

JOIN UP: KERN REGIONAL CENTER WORKERS FIGHT FOR THEIR FUTURE

Workers at Kern Regional Center (KRC) in Bakersfield strive to build personal relationships with their disabled patients, to help advance their treatment and advocate on their behalf. Their commitment to this emotional work means that KRC workers recognize the importance of uplifting their own collective voices at work to support the patients they serve. Working together in a strong union allows KRC workers to fight for safe working conditions, adequate staffing, and sets them up to successfully serve their patients. **It was an upsetting discovery to learn that on May 10, Kern Regional Center Management provided a letter to members stating their intent to terminate their union contract.**



Members filled the Board of Directors meeting on May 22 to demand an end to current freezes on pensions and transparency on retirement decisions.

Since 2015, members and clients at Kern Regional Center have experienced mismanagement, distrust, and continued divestment towards its workers at the hands of management, all of which have had a tremendous impact on the developmental disability services that KRC provides to the communities of Kern County.

Members should not have to decide whether their service to the community is worth giving up a secure future at KRC and a dignified retirement. **Together with the community, parents and fellow co-workers, members have come together to demand that the Board of Supervisors hold management accountable through transparency while honoring the collective bargaining agreement put forth by the member-supported union contract.**



KRC members rallied for accountability before the Board of Directors meeting on May 22nd.



Ron Patterson, Equipment Mechanic for the City of Salinas, is sticking with his union.

ARE YOU READY FOR DECISION DAY?

A decision in the *Janus v. AFSCME* Supreme Court case could come any day this month. SEIU 521 members are committed to sticking together in our union, regardless. We won't let any court case stand in the way of our fight for the good, union jobs that our communities need. Every Monday, we are wearing purple to work to say loud and proud that #AmericaNeedsUnionJobs—because Together, #WeRise.

Follow Ron's lead: show your union pride by taking a photo with your handmade #UNION sign and posting it to our Facebook page: @SEIU521

Learn more at www.seiu521.org/DecisionDay

RISE UP: WORKERS TAKE TO THE POLLS FOR THE JUNE PRIMARY

SEIU 521 members volunteered hundreds of hours for the June Primary to support measures and candidates who are standing up for working people and the things we care about. Because of the work of SEIU 521 members, working families turned out in an election that saw just over a quarter of eligible voters cast ballots statewide.

We made a difference in some of the county races that matter most. Congratulations are in store to the members in Tulare County and activists from neighboring Fresno and Kern counties, who joined together to help elect Eddie Valero to the Tulare Board of Supervisors. Cynthia Zimmer was elected Kern County District Attorney. In Stanislaus and San Benito Counties, our candidates for Board of Supervisors will all be in runoff elections in November. And with each successive report of the Registrar of Voters, Don Rocha has gained more votes for Santa Clara County Board of Supervisor District 4, and now has a 600 vote lead over Pierluigi Olivero in the race for the second spot in November.



SEIU 521 members with Don Rocha

We also had success with passing ballot measures to raise revenues in the City of Santa Cruz and San Benito County. In Alameda County, our months-long effort to increase access to child care and increase family child care provider wages fell just short of the 2/3rds supermajority needed to pass. However, by working on the campaign, Alameda childcare providers members won respect in the community, and gained power to make changes that help their profession and the children they educate and care for.

To see the rest of the June Primary results, visit www.seiu521.org/june18results

WIN: CITY OF PALO ALTO WORKERS FIGHT BACK

The end of 2016 was a turbulent time for Public Safety Dispatchers in the City of Palo Alto. Citing holiday staffing concerns, management unilaterally decided to change the vacation bidding practice even though it was negotiated in 2015 and memorialized in a side letter agreement. Management claimed the side letter had expired four months after it was signed and was no longer in effect.

This greatly strained the labor-management relationship and Lead Dispatcher Sheavounda Walker, Steward Joseph Luttrell, and their fellow dispatchers decided to fight back. The workers filed a total of four grievances and threatened to file unfair practice charges with the California Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). In October 2016, when the city claimed impasse, **it was the dispatchers who found a solution and worked together to cover all the vacant holiday shifts without the need to change existing practices.**

Much of 2017 was spent meeting with management and preparing for the arbitration scheduled in August. Right before the arbitration, the city finally agreed to honor the side letter until such time as it could be renegotiated. By December 2017, and after the mysterious resignation of a problematic manager, the relationship between labor and management had greatly improved. Workers were able to negotiate with management over the final few issues. A settlement agreement was signed which promised an “open and transparent” process. This spirit of cooperation was in stark contrast to the contentious relationship that existed only one year earlier. **Congratulations to all the dispatchers who came together and fought for their rights - Together We Rise!**