

MARCH-APRIL 2018

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SEIU 721



## ENERGIZED AND RISING



**A MESSAGE FROM SEIU 721  
PRESIDENT BOB SCHOONOVER**

**O**n February 26th, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a case called *Janus v. AFSCME* designed to cripple workers' ability to organize and operate labor unions. *Janus* is one of dozens of federal "Right to Work" lawsuits designed from the ground up by ultra-right wing think tanks and financed by a handful of anti-worker billionaires to silence working people.

But the same day, all across America, workers took part in walkouts, pickets and other worksite actions at more than 600 sites from Maine to California to show that no court case can stop us from fighting for the good, union jobs our communities need.

For the last two months, working people have been more energized than any time in recent memory, joining vigils, actions and fast food restaurant strikes to honor Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the 50th Anniversary of the Memphis sanitation workers' strike.

SEIU Local 721 members made their voices heard all over Southern California.

On February 26th, hundreds of SEIU 721 members joined workers from 50 unions and community groups

from across the region to denounce the deceptive "Right to Work" scheme and demonstrate their solidarity.

Earlier in the month, SEIU 721 Sanitation workers held their own event to honor Memphis sanitation workers and MLK.

LA County SEIU 721 members elected a bargaining team and began a series of 35 "rolling rallies" at worksites around the county to meet workers fired up about the fight to restore vital public services.

Riverside members are fighting back against an unprecedented number of Unfair Labor Practices committed by county management — PERB has issued 20 complaints and counting.

Dozens of member leaders from SEIU 721 and sister locals from Fresno to San Diego trained to fight back and counter the bogus "Right to Work" (for less) propaganda in the media once the Court issues its decision in *Janus*.

Regardless of the decision, workers will rise.

*Bob Schoonover*



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH-APRIL 2018

# STANDING UP AND FIGHTING BACK



## 50 ORGANIZATIONS JOIN SEIU 721 TO DENOUNCE "RIGHT TO WORK" SCAM



Reverend Smart of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (top left) joins SEIU 721 President Bob Schoonover and representatives of more than 50 unions and community groups from across Southern California to protest "Right to Work" attacks.

As anti-worker forces in Washington began oral arguments in front of the Supreme Court for *Janus v. AFSCME*, hundreds of workers from more than 50 different unions and community groups gathered on the steps of LAC+USC Medical Center to let the world know that no matter what the court decides, unions are here to stay.

This unprecedented display of unity brought together working families from all walks of life, as private sector union workers joined with their public sector brothers and sisters. Nurses and teachers stood side by side with roofers and truck drivers and pledged to fight "Right to Work" (for less) attacks from the network of right wing think tanks

and foundations funded by the Koch Brothers and other anti-worker billionaires.

A broad coalition of community leaders and elected officials joined the rally to pledge their support for working families, including LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis, LA City Councilmember José Huizar, Rev. Smart of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Rabbi Klein of CLUE and Martha Arevalo from CARECEN.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH-APRIL 2018



**“ROLLING RALLIES” PUMP UP LA COUNTY  
SEIU 721 MEMBERS FOR BARGAINING**



Between March 22 and April 5, SEIU 721 organized a series of 35 “Rolling Rallies” at worksites across LA County. During lunches and breaktimes, LA County SEIU 721 members met the rolling rally truck to hear about the contract campaign, pick up rally flags and bargaining information, and hit the streets in a show of solidarity.

LA County workers are pushing for restoration of vital services and a fair contract. Workers are gearing up to let the Board of Supervisors know that the 3% over five years they’re proposing isn’t enough as the cost of living in LA skyrockets.

**LA COUNTY  
APRIL 1, 2018  
2% RAISE**

*April 1<sup>st</sup>, all LA County members will receive a 2% raise, the last installment of the 10 % raise won through the strength of our last contract campaign. The raise will be reflected in the April 30<sup>th</sup> paycheck.*

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH-APRIL 2018

As the Supreme Court was hearing oral arguments in the *Janus* Case, SEIU 721 Tri-Counties members were rallying in front of Ventura County Medical Center to speak out against the anti-worker billionaires funding the "Right to Work" attack on our communities.

"It's important for us union members to let the world know about the greedy politicians and businessmen who are trying to limit our power and voice and break down our communities by not allowing us to organize," said 721 member Rob Perry, an employment specialist at Santa Barbara County social services. "We want good jobs and good benefits, and all of those benefits go back to the community where we live. Our rights are always protected because of the union."



## SEIU 721 TRI-COUNTIES MEMBERS PUT "RIGHT TO WORK" BILLIONAIRES ON BLAST

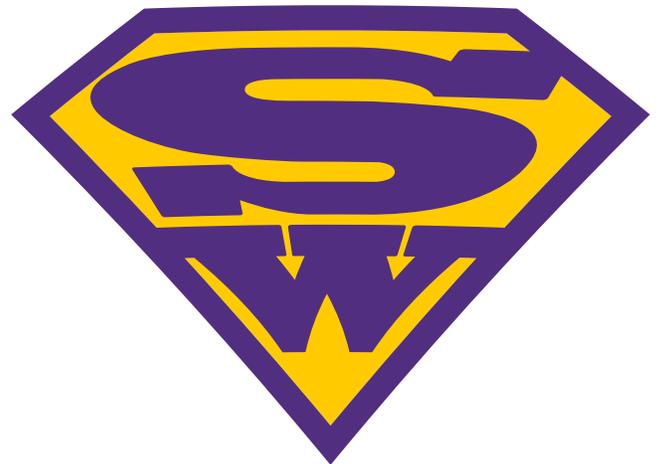
## SEIU 721 PROTECTS CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORKERS WITH LEGAL ASSISTANCE

SEIU 721 wrote to all Children's Social Workers last month to inform them about a new protection offered to union members: free legal assistance for all members who sign up for insurance through U.S. Legal Services.

Until caseload ratios and other systemic issues in the child welfare system are addressed, Children's Social Workers will be scapegoated by elected officials, and managers looking for easy answers to complex problems. Such scapegoating at LA County DCFS recently led to criminal charges against four LA County social workers.

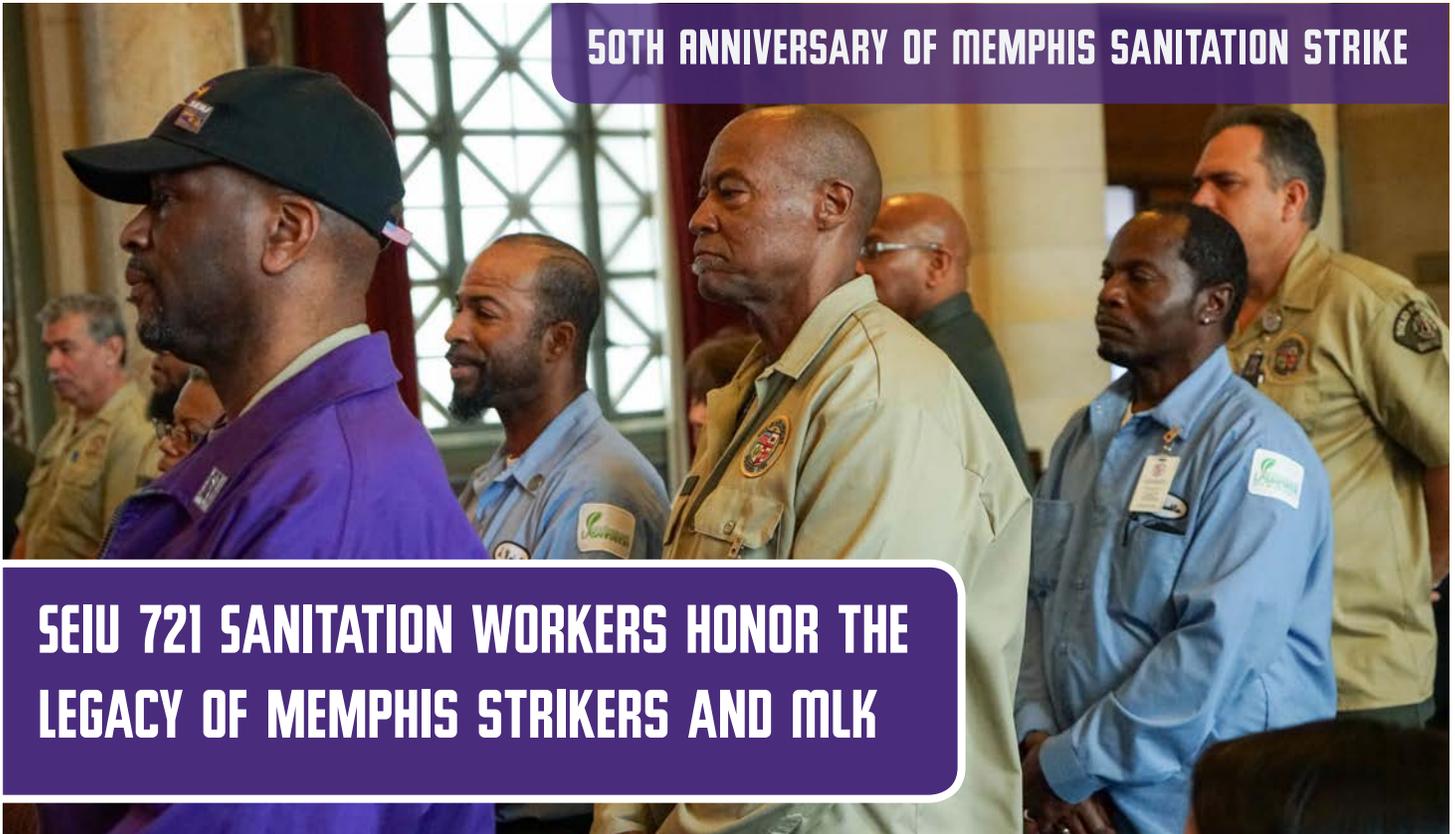
As a result, our union took the proactive step of protecting CSWs by providing the legal services benefit, which will allow SEIU 721 members and their families access to network attorneys for civil and criminal issues, including felony defense for union members. More information about the benefit will be available soon at [www.seiu721.org](http://www.seiu721.org) or by calling Zenith, the administrator for the SEIU 721 Benefits Trust, at (877) 802-9740.

## SUPER SOCIAL WORKERS



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH-APRIL 2018

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEMPHIS SANITATION STRIKE



### SEIU 721 SANITATION WORKERS HONOR THE LEGACY OF MEMPHIS STRIKERS AND MLK



SEIU 721 and AFSCME Sanitation Workers gathered at the LA City Hall to remember two of their sanitation brothers, Robert Walker and Echol Cole, who died in a tragic Memphis work accident on February 1, 1968. Their deaths led to the Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike, which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. attended because the workers' struggles highlighted the need for economic equality and social justice. Dr. King was assassinated a day after delivering his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech to the striking workers, and it was only after his death that the City of Memphis finally recognized the workers' demands for improved safety, better wages

and recognition of their union, AFSCME Local 1733.

Our local Sanitation brothers held moments of silence with the LA City Council and Board of Public Works to mark the 50th anniversary and remember the sacrifice of these brave men.

Even 50 years later, the fight for workplace safety and maintaining our unions continues in the face of the "Right to Work" (for less) attack, which even Dr. King spoke out against, calling it a "false slogan" designed to "rob us of our civil rights and job rights."

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH-APRIL 2018

# A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE RESISTANCE

**“SEIU 721 is proud to honor Maxine Waters, Diane Watson, Karen Bass and the other strong black women in Congress leading the resistance to Donald Trump and his hand-picked cabinet of anti-worker billionaires.”**

— Linda Dent  
Vice President, SEIU 721



**SEIU 721 RECOGNIZES THE STRONG WOMEN OF CONGRESS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**SEIU MEMBERS SKILL UP TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE “RIGHT TO WORK” LIE**

It was a packed house as dozens of SEIU member leaders from Fresno to San Diego converged on Local 721 headquarters for an in-depth training that pulled back the curtain on the “Right to Work” lie. Member leaders from locals 721, 521, 121, 99, and CSUEU gained the tools and knowledge to fight back against anti-worker “Right to Work” attacks at our worksites and in the press. Our message is clear: no court decision can hold us back and we’re sticking with our union no matter what.



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH-APRIL 2018

There's no doubt that the current contract fight is unlike anything we've ever experienced in Riverside County: stalled negotiations, regular anti-union stunts by county negotiators and countless Unfair Labor Practices committed by county management.

But the County knows our collective power as a union when we're unified and activated. That's why we must keep the pressure on.

Regulators and other officials are paying attention. In case you missed it, the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) has issued another round of complaints against Riverside County!

On the heels of our victory over the County's petty lawsuit in early February, PERB handed out even more complaints against Riverside County, bringing the running total of complaints to a jaw-dropping 20 (and counting). The complaints range from surveillance to harassment and restricting access rights.

## Keep Punching Back

*The County is up to their necks with ULP complaints.*



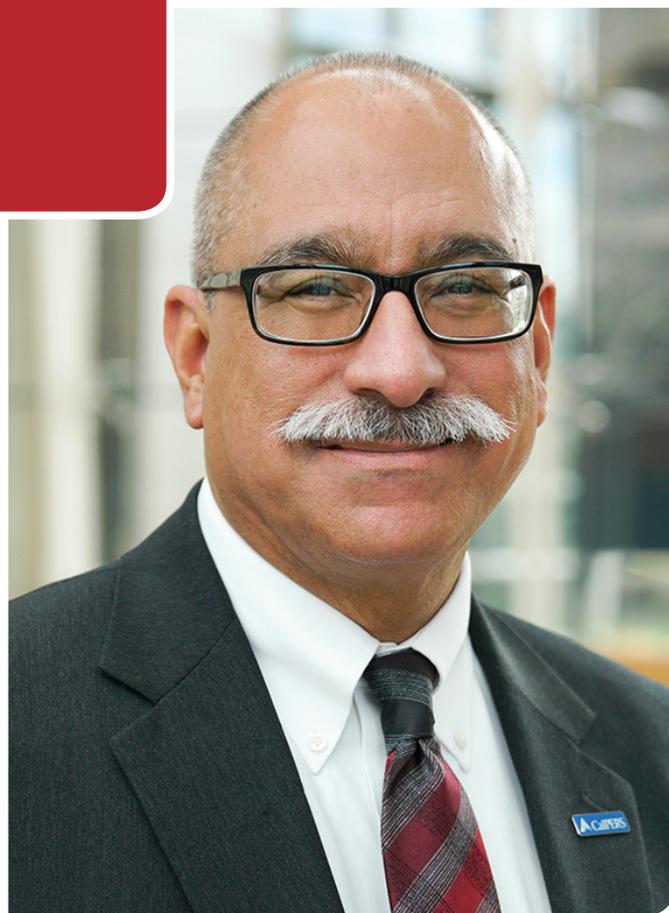
## STATE REGULATORS ISSUE MORE COMPLAINTS AGAINST RIVERSIDE COUNTY

### RAMON RUBALCAVA OF SEIU 721 APPOINTED TO CALPERS BOARD

In February, Ramon Rubalcava, SEIU 721's Director of Member Benefits and Employee Relations, was appointed jointly by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Rules Committee to the CalPERS Board of Administration.

Rubalcava has worked for our union for over 30 years, beginning as a researcher. He has completed certificate programs from the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, including the Certificate of Achievement in Public Plan Policy for both pension and health administration.

"I am both honored and humbled to have been appointed to serve on the CalPERS Board of Administration," said Rubalcava. "This opportunity is possible only because of the experience and knowledge I have gained working with Local 721 members and leaders advocating for quality health and pension benefits in the Union's contracts. I look forward to serving our members by continuing to safeguard the hard-earned health and pension benefits of public sector workers."



# THE CONSERVATIVE BILLIONAIRES BEHIND “RIGHT TO WORK” ARE TARGETING CALIFORNIA WORKERS. FIGHT BACK ON APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>!



## NOT ON OUR WATCH!

APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> 2018

8:00 AM

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels  
555 W Temple St., Los Angeles, 90012

Parking Provided!

RSVP REQUIRED

Want to be part of a special team of union activists trained to take on the “Right to Work” scam?

**SIGN UP FOR THE ‘NOT ON OUR WATCH’ UNION LEADERS SUMMIT**

**T**he threat posed to working people by “Right to Work” is real and it’s here now. A recent exposé in the *New York Times* breaks down how a small group of anti-worker billionaires, including the Koch Brothers and the Scaife family, have funded a network of foundations and political action committees focused on overturning workers’ ability to organize and operate unions. They want to eliminate unions so government and businesses can pay their workers less and reduce health and retirement benefits.

Our union has a plan to stop them, but we need a special team of members with excellent leadership skills. We need members who’ve stood up for others as stewards, CAT team members, bargaining team members or in other leadership roles. We need leaders ready to protect union rights and benefits against the upcoming “Right to Work” attack.

The “Right to Work” (for less) scam is real, and operatives funded by anti-worker billionaires and a shady group of ultra-right foundations already are coming to our workplaces in Los Angeles, Riverside and other cities. The NOT ON OUR WATCH leaders summit will offer exclusive training so that leaders in our union can defend wages, healthcare coverage, secure retirement and sick pay along with the other protections and benefits union workers have fought for. The future of your union is in the hands of leaders like you!

**Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff**



**Want to verify that you are receiving all the benefits and protections of union membership?**

**Call the SEIU Local 721 Membership Department at: (213) 738-8410.**