

Message from Riko Mendez, our new 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.

Kern County Leadership and Chapter Officer Elections are Happening Now

The current contract between SEIU Local 521 Kern County Chapter and the County of Kern expires Aug. 27, 2017. Our first step is to complete Bargaining Team elections so we have ample time for member contract demands, surveys, trainings, research, writing proposals and negotiations

In 2017, we'll build on the strong foundation we created during our last negotiations. By uniting together we have the power to win a contract that gives us fair wages and benefits and improves our working conditions. Members like you will decide on our priorities for our upcoming negotiations. This is an opportunity to be involved in winning a strong contract that protects all of us!

Go to the website at www.seiu521.org/workplace/region5/kern/cokern for more information.

NOMINATION PERIOD

Jan. 9 – Feb. 27

The notice will be posted on www.seiu521.org/cokern and Union bulletin boards at your worksite(s). The Election Committee will verify eligibility of each nomination.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

March 9

Ten days after the close of nomination a candidate's forum will be held. The election committee will develop the candidate's forum. Forum will be held at Union hall. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm - Meeting @6pm. Please RSVP.

VOTING

March 20 – 24

Election committee will determine voting locations and times. They will be no later than close of nomination. You must be a member in order to vote. Membership applications will be available at the voting sites.

SEIU Local 521 * 1001 17th Street * Bakersfield, CA 93301 * Phone (661) 321-4190 * Fax (661) 325-7814 * RSVP (661) 321-4161

We're On The Web!



www.seiu521.org

<http://521.seiu.org/kern>

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Sign up for The Purple Buzz for regular e-mail updates about what's happening in 521!



521.seiu.org/page/signup

Join the Fight For Our Health



Over half of the population in Kern County relies on some form of subsidized insurance. We've taken part in a series of events that began on Dec. 20, 2016 and have continued the #fight4ourhealth ever since.

On Jan. 23, SEIU and community members will be taking part in candlelight vigils across the state, targeting congress people who are still working to repeal the ACA without putting forward a replacement that would protect working families.

Statewide, California stands to lose \$20 billion in federal funding and five million California residents could lose their health coverage. Even employer-sponsored health plans would be affected.

Californians across the state will hold vigils in the neighborhoods of elected leaders who seek to split up immigrant families and take away our healthcare. Every American, every Californian, every child deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.

Carmen Morales, a nurse practitioner at Kern Medical: **"Lack of access to quality, affordable insurance kills people.** Working on the front lines at a safety net hospital, I am intimately familiar with the suffering that stems from poor access to affordable coverage. I specialize in working with people who have diabetes. Before the Affordable Care Act, I would see my patients lose their feet because they could not afford to see a regular primary care provider or to get supplies to manage their condition. Because of the ACA, we are providing preventive care."

We can't go back to a time when so many Americans had to rely on emergency rooms for primary care or forgo treatment altogether. Our elected officials need to carry the message to Washington D.C.: This law is saving lives in California and we are ready to fight for our health.

Get involved at www.SEIU521.org/f4oh



COME TOGETHER IN UNITY TO PROTECT OUR HEALTHCARE AND IMMIGRANT FAMILIES