

**SEIU LOCAL 521**  
**SOCIAL ECONOMIC JUSTICE (SEJ) committee**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**NOVEMBER 14, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER:** meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Arvelia Via Cooper-Whigham after technical difficulties regarding the video conference call was resolved. Those in attendance in San Jose and Bakersfield called-in.

**Bakersfield:** Keniesha Edwards

**San Jose:** Rachel Subega, Rachel Welch, Karen Nakatani, Ethel Jackson, Ramona Romandia, Carmela DiSopa and Marilyn DeRouen.

**Fresno:** Sergio Garcia, Raquel Garcia (guest), Maria Luisa Gutierrez (guest), Lorenzo Lambaren, Joy Hall-Villareal, Solomon Barela (guest), Bella Barela, Arvelia Via Cooper-Whigham, Adonis Whigham (guest), Alysia Conner, Gwen Wilson (guest), Jennifer Jensen, Maya Daugherty (staff).

Meeting was then turned over to Chair Alysia Bonner.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** tabled to next meeting.

**OPEN FORUM:**

December 12, 2016 Holiday Meeting: Jennifer Jensen asked if this year, as in years past, if the meeting will be having a holiday dinner. Chair Bonner stated that the SEJ Committee has ordered a holiday dinner from Boston Market in San Jose office and Fresno. Chair Bonner stated that it is budgeted. Chair Bonner asked Rachel Subega to get a head count in San Jose and let Kelly West know so the appropriate amount of food can be ordered.

Missed SEJ Attendance: Ethel Jackson shared that she was not able to attend the SEJ Summit in Fresno due to surgery on her foot.

End Of The Year Caucus Event: the end of the year all caucus event has tentatively been scheduled for Saturday, December 17, 2016 from 5:30P.M. – 8:30P.M. Chair Bonner shared that the Unity Hall in Fresno has been reserved, the D.J. and Santa Claus have also been scheduled. Chair Bonner extended an invitation to all to attend. She stated that there could possibly be money in the budget to rent a car. Jennifer Jensen made a motion to form a planning committee for the end Of The Year Caucus Event. Seconded by Arvelia Via Cooper Whigham. No further discussion. Vote taken. Motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Lambaren reported that as of October 31, 2016 Caucus Financial Statement there is \$3,647.13. There is pending food authorization for November 14, 2016 meeting. Treasurer Lambaren is not sure, at this point, if there are any other outstanding authorizations.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Budgeted Items: none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**SEJ BUDGET – 2017:** Chair Bonner reported that the SEJ/Caucus Budgets have been submitted to Budget and Finance Committee. This budgets will be reviewed at the Budget and Finance Committee on Wednesday, November 16, 2016. When approved by Budget and Finance Committee will then be submitted to Executive Board for approval at the December 3, 2016 meeting.

**Caucus Reports – Executive Board:** all caucuses were reminded to submit their reports for Executive Board.

**Donation Requests:**

End Of The Year Caucus Event: Lorenzo Lambaren requested up to \$1,000 for the event. Seconded by Arvelia Via Cooper-Whigham. No further discussion. Vote taken. Motion passed as presented.

APALA - Fresno Coat Drive: Bella Barela made a motion to donate \$300 to the APALA – Fresno Coat Drive for underprivileged students at two I. Bella Barela then amended the motion to \$500. Seconded by Arvelia Via Cooper-Whigham. No further discussion. Vote taken .Motion passed as amended.

FASTA Annual Glove Drive: Sergio Garcia made a motion for a donation of \$500 to the FASTA Annual Glove Drive for underprivileged students. Seconded by Jennifer Jensen. No further discussion. Vote taken. Motion passed as presented with one abstention.

Juvenile Justice Campus Supply Drive: Jennifer Jensen made a motion to donate \$200 To the Juvenile Justice Campus Supply Drive for the children incarcerated at JJC. The supplies include Pee-Chee folders, composition books, binder paper, envelopes and stamps. Seconded by Arvelia Via Cooper-Whigham. The only discussion was whether there was enough money in the budget to fund all of the donation requests. Chair Bonner stated there was. No further discussion or questions. Vote taken. Motion passed as presented with one abstention.

#### **Caucus Reports:**

##### **AFRAM**

San Jose: Marilyn DeRouen reported that her and Pat are at the Coalition of Labor Union Women Conference in Las Vegas. She stated that there is a resolution to stop criminalizing of people of color. Marilyn stated that it appears there is no resolution from SEIU. Marilyn stated that she is going to be bringing the information back. Stated that there is going to be convening of November 13, 2016 on Black Children in schools in San Jose and Santa Clara County.

Fresno: Arvelia Via Cooper Whigham reported the Caucus met last Thursday. They voted no to have a December meeting. Made several donations.

##### **APALA**

San Jose: Carmela DiSopa reported that members attended the SEJ Summit. They Also had an emergency meeting to change their meeting date. It will now be the third Saturday of the month.

Fresno: Bela Barela reported that the Caucus held its Harvest Fest the past Saturday. They also participated in The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, had a fund raising bus trip and the Caucus Summit.

##### **LATINO**

San Jose: Rachel Subega reported that the Caucus along with several other Caucus's and members attended the Veteran's Day Parade.

Fresno: Lorenzo Lambaren reported the Caucus had been very busy including attending the Fresno Aids Walk, participating in Citizenship Workshops, GOTV as well as making the end of the year donations

**WOMEN'S:** Jennifer Jensen reported that the Caucus has been busy updating the by-laws and as well as attending the Summit.

**PWD:** Arvelia Via Cooper-Whigham reported the Caucus had the first meeting November 9, 2016. The Board was elected, the meeting dates for 2017 were established and donations authorized.

**NATIVE American:** Joy Hall-Villareal stated that the Caucus had not met last month. There was an event planned on November 19, 2016 for Native American History Month but was postponed until November, 2017.

**Lavender Caucus:** Lorenzo Lambaren, a member of the Lavender Caucus, requested, in The absence of a chair and other Caucus leadership, \$1,000 be donated for World Aids Day on December 1, 2016. Seconded by Jennifer Jensen, also a member. No

discussion. Vote taken. Motion passed as presented.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Jennifer Jensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28P.M. Seconded by Bela Barela. No discussion. Vote taken. Motion passed as presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Jensen".

Jennifer Jensen  
Social Economic Justice (SEJ) Committee  
Secretary