



SEPTEMBER 2018

ISSUE #11

# Together WE RISE

## JOIN UP: MEMBERS UNITE AT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT TO BUILD POWER



From August 10-12, nearly 100 member leaders from Bakersfield to the South Bay came together for our **"2018 Rise Up! Leadership Summit."** The summit kicked off with special guest Gerry Hudson, SEIU International Secretary-Treasurer, who set a tone of empowerment for the entire weekend with his message **"Our Moment Is Now."** We then spent the next several days brainstorming and exchanging best practices on how to build a stronger, more innovative 21st century union.

A major focus of the Leadership Summit was how to resist the efforts of wealthy special interests who want to use race to divide us against each other. The greedy few do this to weaken our power as workers and a union, and to damage our ability to work together in order to win a better life for our families.



Throughout the weekend, we discussed how to build our union's power in our worksites and in our communities. We had breakout sessions for child care providers, social workers, and eligibility workers from different regions. Together, we strategized how to take on the similar challenges we face despite our geographical differences. Members attended workshops on important topics like how to have better conversations with coworkers, how winning at the ballot box can help us win stronger contracts, how to use social media, and how to hold effective new employee orientations.

Check out photos from the Leadership Summit on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/SEIU521](https://facebook.com/SEIU521)

### **2019 Election of Local-wide Officers, Executive Board Delegates, Trustees, and Bylaws Amendment** *Nomination Period: From Oct. 26 through Nov. 30, 2018, at 5 p.m.*

**SEIU 521 is a democratically-run, member-driven organization.** Members elect the officers, executive board delegates and trustees from among our fellow union members every three years. Guided by the SEIU International Constitution and Bylaws, they make decisions about our union's budget, policies, and other organizational issues. Log-in to MemberLink at [members.seiu521.org](https://members.seiu521.org) for more details and to download the petition form.

## RISE UP: OUR LABOR DAY, OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR VOTE

Labor Day weekend is about more than relaxation and barbecues. It's about celebrating the victories that hardworking people like us have fought for and won: the 40-hour work week, workplace safety rules, health insurance, minimum wage, and so much more. Although we have made tremendous strides, **workers continue to see what happens when billionaires and corporations have all the power**: the greedy few get tax breaks, skyrocketing profits, and millions in CEO pay, while 64 million Americans get paid less than \$15 an hour with no healthcare or retirement security. We end up with too many poverty-wage jobs and not enough good jobs that can sustain families. This Labor Day, union members like us are rising up to remind our friends and neighbors that **America needs union jobs**.



Join us as we celebrate the history of the labor movement and recognize the contributions our union makes right now in our communities. For a full list of Labor Day events visit: [seiu521.org/laborday2018](http://seiu521.org/laborday2018)



Pictured from left: Riley Talford, Priya Mathur, Juan Gonzalez, Katherine O'Malley (not pictured: John Adams)

**RISE UP AND VOTE!** We must also start working towards future victories for working people. This November, we must elect candidates who will support our fight for collective bargaining rights for child care providers and will work with us to raise wages, improve healthcare coverage, and unrig the economy by making it easier for workers to band together in unions.

We also have the important opportunity to elect union members to have a direct say on our retirement. Just like we elected Riley Talford and John Adams to FCERA, Juan Gonzalez to KCERA, and most recently Katherine O'Malley to SAMCERA, we can re-elect Priya Mathur to CalPERS to continue advocating on our behalf. **\*CalPERS members: look for your ballot to arrive by mail after August 31.**

## WIN: BAIL REFORM IS MOVING JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS FORWARD

SB 10, our bill to eliminate cash bail, was signed by Governor Brown on August 28! Since the summer of 2017, SEIU members in California have been fighting for bail reform as part of our efforts to improve racial and economic justice in the communities we serve. There is no economic justice when families are deprived of earnings, Black and Brown people are locked up at higher rates, and communities are locked in a cycle of poverty.

*"I'm proud that SB 10 will result in a pre-trial system that prevents families like mine from being exploited by the money bail industry while keeping our communities safer. Having tilted the scales toward justice, we won't let up. We'll keep fighting for reforms throughout our system to hold California to its promise of 'justice for all.'"*

- **Mullissa Willette**, SEIU 521 Secretary and Exemption Investigator for Santa Clara County Assessor's Office

That's why we started this fight and that's why we'll keep fighting until we've fully reformed the entire criminal justice system. **California is now the first state in the nation to eliminate money bail**, joining Washington DC in moving a crucial criminal justice reform forward by significantly reducing the number of people locked up who haven't been convicted of a crime and are simply awaiting trial, while improving public safety. **No one will ever have to await trial in jail because they can't afford bail – whether they are Black, Brown, or white, rich or poor.** For more details, visit: [www.seiu521.org/bailreform](http://www.seiu521.org/bailreform)



SEIU 521 Secretary Mullissa Willette spoke at our rally in Sacramento on August 23, 2017 in support of SB 10 with her son by her side.