Demonstrating our real commitment to quality service will also increase public support for improved pay and benefits which are essential to recruiting and maintaining a trained and experienced workforce.
- 4. We will work with all interested elected officials, regardless of party, to improve public services and win a better future for all working people.** Our political program will be designed to involve our members, their families, our community allies and other working people to get results on the fundamental issues that affect our communities, including health care, education, transportation, housing, and public safety.
- 5. We will seek to unite all public service workers, including those who are not part of a union organization now.** We cannot improve and maintain quality services and quality jobs without uniting with us the thousands of public service workers in California and other parts of the nation who have no voice.

In the coming months, we will involve members in a series of united actions to carry out these principles. For example...

- We will survey members to ask them about specific ideas to improve the services they provide.
- We will form professional councils that bring together people who provide the same type of services for various cities or counties to discuss coordinated campaigns to improve services.
- We will reach out to elected officials and community allies for their ideas and ask them to join us in seeking effective solutions.