



2011: Fighting Back

In addition to fighting back takeaways at the bargaining table in many of our local's chapters, 2011 saw SEIU Local 521 members stand side by side with the 99% to fight back against an unjust economy, attacks on the middle class, unemployment, and cuts to our retirement security.

Here are the Top 10 things SEIU 521 members accomplished in 2011!

1. **WE** successfully lobbied CalPERS, one of the largest investors in the world, to pump \$800 million into infrastructure investments in California. If invested prudently, even a small allocation of CalPERS's \$230 billion in assets could create tens of thousands of jobs in California. 521 members told CalPERS trustees this in September and the board listened!
2. **WE** trained nearly 650 members to be stewards who now have skills and resources to help workers navigate the worksite and know their rights.
3. **WE** held our first telephone town hall in December, with more than 14,000 members participating to hear about critical campaigns in 2012, such as passing a tax initiative to bring more funding to public services.
4. **WE** helped push for legislation (AB 646) that, as of Jan. 2012, adds a required fact-finding step before allowing the imposition of a last, best and final offer.
5. **WE** held the judicial system to accountability and transparency. 521 court workers joined others statewide to press for legislation that would rein in a bloated top-heaving court bureaucracy.
6. **WE** spoke up for smart pension reform and retirement security before state legislators in Sacramento.
7. **WE** won \$4.67 million for members in cases involving arbitrations, grievances, and disciplinary actions/suspensions/terminations in 2011.
8. **WE** demanded that with state unemployment topping 12 percent, Congress stop playing politics and start creating jobs. At Jobs Town Halls in August, members addressed congressional representatives in Salinas, San Mateo, San Jose, Fresno and Visalia.
9. **WE** elected more than 100 delegates who gathered for SEIU 521's first Biennial Convention in October, a forum for union member leaders to review and assess the union's future work. Feedback from this convention is instrumental in the development of the localwide plan for 2012/13.
10. **WE** stood in April with Wisconsin workers who saw their collective bargaining rights stripped by an anti-union governor. And then in November, joined in the *National Day of Action* to say, "We are the 99%!"



521 Pension Committee members Rachel Grocha-Welch and Bob Sigala attend pension reform hearing in December. We also helped elect Michael Bilbrey to the CalPERS Board of Administration.



SEIU 521 retiree member Karen Lemes urges Rep. Honda to create jobs and protect services during one of the many town halls held in August.



2012: Forging Ahead

Why this year is so critical:

- ◆ Our education and public services are at risk. **We must** pass a revenue initiative in November that will fund education and public safety to make California strong again.
- ◆ Our retirement security is at risk. **We must** reform pension smartly so that all working Americans can retire with dignity.
- ◆ Our voice is at risk. The wealthy 1% is attacking union members' political voice. **We must** defeat a bogus initiative that aims to silence the voices of the majority.

SEIU 25TH International Convention



Denver, Colorado ■ May 28-30, 2012 ■ Service Employees International Union, CTW-CLC

Become a delegate and help shape your future!

The SEIU International Convention, held every four years, is the highest governing body of our union. Delegates representing every SEIU member must approve all decisions, policies and programs of the union and will meet to do this work together in Denver, Colorado, over the Memorial Day weekend.

Our local will hold elections for our delegate seats during the time period of April 2-18. The nomination period will begin March 9 and close March 26.

Beginning March 15 the election calendar will be posted on the Local 521 website (www.seiu521.org), will be emailed to members with an email address on file, will be posted in all Local 521 offices and published in March chapter newsletters.



"This is the first time the International Board has rank and file members from across the U.S. participating in organizing the event. I'm very excited to be a part of a diverse team, contribute my input, plus I have the opportunity to meet other rank and file members from other states."

– Veronica Rodriguez, Employment and Training Specialist (Santa Cruz County)

Veronica was selected from the elected representatives of the Member Leadership Action Committee (MLAC) to be on the Design Team assisting in organizing the convention.

Things You Should Know

- ◆ Convention days are May 28, 29 and 30 with travel days on May 27 and May 31. Local 521 will pay for lodging, travel and food costs, but not for any time lost from work.
- ◆ On March 3, Local 521's Executive Board approved the final number of delegates to represent the local at the convention. The 48 delegate spots may be filled by active members as well as retired members who are full dues payers in good standing.
- ◆ Elected delegates may attend an optional training/ orientation meeting prior to the convention; April 28 in Los Angeles or April 30 in Oakland, as well as an evening meeting in May with all Local 521 delegates, by video conference; from the regional offices in the local.



- ◆ Visit your chapter web page frequently: www.seiu521.org
- ◆ Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SEIU521
- ◆ Or, simply text 521 to 787753 to subscribe to text alerts. (Standard text messages rates may apply.)