Service Employees International Union, CTW-CLC

Fresno County Members Are Involved
CAN YOU HEAR US NOW?

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Message from Riko Mendez, New SEIU 521 CEO

Brothers and Sisters,

Thanks to you, **WE** won today to unite our Local in the face of adversity throughout our regions and at the national level. I am humbled by your vote and willingness to allow me the privilege of leading this amazing Union of workers like you, who make our communities safer, healthier and care for our families and communities.

More important than anything else, we must unite our Union across regions, chapters, job classifications and across our communities. Everything we have earned and won is at stake. In order to protect it and thrive into the future, we must be **UNITED.** 32,000 members strong, our Union has power. Together, only together can we fight back the attacks and win for ourselves, for our families and for our Union.

The next Executive Board meeting will be in March and I look forward to working with our Executive Board to plan the next 100 days of our Union, where we face attacks on working families and our members' pensions, jobs and our individual rights as human beings.

Together we will face these challenges and with the staff and our members, we will move our Union forward, for our families and our communities. I stand by my commitment to you and our membership and I look forward to meeting you all as I tour our regions and get your suggestions and input on moving our Union forward.

In solidarity,
Riko Mendez
SEIU 521 Chief Elected Officer (CEO)

UNITED WE WIN

Chapter President's Message by Riley Talford

February we celebrate the numerous accomplishments of Black Americans throughout American History. I am proud of my heritage and acknowledge their struggle and sacrifices that have paved the way for freedoms and opportunities afforded to many of us today. It is our history of Black, White, Latino, and Asian hard working Americans that have made our country Great! This is also the month that we acknowledge Love on Valentine's Day! While I hope that each of you take the time to show those close to you how much you love them It is my sincerest wish that you take time to love and enjoy all that brings joy!

Sincerely,

Riley Talford
Fresno County Chapter
President, SEIU Local 521 Fresno

GET INVOLVED!

JOIN US

at the next membership meeting
General Membership and
Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 11
6-8 p.m. Meeting

5:30 p.m. Dinner
Union Office
5228 E. Pine Ave., Fresno
Please RSVP at (559) 447-2579

Future Meetings:
2nd Tuesday of every quarter
July 11 | Oct. 10

Fulfill Your College Goals with a

2017 SEIU Local 521 Scholarship

Clarence Dodge Scholarship Program

College goals can be expensive. SEIU Local 521 award yearly college scholarship opportunities that enable members and their children to pursue their educational goals at colleges, universities, labor study programs and technical schools. Membership must be for one continuous year as of Sept. 1, 2017. Graduate students are not eligible. All awards must be for the academic year(s) awarded. Officers and employees of the International Union and their children are not eligible. Scholarship awards are limited to one per household.

Scholarship Award Amounts:

This scholarship is named after Legacy Local 715's first president, Clarence Dodge, and provides 10 winners with a one time cash award of $1,500 each for their first year of study.

Application Timeline:

For more information about these Local 521 scholarships email: scholarship@seiu521.org or visit our website: www.seiu521.org/scholarships for downloadable applications. Applications must be received by March 31, 2017. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

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DSS Labor Management Update:

SEIU Member Leaders in the Department of Social Services held their Labor Management Meeting and discussed worker's concerns with management. While there were many items discussed at this meeting, we have the following updates to share from the meeting.

Social Worker Travel Reimbursements:

A concern was brought to management regarding the time it takes for social workers to get reimbursed for travel expenses. Social Workers are reporting that it takes up to three months to be reimbursed, putting undue strain on their personal finances.

The County's response is that it should take no longer than one month to process these reimbursements and is asking that impacted workers contact their Program Manager for assistance in getting this resolved should it take longer than 30 days.

If you are impacted by this issue please contact your Internal Worksite Organizer, Richard Streets for assistance.

Safety and Security of DSS Workers conducting Home Visits:

Labor brought the concern of worker safety when conducting home visits to management. Workers want to make sure that they have the appropriate training and tools available to them of what safety precautions to take and be aware of while out in the field. Management acknowledged the concerns of the workers and agreed to look into providing better tools to workers to address safety concerns.

Do you have a concern you would like added to the next DSS Labor Management Agenda?
Contact Maya Daugherty at:
maya.daugherty@seiu521.org

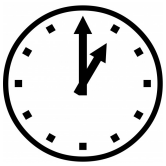
Effective Date of New Starting Minimum Wage of $10.50 per hour is Feb. 13, 2017

Meet and Confer Updates

Bargaining Unit 22: Stewards Rights

Unit 22 met and conferred with the County on the Non-Economic Reopener regarding Steward Rights. In response to the members' feedback, we are discussing how to increase the ability of the shop stewards to represent workers across their bargaining unit instead of being limited to just their department. We will be meeting with the County again in March on this issue, stay tuned for more updates.

Bargaining Unit 4: Process Time



Unit 4 leaders met with Fresno County Labor Relations, regarding the Unit 4 non-economic reopener. We submitted our initial proposal on Uninterrupted Process Time, in an effort to allow Eligibility Workers and Job Specialists more time dedicated to processing the cases they are assigned.

"The County seemed receptive to understanding all that we do as workers, and the impact uninterrupted processing time could make on our workload. SEIU is standing with us to get the processing time we need to help our community."

-Patricia Strattman-Clay, Unit 4 EW Vice President and EWIII

"SEIU 521 is seeking to provide workers with more time to devote to caring for the needs of our clients."

-Denise Holland, Shop Steward and EWIII

REGION 4 LEADERSHIP MEETING

Join other Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents across the region to share ideas on how to strengthen our chapters and build unity amongst our membership.

Tuesday, Feb. 21
6 - 8 p.m.
SEIU 521, 5228 E. Pine Ave., Fresno

Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m.
Please RSVP your attendance at (559) 447-2560

Come meet your Region 4 Vice President, Jennifer Jensen

stay informed

- ►Visit your chapter web page frequently: www.seiu521.org/cofresno
- ►Like us on Facebook: http://fb.com/SEIU521Region4
- ►Or, simply text 521 to 787753 to subscribe to text alerts. *(Standard text message rates may apply.)*

Contract Enforcement Department is HERE FOR YOU!

Contract Questions? Discipline? Need to file a grievance?

Call Rachel Tudor, Contract Enforcement Specialist Assistant at (559) 447-2560 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Better Valley Health Coalition

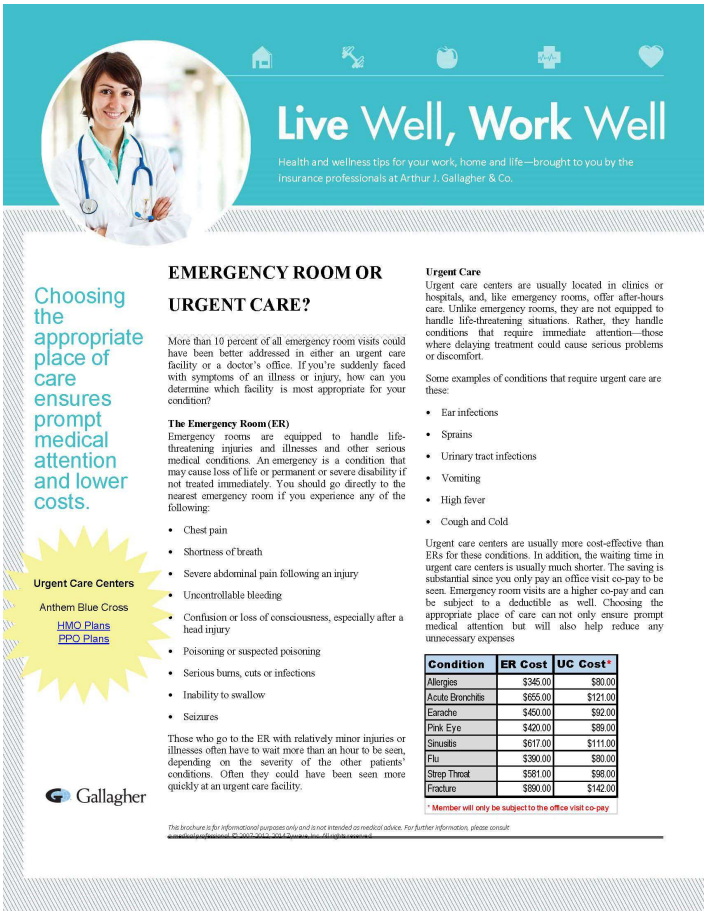
Members Stop the ER Copay Increase!

Our success continues to grow as the San Joaquin Valley Insurance Authority (SJVIA) board voted to take no action on increasing Emergency Room Co-pays for thousands of workers covered under the Anthem Plans. Members from Fresno and Tulare along with other union advocates from our Better Valley Health Coalition shared their stories of how this increase would impact workers and their families that depend on emergency rooms for care when there are no other options available. We urged the SJVIA Board to put more focus on designing Wellness Programs that include aggressive outreach and education to workers about plan utilization and accessing the right care at the right time.

Supervisor Pacheco commented during the meeting, "It is the intent of the Board that any changes (to the emergency room copay) would happen after meeting with Labor Groups (per the meet and confer process) and with the consultant. I don't foresee any changes occurring until the next plan year (2018)."

The SJVIA board also terminated their contract with Gallagher Benefit Services. Our new broker is Keenan and Associates.

It's up to us to hold SJVIA and our County Supervisors accountable for decisions that impact our healthcare.



Live Well, Work Well

Health and wellness tips for your work, home and life—brought to you by the insurance professionals at Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

Choosing the appropriate place of care ensures prompt medical attention and lower costs.

Urgent Care Centers

Anthem Blue Cross

HMO Plans

PPO Plans

Gallagher

EMERGENCY ROOM OR URGENT CARE?

More than 10 percent of all emergency room visits could have been better addressed in either an urgent care facility or a doctor's office. If you're suddenly faced with symptoms of an illness or injury, how can you determine which facility is most appropriate for your condition?

The Emergency Room (ER)

Emergency rooms are equipped to handle life-threatening injuries and illnesses and other serious medical conditions. An emergency is a condition that may cause loss of life or permanent or severe disability if not treated immediately. You should go directly to the nearest emergency room if you experience any of the following:

- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Severe abdominal pain following an injury
- Uncontrollable bleeding
- Confusion or loss of consciousness, especially after a head injury
- Poisoning or suspected poisoning
- Serious burns, cuts or infections
- Inability to swallow
- Seizures

Those who go to the ER with relatively minor injuries or illnesses often have to wait more than an hour to be seen, depending on the severity of the other patients' conditions. Often they could have been seen more quickly at an urgent care facility.

Urgent Care

Urgent care centers are usually located in clinics or hospitals, and, like emergency rooms, offer after-hours care. Unlike emergency rooms, they are not equipped to handle life-threatening situations. Rather, they handle conditions that require immediate attention—those where delaying treatment could cause serious problems or discomfort.

Some examples of conditions that require urgent care are these:

- Ear infections
- Sprains
- Urinary tract infections
- Vomiting
- High fever
- Cough and Cold

Urgent care centers are usually more cost-effective than ERs for these conditions. In addition, the waiting time in urgent care centers is usually much shorter. The saving is substantial since you only pay an office visit co-pay to be seen. Emergency room visits are a higher co-pay and can be subject to a deductible as well. Choosing the appropriate place of care can not only ensure prompt medical attention but will also help reduce any unnecessary expenses

Condition	ER Cost	UC Cost*
Allergies	$345.00	$80.00
Acute Bronchitis	$655.00	$121.00
Earache	$450.00	$92.00
Pink Eye	$420.00	$89.00
Sinusitis	$617.00	$111.00
Flu	$390.00	$80.00
Strep Throat	$581.00	$98.00
Fracture	$890.00	$142.00

* Member will only be subject to the office visit co-pay

This brochure is for informational purposes only and is not intended as medical advice. For further information, please consult

Get Involved with Better Valley Health!

Better Valley Health Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 28
6 p.m. Meeting
5:30 p.m. Dinner

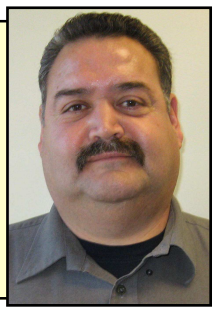
Healthcare Study Session

Saturday, March 18
10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Lunch will be served

Meetings will be held at the union office at:
5228 E. Pine Ave., Fresno—Unity Hall
Please RSVP at (559) 447-2560

Workers should not have to make decisions on whether to get Emergency Care based on affordability. Quality, affordable healthcare is a human right!

– Santiago Oceguera
HBAC Co-Chair, Fresno County Chapter



Text BVH to 787753 for text updates

SEIU Local 521 will never charge you for text messages, however carrier message and data rates may apply.

Like and share our page:
Facebook.com/SEIU521Region4

Steward Council
Thursday, Feb. 23

Steward Training
Saturday, Feb. 25

LOCAL 521
SEIU
Stronger Together

Strong stewards make a successful union!

STEWARD COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, Feb. 23
6—8 p.m.
Union Office, 5228 E. Pine Ave., Fresno

STEWARD TRAINING

Saturday, Feb. 25
9 a.m.—3 p.m.
Union Office, 5228 E. Pine Ave., Fresno

SEIU LOCAL 521
5228 E. Pine Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 447-2560
www.seiu521.org

Please RSVP your attendance at (559) 447-2560

**Breakfast, lunch or dinner will be provided*

COMBINED MODULES 1 THRU 5

Module 1: "Role of the Steward in an Organizing Union"
Module 2: "Steward as Voice of the Union"
Module 3: "Investigating Workplace Problems"
Module 4: "The Steward and Discipline"
Module 5: "Meeting with the Boss"