



Together WE RISE

APRIL 2018

ISSUE #7

JOIN UP: MOBILIZATION MONDAYS

As we prepare for a decision in the *Janus v. AFSCME* case, we need to stand together.

This case is an attempt to make it easier for well-funded, anti-worker groups to rig the economy against us by dividing working people. The billionaires funding this case (ever heard of the Koch brothers?) are the same billionaires who are funding efforts to cut vital public services like healthcare. They have deep pockets and they stand to profit if workers lose.

We expect the U.S. Supreme Court to announce their decision on any Monday, from now until the end of June. **As part of our Mobilization Mondays, please join me in wearing purple to work every Monday from now until the decision is reached.** This is our way of saying we won't let anyone take away the good, union jobs that our communities need to thrive.



Other ways to get involved:

- 1) Renew your union membership and ask your coworkers to do the same!
www.seiu521.org/membership
- 2) Take a photo with your handmade UNION sign, Norma Rae style! Post it on our union Facebook page @SEIU521 using the hashtags #WeRise and #UNION
- 3) Learn more at www.seiu521.org/DecisionDay

*In Unity,
Gwyn Harshaw, SEIU 521 President*

Celebrating César Chávez

SEIU 521 members are inspired by leaders like César Chávez and the historical fight for worker justice. Fifty-two years after the first United Farm Workers contract was signed, SEIU Local 521 members continue to organize new workers, fight for fair contracts, and join with community allies, from Kern County to the Bay Area. Join us as we celebrate this legacy and ongoing work.

- In San Jose, on **Saturday, April 7, 12:30-5 p.m.** at our SEIU Local 521 office on 2302 Zanker Rd. This event is sponsored by SEIU Local 521's Latino Caucus.
- In Salinas, on **Sunday, April 8, 10 a.m.** at the César Chávez Community Park on 250 North Madeira Ave. The United Farm Workers invite SEIU 521 members to join a march in honor of Chávez for the Dreamers and to demand rights for farm workers.



RISE UP: SACRED HEART WORKERS VOTE TO UNIONIZE



On March 16, workers at Sacred Heart Community Service voted overwhelmingly to form a union and join SEIU 521 to have a strong voice on the job. Sacred Heart Community Service is a non-profit agency that serves families and aims to reduce poverty in Silicon Valley. Employees at Sacred Heart, including case managers, employment and education coordinators, community organizers, janitors, and facility workers, work tirelessly to provide critical services for the most vulnerable members of their community.

While dedicated to the work of lifting members of their community out of poverty, workers at Sacred Heart also recognize the importance of lifting their own collective voice. Through our union, these new SEIU members will take their fight for safety and improved wages and benefits to the bargaining table.

“At Sacred Heart, our commitment to social justice is rooted in treating everyone with dignity, compassion, and respect. The work that we do is difficult; we put in a lot of physical and emotional labor, sometimes under very challenging circumstances,” said Eunice Hernandez, a community organizer at Sacred Heart. **“Voting for a union puts a structure in place so that my colleagues can do their job under the right working conditions and better serve our community.”** That’s why I voted YES for our union.”



Eunice Hernandez,
Community Organizer

When we stand together and speak with one strong union voice, we win.

WIN: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

A judge recently ordered Monterey County to stop interfering with their employees’ right to union representation.

Your **Weingarten Rights** mandate that you have the right to union representation in investigatory interviews. That means if the boss wants to meet with you and discuss anything that might lead to discipline, you have the right to request the presence of a union steward at the meeting.

Monterey County management has repeatedly tried to deny this right in recent meetings with workers. Office Assistant Lourdes Mercado and 911 Dispatcher Joanne Lopez both stood their ground and filed grievances against the County, which resulted in cease and desist orders from the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) and a neutral arbitrator.



“Management wants the power to do whatever they want, and they know that being in a union gives us a lot of protection. That’s why they tried to stop me from bringing my union rep to a meeting. Our right to union representation protects all of us!”

-SEIU Steward Lourdes Mercado, Office Assistant for
Monterey County Social Services Department