

# SEIU 721 Gives Back

I hope you and your family had a happy and healthy holiday season.

I was fortunate enough to spend much of the holidays with SEIU 721 members. At this time of year they can always be counted on to give back to their communities.



From Riverside to Watts and from Ventura to El Monte, SEIU 721 members fed needy families, played Santa to local children and made sure their generosity was felt across the region.

I don't think it's an accident that SEIU 721 members give back so much to their communities. We are, after all, public employees dedicated to providing the best services possible to our neighborhoods.

But I think it goes beyond that. SEIU 721 members know that unions



*SEIU 721 Riverside City chapter members hold a joint union holiday food and toy drive with IBEW 47 and RPOA on Dec. 3, 2012.*

improve everyone's lives. Countless studies have shown that when union wages rise, all working people's wages rise with them. And when our wages rise, our communities thrive.

As we head into the new year, let's all keep in mind that our struggles are not selfish. Everyday, the work we do improves the lives of millions of Southern Californians in many dif-

ferent ways. Perhaps it's this kind of thinking that always makes me hopeful when we enter a new year.

Happy new year,

Bob Schoonover  
SEIU 721 President and LA City  
Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Contract Victory for Inglewood City Workers



## Representing Our Membership News From Around the Local

### Inglewood Members Approve New Contract

SEIU 721 Inglewood city members have a new contract. The new agreement holds the line on wages, health and retirement benefits, and furloughs. In addition, the contract contains an important no-layoff clause and new language mandating binding arbitration for major disciplinary actions. It also creates a Joint Labor Management Sub-Committee to study and make recommendations on possible cost savings and revenue sources, and on unfunded liability costs.

The Inglewood City Council unanimously approved the MOU, which is effective from October 31, 2012 through December 31, 2013. Congratulations to our members in Inglewood!

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## Ventura Members Preserve Secure Retirement

The Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association (VCERA) board agreed with SEIU 721 members' position that pensionable compensation includes special skills pay and special pay items that are not expressly excluded by the Public Employees Pension Reform Act (PEPRA). Members like Pharmacist Craig Winter were instrumental in convincing the Board not to slash retirement compensation. "Excluding pensionable compensation beyond base pay would not be fair to new employees," said Winter. "I'm glad we fought back on this."

## LA County Bargaining Team Forming

The passage of Prop 30 will raise more than \$6 billion per year, with most of the money coming from increased taxes on California's millionaires. This bodes well for SEIU 721's upcoming contract negotiations with LA County. We are now in a position to launch the third phase of the campaign: bargain aggressively for long overdue raises. All LA County members are encouraged to join the bargaining team. You can sign up on our website at [www.seiu721.org](http://www.seiu721.org).

## From the Chief of Staff

The SEIU 721 staff is working to plan the union's work and priorities for the new year. You can help us *and* win tickets to Disneyland.

Just go to our website and take the Communications Survey. It only takes 5 minutes and it's a chance for you to tell us what information you'd like to get in 2013 and how you'd like to get it.

Do you have other thoughts or suggestions for staff in 2013? Then email me at: [chiefstaff@seiu721.org](mailto:chiefstaff@seiu721.org).

I look forward to hearing your thoughts.



*About this report: The President's Report covers the President's activities in major areas spelled out in the SEIU 721 bylaws. It is presented each month to the Executive Board.*



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