

# Service Employees International Union - Local 1021



## ~ 4 GOLDEN NUGGETS ~

**REGION 2 – SACRAMENTO, EL DORADO, YUBA, SUTTER**

January 2011  
Volume 1, Issue 1

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sacramento County	2
SEIU 1021 Activities	3
The Region 2 Story	4
SEIU 1021 COPE	4
El Dorado County	5
Bylaws Amendments	5
Political Updates	6

## REGION 2 NEWSLETTER LAUNCH!

Welcome to the first issue of “4 Gold Nuggets,” an SEIU 1021 Sacramento Area newsletter (with assistance from the 1021 Communications Department).

This newsletter is a forum where we will develop a functional Communications Action Network (CAN) in the SEIU 1021 Sacramento Region.

Developing this area’s newsletter is a critical part of the Northern California local's new Secure Retirement Campaign\*, and it's increasingly important to everything we do.

With more than 50,000 members and staff scattered across one-third of the state in more than 200 chapters and scores of committees and caucuses, the Communications Dept. and I—Ken Blomberg, your Elected Area Representative—have focused most of our efforts on expanding our capacity to communicate.

That capacity is the Communications Action Network. With assistance from the Area Office, we are presenting a quarterly newsletter with monthly updates as needed.

(\*Watch a free video at [www.SEIU1021.org](http://www.SEIU1021.org), Politics tab, ‘Secure Retirement Campaign’)

## WHO IS KEN BLOMBERG?

I am Ken Blomberg, a proud working member of SEIU’s Local 1021, the Elected Sacramento Area Representative. I am a Sacramento native and have been with the Sacramento City Unified School District for the past 11 years as a Bus Driver.

My children and I have attended and graduated from many of the same schools I now service with my School Bus. In addition to my representation of SEIU 1021 members living in Sacramento County, I also represent all of Region Two (2) Union members in Sutter, Yuba, & El Dorado Counties. My goal with this quarterly newsletter is get to know the readers, to network; to help each other understand what we need from our Union and what our Union is doing for us.

I want to hear from you on questions regarding your Union representation and how to contact Union staff .

I want us to share critical issues from this Region all the way up to the National SEIU. What are the actions and budget issues that impact our jobs—currently and into the future?



Contact me at:  
**1-510-501-4789**

[ken.blomberg@seiu1021.org](mailto:ken.blomberg@seiu1021.org)

**Ken Blomberg**





# ~ Sacramento County ~

## SACRAMENTO

SEIU 1021 Represents Classified Employees in the following organizations:

### Sacramento City Unified School District

- All K-12 Classified Employees
- Transportation
- Facilities Maintenance and Operations
- Serna Center

### The Los Rios Community Colleges

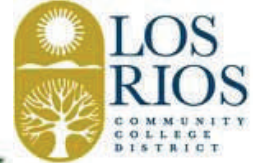
- Sacramento City
- Cosumnes River
- American River
- Folsom Lake

### The Los Rios Police Officers

### Sacramento County Department of Health Services (DHHS)

### Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance (DHA)

### Alta Regional Services Ashen Dental Care



The Sacramento Area Contract Team can be reached through SEIU Staff:

Ian Arnold  
[ian.arnold@seiu1021.org](mailto:ian.arnold@seiu1021.org)  
(415) 717-8947

## Your Union Meetings

The monthly SEIU 1021 Chapter Meeting is at 5:30 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of the Month:

Hiram Johnson Library  
6879 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue,  
Sacramento, CA 95820

~ All members are encouraged to attend ~

COPE Meeting is at 6:00 pm  
Second Tuesday of the month:

Union Hall  
1006 - 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA, 95814

A light dinner is provided at both meetings.

## January 2011 Report by Ian Arnold, SEIU Bargaining Leader Sacramento

**Los Rios CCD**—Bargain team elected and surveys pending. The calendar is in place for site visits at all District worksites over the next couple of months.

**Los Rios CCD Police**—were recognized as a separate chapter by Local 1021, but have not yet been recognized by the district as such. SEIU is trying to work this out with the District, but are prepared to move through PERB if necessary.

**Sacramento City Unified School District**—Major payroll issues in the transportation area are moving towards positive resolution. Bargaining team in place and bargaining surveys are being prepared. The current goal is to extend the existing contract.

**Sacramento County**—The transfer of supervisors from Medi-Cal to food stamp program (to maximize funding) has been completed successfully. The Union is preparing for negotiations in Spring 2011. Work on bargaining surveys has started. Union leaders and staff are working with the organizing department to potentially pick up a unit of 109 child support officers.

# Sacramento SEIU 1021 Activities

## WHAT DOES THE SEIU 1021 CONTRACT DO FOR YOU?

It protects your rights as a worker, to earn a fair wage, to accrue leave, and to plan for retirement.

Learn more about how Contracts are coordinated at upcoming trainings offered free to SEIU Union Members.

### Free Training Events:

#### BASIC SHOP STEWARD TRAINING

STOCKTON (3 sessions)  
MARCH 10, 17 & 24, 2011  
5:30 PM—8:00 PM

Stockton Union Hall,  
37 Hunter Square Plaza

Basic Shop Steward Training  
3 sessions of 2½ hours each  
(7.5 hours total).

What is a union shop steward and what unique rights and responsibilities does a shop steward have?

In this course you'll learn how to level the playing field when dealing with management.

You'll learn about issue organizing; the fine art of turning isolated complaints into a common cause for action and knowing what actions are effective and when.

And you'll learn the ABC's of grievances: how to recognize one, investigate it, and write it up using the "magic words" of a successful grievance.

**Note:** Please plan on attending all 3 sessions. Dinner & Registration the first half hour in evening trainings.

Training courses are subject to cancellation due to lack of registrations. Also, RSVP's are subject to be declined, if maximum capacity of participants has been reached.

The same class will be offered again:

SACRAMENTO (3 sessions)  
JUNE 7, 14 & 21, 2011  
5:30 PM—8:00 PM

Union Hall, 1006 - 4<sup>th</sup> St, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

Not scheduled yet. But if enough of us want to learn more about the role of the bargaining team, our Union can schedule the following class:

#### THE ROLE OF THE BARGAINING TEAM

Your contract expiration date is approaching and you're heading into bargaining. *What do you do?*

Over the course of two days you'll learn proven strategies and tactics for bargaining a better contract.

Among the topics covered:

- The roles of the bargaining team and contract action team (CAT) and how they work together
- Developing and coordinating your table and field strategies
- Identifying management's vulnerabilities and ways to leverage them
- Finding and working with allies in the community
- Developing and communicating a winning campaign message

## Knowledge is Power

Make yourself and  
your union stronger with  
SEIU 1021 Education

Go to this website to sign up.  
[www.seiu1021.org/training](http://www.seiu1021.org/training)



STOCKTON (3 sessions)  
MARCH 10, 17 & 24, 2011  
5:30 pm—8:00 pm

SACRAMENTO (3 sessions)  
JUNE 7, 14 & 21, 2011  
5:30 pm—8:00 pm

## Contract Renewal Dates for June 2011

- Los Rios
- Los Rios Police
- Sacramento Co.
- Ashen Dental





# ~ The Region 2 Story ~



## TABLE FOR TWO

Our Region 2 consists of: Sacramento; El Dorado; Yuba; and Sutter Counties.

Union 1021 currently represents the majority of this regions members in Sacramento and El Dorado Counties. The two empty chairs represent future growth of SEIU 1021 presence in Yuba and Sutter. Currently the E Center Head Start Programs in these two counties are under the SEIU umbrella.

As a current SEIU 1021 Member, please feel free to share this premier edition of this newsletter with friends and/or family that may work and live in the Sutter and Yuba County areas. (Let us know if you need translation.) Then they will be able to learn more about the benefits you reap as a current and active SEIU 1021 worker.

These benefits include:

1. Updates on Union specific State and Federal Legislation and how it impacts your area and your job.
2. Contract renewal dates, that keep the local members aware of the next collective bargaining meeting on their contract, and what is up for change and how their voice can be heard.
3. Where and when they can attend local chapter Union meetings.
4. Updates on the SEIU 1021 Executive Board and the State and National Issues that are followed to provide job and retirement protection for Union members.

5. Free trainings offered by the Union, leadership potential, dates, time, locations, and contact numbers.

### News from SEIU Team Leader Leah Barlanga

The first Bilingual Basic Steward Training was held in Chico in both Spanish and English for SEIU members.

Union training materials used in the Introductory SEIU class on the Labor Movement has been translated into Spanish and Chinese.

Monthly Meetings are held in Yuba City in the Community Room of the apartments at 665 Queen Avenue in Yuba City on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5 PM.

Contact SEIU Organizer Linda Moreano at (916) 505-0044 for more information.

SEIU represents workers of the E Center Head Start Programs in both Sutter and Yuba Counties.



### SEIU Local 1021 Committee on Political Education (COPE)

SEIU 1021 interacts with the political world through the Committee on Political Education

In the Sacramento region COPE meetings start at 6:00 PM on the Second Tuesday of every month at the Sacramento SEIU 1021 Union Hall, 1006 - 4th Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor.

You can join us in person or link into a conference call to discuss campaigns, expenditures, and legislation that affects our union and its members.

Currently COPE is working on the following issues important to all of us:

1) Helping to get the **temporary tax extension** passed in June, so we can continue our jobs in K-12 education without catastrophic cuts.

2) **Economic Fairness Campaign**  
The first meeting in our region is on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, to build allies in our communities in order to hold the big banks accountable for the foreclosure crisis (help to keep struggling owners in homes by making real effort to work out an alternative to foreclosure).

3) **Tax swaps** with our county government need to be beneficial to the taxpayers, and not just profit generators for the banks, and to help our communities become better by keeping blight out of our neighborhoods (think of the foreclosed house with the weeds, broken windows), the banks who own these properties are mandated to pay for the upkeep.

John Shaban (Paint Shop)

cell: (916) 837-4427  
[john.shaban@gmail.com](mailto:john.shaban@gmail.com)

John will contribute more in our next edition.



## ~ What's Happening ~

### ~ El Dorado ~

SEIU Represents the following work sites in El Dorado County:

#### **The Los Rios Community Colleges**

- Folsom Lake
- Placerville

#### **Alta Regional Center**

- Placerville Office

#### **Alta Regional Center**

- South Lake Tahoe Office

Alta Regional Center provides services for people with Developmental Disabilities and their families who live in the Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, and Alpine Counties.

### ADDITIONAL INFO

Surveys are important tools that help your union determine how best to serve members. Please let us know what you think.

Please take time to respond to the following questions by e-mail, or by phone. Your comments will be the guidelines used to develop the next edition of this Regional Newsletter.

1. Are you aware of your organizations contract renewal date? Do you know who is representing your office on the bargaining team?
2. Where do you hold your Chapter Meetings? Let us know the days/times/locations. We can send a speaker or assist in letting Executive Board Members know key issues in our region.

3. Have you taken any of the free Union trainings? Would you like more information on trainings held in your city?

4. Does your local Chapter of SEIU 1021 have social events for the rank and file to meet? Would you consider inviting fellow members from other counties in Region 2 for a 'Meet and Greet' with local elected officers of your County or State?

5. Do you have family members or friends that are looking for Union supported jobs? Do you need more information on how to bring non-represented workers into the umbrella of the SEIU 1021?

Please email me (preferred)  
*Ken.blomberg@seiu1021.org*  
Or you can phone me at:  
(510)-501-4789  
(916)-873-2970

Phones can take a message.

### BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Our current Bylaws have two serious flaws:

Dues structure is not uniform which means some jurisdictions pay more than others (roughly 20,000 members are at the highest dues rate – 1.8%).

Bylaw amendments reduce the top dues rate as part of a comprehensive dues transition plan.

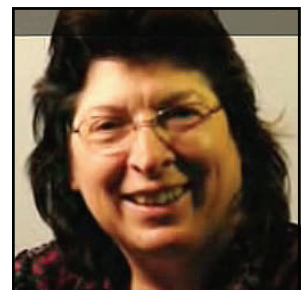
In 2007 we were merged in to a new 'mega' size Local with a rigid 'top-down' structure. The Bylaw amends the 'top-down' structure and instead defines a structure that is flexible, accountable, and gives Chapters the support they need to be successful when challenged during bargaining, meet-and-confer, grievance handling and arbitration prep.

Overall, the proposed bylaw amendments are intended to give the membership more of a 'say' in how the Union is run.

The proposed Bylaw amendments also strengthens financial oversight, increases the role of retirees, makes Officers and Board members more accountable (in part by making it easier to recall them), and limits staff's involvement in our Local's elections and internal politics.

In Solidarity,

Roxanne Sanchez – President  
SEIU Local 1021



Roxanne Sanchez

4 Golden Nuggets  
SEIU 1021 Union Hall  
1006 - 4th Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA, 95814



SEIU 1021 is on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.SEIU1021.org](http://www.SEIU1021.org)

Fold Here

## Political Updates

### Sacramento Meets Newly Elected Assembly Members

January 12, 2011

About 30 members of SEIU 1021 Sacramento Unified School District (SCUSD) attended a meet and greet held at the 4<sup>th</sup> Street SEIU office with newly elected officials.

They met new Assembly members **Richard Pan (D5)**, a Democrat who was successfully elected by an area that typically sends a Republican to the Assembly.

They also met Assembly member **Roger Dickinson (D9)**, a former Sacramento County Supervisor and strong Union supporter.

They asked questions about the state budget and discussed schools as well as the banks campaign that members are bringing to Sacramento.

Members also had the opportunity to meet with the outgoing school board president and the newly elected board president—both who are strong supporters of our members and the work they do at SCUSD.

Shared by **Bill Steck** ([www.SEIU1021.org](http://www.SEIU1021.org))

Our mission is to ensure that all workers and their families have a voice in our Union, as well as our workplaces, government, and communities.

Call our Member Resources Center at [1-877-OUR-1021](tel:1-877-OUR-1021) for questions about your work or our union.

