

SEIU 721 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2015



SEIU 721 MEMBER WAVE



SEIU 721 added 10,000 new members to our rolls in the last year. Many signed up during major contract campaigns, like L.A. City and L.A. County.



"As a single mom it's a blessing to have a voice with my union so that I can build a better life and a better future for me and my daughter. What happened in Wisconsin with workers losing their right to bargain can happen to us here in California, too. We need to make our voices heard so they know we are going to fight for our rights as SEIU members."

Maria Beltran, after signing up as a full member of 721 at Department of Public and Social Services, Northridge.

SEIU 721 SIGNS UP 10,000 NEW MEMBERS

Last summer, many national pundits wrote the American worker's obituary. They said the union movement would die in a hail of lawsuits from the Koch Brothers and other anti-worker extremists that make it harder for workers to join unions.

But while others wrung their hands, we SEIU 721 members rolled up our sleeves. We organized and built community alliances which won us good contracts in L.A. City, L.A. County, the Inland Empire, and Tri-counties regions. We won huge, game-changing victories, like passing a \$15 minimum wage in L.A. We also sweated the small stuff, like enhancing

steward training and aggressively pursuing individual grievances.

This is how we were able to add 10,000 members and 2,200 COPE members. This is why 85 percent of the workers covered by our contracts are full members — one of the best ratios in the U.S. for a union like ours.

When a worker says "why should I join SEIU 721?" We can say, "you can't afford not to!"

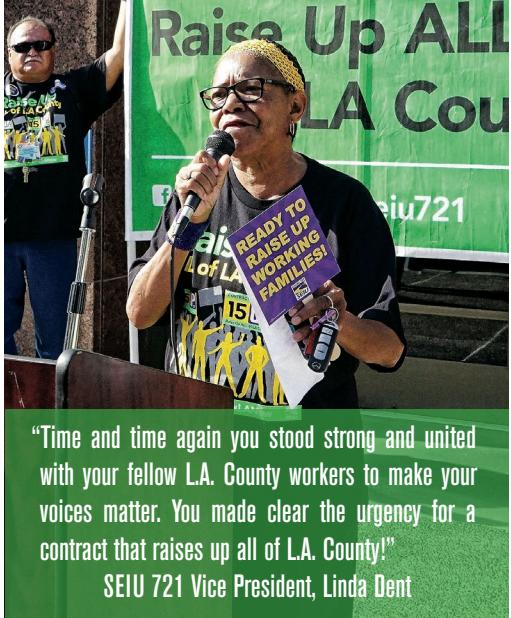
Bob Schoonover, President

Bob Schoonover



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L.A. COUNTY MEMBERS VOTE ON T.A. NEW CONTRACT INCLUDES 10 PERCENT RAISE FOR ALL WORKERS



"Time and time again you stood strong and united with your fellow L.A. County workers to make your voices matter. You made clear the urgency for a contract that raises up all of L.A. County!"

SEIU 721 Vice President, Linda Dent



Above and Below Right: L.A. County nurses vote on Tentative Agreement at LAC + USC Medical Center. Below Left: SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry visits L.A. County T.A. vote and membership sign-up.



Food, Fun and Family For SEIU 721 Members SEIU Families Come Together for General Assembly and Picnic



On October 24th, hundreds of SEIU 721 members and their families came together for our union's General Assembly and a family picnic at Whittier Narrows Regional Park in El Monte. After celebrating legislative victories, like the passage of a \$15 minimum wage in the City of L.A. and L.A. County, good new contracts in the City of L.A. and L.A. County and increases at the Pleasant Valley Recreation District and in Ventura County, members and their families dived into barbequed ribs, hamburgers and hot dogs. SEIU 721 President Bob Schoonover took the opportunity to announce to attendees that SEIU 721 has signed up 10,000 new members by converting fee payers to full membership and organizing workers in private colleges and county governments.

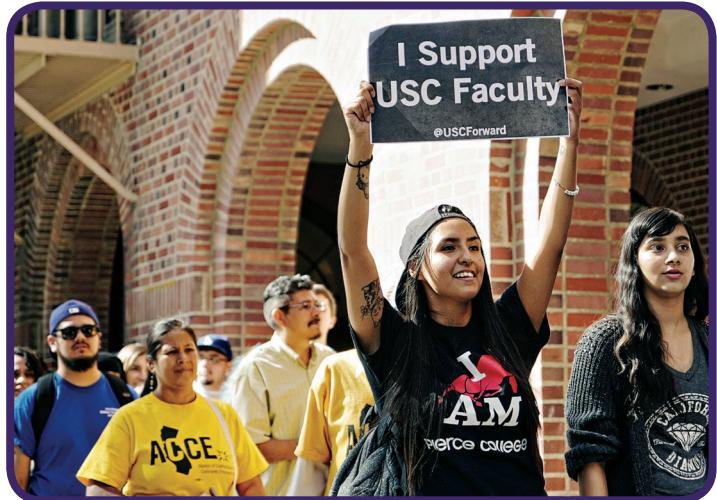
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VENTURA COURT WORKERS RALLY “MORE WORK LESS PAY? NO WAY!”



SEIU 721 members from the Ventura County Superior Courts rallied on October 21, 2015 for a fair contract. Dozens of workers chanted “More Work, Less Pay? NO WAY!” as they marched around the County of Ventura Government Center fountain near the Hall of Justice building. President Bob Schoonover was on hand to support our members and offer encouragement as members shared their stories with the media and local community. Members are in bargaining and looking for gains similar to what their counterparts received in San Francisco.

USC FACULTY & STUDENTS TAKE ACTION “PUT FUNDING BACK IN THE CLASSROOM!”



Last month, hundreds of students, educators and community leaders descended on the USC campus to deliver a demand letter to USC President Nikias calling on the university to address rising tuition, skyrocketing executive compensation, and over-reliance on contingent faculty. Non-tenure track faculty are organizing to form a union with SEIU 721. Through the Faculty Forward campaign, they are working with students to compel USC to commit to quality, affordable education for students and good jobs for faculty.

RIVERSIDE CITY ELECTS NEW CHAIR, OFFICERS

Chair-Elect Enrique Barboza and Incoming Officers Thank Outgoing Team For Their Leadership

The votes are in, and SEIU 721 City of Riverside members have elected a new chapter chair, Enrique Barboza. Barboza, a Parking Control Representative, has served with the city for 12 years and started in Public Utilities. Members reaffirmed existing positions and installed a new member to the At-Large position. The change in leadership will take place in January 2016.



I would like to thank Frank Corral for his leadership. He has opened doors for this chapter in the City. I hope to build on our past and lead our chapter in better communication with our members while we continue to advocate for our families. 
**Enrique Barboza, Chair-Elect
Riverside Chapter**



JENNIE PAULI, VICE CHAIR
POLICE PROGRAM COORDINATOR



BARBARA HUNTER, RECORDING SEC.
FIELD SERVICE ASSISTANT



DEAN MARTIN, MEMBER AT-LARGE
MECHANIC



CORINNE PARKER, MEMBER AT-LARGE
SENIOR OFFICE SPECIALIST

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DRIVING HEALTH CARE INTEGRATION

By Taking a Leading Role in L.A. Healthcare Integration, Our Union Can Protect the Safety Net



L.A. County is engaged in a massive overhaul of its health care delivery system and SEIU 721 members are driving decisionmaking, advocating to protect the safety net, and creating a voice for frontline workers in crafting health policy. Here, SEIU 721 President Bob Schoonover, L.A. Department of Health Services Director Mitch Katz and SEIU 721 members and staff talk integration.

Once described the twin challenges of the federal Affordable Care Act and Los Angeles County's healthcare integration plan as a freight train — SEIU 721 could either hop on the train, or we could lay on the tracks and wait to be run over.

But thanks to a gifted and hardworking group of members and staff with a laser-like focus on protecting L.A.'s healthcare safety net, we've found a third way. For the first time, SEIU nurses and healthcare workers are helping drive the healthcare train, formulating policy and shaping how healthcare will be provided in our county for decades.

The need to prepare for the impact of federal healthcare reform changed SEIU 721's thinking. The Affordable Care Act has helped an estimated 11 million uninsured working Americans buy health insurance. These newly insured patients are no longer locked into seeking care at the healthcare provider of last resort; they have choices. If public hospitals are to survive, they need to attract a minimum level of insured patients to subsidize the care they provide to the indigent.

Our Gateways Care Improvement Team project within the Department of Health Services is the latest example of how members are indeed stepping up and transforming the nation's largest public health system from the bottom up.

Gateway Care Improvement Teams – or CITs – are small teams of frontline staff and managers, focused on improv-

ing processes impacting primary care of patients. Our teams understood that people seeking healthcare needed to encounter open doors in order to feel cared for. Our CITs have successfully applied real-world solutions to systematic deficiencies in order to improve patient care. They helped reduce wait times by up to 50% in some cases. This means children who are ill and seeking relief, can be seen by a care provider sooner. Tackling these deficiencies head-on is crucial to improving the lives and health of our patients and ultimately overall success of our public healthcare system.

On October 21, 2015, our CITs were honored by the Board of Supervisors and the Productivity and Quality Commission for significant improvements in our work with primary care patients. Business office team members at El Monte, Humphrey, Mid-Valley, and Roybal all participated in this great labor-management partnership effort and were all honored as part of the prestigious Productivity and Quality Awards.

In January, we'll take a deep dive into healthcare integration and meet some of the workers shaping L.A. healthcare for decades to come. For right now, it's enough to say that workers are finally driving the train.

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff

Gilda Valdez

