



North Coast Regional Newsletter

May 2025

April In Review

Welcome our *newest Chapter: Bay Area Discovery Museum!*

Please join us in welcoming our newest siblings from the [Bay Area Discovery Museum](#) to our union!

A vote count was facilitated on February 18th at Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services (FMCS):
31 out of 40 cards (77%) voted in favor of joining SEIU 1021!

This chapter is located in Sausalito under the Golden Gate Bridge, which is now the southernmost chapter in our region.

On April 3rd SEIU 1021 staff & Regional Vice President Travis Balzarini joined our new members for lunch. The chapter is preparing to enter bargaining for their 1st contract.

Let's get our newest members the contract they deserve!



Lunch with our new SEIU 1021 members from Bay Area Discovery Museum on April 3, 2025.

Hands Off Rallies Held on April 5th

Members from across our North Coast region attended Hands Off rallies on April 5th.

Elon Musk's "Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)", which *is not* an official department within our Federal Government, has taken everything they can get their hands on: our healthcare, our personal data, our jobs, our services... and they're daring the world to stop them. This is a crisis, and the time to act is now.

On April 5th our members took to the streets to fight back with a clear message: Hands Off!



From Left to Right:
Travis Balzarini, North Coast Regional VP,
Jackie Elward, Rohnert Park Councilmember, and
Kevin Godwin, Napa County Chapter President,
attended the **Santa Rosa** Hands Off rally.



On the Right:
A'kesh Eidi, Mendocino County Chapter President,
joins the crowd after speaking at the **Ukiah** Hands Off rally.

We encourage you to get involved in the ongoing protests in your local community.

Novato Chapter Bargaining Updates

Last year our Novato chapter members campaigned in support of [Measure M](#) to increase the city's sales tax rate by 0.75%; estimated to generate an additional **\$10 million of revenue per year** starting in July 2025.

Bargaining Update from April 15th

We held a bargaining update lunch with our members on April 15th.

Despite the additional Measure M revenue *our members helped secure*, City management is currently **offering lower wage increases** than they announced *before* Measure M was approved by voters.



Novato Chapter members attended a bargaining update lunch on April 15th.

City Council Action on April 22nd



Novato Members silently welcomed City Council members as they enter the City Council Chambers.

Our 1st direct communication with the Novato City Council happened on April 22nd. The member turnout was great, and public comments were on fire!

It was a typical City Council meeting, demonstrating a "Tale of 2 Cities":

- The City Council congratulated themselves on issuing proclamations to community volunteers, boasting about Novato's value for its community.
- Our members exposed the City's practice of paying substandard wages, demanding the Council put their money where their mouths are.

San Anselmo Chapter Bargaining Update

Members from our San Anselmo chapter [attended the Town Council meeting on April 22nd to demand fair wages & benefits.](#)

This was the 1st direct communication with the Town Council during this bargaining campaign. Here are a couple of comments from our members:

"Where our salaries currently stand, all of us earn below the median salaries of comparable positions in the surrounding cities and towns"
~ **Jackson Dobronyi**

"Not a single entry-level employee can afford the average rental price here in Marin without being rent-burdened (paying more than 30% of their income on rent)." ~ **Will Messinger**

Town administration has provided an initial lowball offer. Their choice of language indicates that this is going to be a strenuous fight to get the pay and benefits our members need.



San Anselmo chapter members attended the Town Council meeting on April 22, 2025.

New Temporary Field Representative Hired: *Claudia Galliani*



Claudia is a seasoned community advocate from the Bay Area with a strong background in policy and organizing. She recently led the successful “Yes on Measure I” campaign in Sonoma County, securing vital funding for early childhood education and care.

Her past roles—as a caregiver, teacher, and gardener—reflect a lifelong commitment to service and solidarity. Claudia holds a master’s degree in public policy and is deeply dedicated to advancing justice, equity, and the power of working people.

We’re very excited that Claudia has joined our North Coast team!

Federal Attacks & Our Response

Hands Off Medicaid!

For 60 years, states and the federal government have shared responsibility for Medicaid. Now Congress is planning to cut federal payments to states by as much as \$2.5 trillion over the next 10 years *to pay for tax cuts for billionaires and large corporations*.

To absorb this loss, states will have to cut services for people who depend on them, reduce payments to hospitals and other providers, and likely borrow from other parts of the budget, affecting support for vital services such as schools, housing, and childcare.

If Congress Cuts Medicaid:

- Millions of people will lose health insurance, including nearly 40% of all kids.
- Seniors and people with disabilities will lose their home care.
- 6 in 10 nursing home residents will lose coverage; nursing homes will be understaffed or close.
- Kids with learning and developmental disabilities will not have support so that they can learn and thrive.
- Rural hospitals that depend on Medicaid funding will close.
- Our healthcare crisis will get even worse because there will be less funding for healthcare jobs.
- More than 10 million seniors will no longer afford their Medicare premiums.
- Deep Medicaid cuts have a devastating impact on state budgets, reducing funds not only for Medicaid services but also for other areas. State and local governments will have to make cuts to make up the difference. This means hiring freezes and stagnant wages. Dirty, overcrowded schools and fewer community services like pools, libraries, and parks.

We will all feel the impact of Medicaid cuts.

The Threat Is Real

The threat to Medicaid and our healthcare is real and we need to take it seriously.

Congress passed a budget framework with \$880 billion in proposed cuts to Medicaid.

Now, Republicans in Congress are considering many different proposals to achieve these cuts.

It’s time for those who care about Medicaid to *speak up and fight back*.

How You Can Help: *Talk with your U.S. Senators & Representatives!*

We need people to call and email their U.S. Representatives and Senators.

Tell your Representatives and Senators how important Medicaid is for our community!

Who are my Congress Members?

Before contacting a legislator, make sure you are their constituent using [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov): [Find your Legislator](#).

A **constituent** is someone who lives in the place that their legislator represents. Constituents are the ones who vote for their legislator. That's why legislators should care about what their constituents have to say.

Call Your Congress Members

You can call the [Capitol switchboard \(202\) 224-3121](#) to be connected with your Congress Member's office.

Tip: Members of Congress have both DC and district offices. Oftentimes, district offices have a lower call volume, so you may be more likely to speak with a staff member from their local district office than if you were to call their DC office. Or you can call both!

Email Your Congress Members

Show your solidarity by [emailing your Congressperson](#) or use the following QR code:



Supporting Immigrant Workers and Community Members

As union members we build worker power to protect our working conditions. We can use the same approach to help protect each other and our community by learning our rights, educating others, and standing in solidarity together.

2 Know Your Rights Trainings Held: Immigration & ICE

A [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\) agent arrested a person in the lobby of the Sonoma County Probation Department on March 13th](#).

In response, we organized 2 Know Your Rights training courses held on April 17th & 29th via Zoom. Attendees heard presentations from [VIDAS Legal](#) and the [North Bay Rapid Response Network](#) which explained employees' rights during encounters with ICE agents, followed by a question and answer session.

Thank you to our members who organized these trainings, to everyone who attended, and to the presenters!

Who to Call If ICE Agents Arrive at your Worksite

In **Sonoma County**: Call the [North Bay Rapid Response Network](#) using their [24-hour Hotline 707-800-4544](#).

In **Marin County**: Call the [Marin Rapid Response Network](#) using their [24-hour Hotline 415-991-4545](#).

Upcoming Events

May 17 @ 10:00 – 5:00pm: Executive Board Meeting

This month the Executive Board meeting will be held **in-person** in our Fairfield Office.

Public Comment will be available at the beginning of the meeting: this is your opportunity to let our Local's Elected Officers & Executive Staff know about the issue(s) affecting you & your fellow members.

All members are welcome to attend:

[SEIU 1021 Fairfield Office](#)

[2300 Boynton Ave, 2nd Floor, Fairfield, CA 94533](#)

May 21 @ 10:00am – 3:00pm: SEIU State Budget Rally Against Cuts

Join SEIU members from across California as we protest the proposed State Budget cuts.

10:00am – 11:00am: Rally check-in, lunch, and socializing.

11:00am – 12:00pm: Rally program featuring community members, anti-poverty advocates, elected officials, and more!

1:00pm – 3:00 pm: Engage in legislative visits with your state representatives.

[West Side of the State Capitol](#)

[10th Street and N Street](#)

[Sacramento, CA 95814](#)

May 29 @ 10:00am – 5:00pm: Member & Staff Fightback Convening

Member leaders from across our Local will meet to plan our response to the threats and attacks from the Federal government against our members' rights and our communities by defunding public services.

This is an invitation-only event. If you feel you should have received an invitation, please contact our Regional Vice President Travis Balzarini [via email](#) or by phone at [\(707\) 480-7961](#).

[Sunrise Event Center](#)

[620 Orange Drive, Vacaville](#)

May 30: Last Day at Work for 2 Field Representatives

Phil Ybarrolaza and **Will Ward** gave notice that they're leaving their positions with our union.

We appreciate their service to our members and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

[Now Hiring for 3 Field Representative positions!](#)

We have 3 openings in our region if you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Field Representative with our Local union.

June 14 @ 9:00am – 5:00pm: Labor Notes Troublemaker School

A Troublemakers School is a 1-day conference Labor Notes conducts for networking, building solidarity, and sharing successes. The conference features interactive workshops, panels and meetings, ranging from basic organizing skills to advanced topics like winning first contracts.

[Oakland Technical High School](#)

[4351 Broadway, Oakland](#)

Up to 10 members from our Region are invited to attend **for free**. Priority will be given to those who have never attended a Labor Notes event. Please contact our Regional Vice President Travis Balzarini [via email](#) or by phone at [\(707\) 480-7961](#) if you'd like to attend this Troublemaker School.

Benefits

SEIU 1021 is offering Healthcare Tuition Support

We're very excited to announce that SEIU 1021 has partnered with [The Education Fund](#) to provide financial assistance for members who work in healthcare (including social work & mental health) to further their career through additional education or to pay for certifications necessary to perform their job.

Currently we're offering **up to \$5,250** in reimbursement for tuition & fees to members enrolled in **qualifying Healthcare & Social Service education programs**: license renewals, continuing education, prerequisite classes and degree/certificate programs.

Tuition Support is provided through reimbursement. Members who are approved for the program & have already paid eligible program costs may submit receipts for reimbursement.

Please note acceptance into the program is not guaranteed & space is limited.

How to Apply

- Have receipts showing payments made toward education at the time of application.
- Be enrolled in a degree/certificate program with a completion or graduation date between September 1, 2022 – July 1, 2025 or completed CEU or license renewal between September 1, 2022 – June 1, 2025.
- If you've already received this reimbursement of \$5,250 you are not eligible for additional funding.

To apply for Tuition Support:

- [Register for MyEdFund](#), the Education Fund's secure member portal.
 - When asked to "Please select your Employer", select from the bottom drop down list.
 - You need to enter your Employee ID number to register.
- Schedule an appointment.

For questions, please contact **Huda Khalil**: [Call \(310\) 985-7620](tel:3109857620) or [Email hkhalil@theedfund.org](mailto:hkhalil@theedfund.org).

SEIU Member Benefits

[SEIU Member Benefits](#) is a benefit program exclusively for SEIU members!

As an SEIU Member, you work hard to improve yourself, your family and the communities you serve. You deserve something special too. We're proud to bring you an assortment of great benefits, at no cost or obligation, just for being an SEIU member!

See how the buying power of millions of SEIU members helps you:

[Manage Your Finances](#): Get competitive rates on everything from credit cards to personal loans.

[Protect Your Family](#): Benefit from group rates on a growing portfolio of insurance products.

[Cut Your Cost of Living](#): Get special discounts at thousands of stores and favorite merchants.

[Travel For Less](#): Enjoy specially negotiated rates and travel programs.

[Affordable Education](#): Achieve your education goals while managing costs.

There's no cost or obligation, simply register on the website to get started saving today.

Know Your Rights

The Right to Due Process During Questioning of your Citizenship

The United States' Constitution provides many of the same rights to *all workers*, documented or not.

Everyone should know what they can and need to do if they are ever in a position where their citizenship or immigration status is questioned.

Here are just a few immigration-related rights:

- You have a right to remain silent.
- You have a right to refuse to be searched.
- You have the right to call your country's consulate.
- You have the right to demand copies of your immigration papers.
- You have the right to speak to an attorney.

[SEIU released a video explaining these rights in further detail.](#)

The Right to Representation ("Weingarten Rights")

If you are called into an interview meeting with your supervisor or manager so they can investigate a situation which might result in discipline, you have specific representational rights:

1. You have the right to have a Union Steward and/or SEIU 1021 Field Representative (staff) present.
2. If you want a Steward / Field Representative there, ***you must ask for them.***
3. If you do not know why your manager wants to meet with you, ask them if the meeting could result in discipline.

This statement could save your job:

"If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, I respectfully request that my Steward / Field Representative be present at the meeting. Without representation present, I choose not to respond to any questions or statements."

4. If your manager refuses to allow you to bring a Steward / Field Representative, repeat your request in front of a witness. Do not refuse to attend the meeting, but do not answer any questions either. Take notes. Once the meeting is over, call your Steward / Field Representative immediately.
5. You have the right to speak privately with your Steward / Field Representative before and during the meeting.
6. Your Steward / Field Representative has the right to play an active role in the meeting. They are not just witness.

These are called "**Weingarten Rights**" based on a 1975 Supreme Court decision (NLRB vs. J. Weingarten).

As with all rights, if we do not use them, we lose them.

Stewards' Corner

What Does a Union Steward Do?

Stewards are the face of the union at the worksite and are critical to building a strong, engaged and active membership. Stewards' roles and responsibilities include: ongoing training; welcome and orientation of new members; mobilize, educate, and inform members on union activities and other issues; resolve worksite issues; process grievances; provide timely and effective representation of the members; attend Steward Council meetings.

A steward is a trusted colleague that can answer questions and counsel fellow workers. You don't need an extensive knowledge of Union Practices or Fair Labor law. In fact, you can be the conduit to a more knowledgeable union member or Field Representative (union staff) that can help.

Having stewards in each building also keeps management more ethical. When management knows that there is fair representation in the workplace, they are less likely to take shortcuts when it comes to communication, scheduling or discipline.

“I have enjoyed being a steward and I always learn from each experience. At times it may require doing some research and that has always continued to inform me and be of better service to others.”

~ Valerie Schlafke, Steward from Sonoma County’s Community Development Commission

How Do I Become a Union Steward?

The process for becoming a Steward varies for each Chapter. Refer to your Chapter Bylaws for details.

However, there are 3 basic requirements to become a Union Steward:

1) Being a Union Member

You must be a dues-paying union member to become a Steward.

2) Attend Basic Steward Training

Here are the instructions to take the **Basic Steward Training** online through our SEIU 1021 Member Resource Center (MRC) website:

1. Find your **Union Member ID** by either:
 - a. Calling the Member Resource Center at [877-687-1021](tel:877-687-1021).
 - b. Contacting your [Field Representative](#).
2. Go to mrc.seiu1021.org and follow the self-registration process using your Union Member ID and the email address you have on file with the union. This will be the email address on record with Sonoma County.
3. Once logged into the portal:
 - a. In the top horizontal menu, click DIGITAL LEARNING
 - b. ONLINE LEARNING will appear in a drop-down: Click it.
4. Create an Account / Login

If you haven’t created an account: Click CREATE AN ACCOUNT and follow the instructions.

If you have already created an account: Enter your login credentials.
5. This should automatically take you to the available COURSES online, which are found located under CATALOG in the vertical left-hand menu.
6. To take a course, find it and click the yellow START button at the bottom of the course panel. This will take you to the COURSE MATERIAL tab.
7. Click the title of the course and it will launch in a new window for you.

3) Submit a Union Steward Nomination Petition

Fill out the [SEIU LOCAL 1021 Union Steward Nomination Petition](#) form.

Fellow union members must sign your petition in support of you becoming their onsite Steward.

Once complete, send the form to your Chief Steward or Field Representative.

If you feel called to represent your fellow employees, complete the steps above to join our amazing Stewards!

SEIU 1021 Region B Information

If you have questions or need help, contact your Executive Board Officer or your assigned Field Representative anytime. All communication is confidential. We’re here to help!

Executive Board Elected Leaders

Position	Name	Email	Phone
Vice President of Region B	Travis Balzarini	travis.balzarini@seiu1021.org	(707) 480-7961
Del Norte County Area Representative	{vacant}		
Marin County Area Representative	Mariette Shin	mariette.shin@seiu1021.org	
Mendocino County Area Representative	{vacant}		
Sonoma County Area Representative	Sandy Sigala	sandy.sigala@seiu1021.org	
County Industry Council Representative	David Cameron	david.cameron@seiu1021.org	
Budget & Finance Committee	Steven DeSalvo	steven.desalvo@seiu1021.org	
Budget & Finance Committee	{vacant}		

Help Wanted: 1 Position Available on the Budget & Finance Committee (BFC)

The Budget & Finance Committee (BFC) provides oversight & transparency on how money from our dues is spent. The BFC works with union staff to develop the annual budget for review & adoption by the Executive Board. The BFC is responsible for reviewing, approving & monitoring the Local's financial reports, budget, investments, expenditures, and spending to ensure financial stability. The BFC also establishes fiscal policies that are adopted by the Executive Board.

We have 1 vacancy at the Budget & Finance Committee (BFC) that needs to be filled ASAP.

If you're interested in this position, please contact our Regional Vice President, Travis Balzarini by phone [\(707\) 480-7961](tel:7074807961) or email travis.balzarini@seiu1021.org.

Field Staff

We have **5 Field Representatives** (union staff) assigned to our region:

Name	Primary Office	Phone	Email
Aaron Burton	Santa Rosa	707-234-9737	aaron.burton@seiu1021.org
Jana Blunt	Novato	707-478-6497	jana.blunt@seiu1021.org
Joel Evans-Fudem	Santa Rosa	707-380-5804	joel.evans-fudem@seiu1021.org
Patrick Hickey	Ukiah	707-386-8457	patrick.hickey@seiu1021.org
Claudia Galliani	Santa Rosa	707-266-8425	claudia.galliani@seiu1021.org

The **Field Director** for our region is **Andrea Zanetti**: andrea.zanetti@seiu1021.org or [707-290-4888](tel:7072904888).

If you can't reach anybody listed above, please contact the **Member Resource Center** (MRC) [877-687-1021](tel:8776871021).

Help Wanted: [Now Hiring for 3 Field Representative positions!](#)

We have an opening in our Santa Rosa office if you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a Field Representative with our Local union.

Field Offices

Novato

[384 Bel Marin Keys Blvd](#)

[Suite 155](#)

[Novato, CA 94949](#)

Available by Appointment Only

Santa Rosa

[600 B St](#)

[Santa Rosa, CA 95401](#)

Phone: [707-293-2858](#)

Ukiah

[655 Kings Ct #100](#)

[Ukiah, CA 95482](#)

Phone: [707-376-2403](#)

Bylaws

[SEIU Local 1021 Bylaws](#): This is the official document that governs how our Local union is run.