

SEIU 721

PRESIDENT'S

DECEMBER 2015 REPORT



SEIU 721 UNITES TO HONOR S.B. VICTIMS



Elected officials, faith leaders and SEIU 721 members from around the region gathered in San Bernardino to honor the victims of the San Bernardino attack. Of the 14 people killed on December 2nd, 10 were SEIU 721 members. Of the 22 injured, 15 belong to our union.

Today, our union is gripped by sorrow in the wake of the tragedy in San Bernardino.

In what has become a weekly occurrence, a mass shooting has claimed the lives of innocent Americans and injured many more.

This attack is particularly close to home. Of the 14 people killed on December 2nd, 10 were SEIU 721 members. Of the 22 injured, 15 were members of our union.

So let's remember the workers killed and injured in San Bernardino for who they were and are: everyday heroes working to make their community a better place to live and work. Workers like Mike Wetzel, a 37-year-old health specialist supervisor, who leaves behind six kids and a wife. Let's honor them by supporting their families and organizing to make sure this never happens again.

This starts with reducing gun violence. To all the politicians on Facebook and Twitter praying for the victims and thanking the first responders: Do your jobs. Turn down the PAC contributions from the gunmakers and their out-of-control lobby, and start voting to protect your constituents.

It's a sad commentary on the dangers faced by frontline public employees today that workers at the Inland Regional Center were initially unfazed by the SWAT teams charging toward their facility because they are so used to conducting "active shooter" drills at work.

The fact is: SEIU members are first responders. We're the first responders in America's mental health crisis. We're the first responders to Americans who lost their jobs and homes in the last economic meltdown. We're the first responders for America's sick, elderly, homebound and disadvantaged. Some of the people we try to help are frustrated and desperate, and sometimes the job is dangerous. These workers, like Hal Hauser, a member who was in the room to witness the horrible attack, will need our help as they return to work and begin to heal.

Please join me in contributing to the Local 721 Member and Family Support Fund and working with our union to fight for a safer workplace for all of us.

Bob Schoonover, President



Support the SEIU 721 Victims of the San Bernardino Attack: <http://721.seiu.org/SBfund>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT DECEMBER 2015

SEIU 721 UNITES SAN BERNARDINO TO MOURN VICTIMS

SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry Joins Labor and Faith Leaders Calling for End to Violence



ROBERT ADAMS



ISAAC AMANIOS GEBRESLASSIE



BENNETTA BET-BADAL



HARRY BOWMAN



SIERRA CLAYBORN



JUAN ESPINOZA



AURORA GODOY



SHANNON JOHNSON



DANIEL KAUFMAN



DAMIAN MEINS



TIN NGUYEN



NICHOLAS THALASINIS



YVETTE VELASCO



MICHAEL WETZEL

Community, labor, and elected leaders from across the country came together December 7th in San Bernardino to mourn the victims and call for an end to the scourge of gun violence in our communities and in the workplace. Mary Kay Henry and SEIU 721 President Bob Schoonover vowed to work towards short-term and long-term resolutions that prioritize the safety of public employees and the people they serve.



"Our entire SEIU family mourns with the families affected by last week's attacks. Our hearts are broken with the tragic loss of our fallen and injured sisters and brothers in San Bernardino."

**Mary Kay Henry, President
SEIU International**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT DECEMBER 2015

RAISING UP L.A. COUNTY

SEIU 721 MEMBERS RATIFY 3-YEAR CONTRACT BY 99 PERCENT



After a month-long voting process, SEIU 721 L.A. County members voted by a 99 percent margin to ratify a new three-year contract that includes a raise of at least 10 percent for all workers, a path to permanency for temporary workers, and guarantees a \$15/hr. minimum wage floor for all L.A. County workers by 2018. The Contract also includes additional salary increases for 13,000 members, the first shift and differential pay improvements in 25 years, the first vacation improvement in 30 years, and a paid Cesar Chavez Day Holiday.

L.A. County 721 members stood up, raised up all of L.A. County and won a great contract — ratified by an incredible 99 percent!

SEIU 721 Vice President Linda Dent

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FACULTY FILE FOR UNION ELECTION

Non-Tenure Track Faculty Fighting to Protect Quality Education for Students by Improving Faculty Working Conditions

Non-tenure track faculty at the University of Southern California, one of the state's wealthiest and most prestigious schools, filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) seeking to join Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 721. University of Southern California faculty are joining the growing national movement for education justice through SEIU Faculty Forward—fighting to give their students the best learning environment possible by improving faculty working conditions across campus. This important milestone comes on the heels of successful faculty efforts at Whittier College and Otis College of Art and Design.



"By coming together to form a union we will gain a real voice in the decisions that affect us and the students we teach."

Alexis Disselkoen,
Adjunct faculty in USC's Roski School of Art and Design

THE BEST WAY TO HONOR THE FALLEN

The Best Way to Honor the Memory of the 721 Members We Lost is to Keep Fighting for Workers' Rights



What should have been a time of celebration for hard won victories, like the overwhelming ratification of the L.A. County contract and non-tenure track faculty at USC filing a petition to join SEIU 721, turned to sorrow with news of the San Bernardino attacks. The best way to honor the fallen in San Bernardino is to continue their work by building a stronger union that wins better workplace protections for all public employees and the resources they need to care for the communities they serve.

Instead of celebrating two hard-won victories — the 99 percent ratification of a good new contract in L.A. County and the launch of a new organizing drive for non-tenure track faculty at the University of Southern California — our union is mourning a senseless tragedy in San Bernardino.

Of the 14 killed in the December 2nd attack in San Bernardino, 10 were SEIU 721 members. Of the 22 injured, 15 belong to our union.

Working with our International Union and partners across the country, we've deployed grief counselors and mental health professionals and set up a Member and Family Support fund to raise contributions for the victims and their families. SEIU 721 and the International have committed to secure additional counseling and mental health support as county employees affected by this tragedy return to work. On December 7th, we organized a candlelight vigil



that drew nearly 1,000 mourners to the fountains in front of the San Bernardino County Building. Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders from across the region joined to honor the victims and call for tolerance and an end to violence. Politicians from across the spectrum joined together to thank first responders and county employees for their efforts.

SEIU President Mary Kay Henry flew in from Washington, D.C. and pledged our union's support to reduce gun violence.

"To SEIU members in San Bernardino... your American family is here to wrap our arms around you," she said. "But your American family is also going to go to work to insist that we eliminate this kind of violence from our communities once and for all."

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff

Gilda Valdez

