**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2019** 

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SEIU 721





# UNIONS FOR ALL



A MESSAGE FROM SEIU 721 PRESIDENT BOB SCHOONOVER

Uber and Lyft drivers from the Mobile Workers Alliance shut down Market Street in front of Uber headquarters in SF.

The historic 1,000-mile caravan of Uber and Lyft drivers from Los Angeles to Delano, the birthplace of the United Farm Workers, to Sacramento is a powerful demonstration of why we need Unions For All in America.

Their 3-day journey in August was inspired by the United Farm Workers 1966 pilgrimage from Delano to Sacramento, led by Cesar Chavez. Like gig workers in California, farm workers were thought to be impossible to organize and their exploitation was taken as a given by the public at large.

But Uber and Lyft drivers — and other gig workers powering popular service apps, like Postmates and Instacart — are finding their collective voice and flexing their power to win just treatment from the tech giants.

SEIU 721 is behind them all the way. We're supporting the Mobile Workers Alliance and strongly backing AB5 — the

landmark state bill that would make it harder for corporations to label workers as independent contractors instead of employees, a common practice that has allowed huge app-based service companies, like Uber and Lyft, to skirt state and federal labor laws.

As I write this, the California Senate Appropriations Committee had just sent AB5 to the full senate. When the Senate passes and Governor Newsom signs AB5 into law, Silicon Valley will understand Unions For All, too.

Uber and Lyft drivers need their own union to protect them.

They need the muscle of other unions to help them win the right to organize one.



Bob Schoonover

UBER AND LYFT DRIVERS TRAVEL 1,000 MILES FOR JUSTICE



Over three days, our Mobile Workers Alliance caravan of Uber and Lyft drivers traveled nearly 1,000 miles to bring our fight for AB5 and a union straight from LA to Uber HQ and the California state capitol.

Our 3-day pilgrimage included:

- Kickoff in downtown Los Angeles with Uber and Lyft drivers, Los Angeles area clergy and members of SEIU 721
- Stop in Delano, where we joined UFW members to leave a tribute to Cesar Chavez and the brave farm workers who marched to Sacramento in 1996 to raise awareness about their exploitation and to demand their rights

- Action at the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, one of many local Chambers that has sided with big business in opposing AB5
- Rally with presidential candidate and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg that shut down Market street in front of Uber's San Francisco HQ.
- Caravan surrounding the state Capitol, where the Senate Appropriations committee voted 5-2 to send AB5 to the senate floor.

Passage of AB5 would be a game changer for Uber and Lyft drivers and other gig economy workers. As full-fledged employees, they would finally have the right to form unions and win the wages, benefits, protections and flexibility that they deserve.



**NEUHC WORKERS WIN 3-YEAR DEAL THAT INCREASES WAGES AND FIGHTS LAYOFFS** 



"Congratulations to NEVHC workers from all of SEIU 721. Your courage, unity and collective action made all the difference!"

David Green, Treasurer SEIU Local 721

Workers at Northeast Valley Health Corporation are celebrating a strong new 3-year contract that increases wages, keeps health insurance rates steady and Saves Our Clinics!

SEIU 721 members at the 30+ clinics in the NEVHC system stood united as negotiations continued for months. We fought against unfair layoffs that were leaving our clinics short-staffed and threatening the quality of care we provide to our communities.

Members Purpled Up, attended actions and rallies and spoke to community allies about our campaign. This 2019-2022 contract is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of our Contract Action Team, stewards and every

member that got involved.

Other highlights in this new contract include:

- 11.25% increase in wages
- Increase to the bilingual bonus
- Stronger contract language re: work shifts, leaves and layoffs

We've won a strong contract, but our work does not stop here. We must stand together and stay involved so NEVHC management sees we are Union Strong. When we fight, we win!





"We're inviting all SEIU 721 members and their families to join their union

brothers and sisters for a day of food, fun and solidarity."

Bob Schoonover, President Linda Dent, Vice President SEIU Local 721

JOIN SEIU 721 FOR FAMILY FUN DAY 11-3PM AT WHITTIER NARROWS PARK, SEPT. 15

SEIU 721 RETIREES TO HOLD CAR SHOWS IN VENTURA AND RIVERSIDE SEPT. 22



The SEIU 721 Retiree Committee invites you to the Union Member Car Show and Retiree Reunion in Riverside and Ventura on Sunday, Sept. 22.

Come out and enjoy a beautiful Sunday afternoon and check out some of the baddest cars, trucks

and bikes that your union brothers and sisters have to offer!
Register your show vehicle or just come see some showstopping cars right next to the 721 Union Office. Food trucks,
music and bounce houses for the kids! Stop by and visit
information booths in the Retirement Village.

Sunday, September 22, 2019

Riverside

10:00 am - 3:00 pm 6177 River Crest Dr. Riverside, CA 92507

Ventura

10:00 am - 3:00 pm SEIU 721 Office 2472 Eastman Ave Ventura, CA 93003

SEIU Local 721 and Riverside County met with state-appointed mediators on August 19 and 21 in an effort to reach an agreement on a contract/MOU.

The Public Employment Relations Board assigned a qualified mediator to attempt to reach a compromise on all outstanding bargaining-related ULPs and the MOU.

The 2016 SEIU Local 721 bargaining committee has been reconvened to participate, given its extensive knowledge. However, bargaining committee elections for the next round of negotiations will continue to move forward in the event we do not reach an agreement with the County in mediation.

Mediation sessions are scheduled for September 11 and 13.



PERB APPOINTS MEDIATOR TO HELP
RESOLVE RIVERSIDE CONTRACT IMPASSE

SEIU HEALTH PROFESSIONALS HEAD TO BORDER AGAIN TO CARE FOR REFUGEES

August 17, SEIU 721 health care professionals headed to the US-Mexico border on their third mission to provide emergency first aid to refugee children and families who are suffering due to circumstances beyond their control.

"Many of these same families we see suffering at the border eventually become our neighbors and our future patients in LA County's healthcare network," said SEIU 721 Secretary Lillian Cabral. "Restoring them to basic good health now is in everyone's interest."

SEIU 721 launched the first Faith Caravan back in December of 2018 and our Health Care-A-Van in February 2019.

Registered nurses, health care workers, social workers, and other front line professionals from our local and SEIU-UHW provided first aid, pediatric care, blood pressure and glucose screenings, and delivered first aid supplies to refugees living at shelters and camps around the city.





#### SEIU 721 VENTURA BARGAINING TEAM GEARS UP FOR VENTURA RISING TOGETHER SUMMIT

Ventura County members are gearing up for bargaining and are ready to fight back against Right Wing attacks against workers across the Tri-Counties.

The bargaining team is finishing up its review of the contract and is busily creating our initial proposals. The team was armed with more than 1,000 member bargaining surveys to help develop our priorities. We also have an army of Contract Action Team (CAT) members who are ready to spread the news and take in your questions as we get ready to go to the bargaining table.

We're inviting all County of Ventura members to our Ventura Rising Together Summit to plan our strategy and get ready for action. Join us!

Ventura Rising Together Summit SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Program: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Padre Serra Parish 5205 Upland Rd. Camarillo, 93012 Breakfast and Lunch provided.

#### **COUNTY OF VENTURA 2019 BARGAINING TEAM**



THOMAS ADELMAN Principal Respiratory Therapst (HCA)



ED ALAMILLO Resource Mgmt Agy Tech III (RMA)



REBECCA ALBARRAN HS Client Benefit Spec IV (HSA)



GRACE BELL HS Client Benefit Spec III (HSA)



WENDY CASTRO Medical Office Assistant III (HCA)



SARAH CLANCY Principal Accountant (Library)



VICTORIA IZQUIERDO Sheriff's Tech Commun Spec I, (Sheriff)



EDWIN JACOB Coder-Certified (HCA)



SALVADOR LEANOS Environmental Health Spec IV (RMA)



BRIAN LUSKIN HS Client Benefit Spec III (HSA)



MARISA MARTINEZ HS Case Aide II (HSA)



BRANDON MILLER (Public Safety Dispatcher II (Fire)



KATHERINE MOUNTAIN Sheriff Fingerprint Specialist (Sheriff)



TED (BEAR) PEREZ Mental Hlth Associate (HCA)



DAVID VAHIDI HS Child Welfare Soc Wrkr III (HSA)



Public
Defender
Investigatr II
(Pub. Def.)







SEIU 721 LEADS STATEWIDE LOBBYING
EFFORT TO PROTECT GIG WORKERS WITH AB 5

Thanks in part to SEIU 721 members, Uber and Lyft drivers in California are one step closer to becoming employees.

On August 30, the California State Senate Appropriations Committee sent to the full senate AB5 — a landmark bill that would require companies to classify workers as employees, not independent contractors. Despite spending millions on lobbying efforts to exempt themselves, Uber and Lyft are covered in the version headed to a senate vote.

If AB5 passes and Governor Newsom signs it, so-called "gig workers"

would get the same protections as regular employees, like health care, paid leave, overtime, workers' compensation, and a guaranteed minimum wage. Even more importantly, they would have the right to form unions.

This is a good thing for public workers, too. Big tech companies aren't just "disrupting" private sector industries, they also are moving into services often provided by government workers — like transportation and health care — and undercutting them by using low-paid temps. AB5 is a powerful tool to stop tech giants from exploiting workers.

SEIU members from around the country are invited to participate in the UNIONS FOR ALL SUMMIT from OCTOBER 3 to 6 in Los Angeles.

SEIU 721 will kick off the summit OCTOBER 2 with a massive LAX action.



he 2020 presidential election is vital to the future of working families in America. It's a huge opportunity for SEIU members to show America why all workers need unions. SEIU member-leaders from across the country are working to elect a president who is committed to restoring and expanding union rights, making quality healthcare more accessible and ensuring that all of us have equal access to the American Dream. SEIU 721 will

kick off the Unions For All Summit with an October 2 action at LAX. Talk to your steward or worksite organizer about how to sign up

for the LAX action and get engaged to help elect the best candidate for working people in 2020.

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff

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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.