PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY 2014



721 President Bob Schoonover (right) and members of the Fix L.A. Coalition march on L.A. City Hall to protest predatory deals between big Wall Street banks and the City of L.A. Fix L.A., which includes SEIU 721 and more than 20 area labor, community, and faith-based groups, says these deals have cost the city more than \$300 million.

Instead of Crying 'the Sky is Falling,' SEIU 721 is Focused on Lifting Workers Up

If you listened to the pundits last month, Lyou would be excused for believing that the American Labor movement was dead.

Media outlets across the spectrum, from Fox News to pro-labor blogs like the Daily Kos, predicted that the Supreme Court's ruling in Harris v. Quinn would end public sector unions by making it impossible for them to collect dues used to organize and defend workers.

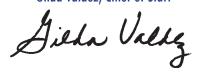
The ruling is certainly bad — and particularly devastating to Illinois homecare workers who've seen their wages double since SEIU helped pass a 2003 law recognizing them as state employees and allowing them to organize — but it is far from the death blow many predicted. In fact, some court watchers say it shows that even this conservative court is unwilling to meddle with longstanding and hard-won protections for public workers.

While the 'Chicken Littles' on the Sunday talk shows and in the press were busy trying to tell us what was going to happen to American workers, more than 1,000 Los Angeles City employees and

their allies were busy hitting the streets. The Fix L.A. Coalition, which includes SEIU 721, other members of the Coalition of City Unions, and more than 20 L.A. community and faith-based organizations, is focused on reversing the city's bad deals with Wall Street banks, using millions in recovered funds to restore city services and bargaining a fair contract with L.A. workers.

Attacks on working people are nothing new. The recent Supreme Court ruling was a response to a lawsuit filed by the National Right to Work Foundation, funded by the anti-union billionaire Koch Brothers and the founders of Walmart. The real lesson here is that, instead of waiting for a bunch of Beltway pundits to tell us what is going to happen to the American Labor movement, we have the power to write our own stories at work, at the bargaining table and, if necessary, in the streets. Instead of worrying about whether the sky is falling, let's focus on lifting workers up.

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff





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More than 1,000 members of the Fix L.A. Coalition, organized by SEIU 721 and its partners, delivered petitions to L.A. City Hall against big banks and for a good contract

The recent Supreme Court decision about the In Ventura, 721 members have joined with police, union rights of Illinois homecare workers focused national attention on the well-funded legal attacks on public employees, but they're nothing new. At a recent meeting of our International Union, we heard report after report of billionaire-funded efforts to roll back workers' pay, benefits and organizing rights. Leonardo da Vinci once said that the people who change the world don't let things happen to them. Instead, they happen to things. That's why, intead of waiting for bad things to happen, 721 members are getting organized to make things happen.

721 Members Making Things Happen

Instead of letting big two Wall Street banks, Mellon and Dexia, bilk the City of Los Angeles for hundreds of millions in excessive payments for bad interest rate swaps, City of L.A. 721 members built a powerful coalition with other city unions and more than 20 community and faith-based groups. Fix L.A. is pushing the council to recover millions in fees lost to these predatory deals, restore vital services, and bargain a fair contract that protects city workers.

firefighters, and community groups to fight a pension rollback measure backed by out-of-state "dark money" groups. 721 will launch a unprecedented door-to-door field effort to protect the retirement security of our members and other county employees.

Past Efforts Paying Off for Members

In Riverside County, we're building on big wins at the settlement table with County management. County workers will see additional FLEX benefits and pay increases of up to 8 percent that began kicking in at the end of June. County of L.A. workers will receive a \$250 bonus this month and up to \$133 per month in additional take-home pay next year as a result of their aggressive Turn It Up! campaign.

None of this would have happened without the solidarity of our union and the incredible efforts of our members.

Bob Schoonover, President





PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY 2014: MAKING THINGS HAPPEN FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORKERS

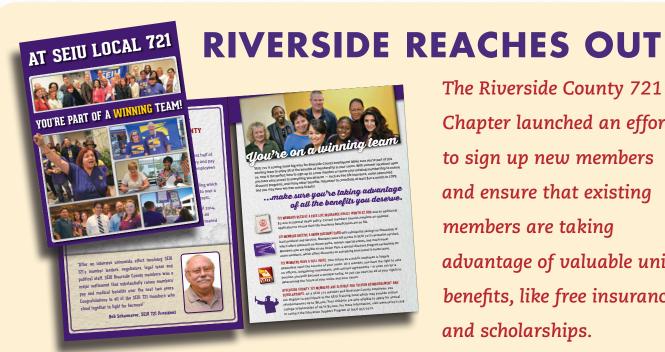


More than a thousand community members, religious leaders, and L.A. city workers delivered over 4,000 hand-collected petitions to L.A. City Hall calling on the Mayor and City Council to recover taxpayer revenue lost as a result of bad interest rate swap deals with Wall Street banks. Fix L.A., a coalition of more than 20 Labor, community and faith-based aroups, wants to restore vital city services, protect good middle-class jobs in the public sector and bargain a fair contract for L.A. city workers.



A coalition of community members and Ventura County labor organizations, including SEIU 721, is preparing to campaign against Ventura County Supervisor Peter Foy's pensionkilling ballot measure. SEIU 721 is planning an unprecedented field campaign to defeat the measure, which will appear on the November general election ballot.





The Riverside County 721 Chapter launched an effort to sign up new members and ensure that existing members are taking advantage of valuable union benefits, like free insurance and scholarships.