

SEIU 721 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MAY 2016



UNSTOPPABLE



SEIU ADOPTS UNSTOPPABLE PLAN TO BUILD A JUST ECONOMY

Thousands of SEIU members gathered last month in Detroit, Michigan for our International Union's 2016 convention to celebrate some of the huge victories of the past four years — like the wave of wins in the Fight for \$15 campaign — and develop a plan for the next four.

Our newly re-elected SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry described how, four years ago, workers and their allies were under constant attack: "We thought our voices weren't strong enough to take on all the 'antis' — anti-black, anti-worker, anti-women, anti-LGBT, anti-immigrant and anti-government forces."

Our union had a choice: hunker down and hope we could protect what we already had; or redouble our efforts and fight back. I am so proud of our members and our union that we chose the latter.

At 721, we opted for an aggressive approach. We backed Fight for \$15, we partnered with allies in the community and the clergy to create good jobs targeted to communities

of color, we started Black/Brown voter registration drives, and joined in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and the immigration reform movement.

So I was heartened that SEIU delegates approved a transformative plan to grow our union and build a more just society over the next four years by focusing in six key areas:

- Environmental Justice
- Racial Justice
- Immigrant Justice
- Fight for \$15 and a Union
- LGBTQ Justice
- Women's Equality

Four years from now, we'll look back on this as the moment SEIU's campaign for real justice in America became unstoppable.

Bob Schoonover, President

Bob Schoonover



**STAY TUNED FOR A FULL REPORT ON THE CONVENTION,
INCLUDING LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS AND ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY 2016

BULLIES BUSTED AT L.A. DHS!

Administrators Keep Promise to Deal with Bully Element at DHS



In the wake of a wave of workplace actions like this one at Roybal Health Center in East L.A. (left), top DHS brass followed through on their promise to discipline and otherwise deal with "bully elements" at 6 DHS worksites.

As SEIU 721 Bully Watch team members and more than 200 LAC+USC medical professionals were preparing for a May 18th anti-bullying rally on the hospital steps, administrators came forward to announce they had dealt with the "bully elements" that have ruined employee morale at the hospital. This is the latest victory in an member-led campaign that, in less than three months, has identified solutions to a major problem for SEIU 721 workers at Department of Health Services facilities across L.A. County.

Since DHS workers first broke their silence on March 9th, members have formed Bully Watch teams at 11 worksites and already 8 bullying elements have been removed or addressed at worksites. The Bully Watch campaign is now focused on enforcing Article 39 of our union contract promoting dignity and professionalism in the workplace. With a focus on improving training and reporting, the goal is to strengthen a partnership with DHS management and transform the care we deliver to our communities and eradicate bullying at DHS for good.

NURSE GALA RECOGNIZES REAL STARS OF HEALTHCARE



"SEIU 721 Nurses are the real stars of healthcare. They are leading the way toward a healthier California."

**Linda Dent,
SEIU 721 V.P.**

COUNTY OF L.A.

Florence Nightingale Award	Karla Neal, RN
Heart of Patient Care Award	Zulma Lopez, CMA
Nurse Practitioner Award	Ilena Meza, NP
RN Award	Carletta Henderson, RN

LVN Award

Nurse Assistant Award	Treva Brown, LVN
Certified Medical Asst. Award	Araceli Jasso, CNA
	Anasthesia Perkins, CMA

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Florence Nightingale Award	Melita Charles-Singh, RN
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY 2016

INLAND AREA CELEBRATES PUBLIC WORKERS "Not All Heroes Wear Capes—Some Wear Purple and Gold!"



SEIU 721 members came together last month to observe Public Service Recognition Week. Celebrated the first week of May since 1985, PSRW is recognized by the U.S Congress to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees.

SEIU 721 President Bob Schoonover used the occasion to congratulate members for delivering quality public services, winning good contracts, and raising up all working families through the Fight for \$15.

Schoonover acknowledged several I.E. elected officials who've repeatedly stepped up to support public workers in the region, like Riverside Supervisor Chuck Washington, who opposed the controversial plan to furlough county employees, and Assemblyman Eric Linder. In turn, Linder praised SEIU 721 members for their service, saying "Not all heroes wear capes, some wear purple and gold!"

Ventura Workers Prepare for Contract and Stand Up for Workplace Safety



Recently elected members of SEIU 721's County of Ventura bargaining team gathered for the first time on Thursday, May 26th to meet staff and participate in an intensive training session covering the basics of bargaining, lessons we've learned from recent contract campaigns and other best practices. Next, the team will analyze the results of the bargaining survey, draft proposals for the bargaining table and to engage the rest of the membership in winning a strong contract that helps lift up Ventura County.



Ventura County Human Services Agency workers filed a formal grievance to protest the county's mishandling of a recent bomb threat. Management first failed to inform the workers, then gave them incomplete information when instructing them to clear the building. Adding insult to injury, workers were asked to use their vacation time to make up for the work stoppage! SEIU 721 members stood up and delivered the grievance and hundreds of petition signatures to HSA Deputy Director Melissa Livingston.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY 2016



Thousands of SEIU Members from Across the U.S. Adopt Plan to Dismantle Structural Racism

Unstoppable. That was the theme of SEIU's once-every-four-years convention and it perfectly describes our union.

It's the idea that when all of our members — Black, Latino, Asian, Native American and white — come together and harness the worth and value of everyone, regardless of race, we are unstoppable.

What I cherish most about SEIU is our union's unstoppable courage in the face of powerful bullies. Just as Donald Trump's manipulative blend of racism, misogyny and immigrant bashing threatens to propel him into the White House, our union is launching perhaps its most ambitious campaign ever to dismantle the structural racism that everyday robs Black Americans of their dignity, safety and opportunity.

As a Latina and a child of immigrants, I recognize the "divide and conquer" strategies the wealthy few have used for years to keep working people of different races from coming together. That's why this campaign is so vital — it's the recognition that there is no chance for economic equality without racial equality.

At the convention, SEIU members adopted specific strategies to

build a wider movement to eliminate the structural racism that has rigged our economic system against Black Americans and other people of color:

- Bring more people to the Fight for 15 and join it with other economic, racial, immigrant, LGBTQ and environmental justice campaigns.
- Attack environmental racism and racially targeted pollution.
- Direct our spending power and leverage our retirement investments to combat racism.
- Advocate and lobby for changes in government policy to reduce over-incarceration of Blacks and promote "second-chance" initiatives.
- Increase police accountability, pursue sentencing reform and minimize police use-of-force.

These are the concrete steps our union will take to leave a better and more equal world for generations to come.

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff

Gilda Valdez

