

SEIU 721

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

July 2017



721 MEMBERS RISE & RESIST



SEIU 721 MEMBERS PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR UNION VOICE

On July 22nd, hundreds of members stepped up to protect all that our union has accomplished. Together we've delivered results — we've bargained good contracts, built political power for everyday people and provided a voice for working families. I'm honored to represent the 95,000 members of SEIU 721 who've made this happen.

As our victories have made headlines across the county, we've made new allies, but we've also attracted the attention of some powerful foes. This coalition of greed has chosen the Supreme Court as the battlefield and lawsuits to force "right to work" and "open shop" as its weapons. With the appointment of Justice Neil Gorsuch to the Court, they finally have the majority needed to wage war on workers.

"Right to work" and "open shop" may sound good (after all, who doesn't believe in rights and openness?), but they put your salary, benefits, retirement security, safety, political voice — even

your job itself — at risk.

That's why we organized a Unity Summit — to give activists in our union the tools to protect our victories and preserve our gains. We signed up 500 Rise and Resist Leaders who pledged to defend our membership against a new wave of attacks.

Our opponents have lots of money, lawyers, lobbyists and patience, but we have something they don't — we have all of you. Our unity makes SEIU 721 a powerhouse. The Unity Summit was our chance to recommit — to our families, ourselves, and our communities — to fight for our shared values and our entire standard of living. In short, we can rise and resist, or retreat and fall. On July 22nd hundreds of us made that choice. We will rise!

Bob Schoonover
Bob Schoonover, President



PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY 2017

SEIU MEMBERS VOW TO RISE AND RESIST

Scores of Members Get Crash Course in Fighting "Right to Work" Attacks at SEIU 721 Unity Conference



Hundreds of SEIU 721 members attended a Unity Summit on July 22nd. Here, members pin each other with Rise and Resist commitment pins.

Hundreds of SEIU 721 members took an oath to become Rise & Resist Leaders at an inaugural Unity Summit held at St. Sophia Cathedral in South Los Angeles on Saturday, July 22, 2017.

"Our union is facing a serious threat — the threat of being torn apart," said Bob Schoonover, President of SEIU Local 721. "The forces of greed want to divide our union and weaken our power, from the bargaining table at home all the way to Washington, D.C. We are here today because every single one of us has way too much to lose to let that happen!"

Members got a crash course about the right-to-work attack — and how the wealthy, anti-union forces funding it want to fool workers into giving up their collective bargaining power. For union members "right to work" laws translate to the right-to-work

without a contract for lower pay.

"This fight is real," said Linda Dent, Vice President of SEIU Local 721. "Having a union has given us the right to bargain for a better way of life. Back in the day, when we wanted to negotiate our contracts, we had no power. But as we built up membership, we gained job security, better benefits and raises. And we are doing this not just for ourselves but for future generations — our children and our grandchildren."

Members were treated to an especially moving testimony by Cindy Jones, a member of SEIU Healthcare Wisconsin. She described how unions in her home state were decimated when Governor Scott Walker effectively turned Wisconsin into a right-to-work state by signing Act 10.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY 2017

Last Year's Riverside City Contract Fight Pays Dividends Strong New Three-Year Deal Begins to Deliver Bonuses and Raises



Last year, Riverside City workers raised their collective voices at numerous worksite actions and at City Hall visits. By convincing city leaders that great public services require investing in frontline workers, they helped deliver a strong new three-year contract.

BONUSES

\$750.00 bonus that employees will see on their August 4, 2017 paycheck.

RAISES

All SEIU 721 represented employees will receive:

- 2% to 4% wage increase on January 2018
- 3% to 6% wage increase on January 2019
- 3% to 5% wage increase on January 2020

SEIU 721 Fights Back and Stops LA DPSS Layoffs

Advocacy in Sacramento and LA Secures \$100 Million in Restored Funding and a Guarantee of No Layoffs

SEIU 721 lobbying in Sacramento and outreach to elected officials and department heads in L.A. County has headed off potential layoffs at the L.A. Department of Public and Social Services.

SEIU 721 and our union's State Council successfully lobbied the Governor and the Legislature to restore \$100 million in CalWORKS funding cuts triggered by reductions in the overall caseload.

SEIU 721 also worked with DPSS to find other alternatives to layoffs including:

- Voluntary Transfer of 30 Eligibility Workers to open positions in DCFS
- Reductions in external contracts with outside entities
- Attrition — As openings emerge as a result of promotions, retirement and other causes, some positions will remain un-filled.

DPSS leaders also committed to discuss other ways to make DPSS

more efficient, relieve caseloads and improve outcomes for clients. SEIU 721 DPSS workers are keenly focused on ways to maximize the number of case-carrying eligibility workers to help address these problems.

**ZERO
LAYOFFS**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY 2017

Conejo Recreation and Park Workers Win New Contract Two-Year Deal Includes Wage Increase and Additional Comp Time



SEIU Local 721 bargaining team. (Left to right) Jeff Johnson, Tamara Tornero, Chris "Ziggy" Saffire, Scott Buchanan, Kari Stav.

The Conejo Recreation and Park District (CRPD) bargaining team reached a tentative agreement on a strong two-year contract. Through their unity, participation and overwhelming YES vote, they won a contract that includes salary increases of 2.5% in year one and 2.5% in year two. They also held strong on the Cafeteria Plan and Basic Needs Allowance.

The CRPD Board voted to approve the agreement at its June 15th Board meeting.

SEIU 721 Wins Drive to Make Oxnard a Sanctuary City City Council Passes New Sanctuary Law on July 25 After SEIU-led Campaign and Citizenship Drive



After a months' long campaign by SEIU 721 members, residents and community groups, the Oxnard City Council voted July 25 to make Oxnard a Sanctuary City.

The City Council's YES vote represents a key step forward, but there's still more work to be done. Across the country, a surge in immigration enforcement actions and anti-immigrant rhetoric has forced too many working families into the shadows.

When anyone in our community is afraid to use emergency services like Fire, Police, social services, or hospitals,

then we are all vulnerable.

That's why we are continuing this important fight by helping legal permanent residents complete their citizenship paperwork and N-400 forms at Citizenship Fairs over the next coming months.

These Citizenship Fairs will empower our communities' legal permanent residents to become full citizens so they can finally exercise the right to vote and elect strong candidates who will support working families.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY 2017

SEIU 721 Backs Green and Santos for LACERA Posts Members Endorse David Green and Herman Santos to Protect Retirement Security

David Green

For LACERA 2017

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS



As greedy special interests and anti-worker politicians gear up for their “Right to Work” attack, it’s more important than ever that we stand up to protect everything we’ve fought for and won for our families – including a secure retirement. In LA County, SEIU 721 members are working tirelessly to elect David Green to the LACERA Board of Investments, and Herman Santos to the LACERA Board of Retirement.

As frontline county workers and SEIU 721 members, Green and Santos know better than anyone just how important our fight is. Their election to the LACERA Boards – the two most important elected bodies fighting for the interests of LA County workers – will ensure that SEIU 721 members have a strong voice in the halls of power to protect our retirement security.

How COPE Dollars Save Public Services and Jobs When We Elect Legislators Who Understand and Value Our Work, We Protect Vital Public Services

By electing legislators who understand our work and traveling to Sacramento to educate them about threats to vital public services, we are able to win resources to avert layoffs, increase hiring of frontline service providers and address chronic short-staffing and caseload problems.

FOSTER CARE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

SEIU Public Health Nurses in the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC) led the effort to secure additional funds to lower caseloads. Additional funding will result in hiring more PHNs to ensure foster children receive appropriate health and mental health care and only receive psychotropic medications that are medically necessary.

Victory Outcome: \$3.84 million in general fund support, \$15.4 million total funds with 75% in federal matching dollars.

MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY WORKERS

In the face of cuts, we lobbied Sacramento to honor its two-year agreement to fund county administration for Medi-Cal eligibility at \$240 million. This allows frontline workers to continue providing much needed services to their clients.

Victory Outcome: \$240 million for Medi-Cal administration

CALWORKS SINGLE ALLOCATION

We convinced the legislature to save funding for this essential program, which has been underfunded since the recession.

Victory Outcome: We successfully lobbied the administration to restore more than \$100 million in proposed cuts to the CalWORKs Single Allocation.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY 2017



RIVERSIDE COUNTY FINAL OFFER: SICKENING LAST, BEST AND FINAL OFFER THREATENS PUBLIC SERVICES WHILE TURNING BLIND EYE TO WASTE AND SHADY DEALS

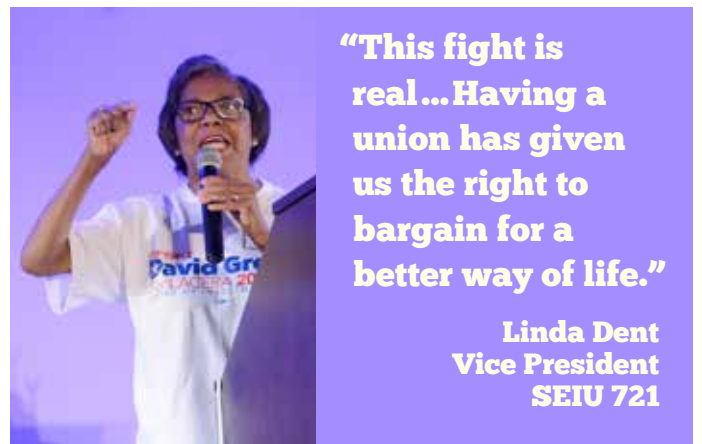


After one year of negotiations, Riverside County submitted its “last, best and final” offer on July 19th — and it’s sickening. It’s sickening that the County has decided to take deliberate steps that will weaken public services and hurt the recruitment and retention of dedicated skilled frontline workers. The County demonstrated once again it has no real interest in making lasting investments in the vital services we provide

and the communities we serve.

At every step, County management has chosen to balance the budget on the backs of frontline workers while bleeding taxpayer coffers on shady multi-million-dollar Wall Street deals and sweet-heart consulting contracts, like the one with KPMG. The County has rejected our common good proposals to cut waste and provide more badly needed County services.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY 2017



"This fight is real... Having a union has given us the right to bargain for a better way of life."

**Linda Dent
Vice President
SEIU 721**

"Now we all have to work harder for less," said Cindy Jones of SEIU Healthcare Wisconsin. "Because of Act 10, Wisconsin's once-proud public sector unions are gone. Those that are still around have lost between 70% to 80% of their original membership."

The presentation enumerated why our union matters to us as workers — and why it should matter to workers across America.

"United we bargain but divided we beg," explained Charlotte Ramos. "Because we are a union, we can negotiate for good healthcare, living wages, retirement, job security, paid sick leave and many other things. Most American workers today have the opposite. They have to beg for these things because they don't have a strong, united voice."

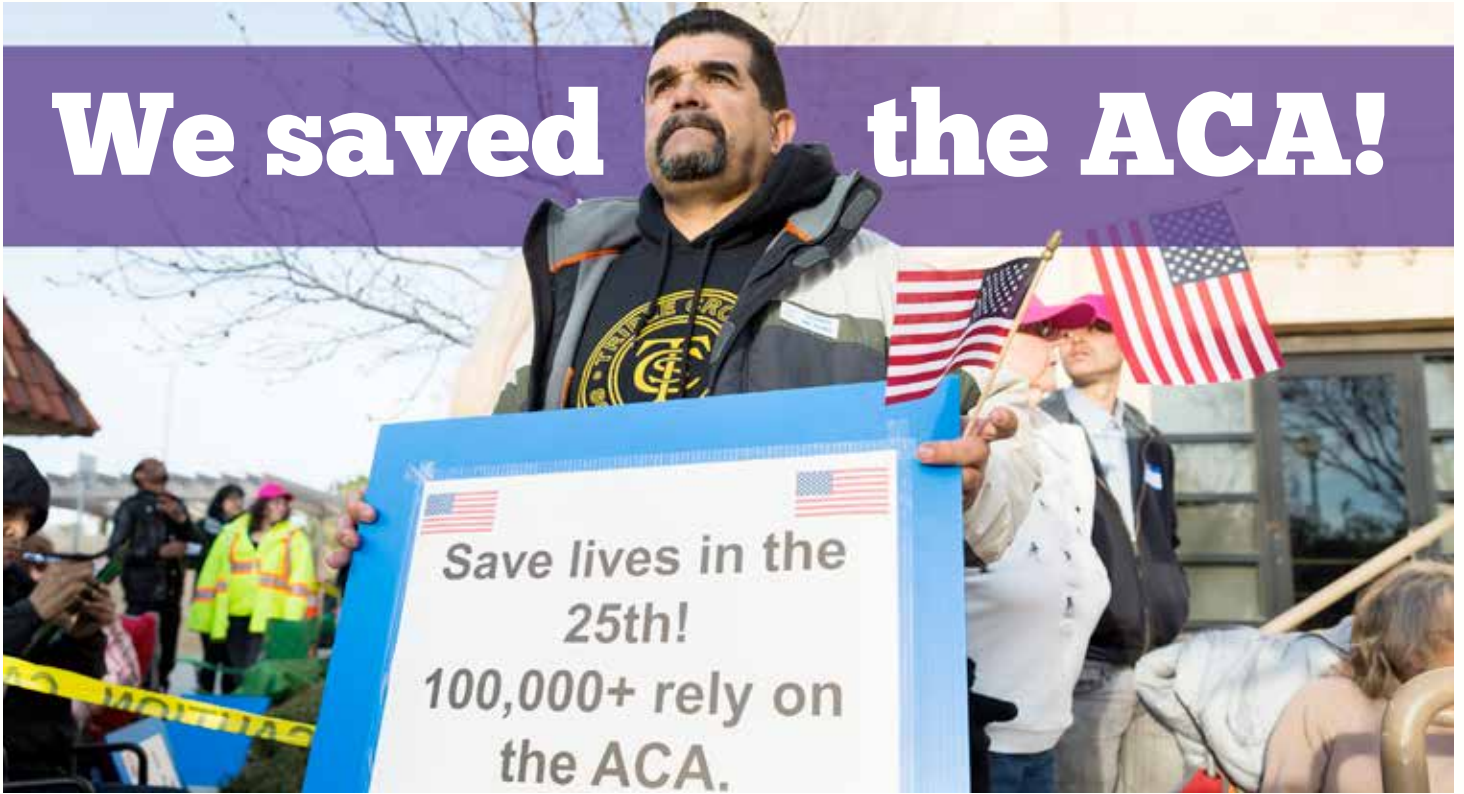
The Rise & Resist presentation concluded with specific ways

members could organize and take action — from calling worksite organizers when anti-union forces descend on the workplace to joining COPE so SEIU Local 721 members build political power.

"Give to COPE," said Sharonda Wade. "That's how we have a fighting chance against the forces of greed who want to destroy our union voice. And choose union! Simple things like keeping your contact information up to date and filling out your two-signature membership card make a huge difference in our ability to stay connected, organize effectively, and rise together!"

After a series of break-out sessions, SEIU 721 President Bob Schoonover and Vice President Linda Dent led a formal ceremony in which members signed official Rise and Resist commitment cards, pinned each other with campaign pins and promised to fight back.

We saved the ACA!



721 Members Play Key Role in Successful Coalition Effort to Save the Affordable Care Act

There's a saying that miracles sometimes occur, you just have to work really hard for them. The successful national campaign to save the Affordable Care Act, which our union took a leading role in, is living proof we have the power to rise up, resist and win. The odds were stacked overwhelmingly against us, but take a look at what a difference two years — and a whole lot of organizing — makes.

On June 16, 2015, Donald Trump launched his campaign for President in the lobby of Trump Tower, promising to make the repeal of Obamacare one of his top priorities. He repeated this promise 67 more times during the campaign.

With Trump's election, Republican majorities in both houses of Congress were poised to act. House Republicans already had voted 54 separate times to repeal the Affordable Care Act since its passage.

But just over two years later, a majority of the U.S. Senate — all 48 Democrats and three Republicans — rejected a stripped-down version of "Trumpcare", effectively ending the Administration's effort to overhaul our health care system without bi-partisan involvement. Here's how we won.

We exposed the truth: The bills crafted by the Trump Administration were so undeniably cruel — stripping health care from an estimated 24 million people and slashing Medicare — House leaders had to ram through a vote before an impartial analysis was released. A national coalition of Labor, health care professionals, and community groups compiled the facts and got them to the press and the public.

We held members of Congress accountable: SEIU members, patients, consumers and activists generated 270,000 phone calls and more than 400 town halls, congressional visits and other actions in defense of the ACA. Local 721 members even went to the district offices and homes of members of Congress who refused to face their constituents.

We know the fight isn't over, but let's take a moment to recognize the power of our unity, the value of our work and what our victory means for the health of millions of Americans.

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff

Gilda Valdez

