

L.A. Times exposes financial corruption at SEIU Local 1021

On President Damita Davis-Howard's watch, the Los Angeles Times reports that SEIU Local 1021 funded a nonprofit organization run by a Local 1021 officer. The officer took \$117,000 from the nonprofit as a second salary, directed \$62,000 to a family member, and took another \$10,000 from Local 1021 for sitting on a political committee.

Local 1021 President Damita Davis-Howard has apparently known about these financial dealings since 2006. SEIU President Andy Stern was reportedly made aware of the problem years ago. But neither of them put a stop to it, or took the steps necessary to safeguard our union dues.

Why? Because they're not accountable to SEIU members like us. We didn't vote them in, and they think we won't vote them out.

Davis-Howard wasn't elected by members—she was directly appointed by Stern, so she's only accountable to him. In Andy Stern's last re-election, 99.9 percent of SEIU members weren't even allowed to vote—and many of the delegates who did vote were hand-picked by appointed officials like Davis-Howard. Annelle Grajeda, also appointed by Stern as SEIU's top official in California, just stepped down after reports that she funneled union money to a boyfriend.

91,000 SEIU members in California are putting a stop to the misuse of our money by unelected union staff. We're joining NUHW, a union by healthcare workers and for healthcare workers, where members can elect our own leaders and see exactly where our money goes.

Los Angeles Times

March 11, 2009

A Bay Area officer of the scandal-clouded Service Employees International Union has collected double salaries, one as a city transit worker and the other from a charity that receives much of its funding from the labor organization and corporate interests, records show.

...

"There is just a conflict of interest all over this thing," said Ken Berger, president of Charity Navigator, an online review service. "It looks like something that should be reported to a government entity."

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