



Executive Board Officers (Term 2013-2016) at Executive Board Retreat in Wonder Valley

*We're all in
this together!*



Santa Clara County IHSS Workers Action at County Government Center



Santa Clara County – Community First Campaign



San Benito County Workers

2013

SEIU 521

YEAR IN REVIEW



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SEIU LOCAL 521 – 2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

2013

was the year we returned to our roots and reminded ourselves and the public that we all win when we put Community First. As the economy slowly recovers, SEIU Local 521 members find our influence is continuing to expand in the regions where we live and work. Our tactics are as diverse and creative as our membership, from organizing free health fairs to promoting the Affordable Care Act, to fasting for commonsense immigration reform so that all families may live with dignity.

Whether our communities are coming together to “Invest in Fresno” or put “Community First” in Santa

Clara and Kern County, the fact is that Local 521 members have always put Community First through our work, schools, churches and extracurricular volunteer work.

We’re all in this together is our union’s effort to win good jobs and build strong communities. Public workers are uniting with the communities we serve to fight for a broader agenda that improves the lives of working people.

As SEIU Local 521 Chief Elected Officer Luisa Blue wrote in a column published in the *San Jose Mercury News*: “More than a slogan, [Community First] is a principle that will continue to drive what we do.”

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CHAPTER WORKERS LAUNCH “COMMUNITY FIRST” CAMPAIGN

After years of cuts to valuable public services, many communities started to turn the corner in 2013. Santa Clara County workers used the opportunity of contract negotiations to call on the county to endorse the vision of Community First Santa Clara. This vision includes investing in quality public services, accountable government and a cutting edge workforce.



Veronica Frausto (left), Administrative Assistant (Santa Clara County Chapter) and Rosalinda Nunez (right), Eligibility Worker (Santa Clara County Chapter)

Working with community partners such as Sacred Heart Community Service and the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits, Local 521 members staged successful press events to highlight core community needs,

from strengthening the public healthcare safety net to ensuring adequate staffing for 911 dispatchers. We won a fair contract that prioritizes front-line services, a five percent salary increase over two years and the creation of unit-based team decision-making that includes workers’ input in making healthcare reform successful.

“The backpacks we helped to donate are just the first step. We want to ensure the best quality services for our children and families. We need the county to invest in our community by providing quality public services, such as childhood nutrition, health care, counseling, transportation and community safety.”

– Mirta Mirabal, Child Support Officer (Santa Clara County Chapter)



Pablo Amarillas, Roads Maintenance Worker II (Santa Clara County Chapter)



We're all in this together!

GET COVERED CALIFORNIA NOW

The 2.1 million members of SEIU have been fighting for decades to ensure that everyone has access to quality, affordable healthcare. We fought hard to get the Affordable Care Act passed, and we are still fighting hard to protect and fix the law.

SEIU Local 521 is working with Covered California to reach low-income or uninsured populations who could benefit from the

Affordable Care Act. We are one of only 15 groups to receive a \$1 million grant to conduct community outreach about the availability of affordable health insurance options through Covered California.

From hosting free health fairs to reaching people at home for one-on-one phone conversations, SEIU Local 521 is making sure the promise of Health Care Reform reaches everyone.



Know someone who needs quality, affordable health insurance? Tell them to get covered!

www.getcoverednowca.com



COMMONSENSE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Local 521 members took a stand for Commonsense Immigration Reform by rallying, marching and keeping pressure on elected leaders throughout our region, including Fresno, Bakersfield and Salinas. We have partnered with dozens of organizations from the Dolores Huerta Foundation to the Chamber of Commerce, and participated in statewide and national coalitions as well. People across the country are watching the work we've done at SEIU Local 521.

Workers declared that we deserve an immigration system that benefits our economy, reflects our values and makes sense.

MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA

Across SEIU Local 521, we rocked the media and generated hundreds of articles and newscasts highlighting the importance of how our communities must be cooperative instead of combative. Our member leaders stood up and had their voices amplified both locally and across

the country. By working closely with the media to talk about the importance of putting Community First, we've started to shift public opinion.

The media is beginning to repeat the idea that we're all in this together on television and in opinion pieces in newspapers. This is thanks to the courage of our member leaders who are willing to take the stage.



City of Palo Alto Chapter Member Margaret Adkins—KPIX News Interview

SEIU LOCAL 521 – 2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

MONTEREY COUNTY RATIFIES CONTRACT THAT PUTS COMMUNITY FIRST



Monterey County Workers took a strong stand for quality services by holding various actions calling for the county to invest in the community. The new contract ratified on Oct. 25 is a good step towards recovery for Monterey County.

MEMBERS RATIFY CONTRACT WITH MAOF

After more than four years of contract negotiations and federal mediation in an effort to reach an agreement, SEIU Local 521 members of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF) reached an agreement on Sept. 15. This was a huge victory for workers who fought for affordable health care benefits and to protect their rights on the job.



FASTA MEMBERS HOST A GLOVE DRIVE

The Fresno Area Substitute Teachers Association held a glove drive for local students for the second year in a row. This year they collected 2,700 pairs of gloves for low-income kids with donations from some of the caucuses and other organizations. Chapter President Sergio Garcia was thrilled to be part of the drive. *"The members of FASTA and all of SEIU Local 521 in Fresno really came through for these kids. When we go all in together, we can do amazing things."*



We're all in this together!

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WORKERS RATIFY CONTRACT THAT REINVESTS IN THE COMMUNITY

After four months of bargaining, Santa Cruz County workers ratified a three-year agreement with the county on Sept. 12 that recognizes the sacrifices that workers have made in the past five years during the recession and starts the process of reinvesting in the community.



HMONG CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Hundreds of community members turned out to the Fresno Hmong Coalition forum in August at the Fresno County Fairgrounds, sponsored by SEIU Local 521. The event addressed civic engagement issues including the Affordable Care Act, voter registration and immigration reform.

NMC MEDICAL CENTER WINS FIRST COUNTY TRAUMA CENTER

Each day Local 521 members at Natividad Medical Center (NMC) answer the call to provide quality health care and emergency services to Monterey County residents.

Their hard work paid off. NMC earned the coveted designation as Monterey County's first trauma center on Oct. 1.

This means that instead of airlifting patients to a San Francisco Bay Area trauma center many miles away, NMC is treating the area's most seriously injured people when every second counts.

Congratulations, Natividad Medical Center!



Pat Butcher, Supervising RN, celebrates Natividad Medical Center earning the coveted Level II trauma status with hospital CEO Harry Weis on Oct. 1.

“This is an exciting time for Monterey County residents and we look forward to continue working with the county and Natividad Medical Center in making sure we are prepared with a sustainable plan.”

– Pat Butcher, Supervising RN (Natividad Medical Center)

SEIU LOCAL 521 – 2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

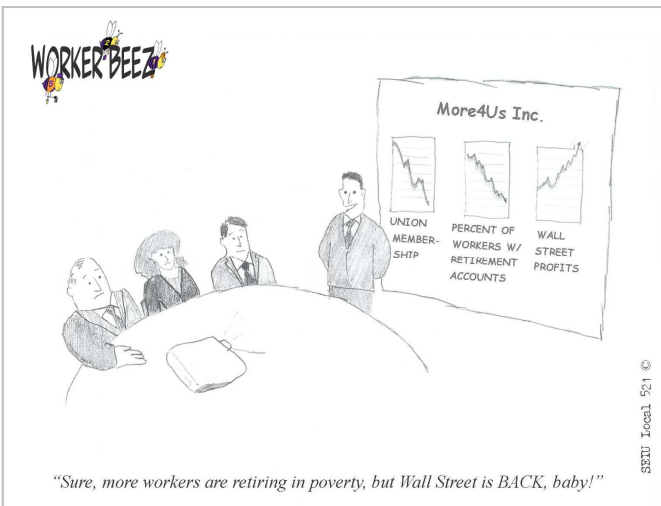
SAN BENITO COUNTY WORKERS CONTINUE TO STAND STRONG FOR THEIR COMMUNITY

San Benito County workers have been fighting hard for a fair contract that protects retirement security and health care rates. Workers voted unanimously to reject the county's offer of devastating cuts on Oct. 8. It's time to find responsible ways to fix the budget that will help the San Benito community, not further harm the services county workers provide.



RETIREMENT SECURITY FOR ALL

Retirement security is one of the most important issues that working people face and SEIU Local 521 members have been strong advocates of retirement security for all.



This year we continued to push to make the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program a reality by helping SEIU Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker get a position on the board. The program will offer an estimated 6.3 million private-sector workers who have no retirement plans at work the opportunity to build secure retirement savings.

Local 521 members also helped re-elect two staunch supporters to the CalPERS board, **JJ Jelincic** and **Michael Bilbrey**. The CalPERS retirement program is one of the best in the country, thanks in part to the strong leadership that we've worked so hard to elect.

Join the SEIU Local 521 Pension Committee today!
www.seiu521.org/pension-committee/

STANDING UP FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS

2013 saw Local 521 members standing strong against unfair disciplines and wrongful terminations. With the assistance of our Contract Enforcement Department, union stewards opened more than **1,400 cases** to defend workers' rights against bad managers.

Our strong contracts helped us win hundreds of grievances and wrongful disciplines totaling **\$755,000** in settlements.

“Most people don't realize that workers have these rights. I am so thankful for the support from my union brothers and sisters and the co-workers on my shift. Because of them, management realized they didn't have a case and backed down.”

– **Rosalin Remollo**, Environmental Services Aide (Natividad Medical Center Chapter)





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VICTORY IN THE VALLEY

After five months of bargaining, 450 SEIU Local 521 members at Golden Valley Health Centers in the Central Valley prevailed and won a better contract.

With intense support from the membership and the community, we were able to get better working conditions so our members, who make a huge difference in the community, could continue that work. We jammed the board room past the limit the Fire Marshall allows. After several rallies that were so massive that the Board of Directors had to block additional members from entering the chambers, our voices were heard. In April, when over 150 of workers showed up to participate in a "soup line," the Board finally relented.



We approved the contract with a 92 percent YES vote and, most importantly, we'll continue to have the most qualified staff to serve the parts of the community that need it most.

PUBLIC CEMETERY DISTRICT WIN

Public Cemetery District #1 in Kern County reached a new contract that includes a guaranteed 12 percent raise over four years. There are only two members represented in this unit, but they're part of the SEIU family and the victory they won is a big win for all of us.

Said **Denny Carendar**, a groundsman at the District: *"Since we would have to begin paying our retirement contribution after many years, we are very happy with the settlement. We also appreciate how Cemetery management and the Board have worked with us over the years."*



INVEST IN FRESNO

Invest in Fresno is building community support! Members in Fresno County have been partnering with local businesses to support a better contract for county workers. After the county unilaterally cut everyone's pay by nine percent and then exempted management from the cuts, the community was galvanized and our coalition started coming together.

Businesses and community members and the media have realized that SEIU Local 521 members drive the local economy and that the success of our economy is predicated on high quality public services. We're still building this coalition, but we're gaining allies in the community and gaining support.

Let's Invest in Fresno!





SEIU Local 521 Retired Chapter Annual Holiday Luncheon—Lifetime Members being recognized.



State Sen. Bill Monning kicked off the Covered California health fair in Monterey County on Oct. 2.



Latino Caucus and Women's Caucus in Fresno joined community organizations, packaging 10,000 dehydrated meals to use in crisis situations around the world.



SEIU Local 521 Retired Chapter Annual Holiday Luncheon—Santa Claus (Bob Sigala), Retired Member and Barbara Williams, Retired Member



Santa Clara County In-Home Supportive Services Workers at Board of Supervisors Meeting



2013 Executive Board Retreat in Wonder Valley