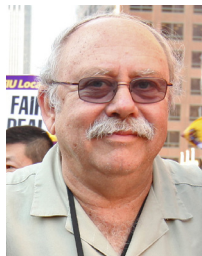




LA County Members Vote in Record Breaking Numbers to Support an Escalated Fight Up To and Including a Strike

Since June, LA County members have been bargaining hard for a fair contract that's good for them and the community. We hoped to finish the process during two days of intensive bargaining in late October. Unfortunately, negotiations with the County broke down.



Talks broke down because County Management said NO to lowering caseloads for social workers, which would save children's lives. They said NO to raising the living wage, which would lift contract workers out of poverty. They said NO to RideShare, which would reduce traffic and pollution on our freeways. They said NO to making millionaires pay their fair share of taxes, which would fund parks and libraries.

And they said NO to paying us a fair wage and making modest increases in our Options plan, which would give us economic security and ensure that we have affordable healthcare for our families.

Instead, what's on the table right now amounts to a pay cut.

Since then, there have been some positive developments to report. The County has tried to portray our contract dispute as a Local 721 issue. But on November 1, 35,000 members of the Coalition of County Unions announced they are uniting with SEIU 721 members and the LA County Federation of Labor. Why? Because this is not an SEIU 721 issue. It's a County worker issue. Like so many Americans who fear the middle class is slipping out of reach, the hike in health premiums that the County wants all of its workers to absorb would leave many of us with lower family budget levels than in 2008.

As I write this, members are turning out in record numbers to vote to escalate the campaign, up to and including a strike. The overwhelming response of 95% approval is monumental. It shows the strength, unity and determination of our LA County members. As they move toward escalated actions that will result in a fair contract, I know you'll join me in



saying that their fight is our fight.

In Solidarity,

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

P.S. You can follow all the latest news from the campaign on our website at <http://www.seiu721.org/contract2013/>

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Representing Our Membership

News From Around the Local

Tentative Agreement Ratified by City of Riverside Members

On October 30, SEIU 721 City of Riverside General Unit members voted to approve the tentative agreement that was reached by the bargaining team and City management.

The tentative agreement is expected to go before the City Council for approval in Dec. The 3-year contract includes increases in salaries and employer contributions to healthcare.

Members Reach Tentative Agreement with Oxnard Harbor District

On October 16, the SEIU 721 Oxnard Harbor District bargaining team reached a tentative agreement with the District. The agreement includes wage and benefit increases. Members will vote on whether to ratify the contract on October 30.

If members vote to approve the contract, it will then go to the Oxnard Harbor District Board for a vote on November 12.

Northeast Valley Members Reach Tentative Agreement

More good news in the world of contract negotiations. Members who work for Northeast Valley Health Corp. stood up to management ultimatums and finally won a tentative agreement. The agreement includes wage increases with retroactive pay and language that improves job security. Members will vote to ratify the contract on November 15.

State Council Convention

SEIU members and leaders met on October 12, 2013 for the State Council Convention, where they ratified the "2020 Vision for California." Speakers at the convention included International President Mary Kay Henry, California Attorney General Kamala Harris, and LA City Mayor Eric Garcetti. 721 members also had opportunities to meet members from throughout California to discuss issues and plan strategy for the next few years.

NAACP Honors SEIU 721 Members

NAACP Riverside Branch 1059 honored SEIU 721 with its Outstanding Community Outreach award at the civil rights organization's First Annual Labor Awards Dinner and Dance. The event took place on Friday Oct. 4, 2013 in San Bernardino. SEIU 721 president Bob Schoonover accepted the award on behalf of all SEIU 721 members.

Ed Toole, SEIU 721 Inland Area executive board member and City of Riverside Chapter First Vice President, received the NAACP President's Award for Outstanding Service. Please join me in congratulating Ed on this well-deserved honor.



LA County Social Workers File Lawsuit

On Nov 5, SEIU 721 members went to Superior Court to file a court order demanding that the Los Angeles County Dept. of Children and Family Services comply with our contract's social worker-to-child standards.

Previously, a court-appointed arbitrator issued a verdict directing DCFS to obey the social worker-to-child ratios called for in the social workers' contracts. Unfortunately, DCFS continues to ignore this legal ruling, so we are intensifying our legal actions.

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From the Chief of Staff

Make no mistake about it. The Los Angeles County contract campaign—which involves 55,000 SEIU 721 members—is a huge undertaking. And I’m proud to say that our Local has risen to the challenge of this undertaking, pulled out all of the stops and truly raised the standards by which we work.

One place you’re sure to see this is in communications. Our communications department has always been strong, but in the last few months the department has used every tool available to us to bring our bargaining message to our members and the residents of LA County.

Email blasts. Text messages. Flyers. Facebook posts. Tweets. Phone banks. These are all the tools we use to speak directly to you. And we’ve also received terrific coverage of our common good bargaining proposals in newspapers, on radio stations and on TV news broadcasts. Last, the department has worked with you to develop a strong team of members spokespeople to spread our message to worksites and beyond.

In short, Communications is running on all cylinders and in overdrive. And I’m certain that this huge effort is one of the reasons so many of our members overwhelmingly support their bargaining team. When we fight we win.

In Solidarity,

chiefofstaff@seiu721.org



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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