



SEIU Local 721
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RETIRED and ACTIVE SEIU LOCAL 721

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 6 NO. 1

SPRING 2025

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SEIU 721 Retirees Leadership Group Plans Activities for 2025

By Cora Jackson-Fossett

The Retirees Committee Leadership Group held a retreat Feb. 7 to strategize ways to fulfill their purpose to work with the Executive Board to preserve and strengthen the spirit of unionism among Local 721 active members and retirees.

Among the topics that the members reviewed were membership, budget, programs, health care, and communications. The chairs of each area outlined their vision and goals for 2025. Also, the group discussed ideas and suggestions to recruit members residing in the Inland Empire.

At the conclusion of the retreat, the Leadership Group agreed up several key actions to implement including defining duties of responsibilities of each committee chair, creating a template with deadlines for submissions to the Retiree newsletter, convening separate strategic planning and budget meetings, and conducting general membership surveys in April and October.



The Leadership Group includes, from left, Deborah Cotton Thomas, Joaquin Miramontes, Faith Duffey, Norm Johnson, Yolanda Toure, Myran Cotton, Frank Lee, and Cora Jackson-Fossett. Not pictured are Barbara Calhoun, Maria Bowsa, and Frank Villalpando.

In addition, a tentative annual calendar of events contained the following activities:

March 15 recruitment fair, field trip for members, presenting an APRI (A. Phillip

Randolph Institute) birthday/anniversary event, addressing food insecurity of members, organizing a clothing drive

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New Vice Chair of Retirees Committee Has Strong Union Background

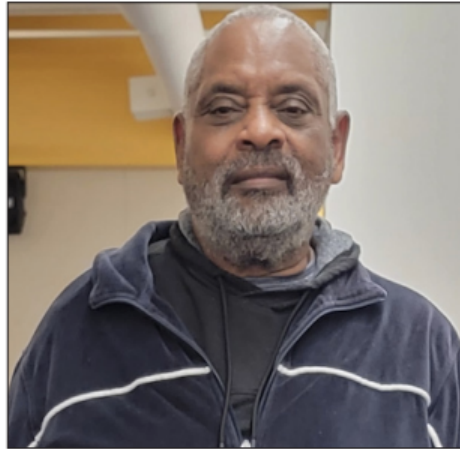
By Frank Lee

SEIU 721 Retirees Vice Chair

I began my career with the County of Los Angeles Probation Department in October 2007 as Head Senior Custodian Supervisor, holding this position for a little over four years. Subsequently, I was promoted to Contract Monitor within the Internal Services Department (ISD) and later advanced to Procurement Assistant I within the same department.

My union involvement commenced during my tenure as Head Custodian Supervisor. However, upon my promotion to Contract Monitor with ISD, I started training as a Union Steward under the mentorship of Ken Turner and became involved with the African American Caucus.

I was honored to serve on Bargaining Unit 112 for contract negotiations with



Frank Lee

Linda Dent, the first Black Vice President of Local 721, who encouraged me to join the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU). I currently serve as Executive Vice President of the Southern California Chapter of CBTU. Notably, SEIU721 has

three Vice Presidents, and one First Trustee position represented within our local.

Throughout my years of union involvement, I have diligently represented the interests of our members. As a Union Steward, I consistently prioritized our members and strived to represent them to the best of my ability, achieving approximately a 97% success rate in member representation cases.

In recognition of our dedication and contributions, Ella Cotton, another CBTU Vice President, and I were honored with Certificates of Recognition and Appreciation from President David Green and Vice President Simboa Wright of SEIU721 at our Juneteenth Celebration on June 22, 2024.

As the newly appointed Vice Chair of the Retiree Committee, I remain committed to serving our members and our union with unwavering dedication.

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for those less fortunate, and reinstituting observances such as Black History Month, Cinco de Mayo, Labor Day, Women's

History Month, Older Americans Month and Veterans Day.

The general membership meetings

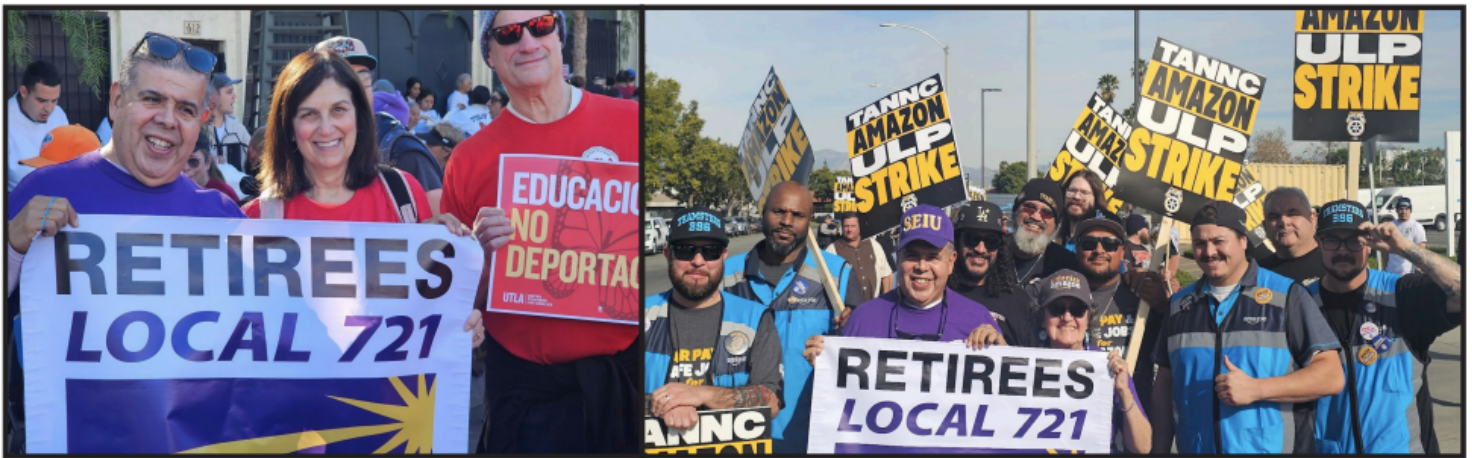
are held the second Tuesday of each month except December in the SEIU 721 headquarters and via Zoom.

RETIREES HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



SEIU 721 Vice President Simboa Wright (7th from left) and members of the Executive Board pose with some of the members of the Retirees Leadership Group at the Retirees Christmas Party held on December 21 at the Sheraton Hotel in Cerritos.

REPRESENTING SEIU 721 RETIREEES THROUGHOUT L.A. COUNTY



Joaquin Miramontes, Retirees Committee Membership Chair, supported UTLA and Amazon workers.

RETIREEES ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING



From left are Teresa Velasco and Myran Cotton, SEIU Retirees, and Teresa and Gloria Aguilar.

2025 BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION

