

SEIU 721

July 2016

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



SEIU 721 MEMBER VOICES HELP BRING HOME MILLIONS



Member Lobbying Helps Deliver Funding to Save Services and Jobs and Improve the Workplace

SEIU 721 members know the value of a strong and engaged membership from countless contract campaigns, bargaining sessions and worksite actions. What's less clear to some is how getting involved in politics helps workers. But time after time, SEIU 721 members demonstrate how activism in city, county and state government can have a direct positive impact on their communities, their families and their workplace.

This year, SEIU 721 members joined with other SEIU locals to lobby legislators and the Governor, and their hard work paid off in the form of a state budget that will deliver better healthcare and higher wages for millions of Californians plus a better workplace for our members.

- **\$6.2 Billion for Healthcare Services (\$3.5 billion for LA County)** — This funding sustains county safety net services under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) through the 1115 Waiver process over a five-year period.
- **\$169.9 Million to Reduce Eligibility Worker Caseloads** — Funds hiring of 1,700 additional county eligibility workers statewide to deal with the caseload crisis caused by the surge in the Medi-Cal caseload.
- **\$76.9 Million for Courts for Equitable Access to Justice** — Funds will help alleviate caseloads swelled by Prop 47, and replace antiquated case management systems.

- **34x Increase in Funding for Adult Protective Services (APS) Training** — \$3 million to fund training for social workers dedicated to preventing elder abuse.
- **\$6.65 Million to Hire Additional Public Health Nurses to Treat Foster Youth** — Funds will go to PHNs responsible for monitoring youth who receive psychotropic drugs to treat mental illness.
- **22.5% in Pay Increases for Most Tri-Counties Regional Center Members** — SEIU led the charge on ABX2-1 to increase funding for retention of workers serving the developmentally disabled.
- **Final Passage of the Historic \$15/hr. Minimum Wage** — The historic bill will raise wages for 6.5 million workers who earn less than \$15 and set a floor that will help SEIU workers in future negotiations.
- **Expand Safety Net Services for Vulnerable Families** — SEIU backed Senate Bill 75 that extends Medi-Cal benefits to 185,000 undocumented children in California.

Bob Schoonover, President



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Protecting Workers from the Sand Fire

SEIU 721 Partners with
LA County DPH to Plan Acton Evacuation



As the Sand Fire spread through the Santa Clarita Valley, SEIU 721 staff and stewards worked with LA County Department of Public Health management to plan the evacuation of the Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Center near Acton on July 24th. More than 150 workers staffed three shifts at the residential treatment facility, which was re-opened on July 28th.

SEIU-LA DPH PARTNERSHIP YIELDS RESULTS

NEW RELATIONSHIP BUSTS BULLIES, WINS BACK PAY AND INCREASES WORKER INVOLEMENT



"Building strong partnerships with management is not an easy task. Our health team and member leaders have broken new ground for union members everywhere. SEIU Local 721 members are leaving an indelible mark in the safety net, something our neediest communities can benefit from for years to come."

Linda Dent, Vice President

SEIU's unique LA Healthcare Partnership - which brings together healthcare unions, doctors, hospital management and the leadership of LA County's new integrated public health system - is generating real results for members on workplace safety, bullying, pay and other long-time concerns.

Our hard work to build and strengthen this partnership is paying off. Management is listening to frontline workers and acting quickly when they identify problems:

- At Harbor UCLA, management agreed to retroactively reimburse unpaid weekend bonuses for up to 500 members going back as far as 2009.
- Management at the Medical Services Bureau of the LA County Sheriff's Department reassigned a bully boss after a petition, worksite action and a formal group grievance from nurses in the department. Management worked with our union to develop the remedy.
- SEIU 721, AFSCME and UAPD worked together with the LA County Department of Human Resources to convince the Department of Mental Health to reinstitute informal meetings to resolve workplace disputes instead of driving all issues to formal grievances.

This collaborative approach is helping SEIU 721 healthcare workers reach our goals of transforming LA healthcare, saving the safety net and moving to a system of whole-person care for LA residents.

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SEIU 721 INLAND AREA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Raising Up Our Members, Their Families & Our Communities



As part of our continual efforts to raise up our Inland region, the SEIU 721 Riverside County Chapter presented its annual scholarships to 31 children of chapter members. The scholarship program is open to all children of our Riverside County members applying to colleges and universities. Successful applicants received awards from \$250 to \$3,500 at a meeting of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors with their parents in attendance.

MEMBERS READY TO RAISE UP RIVERSIDE COUNTY!

Worksite Organizers Fan Out to Brief Members on Bargaining Survey and Workers Visit Riverside Board of Supervisors



Riverside County workers are gearing up to bargain a new contract that restores the basic public services that keep Riverside clean, safe, healthy and ensures that the workers who provide these services also remain healthy, safe at work and able to provide for their families.

Worksite organizers fanned out across dozens of worksites to brief members on the results of the recent membership survey. The worksite visits allowed many workers, such as nurses and healthcare workers at Riverside Hospital, to elaborate on concerns raised in the survey and to help organizers understand concerns not voiced in the surveys.

Workers at several sites expressed an interest in discussing bargaining priorities, so our bargaining team is scheduled to be deployed to various sites in August. Members from various divisions are also stepping up to get more involved in the bargaining with more than a dozen new Contract Action Team (CAT) members already recruited!

The Riverside team capped off the month with a visit to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, after which members met with Supervisor Marion Ashley's Chief of Staff, Jaime Hurtado. The meeting impressed upon members the importance of engaging with Riverside elected officials going into our contract campaign. Members are ready to Raise up Riverside County!

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LAHSA Workers Ready to Form Union

Workers at the Frontlines of LA County's Homelessness Crisis Meeting with SEIU 721 to Set Priorities



Workers at the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) are on the front lines of tackling LA County's homeless crisis. Every day, LAHSA staff work to provide direct emergency services to LA County's homeless population, and work closely with elected leaders to develop comprehensive policy solutions aimed at curbing Los Angeles' homelessness epidemic.

LAHSA staff expect to be recognized as members of SEIU 721 in the coming weeks, and are hard at work preparing for their first contract negotiations. Together, LAHSA staff have begun to determine bargaining priorities and started the process of drafting strong proposals that uplift their work and the community they serve.

CSWs Protest Promotion Delays and Win Retroactive Raises

"When the promotions and pay increases earned by Children's Social Workers failed to materialize, we organized through our union. Now we're getting retroactive raises."

*Melissa Scheer, CSW
Pasadena*



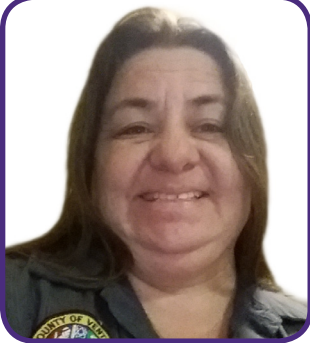
When problems with DCFS's new electronic Personnel Approval Request (ePAR) computer system delayed hundreds of paired-class promotions and raises, LA County Children's Social Workers used the strength of our union, SEIU 721.

As a result, DCFS management is fast-tracking a solution, and candidates will receive their promotions and a retroactive pay increase.

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Protecting Our Paychecks In Ventura County

SEIU 721 Tri-Counties Springs Into Action When Negotiated Raises Fail to Show Up in Paychecks



“When SEIU 721 member voices came together in unity, the County couldn't ignore us and quickly fixed the error.”

**Joanne Fernandez
Custodian II**

Ventura County General Services Agency

When several Ventura County SEIU 721 members discovered that raises negotiated in their last contract and scheduled for June weren't in their paychecks, they reached out to our union Tri-Counties members – and staff sprang into action.

Ventura SEIU 721 members fought hard for their families and their community in their last contract campaign, and there was no way our union was going to let this slide.

SEIU 721 determined that more than 400 members were affected by the error and reached out to county management to demand that it be corrected. Ventura County fixed the problem by the next pay period and provided retroactive pay for all affected employees.

Representational Victory of the Month

SEIU 721 Member at DCFS Wins Two Years of Back Pay



SEIU 721 member Anna Perez was hired into a bilingual position at a DCFS regional office in 1999, but when she was transferred to the hub office her bilingual bonus was eliminated from her paycheck.

After a review of her payroll records, her supervisor discovered that Anna had been shorted on her bilingual pay for two years. When Anna first approached DCFS to correct the issue, management refused to remedy the problem and pay her retroactively.

Refusing to back down, Anna worked alongside the SEIU 721 Advocacy Department to show how fluctuations in her pay had gone unnoticed due to one-time events, and won the two years of back pay she was owed!

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HELP OUR COMMUNITIES **THRIVE!**

Prop 55 Will Provide \$2 Billion for County Healthcare and Prevent \$4 Billion in Cuts to California Public Schools

While the presidential race and Donald Trump's divisive rhetoric and bizarre antics are grabbing most of the political headlines, there are less well known but vitally important measures for working families down the ballot.

One of the most important is Proposition 55, a statewide measure that would maintain the current income tax on the wealthiest Californians to fund schools and vital healthcare programs. Remember the devastating cuts to vital services in our communities? Public Employees, right along with the communities who need those services, were the hardest hit. A yes vote on Prop 55 is key to protecting the public services that our communities need to thrive.

Our union is supporting Proposition 55 for several reasons:

- Prop 55 will prevent \$4 billion in cuts to public schools and colleges. During the recession, public education budgets were slashed and 30,000 teachers were laid off, as art and music instruction was cut or eliminated. School funding is just now beginning to recover. Without Prop 55, schools again will be forced to lay off thousands of teachers and increase community college tuition.
- Prop 55 allocates \$2 billion per year to provide low-income families with children access to quality health care. California

chronically underfunds health care and safety net services for low-income families. By investing in preventative care and safety net services at the local level, much of which is provided by SEIU members, we ensure that children across California come to school healthy and ready to learn.

- Prop 55 funds will go directly to classrooms and health care services. Prop 55 contains strict accountability and transparency provisions. State legislators cannot siphon off Prop 55 money to fund pet projects. All Prop 55 spending must be broken out and published on the Internet by each local government and there are tough penalties for misspending funds. This is why Prop 55 is supported by the SEIU California State Council, the California Teachers Association, California Federation of Teachers, Health Access California, the statewide healthcare consumer advocacy group and a diverse coalition of labor, business, medical professionals and social justice groups.

Make sure you and your coworkers are voting YES on Prop 55. Our public services depend on it!

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff

