

**SEIU LOCAL 521
AFRAM Fresno Caucus
ACTIVITY REPORT
April 2015 – June 2015**

AFRAM Fresno kept up meeting monthly meetings, SEJ meetings and Budget & Finance and Executive board meetings for April – June 2015.

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/to the Hall.

AFRAM Fresno members (3 of) and leadership (2 of) participated in the 2015 National Leadership Conference - National AFRAM convention of April 17-19, 2015 in Detroit, MI at the Westin hotel at the Detroit Airport. The theme this year: Building a Sustainable Movement, not a Moment. Western Region had an election for 2yr term: 2015-2017. Marilyn De Rouen of San Jose is the Secretary, Arvelia Via Cooper-Whigham is one of the 9 Vice President vacant seats and Alysia Bonner is the Sergeant of Arms. San Jose and Fresno will be working on attending the Western AFRAM meeting being held in San Francisco so that we can continue on building a strong relationship among our brothers and sisters in the Western Region. This will also help develop our Leadership skills by working with our International/National/Western AFRAM for building our membership, Immigration Reform and a fair budget with great health coverage for the USA-wide.

AFRAM Fresno wasn't able to physically participate in the NAMI Walk May 23, 2015. We donated \$200. There was the 1.5, 3.5 & 5mile walk at Woodward Park and enjoyed the festivities that followed afterwards.

AFRAM Fresno president Arvelia Via attended her 1st WRAAC teleconference meeting on May 28, 2015. We discussed getting organized and working on our Bylaws of 2009. Our next meeting was June 9, 2015, we had a short schedule teleconference meeting; we're working on everyone to submit their schedules to the secretary and president for getting a regular schedule meeting date and time.

AFRAM Fresno hosted their 7th Annual Juneteenth on June 6, 2015. A total of 67 attended this event. Our theme this year: Our Ancestors' Politics are Still Our Politics. Our music was provided by DJ Sound (Solomon & Bella Barela). We had a Face Painter: Ayanna Merez who is part of Art Is Fun; Praise Dancers: Chrystal Hale & Leona Holley; Hostess of Juneteenth: Arvelia Via; our Keynote Speaker: Maureen Moore, retired Teacher & Principal of FUSD. We raffled off: 4 \$10 Starbucks gift cards; \$25 Regal Cinema gift card; \$25 Arco Gas gift card; \$15 Subway gift card; we also did

a 50/50 raffle. Total tickets purchased for the raffle was \$106 and the winner of the \$55 was Makayla Dale. We raffled off 9 Purple SEIU stuff and assorted toys gift bags by answering questions about Juneteenth History. Meats (spare ribs, trip tip and baked/bbq chicken) were provided by The Fire Pit of Fresno, CA and the sides and deserts were provided by leadership and members as a potluck. AFRAM Fresno provided the drinks: Lemonade, Fruit Punch and water; Fruit, Crackers & Vegetable trays as appetizers; a large sheet cake for 150th Juneteenth Celebration.

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 working on a fundraiser to increase our opportunities to work within our Community.

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