

SEIU 521  
**FRESNO COUNTY CHAPTER MEETING**  
**MARCH 8, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Laura Basua. She symbolically handed the “baton” of the Fresno County Chapter to incoming President Riley Talford.

Attendance: sign in sheets are available to view upon request.

SEIU 521 Local -Wide President Gwen Harshaw welcomed everyone in attendance which was followed by the flag salute.

President Harshaw led the swearing in of all new Chapter Executive Board and Division officers.

Darlynn Qualls made a motion to add Open Forum to the agenda. Seconded by Anna Moreno. No further discussion. Vote taken. Motion passed as presented. Debra Perez asked to address Page 5, Article 4. of the Fresno County Chapter By-Laws. Stated that Bargaining Unit 3 does not agree with this article. President Talford explained that the proposed Fresno county by-law changes had been available to all members to review before voting. During the election for officers the additions to the by-laws were also voted on. Elizabeth Stone asked for discussion of Page 5 Article 4 to be placed on agenda for next meeting.

Director Johnson asked for wins the county has seen recently: SWAPS were approved. Also, three different job classifications salary was moved to meet the state hourly minimum wage.

The Executive Board officers set calendar of the 2016 meetings to the second Tuesday of every other month as follows: March 8, 2016; May 10, 2016; July 12, 2016; September 13, 2016 and November 15, 2016.

**Health Benefits Meet and Confer Update:** President Talford explained as the negotiations are already ongoing the negotiation team already in place will continue. It was also explained that a coalition is being formed by other bargaining units to address the issues. Director Johnson stated that the proposal being presented is that Fresno County increase their health care contributions an additional \$35.00 per month. She also asked for recommendations to the E-Board. Recommendations made at the meeting were: forming a sub-committee to educate members; hold wellness classes; and hold free flu shot clinics. The different Unions in the coalition will be asked for ideas/suggestions also.

**Member Engagement Campaign:** President Talford challenged all members to get out and increase the Union participation and membership.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Alex Betancourt reported that there are still legacy funds for the following chapters; Chapter 12 \$7,715.27; Chapter 3 \$157.83; and Chapter 22 \$1,789.47. Vice-President Alysia Bonner explained that prior to the formation of SEIU 521 the different chapters received a portion of the monthly dues paid for that particular chapter. When the 5 different chapters formed SEIU 521 the individual chapters retained their funds.

**Secretary's Report:** this is the first meeting with the new Board. There were no minutes to review.

**Lunch and Learns:** President Talford reported there are several sites that are having Lunch and Learns. He has been to some and hopes to attend Lunch and Learn meetings at all sites.

**Chief Shop Steward Report:** Chief Shop Steward James Hackett reported that the first meeting of the Steward council will be held Saturday, February 27, 2016.

**Bargaining Unit Reports:**

Unit 2:

At Large: no report

Child Support: no report

Correctional Officers: no report

Unit 3:

Social Workers: Elizabeth Stone reported that the Social Worker Unit is looking forward to restarting their monthly meetings. Debra Perez stated that they are striving for more member involvement.

Unit 4:

: Eligibility Workers: Patricia Stratham-Clay stated that there are several issues the EWs are focusing on addressing. Also will be developing strategies for growing membership/participation.

Job Specialists/Substance Abuse Specialists/Appeals Specialists/Social Worker

Aides: Darlynn Qualls reported that there are site meetings being planned.

Unit 12: no report

Unit 22: no report

Unit 36:

Supervisors: James Hackett reported that there are currently three Meet and Confers lined up. Sandy Hearn has been appointed as Unit 36 Supervisory Recorder.

**Adjournment:** Alysia Bonner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Jensen  
Secretary-At-Large  
Fresno County Chapter