

SEIU 721

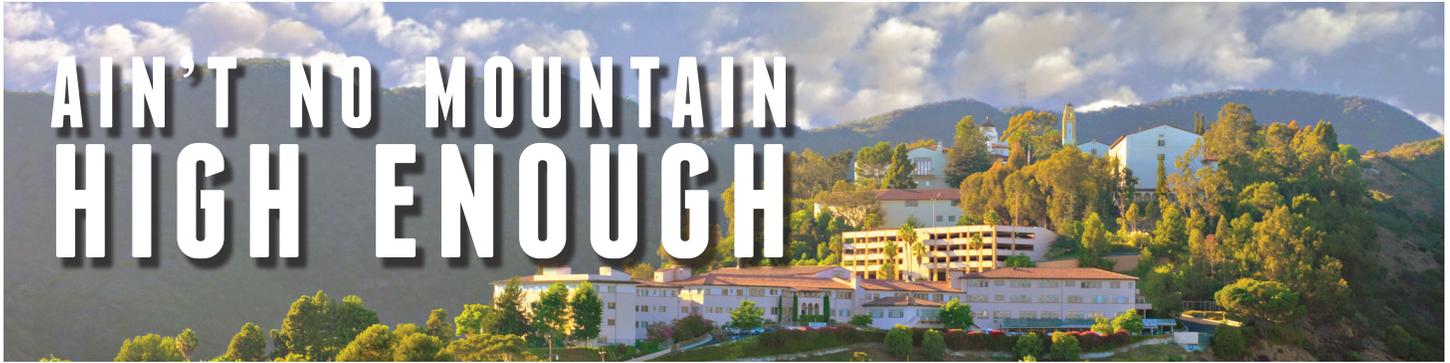
PRESIDENT'S

November 2014

REPORT



AIN'T NO MOUNTAIN HIGH ENOUGH



SEIU 721 MEMBERS CRAFT STRATEGY AT L.A. COUNTY SUMMIT



At last month's L.A. County summit at the Mount St. Mary's campus in the Santa Monica mountains, SEIU 721 members got facetime with top L.A. decision makers, like DCFS director Philip Browning, rallied with supervisor-elect Sheila Kuehl, studied successful campaigns and planned their own strategies for building power for workers going into next year's key fights.

Earlier this month, 721 members gathered high up in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains for a day-long summit on the future of our work in L.A. County.

From the vantage point of the Mount St. Mary's campus, L.A. looks completely different. It's a good reminder that, when it seems like we face insurmountable problems, we need to shift our perspective to find a way to win.

721 workers took the opportunity to meet directly with top L.A. decision makers, like DCFS Director Philip Browning and DPSS Director Sheryl Spiller. They learned successful organizing and media strategies from L.A. fast food workers engaged in a historic fight for \$15 an hour and a union. They strategized about how to broaden the successful Fix L.A. campaign, which has shined a light on how big Wall Street banks are draining resources from the City of Los Angeles, into a countywide effort.

721 members came together later in the day with former

state senator Shiela Kuehl, our endorsed candidate for L.A. County supervisor. She fired up members with a vision of a pro-worker majority on the Board of Supervisors. Members committed to walk and phone for her final campaign push and, as of this writing, Kuehl has been declared the winner.

We ended the day with a call for members to turn out for our Fix L.A. day of action on October 28th in the City of L.A. Thousands of workers marched on L.A. City Hall and presented Mayor Eric Garcetti with more than 9,000 petitions demanding the City of L.A. end bad deals with big Wall Street banks and restore city services cut in the wake of the worldwide financial crisis.

It's a good reminder that the perspective you gain in the mountains can help you win back here on the ground.

Bob Schoonover, President

Bob Schoonover



NIGHTMARE ON WALL STREET



FIX LA AND SEIU 721 TAKE ON THE WALL STREET GRIM REAPER: THE BIG BANKS THAT ARE DRAINING THE LIFEBLOOD OUT OF LOS ANGELES

On October 28th, more than 1,000 outraged residents, religious leaders and city workers descended on Bunker Hill financial district and city hall and declared "L.A. is not Wall Street's ATM." They urged city leaders to restore vital city services and middle-class jobs. The marchers' message to Mayor Garcetti and the City Council: Stand up for L.A.'s working families and neighborhoods, stop corporate giveaways and recover taxpayer revenue from big banks and corporations to restore the vital city services that Angelenos need.

NLRB UPHOLDS SEIU 721 VICTORY AT LAGUNA COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN

Adjunct Faculty at the Laguna College of Art + Design voted to join SEIU 721 last (month) after a several year fight, but their hopes for a union were put on hold when the LCAD administration tried to block the results by filing a protest with the National Labor Relations Board. But after reviewing the challenge by LCAD administrators, the NLRB upheld our democratic election and LCAD adjuncts will soon meet to set priorities and bargain a contract that will benefit the whole community. For more information, contact Lilianna Oustinovskaya at 213-304-7155 or Lilianna.Oustinovskaya@seiu721.org.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2014



Hemet City Workers Rally for Fair Contract

SEIU 721 members, along with their friends and families, rallied outside Hemet City Council chambers in October to demand a fair contract. We engaged the public, and the streets surrounding the chambers were filled with the sounds of car horns honking in support of Hemet city workers.

WATTS HEALTHCARE WORKERS TAKE ACTION WATTS HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT WANTS TO TAKE AWAY AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FROM SOUTH L.A. HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Watts Healthcare provides vital healthcare services to one of the most underserved sections of Los Angeles. The clinic provides urgent care, vaccinations, flu shots, pap smears, mammograms, family planning, prenatal and maternal care, pediatric care, physical therapy, HIV testing, cancer screenings, substance abuse counseling, nutrition education, counseling, eye check ups, and dental care to working families in some of L.A.'s most disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Watts Healthcare last year treated 22,291 residents of Watts and other South L.A. neighborhoods. Nearly 48% of those treated were Latino. More than 49% of those treated were African American. Nearly 60 percent had incomes below the federal poverty line.

Many workers at Watts Healthcare make less than \$13 an hour. Most are barely able to afford any kind of healthcare coverage for their own families. But now Watts Healthcare management is pushing unaffordable healthcare increases on its employees, which may cause experienced employees to work without proper care or leave the clinic altogether, threatening the delivery of healthcare in South L.A.

Already healthcare workers from the Watts clinic have engaged in worker rallies and phone banks calling on the CEO of the clinic to keep the healthcare workers at Watts Healthcare healthy so they can care for the Watts community. Watts workers won't be torn away without a fight. It's going to take all of us – healthcare workers, Watts residents, healthcare advocates and policy makers – to encourage Watts Healthcare to ensure the stability of its workforce by giving their healthcare providers access to affordable healthcare.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2014



Thousands of Fix L.A. marchers, led by SEIU 721 and the Coalition of City Unions and more than 20 community and church groups, converge on L.A. City Hall on October 28th to deliver a petition to Mayor Eric Garcetti to demand action. SEIU Vice President Linda Dent fires up marchers in front of Bank of New York Mellon.

FIX LA CAN FIX ALL OF LOS ANGELES

It struck me as I marched with Fix LA and thousands of SEIU 721 members up South Grand Avenue earlier this month — everywhere we went, other workers cheered us on. From the Teamsters who rolled big rigs right up to the front doors of the big banks who've been ripping off the city, to construction workers cheering from scaffolds six stories up, to 721's own county members at the L.A. Courthouse, workers called out their support. That's because they want to Fix L.A., too.

It's Time to Fix All of L.A.

The fight to fix L.A. — calling out the big institutions who broke the economy and recovering the resources to fix it and to restore the public services lost during the crisis — doesn't stop at the city boundary. The impact of the financial crisis is felt countywide, from thousands of foreclosures, to devastating cuts in safety net services that are provided primarily by county workers, many of whom are 721 members.

We Have Allies Across the Region Ready to Join Us

We have allies across the region who've already joined Fix LA who are ready to bring other communities into the effort to restore public services. From the

L.A. County Federation of Labor to the more than 20 community and church groups in Fix L.A., we've got friends ready to help us. Bishop Juan Carlos Mendez, a Fix LA member and pastor of Centro Cristiano Bet-El in South Gate told 721 members it's time for us to come together with faith groups across the region to raise the minimum wage and restore the safety net. Supervisor-elect Sheila Kuehl, who won in-part because of early support from 721, believes we can win a progressive majority on the L.A. Board of Supervisors and reach these goals.

L.A. County Member Summit Supports Fix L.A.

On October 18th, 721 L.A. County members gathered for a planning summit to meet with top L.A. County officials, hear from fast food workers and others about tactics that are working on other campaigns and develop their own plan. They came to the same conclusion: It's time to Fix L.A.

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff



SPECIAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2014

SEIU 721 RESPONDS TO EBOLA



Stop Ebola poster in Monrovia, Liberia. Ebola has killed more than 4,950 in West Africa as of November, with nearly 2,800 deaths in Liberia. To date, the epidemic has killed more than 549 healthcare workers worldwide, 311 of whom have died, according to the World Health Organization.

721 HEALTHCARE WORKERS URGE L.A. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS TO CONDUCT PUBLIC BRIEFINGS ON EBOLA RESPONSE



SEIU 721's Ebola Preparedness communications team held meetings with the L.A. County Department of Public Health to review the county's Ebola preparedness and organized a press conference to inform the public and dispel misinformation about the spread of the disease.

From airport workers welcoming international passengers to nurses, hospital cleaners, and medical technicians caring for patients, SEIU members across the county are on the front lines of protecting our communities from the spread of the Ebola virus.

That's why, when news first broke that nurses at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital had been diagnosed with Ebola, SEIU 721 leaped into action to ensure three things: 1.) SEIU members and management were working together to address the crisis; 2.) SEIU workers had an opportunity to ask questions and access the most up-to-date prevention protocols; and 3.) SEIU

workers had access to necessary equipment to protect themselves and the public from infection.

After a joint Labor-Management preparedness review last month with the L.A. County Department of Health Services, we organized a press conference to brief the public on L.A.'s Ebola preparedness. Our goal was to calm looming hysteria over the spread of the disease and fill information gaps about how the disease spreads and how L.A.'s healthcare infrastructure would respond in a crisis. We succeeded with NBC headlines like "L.A. County 'Much Better Prepared Today' for Ebola Cases"

SPECIAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2014

SEIU 721 RESPONDS TO EBOLA

VENTURA COUNTY WORKERS COME TOGETHER FOR EBOLA PREPAREDNESS DRILLS



In the wake of news that a second U.S. healthcare worker has contracted Ebola, SEIU 721 members in Ventura County initiated a meeting with the Ventura County Health Care Agency to review the County's plan to keep workers and the community safe in the event of an Ebola outbreak. Nurses, 721 workers and first responders also practiced decontamination procedures and techniques at drills at the county medical center and other locations. 721 created a press release to reach out to county media and illustrate how public workers are preparing to keep them safe in the event of an emergency.

EBOLA FACTS FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

GENEVA, Switzerland — The World Health Organization said Friday, November 7, that 13,268 people had been infected with Ebola across 8 countries, and 4,960 of them had died. On Wednesday, November 5 it had reported 13,042 cases and 4,818 deaths.

The UN health agency has acknowledged though that the number of deaths are likely far higher, since the fatality rate in the current outbreak is known to be around 70%. The deadliest Ebola outbreak ever has hit Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone the hardest. In its latest toll, the WHO said 2,766 deaths were recorded in Liberia, out of a total of 6,619 cases. In Sierra Leone, 1,130 people had died from the virus out of 4,862 cases. In Guinea, there were 1,054 deaths from 1,760 cases. Data from Nigeria and Senegal remained unchanged, and both countries have been declared Ebola free.

Nigeria had eight deaths and 20 cases, while Senegal had one case and no deaths. Meanwhile, one death has been recorded in Mali — that of a two-year-old girl from Guinea — while one case of infection in Spain, a nurse, has been cured. In the United States, 4 cases have been recorded and one person — a Liberian — had died from Ebola.

Ebola, one of the deadliest viruses known to man, is spread only through direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person showing symptoms such as fever or vomiting. People caring for the sick or handling the bodies of people infected Ebola are therefore especially exposed. WHO said Friday that a total of 549 healthcare workers were known to have contracted the virus, and 311 of them had died.