

# Why is our union really in trusteeship? ... and what can we do about it?

You've probably received a call or a letter from the SEIU, spreading lies about why Andy Stern put UHW under trusteeship. If you want to know the truth, all you have to do is listen to what newspapers, labor experts, and even the SEIU's own hearing officer are saying: the trusteeship is nothing but a political tool to silence the voices of our leaders who disagree with Andy Stern and Anna Burger.

*"This trusteeship is unusual in that you have... a big, vibrant democratic local which has a policy disagreement with the international."*

—Nelson Lichtenstein, UC Santa Barbara history professor and director of Center for Work, Labor and Democracy, in Jan. 29 Daily Labor Report

*"There is no evidence of corruption in UHW, and you have this (trusteeship)..."*

—Kate Bronfenbrenner, director of labor education research at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, in Daily Labor Report

*"I do not recommend imposing a trusteeship."*

—Former Secretary of Labor and SEIU Trusteeship Hearing Officer Ray Marshall, on page 96 of his report to Stern

**So why are we in trusteeship?** Because UHW leaders like you insisted on building a member-driven, fully democratic Union where workers, not Washington, D.C. lawyers, make the decisions. SEIU officials couldn't silence our voices, so they put us in trusteeship.

**What can we do about it?** We can work together to build the National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW), which was founded by the elected leaders of UHW after the trusteeship. In NUHW, we can guarantee that our union is *of* the workers, *for* the workers and *by* the workers.

**What happens to our contracts and shop stewards?** All our contracts and agreements stay in place, and our shop stewards are still our elected leaders, no matter what SEIU or our managers say.

**Why am I getting calls and letters from SEIU?** UHW members send \$30,000,000 a year to SEIU, and SEIU officials will say anything to keep it. They are paying telemarketers, and threatening to fire UHW staff if they don't call you and read their script. They say your contracts will be renegotiated and that you could lose your job if you stand up to SEIU. They are wrong. Standing up to SEIU is the only way keep our union strong and democratic, and protect the standards we've worked so hard to win.

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