



Photos: Johnny Knox

SEIU International Executive Vice President Eileen Kirlin swears in the new SEIU 721 Executive Board.

New Executive Board Sworn In

The President's Report is delivered each month to the SEIU 721 Executive Board, so it's fitting that I address my first report of the new term to you, the 41 members of the board.



On April 23, we were all sworn in together at a ceremony in Los Angeles. (Some of you participated via teleconference.) I was very happy that International Executive Vice President Eileen Kirlin administered the oath of office. Eileen leads our union's Public Services Division and has committed her life to helping working people build dignified careers in public service.

As Eileen administered the oath of office, I looked around the room and thought about how proud I am to serve with you all. Some of you are returning and some of you are new to the Board. Nevertheless, I know most of you well and know that you take your oaths seriously and are committed to serving the interests of our members.

In the months ahead, we'll face many challenges, from negotiating contracts that improve the lives of our members to ensuring that the Affordable Care Act is implemented in a way that guarantees quality health care for all of the members of our communities. No matter the issue, I know that we'll work well together to build a strong union for each and every one of our 85,000 members.

I look forward to working with you all.

Sincerely,

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

I'd like to hear what you think. Send me an email at presidentschoonover@seiu721.org

Representing Our Membership News From Around the Local

LA County Turns It Up!

On April 16, more than 3,000 LA County workers rallied on the steps of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in downtown LA. Their simple message for the LA County Supervisors inside the building: It's time for a raise.

It was "Bring Your Child to Work Day," and hundreds of members

Continued on page 2





Photo: Johnny Knox

brought their children to the rally, which was the largest in SEIU 721's history. They held signs and wore t-shirts that said, "My Mom Needs a Raise" and "My Dad Needs a Raise."

After the rally, Supervisor Gloria Molina told an LA radio station: "I think it is time that we as a board respect the contributions that [county employees] made for almost the last six years. It's time for them to get an increase." But the action wasn't just about raises. On the same day, thousands

of members marched to the Ronald Reagan State Building to urge the Governor to implement the Affordable Care Act in California and not cut safety-net services at the County level.

Bargaining begins June 15th. The Board knows that LA County is mobilized and ready to fight for more jobs, better pay and healthcare for all.

Walking for Wendy

SEIU 721 has proudly endorsed Wendy Greuel for Los Angeles Mayor. This is an important election for the ten thousand SEIU 721 members who work for the City and the thousands more who live in the City. Wendy Greuel has always been open to our ideas and is a strong champion for the middle class.



As the elected leaders of this union, I believe it's our job to set an example for other members and staff by working hard to elect Wendy Greuel. I invite you to join me at a precinct walk or phone bank in the next few weeks.

For more information and to sign up, please call the Government Relations Dept. at (323) 368-8602.

Riverside County DPSS Members and Management Tackle Morale Issues

SEIU 721 members and the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) are working together to bolster morale and address issues of staff retention, workload and other concerns within the department.

A new Morale Committee, consisting of a social worker and supervisor, will begin hosting meetings in six regional offices. The purpose of the committee is to foster a work environment of open communication and improvement.

Meeting with California Chief Justice

As I've previously reported, LA Superior Court judges have decided to deal with a \$53 million budget deficit by arbitrarily closing eight courthouses around LA County, which will send justice into chaos and result in an undetermined number of layoffs of SEIU 721 members.

On April 11, I met with Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye to discuss the plan. Those of you who know me

Continued on page 3

know I like to cut to the chase. I told the justice that only a strong public campaign can stop the closures. Funding for courts comes from the legislature, and lawmakers need to hear from their constituents that closing courthouses will hurt our community's most vulnerable citizens.



Ventura County Members Purple Up With Pride

Ventura County Shows Strength in Bargaining

Ventura County members are currently bargaining with their employer and the show of strength and unity among our members in Ventura is impressive. Members have purpled up and filled their workplaces with purple balloons. (You can find more pictures on our website.)

In addition, members have also turned out at Board of Supervisor meetings to tell the supervisors that they need a strong contract. "Our members have gone above expectations," Supervising Child Support Specialist Cristina Reyes-Velarde told the Board. "Now that we are in negotiations, we also support our negotiating team in their efforts to establish a fair contract."



From the Chief of Staff

SEIU 721 members are bargaining contracts with nearly a dozen employers in every region where we're represented.



To support these efforts, the SEIU 721 staff is focused on building strong Contract Action Teams ("CAT" teams). CAT team members are the vital link between bargaining teams and worksites. They communicate information back from the negotiating table and make sure that members are informed and involved with negotiations.

Of course, CAT Teams don't just appear out of thin air. CAT members must be recruited and trained. Which is hard work. But I'm glad to report that our staff members are up to the challenge and ready to work hard to build CAT teams that will help us win at the bargaining table.

Do you want to join a CAT team? Then contact your steward or worksite organizer.

In Unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gilda Vallejo".

SEIU 721 Commemorates Armenian Genocide

SEIU 721 Armenian caucus members joined the United Armenian Council in observance of the 98th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on Wednesday, April 24, 2013.

I was proud to stand beside our members and more than 10,000 Armenian and non-Armenian community members seeking justice for the victims of the genocide.

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.



LG:dsdo opeiu 537, afl-cio 5/13