

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SEIU 721



UNIONS FOR ALL COMES TO LOS ANGELES

A MESSAGE FROM SEIU 721 PRESIDENT BOB SCHOONOVER

SEIU President Bob Schoonover and Jesse Jackson lead Unions For All march in Los Angeles.

It's time for Unions For All. As we go to press, SEIU 721 is gearing up to welcome our brothers and sisters from across the country to the Unions for All Summit in Los Angeles. We'll be asking all the Democratic Presidential Primary candidates about economic justice and whether they're willing to commit to a comprehensive labor plan that goes beyond a \$15 minimum wage. It's time that every worker in America has the ability to join a union, regardless of where they work, and we need to know which candidates are committed to making it happen.

The stakes couldn't be any higher:

- Workers with unions have consistently earned 15 to 20% more than non-union workers since 1936.

- Women in unions earn 30% more than women in non-union workplaces.
- Unions led the movement for a \$15/hour minimum wage and for AB5, which gives gig economy workers employment protections.

That's why we're asking all the challengers to support a plan that includes industry-wide bargaining tables for better wages and benefits, allowing states to empower workers to organize unions and putting good union jobs at the center of all major economic proposals.

Let's see who's all-in on Unions For All.

Bob Schoonover



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TRI-COUNTIES MEMBERS ENERGIZE AT VENTURA SUMMIT



September 24 action at the Ventura County Board of Supervisors.

TRI-COUNTIES 721 MEMBERS STRATEGIZE & TAKE ACTION AT VENTURA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Members from across Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties gathered September 14 at Padre Serra Parish in Camarillo for the Ventura Rising Together Summit.

Members from across Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties gathered at Padre Serra Parish in Camarillo on September 14 for the Ventura Rising Together Summit to marshal Tri-Counties workers to protect good union jobs against privatization and kick-start the campaign for a strong contract for Ventura County workers.

Tri-Counties leaders Sarah Clancy and Brandon Miller summarized recent victories and laid out anticipated challenges, from contract bargaining to holding the line against lay-offs and privatization.

"We need to think about our jobs being union strong and they stay that

way because we stick together," said Jesse Gomez of the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District.

Participants prepared bargaining strategies and each left with a kit to help energize worksites for the upcoming fight.

Ventura County members immediately put what they learned into practice, packing the Ventura County Board of Supervisors chambers on September 24 and calling on Supervisors to deliver a contract that guarantees affordable health care and provides the support county workers need to deliver quality services for Ventura County residents.

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FOOD, FUN, PRIZES AND SOLIDARITY AT SEIU 721 ASSEMBLY AND FAMILY FUN DAY PICNIC



**"Thanks to all the SEIU 721 member families
who helped make the 2019 SEIU 721 Assembly
and Family Fun Day a success."**

**Linda Dent, Vice President
SEIU Local 721**



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SEIU 721 MEMBERS ON A ROLL IN VENTURA AND RIVERSIDE



SEIU 721 RETIREES HOST CAR SHOWS AND RETIREEE REUNIONS IN VENTURA & RIVERSIDE



The SEIU 721 Retiree Committee capped off its Union Member Car Show and Retiree Reunion series with shows in Ventura and Riverside. On Sunday, September 22, SEIU 721 members and retirees showed off some of the baddest cars, trucks and bikes on the road in the name of union solidarity.

Our working families enjoyed food trucks, music and bounce houses and some lucky vehicle owners picked up limited edition SEIU 721 coolers.



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SEIU 721 CELEBRATES LATINO HERITAGE MONTH AND HONORS COMMUNITY LEADERS



SEIU 721 celebrated Latino Heritage Month by recognizing Latino leaders in our union, our community and around the world for their efforts to promote justice and protect working families.

SEIU 721 presented Puerto Rican labor leader Gerson Guzmán López with the Latino Caucus Humanitarian Award for his efforts to promote true democracy and labor rights in Puerto Rico.

SEIU 721 recognized Martin Manteca, Lillian Cabral, Rosie Martinez and Roxette Villegas with the 721 "Heart of the Union" award and presented commendations from the LA County Board of Supervisors to Grace Santillano and Grace Sepulveda.



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SEIU 721 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORKERS HOST CONGRESSWOMAN NORMA TORRES IN POMONA

SEIU 721 Treasurer and CSW David Green and other member leaders hosted Congresswoman Norma Torres for a tour of LA County DCFS's Pomona office to discuss best practices in children's social work and our union's Road to Child Safety proposals to reduce caseloads, improve training and mentorship and create more high-quality foster placement opportunities.

Rep. Torres asked thoughtful questions about the impact of ICE raids and family separation and the need for additional bi-lingual frontline staff.

Rep. Torres said she is committed to working with us to to renew the federal Title IV-E Waiver — a critical source of funds for preventative programs and out-of-home placements. Failure to renew the waiver could cost California up to \$320 million in lost funding, so we're grateful for Rep. Torres' support.



RETENTION BONUSES FOR ANTELOPE VALLEY SOCIAL WORKERS WILL BOOST CHILD SAFETY



"These pay premiums will be a game-changer for improving retention and attraction and protecting children."

**David Green, CSW
Treasurer, SEIU 721**

Thanks to the tireless advocacy of SEIU 721 CSWs, help is on the way for Antelope Valley CSWs struggling with high caseloads driven by high turnover and short-staffing!

Led by Supervisor Kathryn Barger, the LA County Board of Supervisors has directed the County CEO and DCFS to institute two major pay premiums to retain and attract qualified CSWs at Antelope Valley DCFS offices, which have been especially hard hit by employee turnover and staff shortages.

RETENTION STEP INCREASE EQUAL TO 5-10% OF PAY

The LA County CEO has authorized a Critical Shortage Recruitment Rate of step 5 for several classes of incumbent SCSWs and CSWs permanently assigned to and working in Antelope Valley DCFS offices.

RECRUITMENT STEP INCREASE EQUAL TO 5-10% OF PAY

To attract both new hires and voluntary transfers to the Antelope Valley, the CEO also authorized a Critical Shortage Range of 10 percent for the above-mentioned positions and Children's Social Worker Trainee, item No. 9070.

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We pushed hard during our last contract fight to secure our \$250 bonus — and LA County Relief Nurses, Part-Timers and F-Items received it in their September 15 paycheck.

This is no ordinary \$250 bonus — we had to fight for it. And we won't stop fighting until LA County pays us everything we are owed, including other pay increases that we bargained hard for. In the meantime, enjoy that \$250 bonus — you deserve it!

If you didn't receive this bonus and think you qualify, contact Member Connection at (877) 721-4YOU for assistance.



LA COUNTY RELIEF NURSES: MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR \$250 BONUS!

SEIU 721 MEMBER JORDAN ROBERTS WINS SEAT ON VCERA BOARD

Jordan Paul Roberts, a Training Supervisor, Public Safety Dispatcher for the County of Ventura and SEIU Local 721 member has won a seat on the Ventura County Employees Retirement Association (VCERA) pensions board.

Jordan, a previous member of the County of Ventura bargaining team, played a key role at his worksite to build membership and to strengthen our union voice.

We need leaders like Jordan with problem-solving abilities on the VCERA Board to help guarantee and secure our pensions.

Congratulations from everyone at SEIU Local 721!

ELECT **JORDAN ROBERTS**



FOR **VCERA** BOARD 2019



"Over the past few years we've seen unprecedented attacks against our retirement. I have the experience and knowledge to help protect these crucial benefits for our families and for our communities."

-Jordan Roberts,
Training Supervisor, Public Safety Dispatcher, SEIU Local 721 member



Governor Gavin Newsom signs landmark AB5 bill backed by SEIU 721, which classifies gig economy workers as employees. Governor Newsom also pledges to step in and grant workers excluded from the NLRB the right to organize.



Governor Gavin Newsom signs AB5, authored by Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), in a private ceremony with members of SEIU 721 and other supporters from labor.

UNIONS CHANGE THE GAME FOR GIG ECONOMY WORKERS

With the help of SEIU 721, California legislators in September rewrote employment rules for dozens of industries through legislation that will give hundreds of thousands of workers new job benefits and pay guarantees.

AB5, signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 18, requires employers to properly classify their workers as employees, instead of independent contractors, giving them protection under laws that guarantee a minimum wage, overtime pay, sick leave,

family leave, unemployment and disability insurance, workers' compensation and protection against discrimination and sexual harassment.

SEIU 721 members should be proud. Once again, they've changed the game for California workers!

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff

Gilda Valdez



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.