We are pleased to welcome back our SEIU 521 local-wide newsletter! The newswire is a bi-monthly round up of news, information, and highlights from across our union throughout California. This re-launch volume #1 includes a few of our largest actions and achievements over the last year. Look out for the year-end recap, which will include, amongst other things, shared stories and additional victories we’ve achieved throughout 2022. Volume #2 is set to be released in February 2023.

WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN

SANTA CRUZ CITY STRIKE - OCTOBER

City of Santa Cruz members made history this fall by executing the City’s first-ever public sector strike. The strike, which lasted three days accounted for over 400 workers. In addition to 12% COLAs, workers won significant wage realignments for more than half of their bargaining unit, protections from furloughs throughout the life of the agreement, and a $1,800 one-time bonus.

"SANTA CRUZ CITY WORKERS WERE STRONG AND RESILIENT, AND THEIR SACRIFICE TO STRIKE WAS HISTORIC. WE DEMONSTRATED THE POWER LIES IN OUR COLLECTIVE ACTION. WE WILL FINALLY GET THE RESPECT AND DIGNITY WE FOUGHT FOR AND DESERVE."

-KEN BARE, SANTA CRUZ CITY CHAPTER PRESIDENT

VIA:

PROTECTING THE FRONTLINE

KERN MEDICAL LAWSUIT - JULY

In the Central Valley, SEIU 521 healthcare members at Kern Medical Center led a robust movement to bring accountability to the region’s only level 2 trauma center serving some of the most vulnerable communities. Members took on one of the most powerful Hospital Authorities in California by bringing to light serious improprieties, abuses of power, and violations of transparency laws by suing the Kern County Hospital Authority. Though this litigation is on-going, a judge agreed with workers (litigation is ongoing) by demanding the Authority to take responsibility to ensure that the patients we serve are provided adequate care rather than diverting funds to for-profit endeavors. Healthcare workers demonstrated that the legal action would not end regardless of reaching a contract agreement. However, a historic agreement and first-time gains were reached during the summer for frontline health care workers. READ MORE HERE
ORGANIZING POWER
CITY OF MCFARLAND UNIONIZED - SEPT.

The year of historic new union organizing nationwide also reached California’s Central Valley. In September, workers in the City of McFarland filed a petition to unionize and join SEIU Local 521. Shortly after the filing of the petition, the City of McFarland voluntarily recognized SEIU 521 as the official and exclusive representative. Negotiations on a first collective bargaining agreement are set to begin in early 2023.

DEFENDING OUR RIGHTS
STEWARD TRAINING GROWTH

Strength in numbers is not only a proven strategy toward building power in our workplaces, our strength is also about how we protect our rights and hard-earned gains. Led by our very own SEIU 521 Member Resource Center, Stewards from all across all five regions of our union, took full advantage of developing their skills to protect worker rights of their fellow members. The MRC facilitated 49 Steward trainings with over 937 attendees. Want to learn more about the SEIU 521 MRC steward training program, module details, and session coming in 2023. Visit: seiu521.org/stewardtraining.

STAY IN THE KNOW!

We understand that information overload is REAL. In 2023, we’re working to ensure our members only receive the most important updates/alerts. To ensure you are in the know, sign up to receive updates today by scanning the QR code - it only takes 2-min.

DON’T BE FOOLED

Two words we should never overlook: FREEDOM FOUNDATION. This anti-union group funded by billionaires like the Koch Brothers opposes raises for workers, and for years has attempted to dismantle our pensions and outsource union jobs. They will email you, send mail to your home, and encourage you to drop your membership. It's part of their ploy to weaken unions, but we know that are strongest together, click here to learn more.

NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE?

CALL US | 1-833-734-8521
ONLINE | www.seiu521.org/mrc

FIND ADDITIONAL KNOW YOUR RIGHTS GUIDES ON OUR MEMBERS ONLY WEBSITE: MEMBERS.SEIU521.ORG

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE? EMAIL US: COMMUNICATIONS@SEIU521.ORG