

Meet SEIU's Trustees

On January 27, SEIU President Andy Stern suspended UHW's Constitution, removed its 100-member elected Executive Board and its officers, and appointed two out-of-state trustees to run UHW for up to three years. Who are these trustees and what's their track record?



Dave Regan

Until last year, Regan was the President of an SEIU local in Ohio with 25,000 members. In June of 2008, Andy Stern nominated Regan to be an SEIU Executive Vice President with annual pay of more than \$200,000. What's the track record of Regan and his local union?

- **Blocking Members from the Bargaining Table:** In 2007, Regan ignored petitions signed by thousands of SEIU-UHW's nursing home members who insisted that members be allowed to sit at the bargaining table with their employers. Regan refused their request, and instead he and a second SEIU official, Gerry Hudson,

conducted private negotiations with California nursing home executives aimed at renewing the California Nursing Home Alliance.

- **Bargaining Inferior Standards for Healthcare Workers:** Regan's local has negotiated contracts for hospital and long-term care workers that are vastly inferior to contracts won under SEIU-UHW's former leadership. For example, under one nursing home contract signed by Regan, some workers' wages are so low (\$6.35) that they've been overtaken by increases in the minimum wage. The contract has no wage scale (only a starting wage rate) and workers must pay roughly \$200 a month to get health insurance for their families.
- **Negotiating Template Contracts:** Regan is a supporter of stripped-down "template contracts" that have been widely criticized for giving away basic parts of workers' union contracts, such as a normal grievance procedure, wages and benefits, and the right to advocate for patients.
- **Failing to Organize:** While he was president, Regan's local was largely unsuccessful at organizing new hospital and nursing home members to join the local. The local added members mainly through mergers of other locals approved by SEIU President Andy Stern.
- **Interfering in Another Union's Internal Elections:** In early 2008, federal officials ruled that Regan's local union illegally interfered in the internal Executive Board elections of another SEIU local. Regan's local gave thousands of dollars to his political allies at an SEIU local in Nevada, who were later voted out of office by members.
- **Lying to Ohio Voters:** In 2003, the Ohio Elections Commission reprimanded Regan's local for lying to voters during a county election campaign. Cleveland's largest newspaper denounced Regan's local for attempting to strong-arm public officials and for running a "despicable campaign to deny basic human services to Cuyahoga County's most fragile citizens" that "forever earned this community's enmity."
- **Using Violence to Disrupt a Labor Conference:** In 2008, Regan's local sent hundreds of demonstrators to a conference of rank-and-file union reformers where they broke through doors, knocked down participants and sent at least one retired union member to the hospital. One rank-and-file SEIU homecare member died of a heart attack.
- **Spending UHW Members' Dues Money to Redecorate His Office:** Although Regan has been in California for less than a month, he's already spent \$2,000 of UHW members' dues money to redecorate his office at UHW's Oakland union hall with a leather couch and other new furniture.

Meet SEIU Trustee Eliseo Medina on the reverse side

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Eliseo Medina

During the 1990s, Medina was the Executive Director of an SEIU local union in San Diego with 10,000 members. In 1996, Stern nominated Medina to be an SEIU Executive Vice President, which today pays him more than \$200,000 a year. What's Medina's track record?

- **Limited Experience:** While Medina is a well-known figurehead in SEIU, he has relatively little experience with contract negotiations and the other day-to-day work of winning improvements in members' wages and benefits. When he last worked for a local union more than a decade ago, it had fewer than 10,000 members – smaller than nearly every one of the divisions that make up SEIU-UHW.
- **Opposing Workers at the Bargaining Table:** In 2001-02, Medina tried to stop more than 10,000 SEIU-UHW members from winning fully employer-paid family health insurance during negotiations for their first contract with Catholic Healthcare West. Medina wanted workers to accept a weak contract that SEIU leaders in D.C. could then "sell" to other healthcare companies. Despite Medina's efforts, CHW workers and SEIU-UHW's former elected leaders fought for and won fully employer-paid health insurance for caregivers' families.
- **Failing to Stop Corruption inside SEIU:** In 2001, a top SEIU staff leader told Medina's office about suspected corruption by Tyrone Freeman, who was then the president of SEIU's long-term care union in Southern California. Medina apparently did nothing to investigate the reports or hold Freeman accountable. During the following years, Freeman stole more than \$1 million from the local's members and now faces a criminal investigation. Meanwhile, Medina has not accepted any responsibility for his role in the million-dollar corruption scandal.
- **Trusteeing SEIU Locals:** In 2002, Medina helped put SEIU Local 87 in trusteeship after the local's members insisted on a membership vote before SEIU merged them into another local. Medina became the trustee of the San Francisco local, but was eventually ousted after its members voted to decertify SEIU.
- **Interfering in the UHW Trusteeship Hearing:** Last November, Medina tried to stop Dolores Huerta – the co-founder along with Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers – from testifying in support of SEIU-UHW's former elected leaders at SEIU's trusteeship hearing in San Jose. Medina, a longtime ally of Andy Stern, worked with Stern for more than a year to put UHW in trusteeship.

Meet SEIU Trustee Dave Regan on the reverse side

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