

## **What is a Trusteeship?**

Under the SEIU Constitution and Bylaws and federal law, the SEIU International Union has the authority to place an SEIU Local Union into trusteeship under limited circumstances. These limited circumstances include providing the local with the leadership and resources necessary to protect the interests of the membership, ensuring the performance of the local's collective bargaining responsibilities, protecting and properly administering the assets of the local, winding down the local's operations, correcting corruption or financial malpractice, restoring democratic procedures and otherwise carrying out the legitimate goals of the International Union.

SEIU Local 21LA ("Local 21LA" or "Local") was placed into trusteeship on March 30, 2021 by SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry, to assure the performance of Local 21LA's collective bargaining responsibilities and functions, complete the process of transferring the Local's remaining members to the Southwest Regional Joint Board of Workers United/SEIU ("SRJB") (private sector members) and to AFSCME Council 17 ("Council 17") (public sector members), protect and properly administer the assets of the Local, wind down the Local's operations, and otherwise carry out the legitimate objects of the International Union.

Once appointed, trustees immediately begin running the day-to-day operations of the Local Union, and the local's officers, Executive Board Members, and anyone else appointed by the Local to represent the Local in an official capacity are removed immediately in a trusteeship. Local Union staff and stewards are not automatically removed when a trusteeship is imposed, but trustees have the authority to remove staff and stewards if they deem it necessary.

The trustee for Local 21LA, Trustee Harold (Ed) Burke, is authorized to take full charge and control of the Local's moneys, books, accounts, records and property. The Local's officers, Executive Board Members, trust fund representatives and anyone else who the Local had the power to appoint have been removed as a consequence of the trusteeship.

These measures ensure that Trustee Burke can assess the status of, and work to wind down, the Local's operations effectively and efficiently. During the process of winding down the Local's operations, Trustee Burke will facilitate the transition of the Local's remaining members to either the Southwest Regional Joint Board of Workers United/SEIU or AFSCME Council 17 and attend to the Local's other financial and administrative affairs.

## **Who is the Trustee?**

Harold (Ed) Burke is the Trustee. Before being appointed Trustee, the International Union sent Ed to support the Local's work and transitioning of members to their new local or union.

## **Why was Local 21LA placed into trusteeship?**

In July 2020, the SEIU International Executive Board ("IEB") determined that it would be in the best interests and welfare of the membership for Local 21LA's private

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sector members to be transferred to the Southwest Regional Joint Board of Workers United/SEIU and for Local 21LA's public sector members to be transferred to AFSCME Council 17. The IEB took this action to build the strength of Local 21LA's members by uniting them with a larger local or union, thereby increasing all of the workers' collective organizing, political and bargaining power and capacities.

For more than a year, SEIU has been working closely with Workers United's SRJB and Council 17 to facilitate the transfer of Local 21LA members over to the larger local and union. The trusteeship was imposed to ensure the smooth transition of Local 21LA's remaining members into their new local or union where their rights will continue to be protected.

In addition, at this point in the transition, the vast majority of Local 21LA's former elected leaders are no longer with the Local, making the trusteeship necessary to ensure that the Local had the leadership and resources to continue its bargaining, financial and administrative work and to complete the member transfer process.

On March 30, 2021, Trustee Burke became responsible for managing Local 21LA's day-to-day operations.

### **Is my contract in place?**

It depends on which bargaining unit you are in. Some former Local 21LA members have already transferred their memberships over to the SRJB or Council 17 and have completed the process (or are finalizing the process) of bargaining new collective bargaining with their employers, which their new local or union (the SRJB or Council 17) will be a party to, rather than Local 21LA.

If your contract was in effect when the trusteeship was imposed on March 30, and you have not yet transferred your membership to the SRJB or Council 17, your collective bargaining interests under your current contract will be represented by SRJB or Council 17 rather than by Local 21LA.

If you have questions about the status of your contract or other representation issues, contact Trustee Burke at [burkeseiu@aol.com](mailto:burkeseiu@aol.com) or (304) 932-2242.

### **What about my steward? Who will represent me at work if I have a problem?**

Trustee Burke and Local 21LA want to make sure that members have strong and reliable representation. Trustee Burke will ensure that, while Local 21LA winds down its affairs, there is no disruption or impact to the representation you have in the workplace. Indeed, one of the purposes for this emergency trusteeship is protecting the members' collective bargaining interests. If you have questions about representation issues, contact Trustee Burke at [burkeseiu@aol.com](mailto:burkeseiu@aol.com) or (304) 932-2242.

### **How will I get updates about what is happening with the trusteeship?**

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Under Article VIII, Section 7(f) of the SEIU Constitution and Bylaws, a hearing will be held in the next 30 days on the reasons for, and the status of, the trusteeship, and 21LA members will be invited to attend and participate. In addition, we will update members via stewards, notices distributed at the worksites and the Local 21LA website. Trustee Burke is also reachable by email ([burkeseiu@aol.com](mailto:burkeseiu@aol.com)) and phone ((304) 932-2242) to answer any questions.

### **More about the Southwest Regional Joint Board of Workers United/SEIU**

You can learn more about the Southwest Regional Joint Board of Workers United/SEIU here: <https://ww.workersunited.org/southwest-states-joint-board>.

### **More about AFSCME Council 17**

You can learn more about AFSCME Council 17 here: <https://www.afscme17.org/>.

### **What if I have more questions?**

You can contact Trustee Burke by e-mail at [burkeseiu@aol.com](mailto:burkeseiu@aol.com) or by phone at (304) 932-2242.