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
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

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

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

Please 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.)
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.

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.

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
Steward Council
Thursday, Feb. 23

Steward Training
Saturday, Feb. 25

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

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"