

SEIU 721

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

APRIL 2017



100 DAYS OF CORPORATE GIVEAWAYS

President Trump's first 100 days in office have shocked America. During his campaign, Russian intelligence operatives reportedly manipulated Donald Trump's lack of knowledge and experience to further their nation's policy objectives. Now, some of the country's biggest corporations and their lobbyists are exploiting the same weaknesses to roll back laws and regulations they don't like, cut their own taxes and, in some cases, use the Office of the President to enrich themselves — all at the expense of ordinary working people and taxpayers.

Trump's honeymoon was essentially 100 days of corporate giveaways:

- Stocked his cabinet with billionaires, bankers and corporate CEOs, including the former head of Exxon Mobil and two former Goldman Sachs directors.
- Appointed anti-worker jurist Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court and former NLRB member Alex Acosta, who the New York Times said "is more interested in shielding employers from wage and hour rules than enforcing them" as Labor Secretary.
- Met with more than 200 corporations, inviting big business to shape federal policy.
- Signed 13 resolutions by Congress repealing Obama administration regulations opposed by big business. One Trump action relieved businesses of the obligation to keep records of serious workplace injuries and illnesses. Another reversed an order requiring that businesses comply with worker safety, wage and civil rights laws before receiving government contracts.

- Overturned the Obama administration's measures blocking the Keystone and Dakota Access pipelines.
- Signed executive orders aimed at collapsing the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law, passed in the wake of the 2008 worldwide financial meltdown.

Unbowed by the humiliating defeat of his effort to "Repeal and Replace" the Affordable Care Act and his record-low approval rating — a recent ABC News/Washington Post poll shows 53 percent of voters disapprove of the job he's doing, the lowest since the poll began in 1945 — President Trump is making another run at Obamacare and proposing the biggest corporate tax cut in history.

Trump's healthcare plan is a warmed over version of the last effort: a huge gift to health insurance companies that deprives millions of families of affordable coverage. His tax cut rolls back corporate tax rates to 15 percent — the rate corporations paid in the 1950s — while providing no relief to middle class families. Because the plan eliminates the ability to deduct state and local income taxes, many California families could even see a tax increase.

Trump's proposals are textbook examples of why we need to keep the resistance alive and push harder than ever to ensure that everyone covered by an SEIU 721 contract is signed up as a full member and participating in COPE (Committee on Political Education).

Bob Schoonover, President

Bob Schoonover



PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2017

SEIU RIVERSIDE TO COUNTY CEO: CUT THE FAT, NOT THE FRONTLINES

**RIVERSIDE 721 MEMBERS CALL ON COUNTY CEO JAY ORR TO BALANCE COUNTY BUDGET BY
ENDING BAD WELLS FARGO DEAL INSTEAD OF CUTTING VITAL PUBLIC SERVICES**



On April 18th, Riverside County SEIU Local 721 and community advocates gathered on the steps of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors for a press conference to condemn more than \$119 million wasted by county management and demand that Riverside County CEO Jay Orr renegotiate the county's toxic swap deal with Wells Fargo Bank.

Instead of reining in rampant waste and renegotiating bad bank deals, Riverside County has proposed balancing its budget on the backs of public

employees with a host of reckless cuts in basic public services. County mismanagement already has caused long emergency room and clinic wait times, cuts in supervision for foster children, and unsafe conditions at county mental health clinics. Riverside media outlets recently exposed how workers at county mental health facilities funded their own self-defense classes because the county failed to provide security.

RIVERSIDE 721 Members Turn Up the Heat

MEMBERS FURIOUS COUNTY IS PROPOSING SERVICE CUTS AFTER SQUANDERING \$119 MILLION



Riverside County SEIU 721 members are voting whether to escalate their campaign—up to and including a possible strike—in reaction to county management's plan to balance its budget on the backs of public employees with cuts in vital services. Workers are furious that, after wasting \$119 million on sweetheart consulting contracts and a terrible swaps deal with Wells Fargo Bank, county management is asking frontline workers to pay for their mistake by giving up raises, surrendering sick leave and paying more for health care.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2017

L.A. COUNTY NURSE PRACTITIONERS WIN WAGE REOPENER



Martha Prado, Certified Medical Assistant, proudly displays her sticker as part of the campaign to highlight the need to invest in recruitment and retention of NPs in the L.A. County Healthcare system.



L.A. County Nurse Practitioners last month staged a series of successful workplace actions highlighting their importance to the delivery of quality healthcare. The **LANeedsNPs** campaign featured a workplace sticker action and a petition drive to L.A. Health Agency Director Dr. Mitch Katz, L.A. County CEO Sachi Hamai and the Board of Supervisors.

OLIVE VIEW NURSES WIN 12-HOUR SHIFTS IN THEIR CAMPAIGN FOR A JUST WORKPLACE



After a year-and-a-half effort, Olive View RNs are winning 12-hour shifts as part of their ongoing campaign to create a just workplace and establish L.A. County as the healthcare employer and provider of choice. For years, Olive View nurses have told horror stories of back-to-back 16-hour shifts and warned how excessive reliance on overtime increases workplace stress and degrades the quality of care patients receive.

During their multi-prong campaign, RNs organized to remove a management element interfering with the shift reform, built support across units using petitions, and worked through the health agency's labor-management partnership. So far, the Psychiatric ER, Mental Health Urgent Care, Medical Surgery 5A, Medical Surgery 5C, and the Observation Nurses Unit have won pathways toward establishing 12- hour shift schedules for their units!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2017



Hundreds of ResCare Workers Organize to Join SEIU 721

LATEST VICTORY IN WORKER-LED ORGANIZING DRIVE AT NATION'S LARGEST DISABILITY SERVICE PROVIDER

Since March, hundreds of ResCare employees in care facilities across California have been organizing to build a strong union with SEIU. ResCare is the nation's largest private provider of services to people with disabilities, and ResCare workers work tirelessly to deliver quality, whole-person care to their clients.

Citing inconsistent scheduling, low wages, faulty equipment, and safety concerns, ResCare employees have come together in a far-reaching campaign to raise standards for their work and the services they provide by organizing to join SEIU.

After only 2 months, ResCare employees gathered enough support to file for a card check to have their union officially

recognized. This fast-moving effort will see hundreds of ResCare workers join their colleagues working at Hyland and Orange County Group Homes, two ResCare facilities where employees voted overwhelmingly to join SEIU 721 in the past 3 years.

This landmark statewide campaign, backed by SEIU Locals 721 and 1021, will bring more than 560 ResCare employees into SEIU, with more than 300 workers set to join SEIU 721 in the coming weeks. And as this unprecedented wave of ResCare worker organizing continues to spread across California, you can be sure that ResCare workers, and the clients they serve, will secure many more victories before the year is done.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2017

REMEMBERING A WARRIOR FOR JUSTICE



CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MIKE GARCIA

The SEIU family is saddened by the passing of a warrior: our union brother Mike García, a driving force in the Justice for Janitors movement.

Mike García started his union advocacy more than 30 years ago, helping build a powerhouse union for janitors, first in San Jose then later in San Diego and Denver. He worked to bring janitors out from the shadows of our society and helped give them a path to dignity.

In 2010, Mike helped create a statewide union for property service workers — SEIU United Service Workers West. He helped these workers stand up to some of the wealthiest and most influential companies in the world, winning stunning victories for their families and for our communities.

Last month, The García family, SEIU, USWW and community members from across California met at Pershing Square in Downtown Los Angeles and marched to the Los Angeles Cathedral, where we celebrated Mike's life and legacy.

Mike's spirit lives on in the Justice for Janitors movement. He planted the seeds. We must continue to nurture his struggle. Mike García, Rest in Power!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2017

SEIU 721 CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WOMEN LEAD THE RESISTANCE



The SEIU 721 Women's Caucus hosted its annual brunch to celebrate the contribution of women in the labor movement and in our communities. The event took on a special significance in the age of Trump, recognizing the efforts of working women resisting misogyny and racism on the national stage.



"It's no surprise that women are leading our resistance. Truth is, women's very survival depends on resisting all sorts of obstacles and oppression in the workplace, in their personal lives, and now more than ever across our nation as the Trump administration attacks women at every turn."

Linda Dent, Vice President, SEIU 721

REPRESENTATIONAL WIN OF THE MONTH 721 Tri-Counties Delivers Retro Pay to Ventura County Worker



As an SEIU member, you're part of a family that can't be ignored when we raise our collective voice. When our union comes together to address the problems of individual members, we can move mountains.

When one of Kenneth Milton's co-workers in the County of Ventura's General Services Agency got hurt, Kenneth was assigned to fill in and perform his co-worker's tile-setting duties. The out-of-class fill-in assignment that was supposed to last days, turned into months.

Kenneth set tile in the county's Hall of Administration, Hall of Justice and other departments — all while continuing to perform his regular responsibilities as a Building Equipment Utility Worker.

Kenneth reached out to the Union for help. As a result, Ventura County agreed to pay Kenneth 244 hours — or about 6 weeks — of retroactive pay for working out of class. Kenneth's work should be valued, and our union is here to ensure that it is.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2017

L.A. WORKERS CALL ON MAYOR AND CITY HALL TO DELIVER ON PROMISE TO FIX L.A. TO RESTORE SERVICES AND ADD 5,000 NEW FULL-TIME JOBS



The Fix L.A. Coalition called on City Hall officials to help Mayor Eric Garcetti keep his promise to deliver 5,000 new, full-time jobs over a three-year period and restore city services slashed during the recession. To date, the City of L.A. has added just 650 new, full-time hires — just 20 percent of the commitment Mayor Garcetti made last April. Fix L.A. members highlighted the need to make good on the program, citing dirty streets and alleys, long wait times for vital 311 and 911

services, and the impending loss of thousands of city employees to retirement. In the sanitation department alone, more than 1,000 workers — 45 percent of the workforce — are eligible for retirement. City departments also are falling short on the Mayor's commitment to hire from underrepresented communities. A new study by the UCLA Labor Center and the L.A. Black Worker Center says rising housing prices and a lack of opportunity has caused a job crisis for African-Americans.

CSWs on the Road to Child Safety: One Year Later L.A. COUNTY CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORKERS MAKE PROGRESS ON CASELOADS AND MENTORING



ONE YEAR LATER:
"PROGRESS ON THE ROAD
TO CHILDSAFETY,
BUT A LONG WAY TO GO."

L.A. County SEIU 721 Children's Social Workers are preparing a follow-up progress report on their "Roadmap to Child Safety" plan, which shows significant progress on caseload reduction through new hires at the Department of Children and Family Services and successful implementation of a new mentorship program aimed at reducing high attrition among CSWs.

Last month a labor/management working group finalized plans to implement a universal DCFS mentorship program. Beginning with April's graduating academy class, every new CSW will be assigned a mentor during the first year on the job, with mentors receiving 20% caseload relief. On April 18, the Board of Supervisors adopted a provisional 2017-18 budget that includes more than 400 new positions, including 220 new CSW positions to implement the mentorship program and reduce caseloads.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2017

SEIU COPE REMINDS SACRAMENTO SEIU MEMBERS DO THE WORK THAT KEEPS CALIFORNIA MOVING



SSEIU 721 members are justifiably proud of their work. Everyday, SEIU 721 members care for the sick, feed the poor, house the homeless, protect our children, and keep our streets clean and safe. We literally keep society moving.

Because we know how important it is, we think the importance of our work must be obvious to the media, the public and, most of all, the politicians who run the governments in the communities we serve. But that's not always the case.

There is intense competition at all levels of government for limited tax dollars and intense competition for the attention of the politicians who divide up how these dollars will be spent. Corporations can afford to fund Political Action Committees to get friendly politicians elected and pay for armies of lobbyists to sway them once they're in office. Working people can't compete.

That's why COPE (Committee on Political Education) is so important. COPE helps level the playing field by pooling the resources of thousands of working families to elect politicians who will demand that the richest Californians and big corporations pay their fair share, vote to fund vital public services and fight to protect workers' fundamental rights.

Santa Barbara County is a prime example of why this activism matters to members. Governor Brown's proposed 2017-2018 budget calls for 6 percent cut in the state's CalFresh foodstamp program. While an improving economy has reduced foodstamp enrollees statewide, Santa Barbara foodstamp rolls have jumped by 5,400 people over the past four years and now stand at 38,000. The county Social Service Director says he may have to cut 43 CalFresh staffers — nearly all 721 members — as a result.

That's why 721 is launching a full court press to save these workers — and why the relationships and resources of our union are so important. We're calling on the county supervisors and Santa Barbara state legislators elected with our members' support to help. We're using SEIU's state council to lobby the Governor's Office and calling on our community allies to do the same. While Santa Barbara is a fraction of the size of L.A., our union represents a quarter of all workers employed by the county.

We're going to use every tool in our member-led union to fight for these workers and remind the politicians how important their work is.

Gilda Valdez,
Chief of Staff



Gilda Valdez

