

## Kings County Superior Courts Chapter

# Chapter Newsletter

March 2016

## SEIU State Council Meeting

On February 6, 2106 employees from Kings Superior Courts attended the Court State Industry Council meeting in Sacramento. The meeting was to bring employees from all 58 trial courts and begin planning on how we continue to fight for court employee's jobs, while maintaining access to justice for the public, going into 2016.

### *Most pressing topics?*

First, the State Budget. The Council came together to explore ideas on how we can hold the Governor, as well as the Legislature, to maintaining its commitment to return funding to the courts.

There were also discussions on exploring ways to convince the Judicial Council to work closer with employees and their unions, so that we can meet the demand by the Governor to implement new technology in a smarter way, all the while maintaining the human factor. We want to pushback against the notion that "applied technology equals increased efficiency". All of us who are using Odyssey know this is a myth.



Next, there are the rumors of the Judicial Committee's plans to form a statewide or regional court system. This would take away local control from the trial courts. **Why is this a concern?** Think of the new courthouse. It's an example of what happens when someone who doesn't understand or maybe doesn't care about local trial court issues, then disregards local input on necessities. Now imagine that mentality permeating through every aspect of your work!

It was remarkable seeing so many different court employees around the state coming together and discussing the challenges that we all face every day. More importantly, Kings Superior's voice was at the table helping to chart our course into the future!

**This is just the beginning, there is more to come!**



101 N. Irwin Street, Suite 203  
Hanford, California 93230  
PHONE (559) 587-1521  
FAX (559) 587-1524



We're on the Web!  
[www.seiu521.org](http://www.seiu521.org)



**TODAY**  
Is a New Day  
I Choose to Lead  
I Protect My Family's Future  
I Own My Power  
I AM UNION STRONG

# Labor-Management Committee (LMC) Meeting Update



## SECURITY! It's a Pain

The team brought your concerns regarding inconsistency of practice, concerns of being held up in line and how that will affect employees getting to work on time.

### **Regarding screening inconsistency**

Employees had concerns that they were being unfairly asked to remove their jackets while, management was not. Management was asked directly whether or not they were getting preferential treatment and the answer was a resounding no. They committed to making sure that if this is occurring that they would make sure that it was immediately taken care of and that they would be working with security to make sure consistency is maintained going forward.

Employees also voiced concerns regarding what the practices will be entering the new courthouse. The understanding is that in the morning there will be an employee only line until 8am. After that, the line will then be used by the general public, and any employees arriving after that time will be screened with the public.

Incidents in which employees are slowed because of security issues (i.e. someone bringing contraband) and are then late, will be reviewed

on a case by

case basis. I have assurances by HR that common sense will be followed.

Note: There is a process to discipline to be followed. We protect that process. If you feel you are being unjustly disciplined, contact your Union Rep and/or shop steward!

## Budget Update

HR says that at this time, the budget is "fairly stable". The move is slightly under projection at this time, but final numbers will not be determined until completed. The Court is exploring the idea of unfinished spaces as storage to assist with cost.

Odyssey(!) is holding up collections of traffic fines as we all know, but 10 day collection notices should begin going out again soon and this is expected to bring in revenues.

## New Court Grand Opening

It was made clear to management about the employee's displeasure at the idea that they were not invited to the Court Grand Opening.

All points were covered, from how demoralizing it is for employees, to how it shows an underappreciation for employee's work, and that we frankly thought it was nonsense.

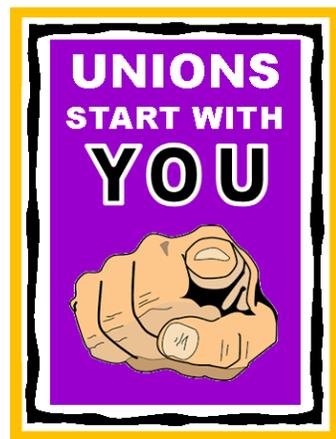
Management did state they were also not invited, and so they could

*Personal Note From Your Union Representative Courtney Hawkins*

Your CEO is often referred to in conversations as a "military man". Any good military man recognizes the importance of maintaining the morale of the troops.

In Closing, no date for the next LMC meeting, but membership will be informed as soon as one is set. We will hold another session to get employee concerns on the agenda, as we did this time.

Thank you all for your continued engagement with YOUR union!



## Stay Informed! Stay Involved! Stronger Together!



Chapter Updates  
[www.seiu521.org](http://www.seiu521.org)  
then go to "MY WORKPLACE" to  
select your region and chapter



Sign up for email and text updates:  
<http://521.seiu.org/521SMS>



Or follow us on...  
[facebook.com/seiu521](https://facebook.com/seiu521)