

# Get Involved



## Pride + Persistence = Power

Being an SEIU 721 member means you have a guaranteed voice in your workplace and beyond.

Getting involved is a great way to network, identify mentors and develop connections. **Those are all things that can help you advance in your career - and that's what we're all about.**

Being a member gives you the opportunity to be a Member Leader and shape the future of our union. You'll always be protected against retaliation for speaking out at work – for yourself, your colleagues, or for the communities we serve.

Our strong and diverse membership also tackles issues beyond those at the workplace, with caucuses dedicated to issues ranging from environmental justice and LGBTQ rights, to social justice. No matter who you are, there's a caucus or committee for you at SEIU 721.

# Member Connection

Member Connection is a valuable resource. With a single call SEIU 721 members and Stewards can get:

- Advice on union contract information
- Campaign updates
- Advice on how to deal with workplace issues
- And so much more!

The MC office is open Monday-Friday from 8 AM to 6 PM and on Thursdays from 9 AM to 6 PM. It is closed on weekends and major holidays.

Remember, SEIU 721 is always just a call or click away!

**The Member Connection  
phone number is  
877-721-4YOU**



“I've been a Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic for the City of Los Angeles for more than 38 years, so I know what it means to work union and fight from the shop floor. But it took me a while

to get involved. I didn't go to a union meeting until I started worrying about being able to support my new family. I went to that first meeting and walked out a leader. I realized then that it's not up to “the union” – we workers ARE the union and our future is in our hands.”

— **Bob Schoonover, LA City Mechanic and President SEIU 721**



“As an Intermediate Clerk in the LA County Treasurer and Tax Collector's office for more than 40 years, I've been fighting for my whole career. That's why workers have to take ownership because

our unionization is our superpower. Getting involved in our union is how we have a voice. Management is never just going to give us what we want out of the kindness of their hearts. I want my grandchildren to have things better than I did. That's what we all want.”

— **Linda Dent, LA County Int. Clerk and Vice President SEIU 721**



# OUR UNION: SEIU 721

**Safety regulations. Work breaks.  
Minimum wage. An end to child labor.**

These are all reforms brought about by the Labor Movement.

Many things we enjoy today such as weekends off of work or workers' compensation were once just a dream for workers.

It was commonplace to work 18+ hour days, 7 days a week, in terribly unsafe conditions.

But then, workers got together. They realized that alone they were just individual voices calling for change but together they created a force management couldn't afford to ignore.

Their fight resulted in reforms like the 40-hour work week, overtime and holiday pay, sick leave and lunch breaks.

The American middle class was built through the work of unions, and we continue to protect working families in their quest for the American Dream.

This is the legacy of labor in America, and it's a legacy you're now part of with Service Employees International Union, Local 721.

We were powerful then, we're powerful now, and there's power in our future.

**Welcome to the SEIU 721 Family.**

**Get to know our union better at: [www.seiu721.org](http://www.seiu721.org)**  
Create an account, look up your contract, view your supplemental benefits, and more!

Keep in touch: [seiu721](https://www.facebook.com/seiu721) [@seiu721](https://twitter.com/seiu721) [@seiu721](https://www.instagram.com/seiu721)





# MEMBERSHIP AT A GLANCE

## What's a union?

The meaning's right there in the word: Unity. A union is a group of workers who band together to bargain for what is fair and right for their families and communities. Together they hold management to higher standards and fight to make sure no worker is left behind.

There's another way to spell Union, it's P-O-W-E-R!

Our union is part of the Service Employees International Union, which consists of 2.2 million members in the US and Canada, and with more than 95,000 members across Southern California, SEIU 721 is the largest public sector local in the country! Our members keep the largest cities in America running, and whether it's City Hall or the halls of Congress, our union gets respect.

To learn more about the history of unions and SEIU, visit us at [www.seiu721.org](http://www.seiu721.org)



Artwork: Ricardo Levins Morales

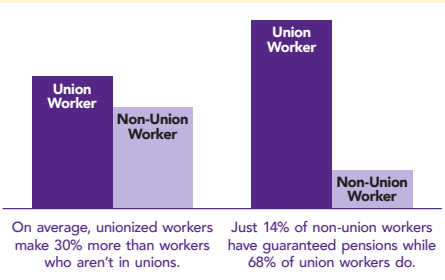
## Benefits

Working under a union contract is the gold standard for the American workforce. These days, a defined pension and low-cost health care coverage is hard to come by, but union membership provides you these unmatched benefits and more.

SEIU 721 is responsible for negotiating elements in your employment contract, including things like:

- Wages
- Benefits
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Workplace Safety
- Protection Against Unfair Discipline
- Retirement

To view your contract, visit us at [www.seiu721.org](http://www.seiu721.org)



## COPE

It's no secret that money plays a big part in our political process.

There's intense competition for the attention of the politicians who divvy up and decide how our limited tax dollars will be spent. While corporations can afford to fund Political Action Committees to get friendly politicians elected, working people can't compete.

That's where COPE (Committee on Political Education) comes in. COPE helps level the playing field by pooling the resources of thousands of union-strong members to elect candidates who stand with workers and our families.



## 15 Reforms Brought to You by Union Power

1. Weekends without work
2. Paid vacation
3. Sick leave
4. 8-hour work day
5. Overtime pay
6. Child labor laws
7. Workplace safety standards and regulations
8. 40-hour work week
9. Retirement security
10. Employer health care insurance
11. Holiday pay
12. Employer dental, life, and vision insurance
13. The right to strike
14. Equal Pay Acts of 1963 & 2011 – requires employers pay men and women equally
15. Laws ending sweatshops in the United States

## Supplemental Benefits

As an SEIU 721 member you also enjoy:

- Free union-sponsored life insurance, and accidental death and dismemberment insurance
- Free College Benefit program allowing SEIU members and their families to earn their Associate Degree or Certificate online
- Legal services benefit for a low, monthly premium
- Incredible savings on dining, hotel, auto, shopping and movies and entertainment tickets through SEIU Member Benefits and your SEIU 721 Member Access card

Go to [www.seiumb.com](http://www.seiumb.com) to see even more benefits that are available to you!



## Our Union Wins

Probably the best demonstration of the value of full union membership is our union's ability to help workers enforce contracts and resolve workplace problems with discipline, favoritism, bullying and a host of other grievances.

SEIU 721 Ventura County member Kenneth Milton won 244 hours of back pay after a temporary 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 him about 6 weeks of retroactive pay for working out of class.

In another victory, Olive View RNs won 12-hour shifts after a year-and-a-half long campaign.

For years, the nurses had 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.

The win is another step in Olive View workers' efforts to create a just workplace and establish L.A. County as the healthcare employer and provider of choice.

When our union comes together to address the problems of individual members, we can move mountains!



Kenneth Milton, left, and Olive View RNs