

I, too, share everyone's kudos to Eulalio and the Fresno group. I did most of my kudos on Facebook.

Kris, I'm happy to write a statement to help you guys. We decertified in December and we are in bargaining. **None of our benefits were touched.** Actually, we are now working on language to make the medical benefit language stronger and more favorable than SEIU allowed to happen. The contract we had with SEIU is what we are working with until we ratify what we are bargaining now. Remember, we are a court so who better to know what we are using. We are finally getting a half decent raise (eight years without one) for the first year. We are in a fierce battle for money in year two. Our premiums were increased in bargaining as well. Our attorney is just off the hook. He gets the work done and no bullshit at the table. We are in MUCH BETTER and COMPETENT hands. We also hired a PR firm which is going to be a big help—especially if we go on strike. We have so much pent up anger at management AND SEIU (their friends). And management is pretty fried that we were successful. LOL

All of the above with our own money which we direct any which way we need. We pay for our attorney who answers to us, our PR firm, supplies and our gracious, awesome Deputy Sheriff's Association has been giving us support and meeting space. Even though we are EXHAUSTED with all the bargaining, We, as SCPEA are getting stronger by the minute.

Don't let anything get in your way. We lived and breathed decert 24/7 for months last year. Even when SEIU put out flyers calling us ZEROs, we just laid on the ropes like Muhammad Ali and then we let them talk so much sh** on us that they lost all credibility. They didn't think that people liked or believed in us. We had something SEIU didn't have—integrity and a great deal of moxie. Social media was also really helpful. We gathered e-mail addresses and we formed a "squad" of people to get word out. You may want cell numbers to group text with your inner circle. We did a lot of that.

It's a big feat but what has SEIU done for any of us lately? Nothing but take our money and out to the next lame candidate. They take our money and have the nerve to ask for COPE on top of that. Then if you don't do it, they act snotty with you. Then they throw you under the bus.

Anyway, best of luck to you Kristina and Rick. You have my support and well wishes.

Take care,

Shelly

Skippy Girl