

MAY-JUNE 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SEIU 721



WHY WE NEED UNIONS

Billionaires' Supreme Court Attack on Workers Demonstrates Why We Need Unions



A MESSAGE FROM SEIU 721 PRESIDENT BOB SCHOONOVER

By the time you read this, the United States Supreme Court probably will have ruled in *Janus v. AFSCME*, a case that threatens decades of progress and precedent protecting workers' rights to form and operate unions.

The plaintiff in the case, Mark Janus, is a child support specialist for the state of Illinois. Janus says the agency fees he pays to the union bargaining his contract constitute a violation of his free speech rights. Janus is backed in his case by a coalition of ultra-conservative billionaires, who've paid for his lawyers and financed dozens of cases like his, hoping to score a knockout decision against workers' rights at the Supreme Court.

Ironically, the contract Mark Janus' union won for him is pretty much a text book example of the benefits of union membership:

- Mark Janus' union probably protected his job from being privatized — AFSCME's contract prevented Illinois' governor from contracting out his agency's work to corporate giant Maximus.
- Mark Janus received \$17,000 in union-negotiated wage increases he wouldn't have received if he wasn't covered by his contract.

- Mark Janus' union prevented the doubling of his and his co-workers' health care costs through appeals to the state Labor Relations Board and the courts.
- Mark Janus' union saved his pension — His union filed suit to block Illinois' governor from rolling back vested pension benefits.

We may never know the real reason Mark Janus is working as a front for billionaires, but we know exactly how they stand to gain if they cripple the Labor Movement. Unions put more money in workers' pockets, especially workers of color. African-American union members make 14.7 percent more than their nonunion counterparts; Latinos, 21.8 percent more. And look at hourly wages for women: African-American women earn on average \$21.90 an hour, while nonunion women earn \$17.04. More money for workers means less profit for Janus' ultra-rich backers.

But in using Mark Janus as a shill to cripple American workers' rights, the billionaires have inadvertently chosen a poster child for why American workers need unions.

Bob Schoonover



PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY-JUNE 2018

RIVERSIDE LEADERS BLAST KPMG DEAL



CA State Senator Kevin de León talks about the need for financial transparency in county government and the importance of quality public services.

“STATE OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY” CALLS FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

In May, Riverside County community and political leaders took aim at the County's contract with European consulting giant KPMG, blaming the \$41 million agreement for the sorry state of county services.

Hosted by Mi Familia Vota and MCed by supervisorial candidate Russ Bogh, attendees of the May 18th “State of Riverside County” meeting heard a bombshell revelation—that county supervisors awarded the consulting agreement to KPMG even though the firm scored second to last among five bidders and bid more than twice as much as the next highest bidder.

CA State Senator Kevin de León, a candidate for U.S. Senate, said the episode points out the need for more financial transparency in county government.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY-JUNE 2018

SEIU 721 UNITY BREAKS DOMINATE LA COUNTY

In the run up to the start of bargaining June 21st, LA County SEIU 721 members demonstrated their power and solidarity through Unity Breaks at worksites in all five county supervisorial districts.

The stakes are high: We're fighting for a strong contract that protects middle-class jobs, quality public services and union rights at a time when workers need unions more than ever. But 721 members showed they are Union Strong!



LA COUNTY SEIU 721 MEMBERS HOLD UNITY BREAKS IN ALL 5 SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS



PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY-JUNE 2018

SEIU 721 Children's Social Workers fought for and won a mentoring program for all new CSWs. Working with DCFS management, SEIU 721 members secured the hiring of 300 additional CSWs to help implement department-wide mentoring. The program already has matched 200 recently hired CSWs with mentors, reducing attrition among new hires by nearly 40 percent.



**SEIU 721-LED MENTORING PROGRAM CUTS
CSW ATTRITION RATE BY 40 PERCENT**

**UNION POWER HELPS CLEAR BACKLOG OF
2,500 RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVALS**

SEIU 721 Children's Social Workers' unity, union power and strong relationship with new DCFS Director Bobby Cagle has paid off in a major reduction in the agency's backlog of Resource Family Approval cases.

Every one of LA County's backlogged 2,500 cases represented a family caring for a child without legally mandated compensation, jeopardizing the pool of willing foster families and putting children at risk. SEIU 721 convinced Cagle to clear the backlog without resorting to contracting out.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY-JUNE 2018

SEIU 721 members are celebrating their victory in the campaign to elect Elizabeth "Liz" Lee to the LACERS Board of Administration. As one of seven LACERS Board members managing more than \$17 billion in assets, Lee is a powerful ally for retirement security.

COPE now turns its attention to electing LA City Sanitation Division Manager Robert Potter to the Deferred Compensation Administration Board. Ballots mail on Thursday, June 7th and are due back on Friday, June 22nd.



**LIZ LEE ELECTED TO LACERS BOARD.
721 COPE BACKING ROBERT POTTER.**

**SEIU 721 COURT WORKERS' LOBBYING
WINS FUNDING FOR JUSTICE**

On May 23, twenty nine 721 court workers from LA, Riverside and Ventura counties bussed it to Sacramento and lobbied successfully for funding in the state budget for court reporters, family law proceedings and underfunded courts. The legislature passed and Governor Brown recently signed off on \$75 million, including \$10 million for court reporters and family proceedings and another \$48 million for underfunded courts throughout the state. Funding means better access for critical services like restraining orders, emergency custody issues and child protection.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY-JUNE 2018

FIX LA TELLS LA CITY COUNCIL NO MORE "BROKEN STREETS, BROKEN PROMISES"

Members of the Fix LA Coalition visited the LA City Council to renew their demand that City Hall make good on its promise to restore the 5,000 municipal jobs lost during the Great Recession. Despite a recovering economy, LA's City Administrative Officer recently instructed department heads not to fill any of the city's 3,676 projected job vacancies.

"The economy has recovered but the fortunes of many Angelenos have not," SEIU 721 President Bob Schoonover told the council. "A big part of the solution is in your hands —It's restoring jobs, and city services!"



**SEIU 721 PRESIDENT BOB SCHOONOVER TELLS
LA CITY COUNCIL TO KEEP HIRING PROMISE**

**SEIU 721 WORKERS AT LA CENTRAL REGIONAL
DETENTION FACILITY CONDUCT SAFETY CHECK**



SEIU 721 members at Century Regional Detention Facility conducted a safety check on June 6th to address workplace safety problems and help their co-workers access support services. In April, SEIU 721 joined with CIR-SEIU, UAPD and several AFCSME Locals to file an unprecedented grievance against LA County demanding an immediate fix to conditions that are endangering the lives of employees in county detention facilities.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY-JUNE 2018

Believe it or not, we had to fight for the right to have Union Boards at our worksites. Because they're part of the public face of our union, we need to take pride in them and keep them updated!

So, as much as we may love our bargaining flyers from 2014, we're offering a little extra incentive to tear those old flyers down and put our creativity to the test.

Send in photos of your new and improved Union Boards between now and July 13th, using our Union Board In A Box as the basis for your design.

Feel free to add your own creativity and incorporate your favorite posters from the past, purple accessories, or other flair. To enter, send your name, worksite and a before and an after photo of your board to info@seiu721.org.



GO "OVERBOARD" AND WIN A POPCORN SOCIAL AT YOUR WORKSITE!

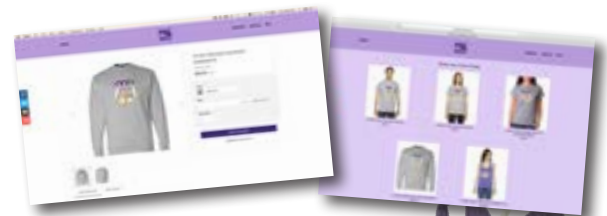
**THE SEIU 721 PURPLE UP STORE IS OPEN.
GO GET YOUR UNION STRONG GEAR!**



Have you gotten your new Union Strong gear? Check out new styles with the original or distressed Union Shield!

Purple Up for summer with our stylish ladies' racer back tanks, or grab a sweatshirt for those cool summer nights!

Visit the store link at our homepage: seiu721.org.



**Purple Up
Store**
Rep our union!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY-JUNE 2018

TRI-COUNTIES 721 MEMBERS HONORED



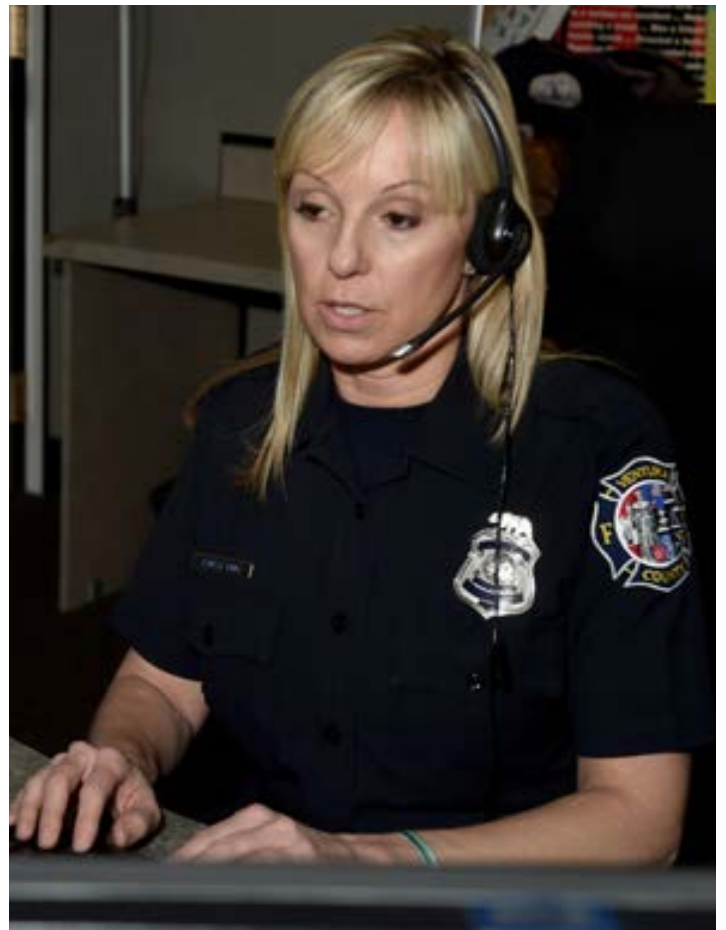
HEROIC WORKERS SALUTED FOR ACTIONS DURING THOMAS FIRE

When the Thomas Fire erupted just outside of Santa Paula on December 3, the 911 switchboard lit up like a Christmas tree and Ventura County Fire Department Dispatchers went into action.

The Ventura County Star newspaper recently profiled SEIU 721 Public Safety Dispatchers Ariana Iniguez, Tonya King and Brittany Farrell and told the story of how they and their co-workers handled thousands of calls during the crisis. The Thomas Fire was the largest wildfire in California history, scorching more than 281,000 acres, killing two and destroying 750 homes.

SEIU 721 dispatchers fielded calls from people stuck in their homes, reports of exploding gas lines, and panicked residents looking for evacuation information. The dispatchers' training, calm professionalism, and commitment to their community is credited with helping minimize fire casualties.

When our members fight for their workplaces and for proper training the community is much safer.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY-JUNE 2018



LA DODGERS HONOR SEIU 721 "UNION STRONG HEROES"

LA's Boys in Blue honored the LA City Sanitation workers who in April helped rescue 13-year-old Jesse Hernandez after he fell into a city sewer. At their May 22nd home game, the Dodgers recognized the hero sanitation workers who searched for Jesse for more than 12 hours. Worker Michael Adams was selected to start the game by shouting "It's time for Dodger baseball!"

SEIU 721 salutes our Union Strong heroes!



"SEIU 721 is proud of our Union Strong heroes!"

**Linda Dent
Vice President, SEIU 721**

MEET THE UNION-BUSTING BILLIONAIRES BEHIND “RIGHT TO WORK”

WHO'S BEHIND THE PHONY “RIGHT TO WORK”



THE KOCH BROTHERS



WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION



MELLON-SCAIFE FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Freedom Foundation, a nonprofit funded by a network of ultra-conservative billionaires who want to eliminate workers' ability to organize unions, is readying an assault on members of SEIU 721 and other West Coast public sector unions as soon as the Supreme Court hands down a decision in *Janus v. AFSCME*.

Anti-worker conservatives are hoping for a favorable ruling in *Janus* that would roll back workers' rights to form and operate unions and set back workers more than 40 years.

"We're planning on implementing a full-scale opt-out outreach operation on the West Coast the day after we get the decision from the court," Freedom Foundation Executive Vice President Brian Minnich told The Daily Caller News Foundation. "We are ready to hit the ground running with emails, targeted mail and canvassing door-to-door."

"Then we are also going to camp outside state government buildings... we'll do some commercials and social media—it will be full-scale," Minnich said.

So who's funding this "full-scale" assault on West Coast workers? The same group of anti-worker conservatives who've bankrolled the campaigns to deny climate change and harass climate scientists, roll back environmental protections, privatize education, gut financial regulations, and elect Donald Trump.

They include the infamous Koch Brothers, whose Kansas-based oil, chemical and paper empire is the second-largest privately held company in America. The Mellon-Scaife family, whose wealth was inherited from "Robber Barons," Andrew and Richard Mellon. The Walton Family Foundation, funded by the heirs to the Wal-Mart fortune. The Searle Freedom Trust, funded by inherited wealth accumulated by G.D. Searle & Company, a pharmaceutical manufacturer.

So if you meet the mercenaries from the Freedom Foundation outside your workplace, ask them if they know they are actually on the payroll of billionaires trying to crush American workers.

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff



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

Call SEIU Local 721 Member Connection at: (877) 721-4968.