SEIU 521 Kern County Chapter Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2012

Present: Regina Kane – President
Sonja Bennett – Secretary/Treasurer
Blanca Anderson – Unit 1 (Supervisor)
John Louden – Unit 5 (Administrative)
Jean Hughes-Guitierrez – Vice President
Imelda Ceja- Butciewicz – COPE Rep
Carmen Morales – Unit 2 (Professional)
Herman Williams – Supervisor District 5

Absent: Nora Salinas – Unit 4 (Clerical)
Janet Johnson – Supervisor District 2

Absent/Excused/Illness: Wayne Caldwell – Supervisor District 4

Unfilled: Supervisor Districts 1 and 3; Units 3 (Technical), and 6 (Trades)

Members in attendance: Donnie Carr, Gail Lancaster, Michelle Whitaker, Jill Phillips

Ernest Harris was in attendance.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Carmen Morales was appointed as Unit 2 – Professional Representative, until elections are held.

Jean Hughes brought up the issue of employee grievances and that findings were never substantiated by the investigation. It was discussed that the request should be addressed to the County EEOC officer and request information for both 2010 and 2011. Information that should be requested should be the total number of EEOC claims and request the number be broken down further as to the number of claims filed by SEIU members, claims filed by members of all other County unions, and claims filed by all others. The request should also include comparison to the counties of comparison that is used for salary determinations (ie. Ventura, Fresno, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, and others). Sonja Bennett was to assist Jean in the compilation of the letter.

A schedule of Chapter meetings for 2013 was set. All meetings would be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month with the exception of January. January's meeting will be held on the 15th.

Ernest Harris was in Oakland the previous week to attend the Public Sector meeting for 521 and 721. Mary Kay Henry, President of SEIU was in attendance. Some of the issues that were discussed at the meetings were:

- There were no public hearings held for changes that are being made for public sector hospital nurses
- Private hospitals are attempting to take over public hospitals
- The need to the Nurses Alliance to get the word out to the public as to what is going on

A discussion ensued regarding the Health Exchange that California was setting up as part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In SEIU 521, Kern County nurses and eligibility workers have been leaders in ACA.

Ernest provided a brief update regarding the City of Delano decertification.

Kern County needs members to participate in the Central Labor Council. Lunch meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

The quarterly Shop Steward meeting is being retooled a General Membership and Shop Steward meeting to encourage more member participation.

There were brief discussions in regard to the Segal Report, the holiday toy drive, the Jamison center drive and Chuck's retirement

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.