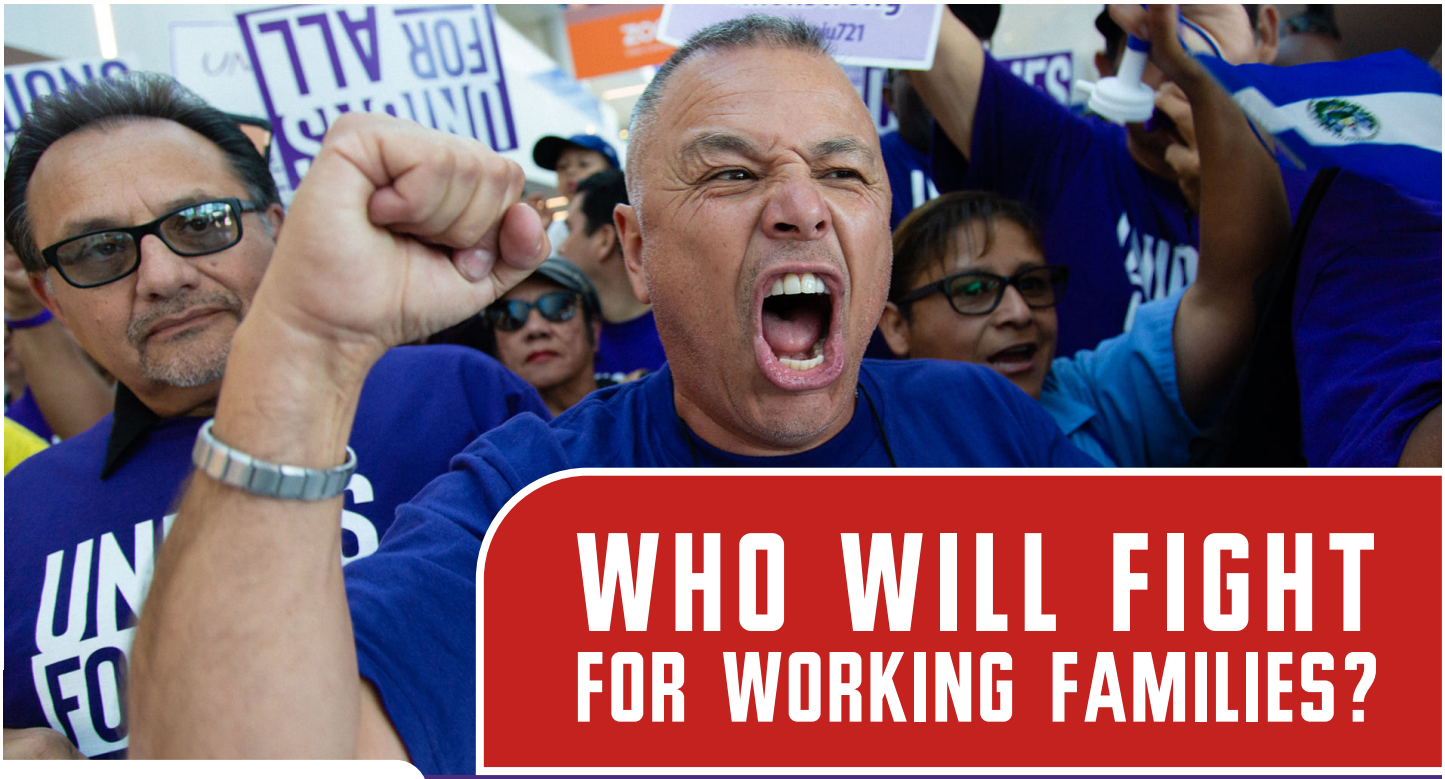
OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF SEIU 721



WHO WILL FIGHT FOR WORKING FAMILIES?

Joe Martinez and Ron Herrera at October 2 Unions for All March at LAX.

A MESSAGE FROM SEIU 721 PRESIDENT BOB SCHOONOVER

On the heels of our massive Unions for All action at LAX, SEIU 721 helped host SEIU's three-day Unions for All Presidential Summit in Los Angeles.

This Presidential Election is the most important in a generation, as working people confront nonstop corporate attacks on their wages, benefits and workplace rights. The summit was an opportunity for members and the media to hear from the Democratic challengers about their plans to increase the ability of working people to join unions.

What impressed me most was how SEIU members — not professional reporters — were able to pin down the candidates on specifics about how they would help working people. Our members got Kamala Harris talking about sectoral bargaining — negotiating across whole industries, instead of just single workplaces or companies. They got Cory Booker talking about criminal justice reform and reversing bad NLRB rulings. They got Elizabeth Warren talking about using federal contracting to raise wage standards and breaking up big predatory corporations. And they pinned down Joe Biden about union rights.

"We haven't seen your plan yet," Tseganesh Endegeshet, an Ethiopian immigrant working two jobs in Denver, told Biden.

The best way to find out which candidates will fight for workers is for workers to ask them directly.

Bob Schoonover

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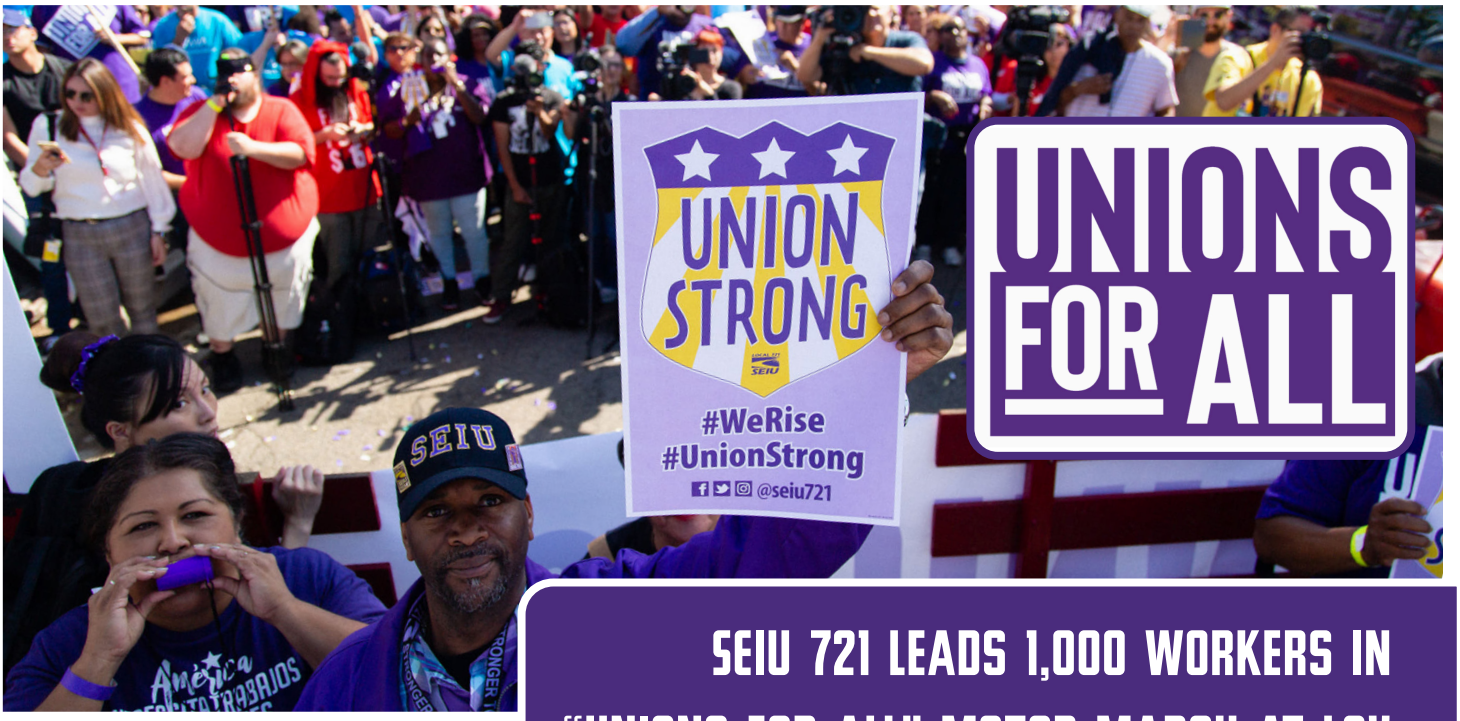

SEIU 721 LEADS 1,000 WORKERS IN "UNIONS FOR ALL" MOTOR MARCH AT LAX

SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry and SEIU 721 President Bob Schoonover lead massive LAX Motor March.

On Wednesday, October 2, more than 1,000 airport workers, Uber and Lyft drivers, SEIU 721 members, janitors, fast food workers, home care providers and child care providers kicked off SEIU's "Unions for All" movement by staging a massive rally directly outside of LAX. The action culminated in a huge march through the airport itself.

The morning rally was joined by a host of elected officials and well-known activists, including Senator Kamala Harris, a contender for President, and legendary civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

Rally participants marched to LAX, while Uber and Lyft drivers led a motor caravan through the World Way Loop in front of airline terminals.

LAX is a flashpoint for the "Unions For All" movement because, despite its importance as an economic engine for Southern California, the major corporations that run it — including airport management, the airlines and the service companies that support them — take advantage of their workers. These corporations frequently try to privatize public jobs, eliminate benefits for private workers and classify employees as independent contractors to evade wage and hours laws.

The October 2 action at LAX took place on the eve of the "Unions for All" Summit, where working people heard from most of the major Democratic presidential candidates where they stand on the "Unions for All" agenda.

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SEIU 721 AND MWA ACHIEVE $30-PER-HOUR IN L.A. FOR RIDESHARE DRIVERS

On October 15, hundreds of Mobile Workers Alliance members rallied at City Hall to demand a $30-an-hour living wage – $15 to cover expenses and $15 to live on. The motion, which instructs city staff to recommend how to draft a minimum wage for drivers, with a goal of $30/hour, passed unanimously.

After the historic vote, hundreds of MWA drivers led a motor march from Chinatown to a press conference, where they were joined by Pastor Cue of the Church Without Walls in Skid Row, Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo, a co-author of AB5, LA City Council President Herb Wesson, who introduced the motion for the $30/hour wage, El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero, who championed $30/hour in El Monte, and SEIU Local 721 President Bob Schoonover – along with drivers Armen Ogasyen, Manuel Ramos and Eduardo Belalcazar.

"Rideshare workers need a $30/hour living wage, because of the sheer amount of overhead costs that Uber and Lyft expect their drivers to bear – including fuel purchases, car maintenance and general wear-and-tear costs on their vehicles," said Bob Schoonover. "The only way for them to really move forward is through organizing and direct action. That's why our union is behind them."

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SEIU 721 members at Clinica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero won a strong new 3-year contract.

SEIU 721 CLINIC WORKERS AT OSCAR ROMERO WIN STRONG NEW CONTRACT

SEIU 721 members at Clinica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero scored a huge victory by ratifying a new 3-year contract that raises wages, improves health benefits, strengthens contract language and more!

Workers at the two Clinica sites won a strong new contract through union solidarity — purpling up, wearing stickers and attending unity actions. Workers voted overwhelmingly to ratify a contract that includes a 10% increase in base wages, improved reimbursements for health expenses and skills training.

Other highlights in this new contract include:

- Additional wage increase of 8% for all SUD positions (except for Child Care Provider) effective October 1, 2019.
- Additional 5% pay increase for all employees with more than 10-years' employment with Clinica and to wage scale after 10-years.
- Additional 2% pay increase for all employees with more than 20-years' employment with Clinica and creation of new 20-year step increase of 2% after 20-years.
- Stronger contract language re: security, bereavement leave and job descriptions.

"Congratulations to 721 clinic workers at Oscar Romero. Your solidarity delivered a big win."

Linda Dent
Vice President, SEIU 721

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SEIU NURSES AND HEALTH CARE WORKERS FIGHT FOR REFUGEE CARE AT THE BORDER

A coalition of SEIU nurses and health care workers traveled to San Diego on October 30 to protest mistreatment of refugees in detention centers at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Nurses and health care workers rallied to call attention to the refusal by the Trump Administration and the Border Patrol to provide basic care and flu shots to refugees in Border Patrol detention centers.

At least three immigrant children have died from influenza and other infections in the last several months while in Border Patrol custody.

"These children deserve a basic standard of care…and not to be treated like wild animals in cages," said SEIU 721 member Rosie Martinez. "We as health care workers need to stand up and demand that."

150 BRIGHT SPRING WORKERS IN INLAND AREA WIN THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

It's official: Nearly 150 Bright Spring workers in the Inland Area region have won the right to unionize! This huge victory is a testament to the workers who stood strong in the face of scare tactics from a hostile employer and refused to back down. It's been a long road to get to this point but this is just the beginning: now it's time for us to bargain for and win a strong contract that lifts up Bright Spring and ensures we can provide the quality of care our communities deserve!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2019

2019 SEIU 721 REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

SEIU 721's turf is massive, stretching from Santa Barbara all the way to Santa Ana. Regional Councils ensure that members in every service area have a strong voice in our union. Every three years, SEIU 721 holds Regional Council elections. The ballots have been counted and we have the results!

City of Santa Ana – SAF
Monica Suter

Ventura County – PRF
Rebecca Albarran

LA County BU 711 – Social Workers
Silva Kechichian

LA County BU 723 – Children's Social Workers
Linda Jackson

LA County BU 731 – Social Services Investigators
Marcos Alvarez and Tracy Boykins (two winners)

City of Los Angeles BU 18 – Safety and Security
Jenny Day

City of Los Angeles BU 04 – Equipment, Operation & Labor
Alfred Reed

The following members were nominated for seats on the Regional Council and ran uncontested. This means they did not have to stand for election and will be seated.

City of Santa Ana – SAPN
Renee Hernandez

Riverside County – Para
Cammie Sohm

Riverside County – Supervisory
Paula Searle

Ventura County – PSUP
Eleazer Aguiniga

Pleasant Valley Parks – DPV
Jesse Gomez

Gold Coast Transit – GCB
Wilson Munoz

Gold Coast Transit – Admin
Geraldine Navarette

Ventura Superior Court – ZBP
Rosa Castro

Tri Counties – PT
Prell McGee

LA County Sanitation Districts BU 500 – Blue Collar
Ruben Rios

LA County BU 111 – Clerical and Office Services
Ella Cotton, Carol Maxey-Ware and Ana Apodaca
(3 seats)

LA County BU 112 – Supervisory Clerical and Office
Lillian Cabral

LA County BU 121 – Administrative, Technical & Staff Services
Kelley Dixon and Lynnette Long (2 seats)

LA County BU 201 – Building Custodians
Morris Griffin

LA County BU 311 – Registered Nurses
Kelly Zhou

LA County BU 729 – Health Financial Support Services
Lydia Cabral

LA County BU 732 – Super. Social Services Investigators
Ruby Dye

LA Superior Court BU 860 – Legal Processing Unit
Matthew Torres

City of Los Angeles BU 8 – Professional Engineers and Scientists
Kesavan Korand

City of Los Angeles BU 15 – Service Employees
Sylvia Alvarado

City of Los Angeles BU 17 – Sup. Professional Engineers & Scientists
Christopher Trinidad

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The San Bernardino Bargaining Team reports significant movement at the bargaining table. After several recent bargaining sessions, the County has stepped up its economic proposal. However, our bargaining committee is still fighting for the best possible contract. To learn more, we encourage members to attend our upcoming meetings:

November 13, 6 p.m.
630 S. Arrowhead Avenue., Gate 10
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Nov. 19, 6 p.m.
Green Tree Inn, 14173 Green Tree Blvd.
Victorville, CA 92395

Purple up and sticker up to show your solidarity!

SAN BERNARDINO BARGAINING TEAM WINS MOVEMENT AT THE TABLE

VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT MEMBERS SCORE FLEX CREDIT WIN

Thanks to the efforts of the Ventura Courts bargaining team, members will get a few more dollars in our pockets for family essentials.

The bargaining team met with Superior Court negotiators for a re-opener on flex credit, which can be used for health care services and other items, like purchasing eyeglasses. The bargaining team was able to negotiate an increase from $460 in 2019 to $480 in 2020.

As health care costs increase, our union is looking for every possible way to help us take care of our families.

Polls show support for unions is growing in America. The road to the White House now includes walking a picket line and supporting **UNIONS FOR ALL.**

The Washington Post

"The hottest stop for candidates on the 2020 campaign trail? The picket line."

One thing was clear listening to the eight Democratic hopefuls who attended SEIU's Unions for All Summit in Los Angeles in October, sympathy for working people and support for unions is rising. All eight candidates who attended — Biden, Booker, Buttigieg, Castro, Harris, Klobuchar, O'Rourke (who has since dropped out) and Warren — pledged their support for workers' right to join unions.

Recent polls show public support for unions is at a 50-year high, and the road to the White House includes a mandatory walk on a picket line with striking workers.

Why are the leading candidates for President courting workers and their unions? Because we're organizing. When our union joins with exploited Uber and Lyft drivers, university adjunct professors and graduate students and clinic workers to help them win a voice in the workplace and a union, we draw attention to the plight of all working families and we raise standards that help all union members.

According to the *Washington Post*, all the attention from candidates "has helped turn the focus on the plight of workers and bring it into the center of the national political discussion."

But it only works if we keep organizing, hold their feet to the fire and win Unions For All.

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.