

We Are Not Done With Our LA County Contract Fight

As of today, LA County members have been working without a contract for more than two months. That's because the County is refusing to give our members raises and make them effective on October 1, the same day they made them effective for management.



But it's also because the County is turning a deaf ear to the members of two units specifically. Children's social workers carry two to three times the numbers of cases permitted by their contract, and yet the County doesn't care. In bargaining, we've demanded that social worker-to-child ratios be lowered, but the County refuses to discuss this.

Then there are our brothers and sisters who work for the Dept. of Public Social Services (DPSS). At the eleventh hour the County made proposals that would affect their shifts and reduce their ability to help LA County's families.

In both of these cases, the County is trying to divide and conquer. They want to pit our members against each other. But we see things differently. As an important union saying goes, "An injury to one is an injury to all." We won't allow the County to pit bargaining units against each other. We will stand together in unity and fight together on the lines for a contract that's fair to our members and that raises up the people of LA County. We are one union. We are united. And we are strong.

For the record, we are not done with our contract fight. We were forced by the County to strike, but we have now suspended the strike and are going back to the table. We hope to wrap the contract up in time for Christmas.

Speaking of which, I wish you all the very best for a happy, healthy and safe holiday season and a prosperous new year.

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/>

Representing Our Membership

News From Around the Local

LA City Members Gear Up for Bargaining

Over the past two months, hundreds of SEIU 721 LA City members came out for two meetings to get information on the upcoming contract campaign. Stewards and workplace leaders from all departments attended.

Los Angeles city workers heard from SEIU 721 President Bob Schoonover and Executive Board members Nady Maechling, Andy Morales, Edwina Chism, Simboa Wright and Charley Mims.

Members raised issues that impact their work, their families, their futures and their communities. They also participated in breakout sessions to discuss 2014 bargaining priorities. LA City contracts expire on June 30, 2014.

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Riverside Superior Court Bargaining Begins

Riverside County Superior Court employees are currently negotiating with management to improve their contract.

They are making progress on some issues, but management is proposing takeaways that the Bargaining Team just can't live with.

The Bargaining Team has countered management's proposed takeaways and will hold the line for a fair contract.

City of Oxnard Members Win Step Plan

City of Oxnard SEIU Local 721 members voted overwhelmingly to ratify the tentative agreement with the City of Oxnard on Wednesday, November 6, 2013.

A whopping 90% of members voted for the new contract which includes a return to a Step plan. Some members will see substantial salary increases over the next 4 years.



Food Drive Helps Local Families in Need

SEIU 721's Tri-Counties African-American Caucus members and representatives from the United Farm Workers came together on November 25, 2013 to create the food baskets and to distribute them to the families throughout Ventura County.

Non-perishable food items were collected from throughout the County including the County Government Center, Human Service Agency offices, the Ventura County Medical Center, a county library site and from the SEIU Local 721 office in Ventura.

The African-American Caucus is committed to enhancing opportunities for SEIU members of African descent, as well as for the entire community. This year, the Tri-Counties Caucus collected non-perishable food items at various worksites in Ventura County.

The food and gift card donations went to UFW workers who were recently displaced after their mushroom farm worksite closed.



From the Chief of Staff

With all that's going on in the Local, sometimes we forget about the important work our brothers and sisters are doing across the country. This month, I want to throw

the spotlight on former SEIU International Secretary-Treasurer Eliseo Medina. Eliseo is a longtime crusader for immigrants' rights. On November 12, On November 12, faith, Eliseo and other immigrant rights and labor leaders announced the launch of "Fast for Families: A Call for Immigration Reform and Citizenship," taking place on the National Mall, steps away from the Capitol. Leaders and immigrant members of the community are fasting every day and night, abstaining from all food—except water—to move the hearts and compassion of members of Congress to pass immigration reform with a path to citizenship.

On Day 18 of the fast, President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama visited Eliseo and his fellow fasters. "The President and First Lady's visit has reignited our spirits," stated 67-year-old Medina. "Their encouraging words reconfirm their commitment to immigration reform and the countless aspiring Americans who seek to come out of the shadows of fear and repression."

This month, let's all salute Eliseo Medina and the just cause to which he is dedicating his life.

In Solidarity,

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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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