**Chapter President’s Message by Riley Talford**

Happy New Year to all my fellow Union sisters and brothers! First, I'd like to take the opportunity to remember my good friend Rodney Walker, a long time SEIU supporter and activist who worked as a Senior Juvenile Correctional Officer. Rodney passed away while on the job last month. For those who knew and loved him, he will be remembered for his kind heart, smile, and compassion towards others. As we weave our path through this new year facing certain challenges and navigating the shift in U.S. policy, I will remember the words of my Brother Rodney: "We have to stand together and fight for what we want!"

To all: stay tuned in and get involved! Together we will achieve more...

Sincerely,
Riley Talford
Chapter President, SEIU Local 521 Fresno

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**Non-Economic Contract Reopeners Update**

We are moving forward in preparing for our contract reopener discussions with the County on issues that matter most to members like you! Below are the issues that members identified in the survey that they would like to see addressed with the County. Member leaders are gathering together in the upcoming weeks to develop proposals and schedule their first negotiation session on these topics. If you want more information or would like to be involved, please contact your Internal Worksite Organizer.

Bargaining Unit 3: Improve Non-Discriminatory Policy Language
Bargaining Unit 4: Enhanced “Process Time” Language
Bargaining Unit 12: Clarified Process on Doctor’s Notes
Bargaining Unit 22: More Rights for SEIU Shop Stewards

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

All meetings start at 6 p.m. with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and are held at the union office at 5228 E. Pine Ave., Fresno

- Feb. 1 Latino Caucus
- Feb. 2 Better Valley Health Coalition
- Feb. 6 Women’s Caucus
- Feb. 9 AFRAM Caucus
- Feb. 13 SEJ Caucus
- Feb. 15 COPE and Budget & Finance
- Feb. 16 Steward Council
- Feb. 16 Lavender Caucus
- Feb. 21 APALA Caucus
- Feb. 25 Steward Training—Modules 1-5 (9a.m.-3p.m.)
- Feb. 27 Native American Caucus
- April 11 Fresno County General Membership

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**Mariam Alvarez Retires**

After 30+ years with SEIU Local 521, Internal Worksite Organizer Mariam Alvarez has retired. Mariam worked in the Department of Social Services for Fresno County and was a long time leader and activist. She then transitioned to her role as Internal Worksite Organizer where she continued to work developing leaders, representing members, and organizing around worksite issues. She has a deep commitment to the Labor Movement and plans to become involved in our Retirees Caucus. We appreciate Mariam’s tireless dedication and commitment to the labor movement and wish her well as she moves on to enjoying her retirement. Salud Mariam!
Steward’s Corner:

Come to our First Steward Council Meeting of the Year!

This is a good opportunity to come together with other stewards across your region to receive updates on current grievances, learn about changes in Labor Law and talk about how to make our Steward’s Councils stronger in 2017! Please Join Us!

Please RSVP your attendance at (559) 447-2560.

Thursday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m.

2017 STEWARD TRAINING

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<tr>
<th>COMBINED MODULES 1-5</th>
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<td>Saturday, Feb. 25</td>
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| COMBINED MODULES 1 and 2 | 9 a.m.—Noon |
| "Role of the Steward in an Organizing Union" and "Steward as Voice of the Union" |

| COMBINED MODULES 3 and 5 | 1—3 p.m. |
| "Investigating Workplace Problems" and "Meeting with the Boss" |

| MODULE 4 | 9 a.m.—1 p.m. |
| "The Steward and Discipline" |

|                      | Saturday March 18 |
|                      | Saturday April 15 |

- Shop Stewards attending all five modules will become Certified Shop Stewards.
- Lunch will be provided for trainings.
- Please confirm your attendance at (559) 447-2560.
- A minimum number of participants must be signed up a week in advance, or training will be canceled.

All trainings are held at the union office:
SEIU Local 521
5228 E. Pine Ave., Fresno

Sign up on our website, www.seiu521.org. Click on ‘Steward Trainings’, then complete and submit the online form. You can also sign up by calling the Local 521 office at (559) 447-2560.
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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2017 Union Plus Scholarship

Current and retired members of unions participating in any Union Plus program, their spouses and their dependent children (as defined by IRS regulations) are eligible. Grandchildren are not eligible unless a legal dependent (as defined by IRS regulations). At least one year of continuous union membership by the applicant, applicant’s spouse or parent (if applicant is a dependent). The one year membership minimum must be satisfied by May 31, 2017.

The applicant must be accepted into a U.S. accredited college, university, community college, technical or trade school at the time the award is issued. Awards must be used for the 2017 - 2018 school year. Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply.

Scholarship Award Amounts:

Amounts range from $500 to $4,000. These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the Fall of 2017. Students may re-apply each year.

Application Timeline:

Applications are available and a complete application must be received on or before 12:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on January 31, 2017. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. For information about this scholarship, visit www.seiu521.org/scholarships
Engage Members

January 2017

Thanks to the SEIU #FightFor15 movement, founded by New York fast food workers five years ago, 19 states and 22 cities and counties will see minimum wage increases in 2017. California’s minimum wage rose on Jan. 1 to $10.50 per hour, up from $10 for companies with more than 25 workers. By 2022, our state minimum wage will reach $15.

Develop Leaders

Don’t forget to vote for SEIU 521’s new Chief Elected Officer! Cast your ballot from Jan. 24 to 31.

Labor Secretary Nominee

The president-elect’s choice for secretary of the Department of Labor is fast food executive Andrew Puzder (right), a union critic who wants to automate his restaurants to avoid labor costs.

“PUDZER EARN IN ONE DAY WHAT THE WORKERS IN HIS STORE EARN IN A YEAR. THE ABSOLUTE ECONOMIC INEQUALITY THAT HE REPRESENTS IS WHAT WE’VE COUNTED ON THE LABOR DEPARTMENT TO STAND AGAINST.”

-SEIU International President
Mary Kay Henry

Build Community Power

SEIU Local 521 and Union Plus award yearly college scholarship opportunities that enable members and their children to pursue educational goals at colleges, universities, labor study programs and technical schools. To apply, visit www.seiu521.org/2017scholarship

ACA Funding In Danger

Congress is threatening to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This would spike the price of health premiums market-wide, and would roll back prescription drug support for seniors. Across the nation, 30 million Americans could lose health care coverage, and 334,000 Californians could lose their jobs. It’s time to stand together to #fight4ourhealth!

In 2015, undocumented immigrants living in the US paid $11.64 billion in state & local taxes. With comprehensive immigration reform, that number would increase by $2.1 billion.

Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Feb. 24, 2016

Connect with us!
Fb.com/seiu521
www.seiu521.org