

JULY-AUGUST 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SEIU 721



LA GETS A RAISE!



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

On July 1, LA County residents got a raise. Los Angeles County increased the minimum wage to \$14.25 an hour — the third in a series of four scheduled increases that will raise the minimum wage in one of the nation's largest counties to \$15 by 2020.

This is great news for Angelenos and a great source of pride for the members of SEIU 721. That's because, while the Fight for \$15 movement spread like wildfire, it was our members who lit the fuse on the West Coast.

Our program of lobbying, direct action and public fasts caused the LA County Board of Supervisors to vote 3-2 to raise the county's hourly minimum to \$15. We used the same tactics to cause the L.A. City Council to vote 14-1 to

raise the city's hourly minimum wage in phases to \$15 an hour by 2020.

The next year Governor Brown signed into law a plan to raise the minimum wage to \$15 across California by 2023. And a few weeks ago, on July 18, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to increase the U.S. minimum wage to \$15 by 2024. If the Senate follows their lead, it will be the first time in a decade we've raised it.

Congratulations, SEIU 721 members, you've already made history and you're well on your way to getting American workers the raise they deserve.

Bob Schoonover

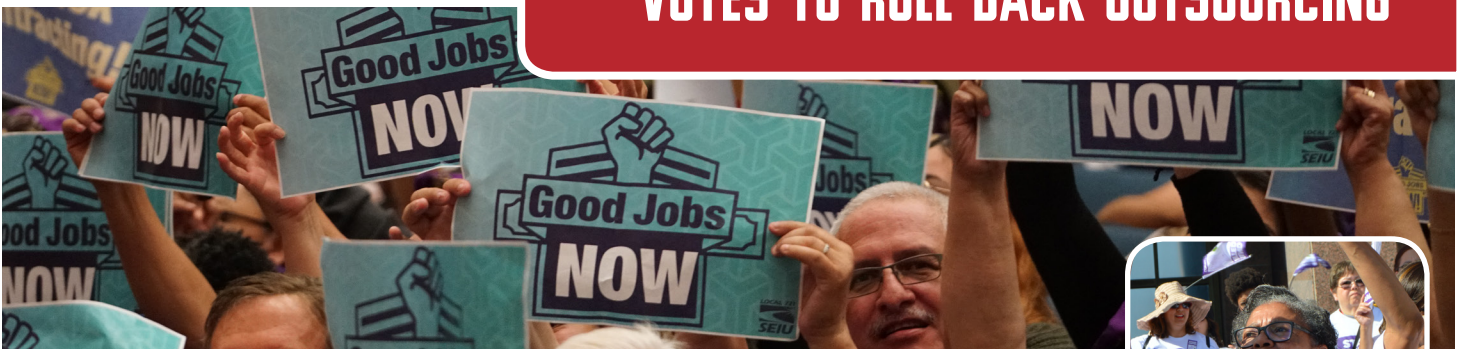


PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY-AUGUST 2019

SEIU 721 WINS PRIVATIZATION FIGHT



LA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTES TO ROLL BACK OUTSOURCING



"I applaud the efforts of LA County SEIU 721 members, who continue to lead the fight to create good middle-class jobs for our county's most underserved communities."

Linda Dent, Vice President, SEIU 721

On Tuesday, July 16, the Board of Supervisors adopted a motion to that will reduce the county's reliance on contracting out and create more good county jobs.

According to an SEIU 721 report, entitled Poverty Isn't Cheap, the passage of Proposition A in the 1980s ushered in a wave of contracting out of county services, including janitorial, laundry, housekeeping, food services and security functions. Forty years later, Prop A contracting has grown to more than 200 contracts with a total cost of nearly \$300 million. The report found that the cost savings

produced by the privatization of county services were produced by hiring contractors that paid their workers less and cut back health and retirement benefits. In turn, county taxpayers wound up footing the bill for the cost of public benefits for these workers, who became eligible for services such as Medicaid, food stamps, supplemental nutrition (WIC), and free or reduced-priced school meals.

The vote kickstarts a process for bringing many county functions in-house, which will create thousands of high-quality jobs for Angelenos.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY-AUGUST 2019



UBER AND LYFT DRIVERS RALLY IN SACRAMENTO TO DEMAND AB5 AND A UNION



Hundreds of Uber and Lyft drivers from across California descended on the state capitol this week to urge lawmakers to pass Assembly Bill 5, and renew our call for union rights for all.

Action kicked off Tuesday morning, as drivers met with key elected officials including the Office of the California Governor, AB 5 author Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez, Assemblymember Miguel Santiago, and Assemblymember Ash Kalra.

Later in the evening, two busloads of Mobile Workers Alliance drivers left Los Angeles at midnight to head to Sacramento for a full day of lobbying legislators in support of AB5. Mobile Workers Alliance is a driver-led organizing project of SEIU 721.

The landmark bill would put an end to app companies using “independent contractor” status to skirt labor laws and deny drivers their rights, entitling gig workers to minimum wages, benefits, and basic workplace protections

We were joined by fellow drivers from Gig Workers Rising in the Bay Area, labor union members from a variety of industries and fast food workers

from Fight for \$15 — all united around the demand that legislators support AB5 and a path to a union.

While a group of MWA members gave public comment during the bill’s hearing in the Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee, dozens of us took over the halls of the capitol, visiting legislators from Southern California to ask for their support. Gig Workers Rising did the same for Northern California legislators.

After the hearing, in which the committee voted 3-1 to advance the bill, hundreds of AB5 supporters rallied outside the capitol building where we heard from legislators, labor leaders and our own MWA member, Linda Valdivia.

“We know that we can have a living wage, and benefits and flexibility — and it all starts with a real voice at work,” Linda said. “It starts with a union!”

NEVHC UNITED FOR OUR CLINICS!



NORTHEAST VALLEY HEALTH CORPORATION WORKERS WAGE CONTRACT FIGHT

SEIU 721 members at Northeast Valley Health Corporation are continuing to stand united and stand strong for our communities and clinics!

Coming off several weeks of negotiations, the NEVHC Bargaining Team led a general membership meeting to give updates on our 2019 contract campaign to Save Our Clinics. NEVHC members are focusing on issues including securing language that improves our job security, maintaining affordable healthcare plans and winning wages that allow us to care for our families.

Our brothers and sisters at IBEW Local 11 graciously welcomed us into their union hall, and continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us in our fight to protect patient care.

SEIU 721 members working in the 30+ clinics in the NEVHC system serve some of our region's most vulnerable populations. That's why it's crucial to keep our clinics fully staffed and open for our community!

We're committed to this fight for patient care and when we fight, we win!

NEVHC EMPLOYEES

UNITED FOR OUR CLINICS



LOCAL 721
SEIU

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY-AUGUST 2019



Occidental College students rally in support of Occidental College faculty and staff organizing efforts in March 2019.

OCCIDENTAL CLERICAL EMPLOYEES MOVE TO JOIN 721

On the heels of Occidental faculty successfully filing to join SEIU 721, clerical workers at the college are following suit. Concerns about raising standards, ensuring dignity on the job and having a strong voice at work are driving clerical employees to organize and choose Union.

Clerical workers often interact directly with faculty, students and staff but sometimes their work is behind-the-scenes. All of it is critical to Occidental's success.

"Our goal is to secure a strong, collective voice that can speak for all of us — and that strong voice is a Union," said Corey Reider, a clerical employee at Occidental College who is helping to lead the latest

organizing drive. "We're confident we'll succeed."

This wave of organizing is just the latest victory in the higher education Unionizing effort. Reider noted that many fellow clerical workers were inspired by the success of Occidental faculty, who voted to join SEIU 721 this past Spring.

"We're finally banding together in solidarity across campus," Reider said. "Everyone's mutual support for one another is inspiring. And we're getting support not just from faculty but students, too."

Ultimately about 100 Occidental clerical workers are eligible to participate in the Union vote.

Have you gotten your new Union Strong gear?

Check out new styles with the original or distressed Union Shield! Purple Up with our stylish ladies' racer back tanks, or grab a sweatshirt for those cool nights!

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

**Purple Up
Store**
Rep our union!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY-AUGUST 2019

"THIS SOCIAL WORKER WORKED LIKE A HERO TO PROTECT NOAH."

SEIU 721 Children's Social Worker David Green testifies before the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to uncover the truth about the heroic efforts of the CSW who fought to save a 4-year-old Palmdale boy and the reforms SEIU 721 is pushing at LA DCFS.



In the wake of the tragic death of Noah Cuatro, a 4-year-old Palmdale boy in the DCFS caseload who died under what authorities are calling suspicious circumstances, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors held a hearing to examine shortcomings in the county's child welfare system.

Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who represents Palmdale, and Fourth District Supervisor Janice Hahn, who serves as Chair of the Board, led the questioning, calling on Dr. Christina Ghaly of the Department of Health Services, DCFS Director Bobby Cagle, and Judge Michael Nash of the Office of Child Protection to testify.

Supervisors also called David Green, SEIU 721 Treasurer and a Children's Social Worker, to get a worker's perspective on the tragedy.

Green expressed what many of us are feeling: That scapegoating DCFS social workers is not an acceptable substitute for taking responsibility for what happened to Noah. Green also set the record straight on the social worker's involvement in the case.

"The children's social worker on the front line in this case did everything right," said Green. "But to read the headlines in the media, she's the villain. And, in fact, this social worker worked like a hero to protect Noah."

After testimony concluded, the four supervisors in attendance voted unanimously to support Sup. Barger's motion to do a "deep dive" into Noah's case to identify ways to reform the system. This includes the possibility of bonus pay to incentivize social workers, supervisors, medical personnel and mental health professionals to work in the Antelope Valley, which has struggled with recruitment and retention in key positions.

Discussion also focused on the need to reduce excessive caseloads to improve child safety. Our union has made enormous strides in forcing the department to increase hiring and improve training and mentoring as a way to reduce caseloads and improve employee retention and morale.



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SEIU 721 MEMBERS TAKE THE LEAD AT OXNARD CITIZENSHIP FAIR

More than 100 SEIU 721 members and community partners came out to the July Oxnard Citizenship Fair. SEIU 721 members joined representatives from CAUSE, MICOP, Indivisible Ventura, El Concilio Family Services, the Law Office of Vanessa Frank, Korling Law and other community groups to help process more than forty N-400 forms.

Our Citizenship Fair put dozens of legal permanent residents one step closer to achieving their goal of a true voice and a vote in our democratic process.

When we use our collective voice, fight to keep families together, and wield our power at the ballot box, we can make a difference by electing officials who will stand up to defend working families.

SEIU Local 721 and community groups are making plans for the next Citizenship Fair in the Fall. Join us as a volunteer, or bring out those who need assistance securing their path to citizenship.

For questions contact SEIU 721 Coordinator Akemy Bon-Flores at akemy.bon-flores@seiu721.org or at (213) 446-4851.

Trump's NLRB just issued a decision that **AUTOMATICALLY BUSTS** a union if the employer can prove workers "no longer want representation" at the end of a contract. Here's how we fight back!



TRUMP'S NLRB & THEIR UNION-BUSTING PLAN

FACILITY COMMITTEES WILL PROTECT WORKERS' RIGHTS AT JOBSITES

Frustrated with the inability of the Supreme Court's *Janus* Decision to finish off American workers and their unions, the Trump Administration is putting its full weight behind a new effort to roll back workers' rights. On July 3, the National Labor Relations Board issued a decision allowing employers to oust a union upon expiration of a collective bargaining agreement if it can obtain proof a majority of employees no longer support the union.

The way things are now, it's assumed an employer will begin bargaining with represented employees' current union before a contract expires. Under the new NLRB decision, an employer can refuse to bargain with a union by announcing a "pending withdrawal of recognition" within 90 days the expiration of contract. The only way the union can re-establish recognition is to

win a new secret ballot election. The clear goal here is to distract workers from bargaining and to throw their union into disarray as a tactic to weaken their bargaining position — part of a classic "divide and conquer" strategy.

The only way to fight back is to create a facility committee at every worksite. Even with all the great digital tools we have at our disposal, nothing beats eyes and ears on the job that can alert us to efforts by union-busting activists and bounty hunters tasked with dividing workers and stripping us of our rights and protections.

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: (877) 721-4968.