

SEIU 721 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

APRIL 2016



FIX L.A. WINS 5,000 NEW JOBS



SEIU 721 AND FIX L.A. LOCK IN AGREEMENT FOR NEW CITY HIRING

Last month, SEIU 721 and its coalition partners in Fix L.A. locked in an agreement with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to fill 5,000 newly created city jobs through a groundbreaking hiring and training program targeted to underrepresented L.A. residents.

This agreement formalized a key deal point reached in negotiations last fall between the City of Los Angeles and SEIU 721 and other city unions. We won a great new contract last September that included raises for all city workers, protected our compensation and benefits, committed the city to create 5,000 new city jobs as a first step toward restoring services cut during the recessions. But the agreement to create 5,000 jobs lacked specifics. That changed last month.

On April 28th, I joined Mayor Garcetti, Councilman Paul Krekorian, Councilman Paul Koretz, other city leaders, and our partners in Fix L.A. and the Coalition of City Unions to unveil

a new City of L.A. hiring and training program that will expand jobs and restore and improve vital city services — from tree trimming, to school crossings, to 911 dispatch — that residents expect and deserve.

The jobs agreement illustrates a vital part of SEIU 721's strategy in action. We helped form Fix L.A. to build power for our members and other city workers by forming coalitions with several dozen L.A. community and faith-based groups. We advocated together for the restoration of services. We kept the pressure on and secured the 5,000 new jobs — even after we had secured a good contract for our members — because we made a commitment to a coalition that has helped us every step of the way. That's how we're going to fix L.A.

Bob Schoonover, President

Bob Schoonover



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SEIU 721 Actions on Bullying Prompt Task Force DHS Chief Katz Partners with Our Union to Help End Crisis



Nurses, like George Ocegueda (left), formerly of Olive View-UCLA, have been organizing unity breaks to protest workplace bullying by supervisors. Ocegueda was targeted for bullying after blowing the whistle on patient-staff ratios at his worksite and was forced to transfer.

On the heels of Solidarity Actions at DHS Facilities stretching from the Antelope Valley to the Los Angeles Harbor area, 721's LA County Health Professionals came out in full force on April 27th for a critical follow-up meeting with DHS Chief Mitch Katz to move the County a step closer to ending the bullying crisis. The passionate group of over 150 people in attendance and Dr. Mitch Katz reached a consensus on forming an emergency labor-management task force ready to push for immediate action and find comprehensive long-term solutions to end the crisis once and for all.

One of the most compelling stories to emerge was from former Olive View-UCLA Registered Nurse (RN) George Ocegueda. The trouble emerged when Ocegueda began voicing his concern for the unsafe patient to nurse ratios that would arise when nurses went on break during their shift in the emergency room. Ocegueda and other nurses from Olive View-UCLA filed a formal grievance to alleviate the situation, but they quickly suffered retaliation. After a continual campaign of bullying, 41 experienced nurses left the unit, leaving only new nursing graduates behind.

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San Bernardino Court Workers Win Contract AGREEMENT INCLUDES 10 PERCENT RAISE, SPOT BONUSES AND HEALTHCARE STIPENDS



Last month, San Bernardino County Court workers overwhelmingly approved a good new contract with a 11 percent raise over 4 years, an immediate 60-hour spot bonus, a 1 percent lump sum payment in 2017, and increased medical subsidy payments, increasing from 48.2% at ratification to 54.8% by 2019.

The new contract also includes these improvements:

- Final and Binding Arbitration
- Increased Life Insurance Coverage
- Steward Education and Release Time
- Executive Board Release Time
- Increased Number of Stewards
- Improved Layoff and Seniority Language

To read the full agreement, please visit:

www.seiu721.org/inland_areas.

San Bernardino County Workers Blast Short-Staffing STAFF SHORTAGES ARE PUTTING CHILDREN AND PUBLIC HEALTH AT RISK



Hundreds of San Bernardino County professionals and several community leaders gathered at lunchtime on April 28th to protest short-staffing in county departments and to show support for their bargaining team, which has been at the table since last August trying to win a fair contract that will deal with high caseloads and workloads.

SEIU 721 San Bernardino professionals say that pay cuts, high staff turnover and large numbers of vacancies in key classes, like children's social workers, psychiatrists, lab technicians and

environmental health specialists, have led to shockingly high caseloads and workloads. The short-staffing endangers children in the Department of Children and Family Services caseload and threatens public health, they say. These issues were a key reason San Bernardino Professionals recently voted to join SEIU 721.

The goods news, bargaining team members Oracio Diaz and Staci Richards told them, is that the county is beginning to recognize they have a problem and there is movement at the bargaining table.

Stay tuned!

PRESIDENT'S REP

SEIU 721 ELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

SEIU 721 OFFICERS



BOB SCHOONOVER
PRESIDENT



LINDA DENT
VICE PRESIDENT



DAVID GREEN
TREASURER



LILLIAN CABRAL
SECRETARY



CAROLYN DASHER
COURT REPORTER, SC



LYDIA CABRAL
PATIENT RESOURCES WORKER



PATRICK DEL CONTE
REC. THERAPY SUPERVISOR



GRACE SANTILLANO
STAFF ASSISTANT I



ADOLFO GRANADOS
ELIGIBILITY WORKER II



VERYETI VASSEL
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR RN



STEVE HOVAGIMIAN
SOCIAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR



OMAR PEREZ
INTERMEDIATE TYPIST CLERK



ALINA MENDIZABAL
MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE



SHARONDA WADE
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORKER III



VALENCIA GARNER
NURSING ASSISTANT, SHERIFF



RON McMULLEN
ELIGIBILITY WORKER II



ARCELIA LOPEZ
REGISTERED NURSE II



JOSE SANCHEZ
TRAFFIC PAINTER



TONY F. MENDOZA
EVIDENCE CUSTODIAN

L.A. COUNTY



CHARLES HARRINGTON
BUILDING INSPECTOR II



ROSA CASTRO
COURT PROCUREMENT



LIZA ROCHA
CLIENT BENEFIT SPECIALIST



SHANNON ABRAMOVITCH
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES



CHRISTINA SINGER
FOOD SERVICES ASSISTANT II



ROBERTO CAMACHO
BENEFITS SUPERVISOR, VENTURA



PAMELA MEADOWS
ELIGIBILITY WORKER III



GRACE SEPULVEDA
CLIENT BENEFITS SPECIALIST II

TRI-COUNTIES

APRIL 2016 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Member Leaders Pledge to Continue Our Local's Efforts to Lift Up Working Families, Fight Back Against Efforts to Diminish Workers' Rights, and Strengthen Workers' Voices Across Southern California

SEIU 721 congratulates the union's newly elected Executive Board that will represent members on key decisions.

"It is an honor to once again be given the opportunity to help lead our union in our efforts to raise up working families and strengthen the communities we serve," said President Bob Schoonover, who was re-elected as the head of our local's governing body. "Our SEIU Local 721 members have chosen to stay on a winning path. Their vote demonstrates their strong commitment to a member-led union. Congratulations to all the member leaders elected, we have much work to do in our fight for good jobs and quality public services."



CORINNE PARKER
SENIOR OFFICE SPECIALIST



ORACIO DIAZ
SOCIAL SERVICE PRACTITIONER



TIM BURKE
LEAD OPERATOR



REBECCA BAIN
RESP. CARE PRACTITIONER II



ED TOOLE
MINIBUS DRIVER



DAVID WARPNESS
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORKER



ROGER NUNEZ
SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANT



CAMMIE DUDEK
VICTIM SERVICES ADVOCATE II

INLAND AREA



SIMBOA WRIGHT
WASTE WATER COLLECTION



ANDY MORALES
REFUSE TRUCK OPERATOR II



NADY MAECHLING
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER



STACEE KARNYA
CHEMIST II



JOAQUIN AVALOS
FLEET EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN III



FIDEL AVILA
WINDOW CLEANER



EDWINA CHISM
TRAFFIC OFFICER II



ALAN PESHEK
STOREKEEPER II



SALVADOR ZAMBRANO
HARBOR ENGINEER I

L.A./OC CITIES

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NEW E-BOARD MEMBERS!

: REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

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SEIU 721-Driven Bill Will Help Ease Nursing Crisis SB 323 Will Allow Nurse Practitioners to Practice Without Physician Supervision with Conditions



SEIU California announced last month that our entire 700,000 statewide membership will put its considerable clout behind a bill championed by SEIU 721: SB 323 (Hernandez), legislation that will enable Nurse Practitioners to utilize their extensive training and education to meet California's growing need for health care services driven by implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

"SB 323 is an important step to maintain California's leadership in expanding health care access for underserved communities," said Bob Schoonover, President of SEIU Local 721, which represents hundreds of nurse practitioners in Southern California.

Modeled after similar laws in 21 other states, SB 323 will enable nurse practitioners to practice without physician supervision if they hold liability insurance and meet a variety of other certification requirements.



SOCIAL WORKERS DEMAND REAL JUSTICE L.A. COUNTY SOCIAL WORKERS CALL FOR SOLUTIONS TO ROOT CAUSES OF CHILD SAFETY PROBLEMS

Last month, hundreds of L.A. County Children's Social Workers rallied at the Hall of Administration to tell the Board of Supervisors and Department of Children and Family Services Director Philip Browning to fix the county's child safety crisis.

L.A. County Children's Social Workers are outraged at District Attorney Jackie Lacey's media-focused indictments of four DCFS employees in the wake of the death of a child in the DCFS caseload. L.A. County Children's Social Workers have been sounding the alarm for years about deep problems at the

agency that are putting children at risk, including excessive caseloads and workloads, and are angry at the scapegoating when many of their suggestions for reforms have gone unaddressed.

Social workers followed up with a strategy session, unity breaks at all worksites and a town hall meeting with L.A. supervisorial candidate Congresswoman Janice Hahn. Stay tuned for follow-up actions—the fight to end the child safety crisis at DCFS is far from over.

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VENTURA WORKERS PUMPED UP TO BARGAIN WORKER PARTICIPATION IN BARGAINING SURVEY IS THE HIGHEST IN 10 YEARS



County of Ventura members are pumped up to win a good contract and lift up their county—they just shattered the 10-year record for completed bargaining surveys. County workers, who represent the Tri-Counties region's largest bargaining unit, have been gearing up by holding worksite meetings across county worksites, signing up members for the Contract Action Team, and nominating co-workers for the 2016 bargaining team.

Members used the meetings to plan strategy and plan how to use the Lift Up Ventura campaign to improve county services.

Members are presently voting for bargaining team members in their respective units. Those who haven't completed a paper bargaining survey are being asked to complete an online survey. We will conduct the vote count in the next several weeks.

Linda Dent and SEIU Leaders Meet with Clinton "Workers Must Defeat Trump"



SEIU 721 Vice President Linda Dent and other SEIU leaders met with former President Bill Clinton last month to talk about the importance of the 2016 presidential race. "This campaign is so important," said Linda Dent. "We need a president who will lead for working families and appoint Supreme Court justices who will protect workers, not strip away their rights!"

Clinic Workers Get Ready Workers Provide Safety Net Services for L.A. County



Gateway Mental Health Hospital, Clinica Romero and North East Valley are all gearing up for bargaining. This past Saturday, Bargaining team members from across all three clinics came together to tabulate and analyze member survey responses. These clinics are the safety net for L.A. County and the services they provide are vital to the health of our community.

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Thousands of SEIU Members Set to Plan Strategy in Detroit at International Union Convention

Thousands of workers from government, health care, property services and other industries will gather in Detroit this month for the SEIU International Convention — which our union holds every four years — to celebrate huge victories in the fight to help every worker win a \$15 an hour minimum wage and to plan the next phase in our campaign to raise up working people in this country and others.

We've seen what we can accomplish when we come together. Tens of thousands of home care, fast-food, child care, airport workers and adjunct professors have won raises and union rights for nearly 11 million workers in the Fight for \$15 with the support of SEIU members and leaders. SEIU members are a leading voice in the movement for immigration reform, the fight to reverse the lasting impact of racism on African-Americans in our criminal justice system and creating a forceful campaign to defend workers from attacks by ultra-right political groups.

It's a timely discussion: with workers facing constant attacks in state legislatures, through ballot measures and in the courts, the 2016 Presidential Election may be the most important in a generation. If you want to witness the difference a national

election can make, compare Canada, where SEIU played a major role in helping elect pro-worker prime minister Justin Trudeau, to the U.S. and the rise of Donald Trump. In Canada, workers gather to cheer Trudeau's pro-worker agenda. In America, workers come together to protest Trump's union-busting hotels and anti-immigrant agenda.

We'll be focusing our planning efforts in three areas:

- Creating new forms of worker power—We'll look at the issues we need to tackle and the best campaign structures for creating economic and political gains.
- Building a wider movement—How do we attract the allies we'll need to win.
- Innovate in our work—How do we bring new techniques to representation and bargaining.

We look forward to joining the 2016 International Convention to help continue the fight for justice.

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff

A portrait photo of Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff. She is a woman with short blonde hair, smiling, wearing a dark blazer over a patterned top. Her name is written in a stylized signature below her photo.

