Sacramento Valley

Union Labor Bulletin

Owned and published by the Sacramento Central Labor Council and Sacramento-Sierra's Building & Construction Trades Council, official councils of the AFL-CIO

VOL. 93, NO. 5 MAY 2021 SFP

2021 Workers Memorial Day Special

Unions honor those who died on the job

BY SHERI WILLIAMS

Union members and friends gathered on Workers' Memorial Day, April 28, to honor those who died on the job in 2020, a devastating year in which the pandemic hit working families with loss, sickness and economic hardship.

During the candlelight vigil at Cesar Chavez Park, Sacramento Central Labor Council executive director Fabrizio Sasso said, "the sorrow of the past months will be with us for many years to come. We have lost so many family members, friends and co-workers to this devastating virus, and to other workplace deaths that could have been avoided. In their honor and in their memory, we will continue to fight not just for safe jobs, but for equity, fairness and a better future for all."

The pandemic hit especially hard in Black and brown communities, and among first responders, service employees and others without the ability to work remotely. In California, studies showed that Latino people bore the brunt of deaths in many areas, including the Central Valley.

Sasso stressed that the SCLC is focusing on ensuring that all union members and their families have access to the vaccine, an important protection as restrictions are lifted.

"The Labor Council is working hard to make sure that everyone who wants the shot can get it easily," he said. "There is never a charge, and immigration status does not matter. Getting the vaccine protects not just the person taking it, but everyone around them, family and friends."

While the pandemic has vastly increased awareness of the dangers working people face on the job, unions have long fought for better conditions in workplaces and documented the dangers faced daily at worksites. In its latest "Death on the Job" report,

See HONOR, page 7



PHOTOS BY LILA SWANSON

Labor and allies gathered on April 28 for a candlelight vigil to honor those who died in 2020.

INSIDE:

IRONWORKERS LOCAL 118..... P.11

BRICKLAYERS, TILESETTERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS (BAC) LOCAL 3.....P15

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS (IBEW) LOCAL 340 ..... P.17

CARPENTERS LOCAL 46..... P.19

UC resident doctors fight for contract

BY SHERI WILLIAMS

Resident physicians at UC Davis are fighting for a contract and a fair housing allowance, exposing that high rents are keeping diverse doctors and medical providers from working at the public health care giant.

In April, with the support of the Sacramento Central Labor Council, residents and fellow physicians held a "Unity Break" to call attention to the 18-month fight for a contract.

"While UC Davis claims to champion diversity in recruiting doctors to residency, these claims are empty without tangible support," said Manny Garcha, Neurology Resident physician at UCD. "Our under-served community members deserve the same great healthcare, provided by doctors who reflect their diverse backgrounds and can empathize with their experiences."

The resident doctors are fighting for a housing allowance that can enable them to live in the communities they serve. In Sacramento, rents have skyrocketed in recent years with some of the fastest growth in the nation, while access to affordable housing has shrunk. "Intentionally or not, the UC Davis Health administration has perpetuated an elitist and exclusionary policy by underestimating resident housing costs by nearly 75%. A studio rents for $1400, while administrators have insisted that 1-bedroom apartments can be found at $800 per month," pointed out in a release by the residents' organization, Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU (CIR/SEIU).

UC Davis disputed the claims in a statement, and said the institution values its diverse residents.

The university is currently offering residents about $170 per month toward housing, or $2,000 total. Residents are asking for $5,500, a figure they say is proportionally similar to what UC's in other areas such as Los Angeles and San Francisco offer. Residents are required to live close to the hospital to be available if needed. The residents committee said it has engaged in more than 30 bargaining sessions since forming a union a year and a half ago but has been unable to come to an agreement.



Residents at UC Davis are fighting for a fair contract and help with housing costs.

"Resident and Fellow physicians at UC Davis have served Sacramento valiantly throughout the pandemic. Exhausted after their 80-hour work week, they continue to come to the table to negotiate with hospital administration," a statement read. "The UC Davis Health staff seek to achieve a fair contract for themselves, and all future medical

See RESIDENTS, page 5

Young unionists plan for next generation in Labor



A group of young Labor activists has formed a new organization to foster friendships and action for the next generation of unionists. Called the Sacramento Young Unionists (SYU), it is comprised of both organizers and rank-in-file members, representing several labor sectors and industries.

"We started this group because we felt that no matter what role we ourselves were playing in the local labor movement, there were few opportunities for us to interact with each other outside of political work," said Sofia Cardenas, one of the first members and a new addition to the staff of the Sacramento Central Labor Council.

"As founding members, we recognized a gap in community building, and set out to fill it," she said. "We decided to form a group and take it from there. So far, we have prioritized creating spaces and organizing events where young unionists can get together and build relationships based on common interests. We want the Sacramento CLC, through SYU, to be seen as an organization that appreciates the whole worker. This means recognizing that members might spend 8-10 hours a day working on site, but after work, they're also musicians, artists, parents, corn-hole champions, home brewers, amateur bakers, and outdoor enthusiasts. We want to celebrate young workers for the jobs they do and as the community members that they are."

For more information, contact Cardenas at sofia@sacramentolabor.org.

RESIDENTS

From the cover

residents who will serve Sacramento."

The doctor's committee is continuing to negotiate with UC Davis, with the support of the Sacramento Central Labor Council.

"The members the Labor community stand with you, stand alongside you," said SCLC executive director Fabrizio Sasso.

Sasso said that the Labor Council has been fighting for affordable housing in Sacramento, helping pass a rent control ordinance recently. It is a fight he said the Council will continue to wage.

"We see that UC Davis is building housing that employees and the community won't be able to afford," he said. "You are the providers that have been here throughout the entire pandemic. You are residents and you are interns, but this isn't a hazing, this is your career. And they are saying you don't deserve what you are asking for. Why should you be paid less, why should you struggle to ensure a decent standard of living for you and your family? This is really the greed that fuels capitalism and doesn't respect you or your families."





WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY 2021

Honoring workers whose lives were lost on the job.

SACRAMENTO-SIERRA'S BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

Associated Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors
Asbestos Workers Local 16
B.A.C. Local 3
Boilermakers Local 549
Carpet Installers Local 1237
Cement Masons Local 400
Electricians Local 340
Electricians Local 401
Elevator Constructors Local 8
Glaziers Local 767
Iron Workers Local 118
Laborers Local 67
Laborers & Hod Carriers Local 185
Machinists & Mechanics Lodge 2182
Mill Cabinet Local 1618
Nat'l. Electrical Contractors Assn.
Operating Engineers Local 3
Painters Local 487
Painters Local 567
Plasterers & Cement Masons Local 300
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 447
UA Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry
Underground Utility/Landscape Local 355
Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669
Roofers Local 81
Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors National Association
Sheet Metal Workers Local 104
Stage Hands Local 50
Teamsters Local 150

1600 Sacramento Inn Way, Suite 132 Sacramento, CA 95815 | (916) 924-0424