



9to5 California WORKING WOMEN NEWS

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SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER

L.A. Chapter Monthly Meetings
6330 Mecham Way,
Los Angeles, CA 90043
Time: 3 P.M. Sunday
May 2nd, June 27th, July 18th

****May 6th** Bullying In The Workplace -
How to Stop it! Lunchtime presentation by 9to5
at Central Library, 630 W. 5th Street, L. A.

****May 7th** 2010 Budget Forum, 4 PM
One Generation Active Senior Site,
18255 Victory Blvd, Reseda, CA 91335.
Presented by the California State Assembly
Democratic Caucus

****May 12th** 9to5 Film Series: "Wal-Mart –
High Cost of Low Wage,"
6:30 PM
3731 Stocker Street, Room 201, L.A –
entrance off Santa Rosalia, near Baldwin Hills
Crenshaw Mall

****May 13th** 9to5 "Know Your Rights"
Workshop, 6:30 PM
Eagle Rock Library, 5027 Caspar Ave, Los
Angeles. 90041

****May 22nd** Harvey Milk Day, 4 PM

Father Serra Park, 125 Paseo De La Plaza,
Los Angeles, CA 90012. Pride at WORK.

****June 11th** Public Hearing, California
Commission on the Status of
Women, 1 PM – 5 PM
Pasadena Central Library Auditorium,
285 E. Walnut St, Pasadena, CA.
SIGN-UP by June 3rd to testify for women's
rights; www.statusofwomen.ca.gov/

****June 27th** 9to5 Chapter Meeting, 3 PM
NOMINATIONS OPEN for 9to5 Chapter Board

****July 7th** 9to5 Film Series: "Made in L.A."
6:30 PM
Garment workers win struggle for fair pay,
3731 Stocker Street, Suite 201, L.A –
parking behind building, Entrance off Santa
Rosalia, near Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Mall

****July 15th** 9to5 "Know Your Rights",
Workshop, 6:00 P.M., Hyde
Park Library, 2205 W. Florence Ave, Los
Angeles, 90043

****July 30th--
Aug 1st** 9to5 California Summer Retreat
SAVE THE DATE!
Our annual leadership retreat for families, fun,
and discussion about our mission.

****Aug 25th** 9to5 Film Series: "Iron Jawed
Angels" 6:30 PM
Women's Equality Day: Celebrate the
anniversary of women's right to vote.
3731 Stocker Street, Suite 201, L.A –
parking behind building, entrance off Santa
Rosalia, near Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Mall

“Kids + Services = L.A.’s Future!”



Monica Mitchell and Mich'e Hutchison
“Save our Child Care Centers”

On March 31, 2010, families marched from Pershing Square Park to City Hall, to testify in the city chambers on the issues that face L.A. today. Without the support of the community, funds for L.A.’s parks, libraries, and childcare centers will be cut.

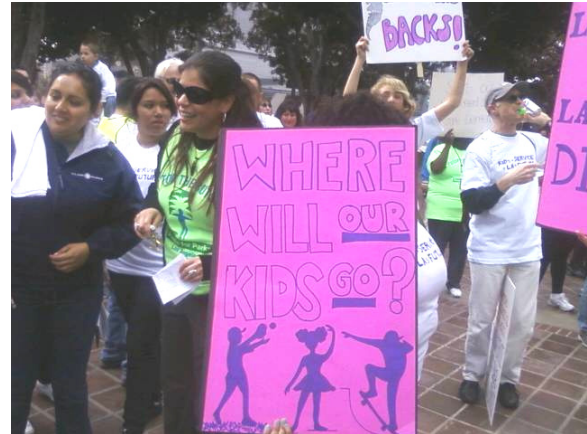
On this courageous day, there were over 300 people, along with 9to5 members who held handmade signs, and wore t-shirts that read “Kids + Services = LA’s Future!” There were also reporters and cameras filming everyone who was marching in trying to capture the essence of the concern on the parents and children’s faces.

I am a mother of a six year old daughter, and a mentor of seven foster children. We spend most of our constructive time in parks and libraries.

Without libraries, I am unable to help the kids learn how to read, and without community play grounds the kids are unable to run around freely and just be themselves.

If we lose our parks and our libraries, where will our kids use up their spare energy and do their homework?

Mich'e Hutchison



“Where Will Our Kids Go” Poster

“Everywhere we go, everywhere we go. People want to know, people want to know. Who we are, who we are. So we tell them, so we tell them. Children of L.A., Children of L.A.,” was the wonderful chant we spoke when we marched down from Pershing Square to City Hall on March 31st.

The march was to let our city know that cutting library hours and closing parks and preschool centers is a very horrible thing. I have a four-year-old son named Sir Frederick who was diagnosed with autism in 2008. He has a lot of energy and needs help with motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Going to the park helps him work off his excess energy. In fact, we just moved across from a city park so that he could play there. A lot of people will be affected by these cut backs. We all need to stand up for ourselves. We need to be heard.

There is only one word that I can use to describe the march... AWESOME. It was great to see families from many parts of Los Angeles get together and stand up for their community. To march, and chant, and be heard is just one step we can take to get things done. We can't give up!

Monica Mitchell

Our 6th Regional Leadership Conference



9to5 activists host RLC reception table

On April 10, 2010, over 50 people gathered together in San Jose to learn about work-family issues like universal single-payer health care, wage theft protections, and the fight for safety net programs like CalWORKS, now threatened with elimination by California's budget crisis. For the first time, a Los Angeles delegation of women were able to come. Workshop leaders first introduced their topics, and then led two rounds of well-attended workshops. Health Care was covered by two 9to5 Bay Area leaders, Joan Goddard and Roberta Diephouse, assisted by Rev. Sandy Perry. Wage theft protections, including the ongoing gender wage gap, were forcefully presented by the Oakland's popular Women's Economic Agenda Project (WEAP) director, Ethel Long-Scott. To help us advocate for CalWORKS and all other concerns, former local State Assembly Member Sally Lieber gave a very practical run-down of effective lobbying techniques.

During the conference luncheon, participants heard from two prominent community leaders: Assembly Member Jim Beall and South Labor Center Director Cindy Chavez. Jim Beall gave members his pledge to work with us to bring county "dependent contractor" members into the union where they belong.



CA State Assembly Member Jim Beall

9to5's conference received wide media promotion in radio, newspaper and community calendar announcements, as well media coverage that included Sing Tao, the Chinese daily, and the KPFA Evening News. It was endorsed by over 19 community groups.

The April 10th conference in San Jose was very helpful preparation for two days of advocacy at our state capitol in Sacramento on April 26th and 27th. This year we participated in California Partnership's April Action Days to speak out for a Family Recovery Budget!



9to5 California took 14 low-wage working women to Sacramento, five from Los Angeles! With 150 participants from across California, members made over 40 legislative visits and ended the day with an action directed at the "Big Five" leaders who last year pushed through a budget behind closed doors by signing away billions in corporate tax cuts. We sang, "Let the Sun Shine In" as we dropped in unannounced to press our demands for real transparency in budget negotiations.

9TO5 MEMBERS SPEAK OUT



Martha Israel & Cathy Deppe at April Action Days, Sacramento, April 26, 2010

I was really happy to be a 9to5 participant in the Family Recovery Budget advocacy action in Sacramento. 9to5 is part of California Partnership, a coalition of over 126 anti-poverty groups throughout California. Together we gathered 150 folks from across the state to advocate to state legislators and the governor for **No More Cuts to the Poor!** Our Family Recovery Budget calls for jobs for all who can work, a safety net for all who cannot, and revenues from the corporations and the high income earners to make it all work.

We began on Monday, April 26, 2010 at the Ramada with a day filled with training and fun. Fun included throwing our trash (crumpled up written comments about unfair budget cuts to health and human services) at the governor's picture. Among the advocates were talented artists who designed T-Shirts with messages that defended our rights, or expressed the anger of "we, the people of California".

Getting to know the members of the other advocacy programs, and hearing their stories, wired us up for Tuesday's meetings

with our legislators to really get out our message of the need for a "Family Recovery Budget" and for "Smart Revenue Solutions to Save Our State." It felt really good to speak directly to the people we employ. We must have a budget that is livable for all Californians.

Martha Israel



Avis Williams, Center, with 9to5 Members in Washington, D.C. for the Annual Leadership Conference

Hello all! My name is Avis Williams and I am Co-Chairperson for the 9to5 Los Angeles Chapter. I have just returned from the 9to5 Annual Conference in D.C., where I served as national board representative for the L.A. chapter. What a beautiful, exciting adventure we had in Washington, DC. I truly encourage everyone to go at least once. You will walk the area with plenty of "celeb" Politicians. John McCain even opened the door for me as we were going into the Senate Building.

Our L.A. team of myself, Diane Johnson, Velma McClinton, and Donna Benton covered 3 meetings in different buildings on Capitol Hill, after lots of walking. Our main appointment was with Senator Barbara Boxer's staff assistant. The others were walk-in meetings with Congress Members Dianne Watson and Maxine Waters' assistants, who granted us about 10 minutes to make our pitch for PAID SICK DAYS and received our 1,800 petitions signatures!

After our meetings we ventured into the Senate cafeteria for a “Hot” lunch. The cafe was great, a true cultural blend of the United States. They had all types of food available. And the answer to the question I’m sure everyone has wanted to know and didn’t know who to ask is....Yes! The Senate cafeteria does sell Greens, Yams, and Macaroni on Capitol Hill, just in case you get homesick for Roscoe’s Chicken.

Avis Williams



The Fight for Paid Sick Days in America

“Cough, Cough,” goes Denise early one morning. For the past 4 days she has been unable to shake this cough. She goes to work like this as well. Some people say she should stay at home, but everyone doesn’t know her situation. Denise is a regular worker at a fast food restaurant with a child to take care of. Like 59 million other Americans, Denise doesn’t have paid sick days. This time, she found out that she has the flu. Every year with the flu epidemic in full swing, nearly half of all workers who fall ill or have sick kids must decide whether to stay home and lose wages or to go to work sick and expose others, a choice no one should have to make.

Paid sick days, is it a right or a privilege? U.S. businesses voluntarily provide paid sick days for about half of all workers. But for the other half, about 59 million workers, missing work because of the flu or a minor injury means loss of wages and sometimes a reprimand or dismissal, according to Kate

Hahn who is a policy analyst with National Partnership for Women and Families.

Paid sick days has emerged in national political campaigns as the top issue affecting wage earners. But states are not waiting for Congress to make the first move. Each state has its own laws, and if there is no law in your town or state to have paid sick days, then employers have no legal obligation to grant it to you. At this time, only the cities of San Francisco, Washington D.C., and Milwaukee, Wisconsin have passed paid sick days legislation.

On the campaign trail, Democratic front runners Hilary Clinton and Barak Obama came out in support of mandatory paid sick days. And in Congress, Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, vowed to call a vote on his bill- the Healthy Families Act- that would require businesses with 15 or more employees to give workers at least seven paid sick days a year. But the bill faces stiff opposition from business leaders who say the requirement would drive up costs, force layoffs and put some companies out of business. These are old arguments!

Now where does Denise fall in all of this as a fast food worker? Industries with the most employees who lack paid sick days are those with the greatest exposure to the public, such as hotel and food services, home health care and child care. 85% of food service workers do not have paid sick days. And because there is no mandatory law for Denise to have paid sick days, she will continue to go to work sick, which does not help anyone. She will not get better and there is a very high chance that her illness will spread to someone else. “Cough, cough,” that someone else might even be her boss. Let’s just see what he will do without paid sick days for himself!

Monica Mitchell

Source: StateLine.org

9to5 Los Angeles Welcomes Newest Intern



My name is Mich'e Hutchison and I am a new Community Organizer for Los Angeles 9to5. I am currently attending Cal State University Dominguez Hills, to receive my B.A. in Sociology with the dream of becoming a social worker. I am a single mother with a 6 year old daughter named Breonna. There are challenges being a mother, full-time student, and part-time worker.

But I am so glad to have found an intern position with this organization. 9to5 is all about helping people understand their rights, and fighting for universal equality. I always dreamed of wanting to help women in every aspect, and by working for 9to5 I can help women take action.

Like many others, I too have a child who gets sick often, so having paid sick days is something I can really appreciate. Before becoming an intern I never knew anything about 9to5 and what it can do for me. I know I won't be the last to learn, because I am making it my personal duty to help enlighten people about ways to fight for what's right.

I am like a fuse box ready to make huge steps towards positive outcomes, and I am excited to be here with all of you!

Jobs!!!

BUILD A CAREER AT SEIU 721

--Become an Intern Organizer...SEIU is looking for someone who shares a passion for helping working families fight for justice. Visit our website at www.seiu721.org/jobs/

HIRE LA'S YOUTH

--HIRE LA'S YOUTH is connecting work-ready young adults 16-24 to entry-level employment opportunities all over Los Angeles. Visit our website at www.HIRELAYouth.com

WINTER

Women in Non-Traditional Employment

--Helping women and girls become self-sufficient. Free Training, Call for more information 213-749-3970, 3655 s. Grand Ave, Suite 210 Los Angeles, CA 90007

OCLF Internship Announcement

--OCLF works to improve the working and living conditions of working families in Orange County. Please send resume with cover letter to Julio Perez at Julio@oclabor.org

Electrical Training Institute

--Apprentice Opportunity for SOUND AND COMMUNICATION WIREMAN, ELECTRICAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, OR INSIDE ELECTRICAL WIREMAN PROGRAMS...visit our website at www.laett.com

JOIN OUR TEAM AND BECOME A TOMBOY TOOLS CONSULTANT

--You are your own independent business person with the support of the TOMBOY TOOLS team. VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.tomboytools.com

9to5 NAWW is hiring an Organizer

III for the Los Angeles Office. Please visit our website www.9to5.org for details and to apply.



9to5 Los Angeles Presents:

FILM Screening: WAL-MART: HIGH COST OF LOW PRICE

May 12th, Wednesday 6:30 PM

**Community Room of the Community Health Councils
3731 Stocker Street, Suite 201, Los Angeles, CA 90008**

Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price is the documentary film sensation that's changing the largest company on earth. The film features the deeply personal stories and everyday lives of families and communities struggling to survive in a Wal-Mart world. It's an emotional journey that will challenge the way you think, feel... and shop. The 97-minute screening is open to the public, for a suggested minimum donation of \$5.00. Discussion after film. Popcorn and Light refreshments will be available. Free parking behind building. Please use back entrance. Reverend Altagracia Perez, will speak before the film. She was a clear voice in the [Coalition for a Better Inglewood](#), and was instrumental in bringing the religious community along in the winning battle against Wal-Mart.

9to5 Los Angeles
630 Shatto Place, 4th
Los Angeles, CA 90005



CALIFORNIA *Fair* ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN



Proposition 15 Means Better Health Care

Proposition 15, the California Fair Elections Act, represents fundamental election reform that will allow candidates and elected officials to get out of the fundraising game and get back to solving California's problems. It will create a pilot project to make available voluntary public financing for qualified candidates running for Secretary of State in 2014 and 2018, and is paid for primarily by registration fees on lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers.

The Big Money Problem: Special Interests in Control

• **Drug companies, the insurance industry, HMOs, hospitals, and nursing homes** have contributed over \$280 million to candidates and initiatives in California since 2000, distorting public policy to their gain and to the detriment of patients.

• **The consequence?** High prescription drug prices, nearly 7 million uninsured Californians, overwhelmed emergency rooms, and inadequate funding for health care.

"Insurance giants' enormous campaign spending gives them a disproportionate influence in Sacramento – at the expense of patients and the public.

"Nurses increasingly feel we cannot take care of our patients the way they deserve without curbing the influence of the big money donors."

– Deborah Burger, RN, Co-President, California Nurses Association

The Fair Elections Solution: Public Financing of Campaigns

• **With Fair Elections, candidates don't have to reply on** huge private contributions from Big Pharma, HMOs, and other groups in order to get elected. As a result, our elected officials will be accountable only to the voters, not big money campaign contributors whose priority is not the public interest. .

The Proven Results: Better Health Care Access and Affordability in Fair Elections States

• **Prescription Drug Benefits for Arizonans:** On the very first day she took office, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano — the country's first Fair Elections governor — fulfilled a campaign promise and signed an executive order creating a discount prescription drug program.

• **Prescription Drug Price Controls in Maine:** Maine's fairly-elected legislature passed a law that enables families to purchase prescriptions drugs on the Medicaid list for the Medicaid price, saving as much as 60% off market prices.

• **Universal Health Care Progress In Connecticut:** Connecticut's legislators — 80% of whom were elected with Fair Elections — passed two bills to establish universal health care. Disappointing many, both bills were vetoed by Connecticut's governor, who was elected before the state implemented Fair Elections and who received more than \$300,000 from insurance and health industry campaign contributors. Connecticut's next Governor's race will be conducted under a Fair Elections system.

Say "Yes" to Better Health Care! Help pass Proposition 15.

www.YesOnProp15.org

Yes on Proposition 15: Californians for Fair Elections, a coalition of nurses and government reform advocates. 3916 S. Sepulveda Blvd, Suite 109 • Culver City, CA 90230 • 310.397.0200 • Fax: 888.633.8898 (printed in-house)