

**SEIU LOCAL 521
AFRAM Fresno Caucus
ACTIVITY REPORT
April 2014 – June 2014**

AFRAM Central Valley (CV) was finally able to be titled AFRAM Fresno effective April.

AFRAM Fresno kept up meeting monthly meetings, SEJ meetings and Budget & Finance and Executive board meetings for April – June 2014

AFRAM Fresno has been displaying their new banner in the Unity Hall in Fresno's Local 521 office with a sign out/in when taken from the Hall.

AFRAM Fresno members and leadership participated in the phone banking and precinct walking for Blong Xiong for the month of April and May.

AFRAM Fresno also attended the Voices of the People Awards Dinner in Los Angeles, Ca at California African-American Museum on Friday April 25, 2014. At the dinner they awarded Congresswoman Maxine Waters; Assembly Member Reginald Jones-Sawyer; Linda Dent SEIU 721 Vice President; Dr Maulana Karenga CSULB Chair & Professor of African American Studies and Dominique DiPrima, KJLA Radio Talk host, The Front Page.

AFRAM Fresno Leadership attended their 1st Western Region African-American Caucus (WRAAC) Summit held in Los Angeles, Ca at the Los Angeles Trade Technical College on April 25-27, 2014 which was titled "The State of Blacks in America: Labor and Community Challenges and Successes". They had special guest, Patricia Ford, former SEIU International Vice President. Their Keynote Speakers were: Bill Fletcher Jr on Saturday April 26, 2014 and Julianne Malveaux on Sunday April 27, 2014. Paneled discussions were: The State of the Black worker; Impact of the Criminal Justice system, on Education, Jobs and Community (My Brother's Keeper); How Politics work; Changing Dynamics: Black, Latino, Asian and Native American, critical and common issues, creating unity amongst all people of color; and Accepting the Mantle.

AFRAM Fresno participated in the NAMI Walk May 10, 2014. We donated \$250. Arvelia and her son Adonis did the 3.5 mile walk at Woodward Park and enjoyed the festivities that followed afterwards.

AFRAM Fresno hosted their 6th Annual Juneteenth on June 7, 2014. A total of 33 attended this event. We had a Face Painter: Ayanna Merez who stood in for Akilah Medina; Praise Dancer: Chrystal Hale; Meaning of Juneteenth: Arvelia Via; Rogenia Cox introduced our Keynote Speaker: Daren Miller (he received a Purple Member t-shirt in a purple bag); Essay winners who wrote on Martin Luther King Jr: 1st place Athena Silvas (present), 2nd place Christian Saenz (present) and 3rd place Renisha Muhar (not present). We gave 3 \$10 Starbucks gift cards: Oldest person attended – Mr Silvas (72 yrs old), Youngest person attended – Athena & Laylah Patterson (5 months old – Ebony Fitch mom) & Farthest visitor attended (Selma) – Solomon & Bella Barela. We also did a 50/50 raffle. Total tickets purchased for the raffle was \$80 and the winner of the \$40 was Patricia Strattman-Clay. We raffled off Purple SEIU stuff by answering questions about Juneteenth History: Christian Saenz (4/15 questions correct), Noah Saenz, & a family tie of how many people attended in the same family: Silvas (7 people) and the Hales (7 people). Kid raffles: Athena Silvas, Christian Saenz, Malia and CJ Hale. 2nd Annual T-shirt raffle won by: Lynda Fitch. Food was provided by Herman Tatum, Jr and Peach Cobbler was provided by Ovonder Tatum.

AFRAM Fresno is working on building relationships with other California Caucuses and other AFRAMs to be developed in California so that we can support one another.

AFRAM Fresno is working on doing road trips to further our awareness and sponsor a positive Community-oriented reputation and also to be a fundraiser to increase our opportunities to work our Community.

AFRAM Fresno will be working on attending the Western AFRAM meetings with San Jose AFRAM so that we can continue on building a strong relationship among our brothers and sisters in the Western Region. To also develop our Leadership skills by working with our International/National AFRAM for membership, Immigration Reform and a fair budget with great health coverage.

AFRAM Fresno will be purchasing SEIU materials to use in meetings and events as gifts and to raffle off.