

# POWERSOURCE FEBRUARY 2023

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEIU | SRJC CHAPTER



Hello Classified Professionals,  
I hope everyone had a restful winter break and welcome back to Spring semester 2023. SEIU has finally had an opportunity to create and send out the SEIU PowerSource newsletter. This has been on hiatus due to our workload. As a priority to communicate with our unit members, we were able to create some time to update you. SEIU would also like to thank you and appreciate you taking the time to cast your votes for your SEIU Officers, as we all continue to work hard for the benefit of our unit members.

February is here, and yet it feels like the year just started, time is flying by rapidly. As we return to in-person work from the COVID-19 pandemic, many find it very difficult, feelings of mental stress due to what we've all been through. I continue to ask what happens after COVID? SEIU will be working with Classified Senate to bring a few workshops forward during the spring semester around mental health, conflict tactics and communication. We will keep you updated about this work.

SEIU has been asking about the survey update on "what are we not going to do anymore." We know several of our classified have taken on additional workload, and some are receiving working out of class, however more money does not solve the problem. The District continues to move forward with the 2019 reorganization – still not complete, therefore we continue to have workload issues including vacancies from the ERI. SEIU will bring the results forward once we receive the District's report.

SEIU appreciates your continued hard work and support as we all continue to gather as a team, doing what we can to continue the education for our students. This definitely takes great dedication and commitment to what we believe in.

With that being said, please take care of yourselves and get recharged, re-energized and take some time away from the worksite to regain and strengthen your mind, body and soul as we continue through the spring semester. It was great to see you all at PDA Day.

Your SEIU President,  
Sandy Sigala

SEIU1021 SRJC Local Chapter President  
ssigala@santarosa.edu

# Unity is Strength – WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER!!! STAY WITH THE UNION



## **EMPLOYEE EDUCATION AND TRAINING (ARTICLE 22)**

Per SEIU contract, Article 22 -  
Employees may take up to 3  
hours/week of classes and  
District-sponsored activities, with  
appropriate approval. This Educational  
Release time is available to unit  
members who are taking job-related  
courses, working towards a degree  
or certificate, language courses,  
and health and wellness courses  
that are deemed appropriate.  
Release time may be scheduled to  
attend courses or study.



# Digital Labor-Management Committee



March 15 from  
5:30-7:00pm

Tips & Traps of LMC's

-Union 101-  
March 23 from  
5:30-7:00pm  
What is a  
union? How  
unions operate  
and why they  
matter.



Recruiting  
& Engaging  
Workers  
in a  
-1:1 –  
March  
28 from  
5:30-7:00pm



## 3 STEWARD POSITIONS ARE OPEN

Have you been thinking about getting involved with OUR Union? NOW is the time. This is a great way to get your toes wet and take on a role with our Classified Executive Council of SEIU. Training and Mentoring is provided– so you're never alone!

Reach out to Liko Puha ([mpuha@santarosa.edu](mailto:mpuha@santarosa.edu)) if you are interested in joining a great team of people.



## Governor's Budget

Governor Newsom has released the January 2023/24 State Budget Proposal which is supportive of California Community Colleges. The Governor has created a roadmap that focuses on equity and student success. SRJC is focused on dual enrollment with all of our local high schools. Ongoing funding proposals in the Governor's budget includes an 8.13 percent COLA. The budget, including the COLA, is to be negotiated during the SEIU and the Districts negotiations process. See Kate Jolley's recent email of January 24, 2023 for more details.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM (EAP)  
EMPLOYEES AND EVERYONE  
IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD  
CAN ACCESS FREE  
RESOURCES FOR HELP  
WITH PERSONAL CONCERNS  
– EMOTIONAL, MARITAL,  
FINANCIAL, INTERPERSONAL  
ADDICTION AND RECOVERY,  
LEGAL, STRESS, AND  
MORE. GO TO [HTTPS://SISC.KERN.ORG/](https://sisc.kern.org/)  
FOR MORE CONFIDENTIAL  
INFORMATION.

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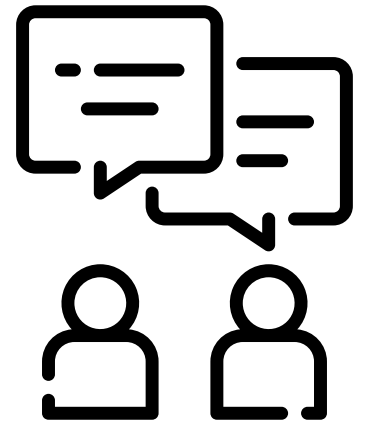


MEMBER UPDATE  
IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF  
SEIU, THANK YOU! IF YOU  
ARE NOT A MEMBER YET AND  
HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT  
BECOMING A MEMBER, HERE  
IS A QR CODE YOU CAN SCAN  
WITH YOUR PHONE AND SIGN  
UP! BEING AN SEIU MEMBER  
AT SRJC IS COOL! TOGETHER  
OUR NEGOTIATIONS TEAM IS  
STRONGER AND CAN NEGOTIATE  
BETTER CONTRACTS FOR ALL  
OF US!  
JOIN TODAY!

***SEIU***/1021



# STEWARDS CORNER



The stewards team is available to assist with questions about the contract, any issues related to working conditions, or representation in meetings with your supervisor. We have been hearing workload issues from our Classified.

Please contact any job steward with your questions or concerns.

Job Stewards Contact Information:

<https://seiu.santarosa.edu/job-stewards>

We are here to serve and protect our members.

In solidarity, Chief Steward M. Liko Puha

My name is Jorge DaCosta and I was hired by SRJC in 2012 as a Library Technician. I have been a union member since I was hired here and at several previous jobs (including over 15 years of experience working in libraries). I have always believed in union representation and collective bargaining as a way for workers to ensure fair compensation, good working conditions, and job security. I was born in Lisbon, Portugal and have lived in California since 1975. I enjoy the beauty and climate of Sonoma County by getting out to the local parks regularly. I am a voracious reader, mostly non-fiction, and like being generally informed about what's going on in the world (a bit of a news junkie). Please feel free to say hello or contact me with any questions. If I can't answer you, I will find someone who can. Welcome back from the pandemic and have a good semester. Steward Jorge DaCosta .







**My name is Suzanne Allen and I began working for SRJC in 2016 as an STNC, and permanently hired full time in October 2017, where I worked in the Career Education department and currently work in Health Sciences as an AA II.**

**I've been a union member since 2018. I've lived in Santa Rosa for 20 years with my husband and daughter. I recently decided to become a Job Steward for the Union as I wanted to get more involved and support others in finding a solution to difficult labor situations.**

**I enjoy the outdoors and urban hiking with my family.**

**We want to hear from you! Contact us, with your ideas and they could be in the next issue of the PowerSource!**

**All submissions can be emailed to the Communications Officer, Debbie Riedmuller, [driedmuller@santarosa.edu](mailto:driedmuller@santarosa.edu) (Submissions may be edited for clarity & length).**



**STRONGER  
TOGETHER**

***SEIU*/1021**

