



### **(An important message for my Local 21 Brothers and Sisters from Local 21 President Dean Coate)**

Before I became president of Local 21 nine years ago, it had about 5,000 members in the Bay Area and was in danger of going bankrupt because it could not afford the required contributions to the staff pension plan.

Now Local 21 represents almost 11,000 public-sector employees and has reserves in excess of \$3,500,000 in the bank.

During the same period, Local 21 has overcome an incredible number of difficult challenges - the massive layoffs and wage concessions proposed during the Great Recession, the attacks on our pension and medical benefits by SF Public Defender Jeff Adachi and SJ Mayor Chuck Reed, the attempt by SF Mayor Gavin Newsom to lay off all our SF members and rehire them as part-time employees, Prop 32's attempt to shut public-union members out of politics - the list goes on and on because the attacks on public employees are never-ending.

Currently the Supreme Court is threatening our survival as a public-sector union with their impending Janus decision at the same time as we are losing our highly experienced and extremely successful Executive Director Bob Muscat.

Now more than ever Local 21 needs a proven, battle-tested leader like me to help us survive the Janus decision and continue to weather the endless attacks on public-sector unions and public employees.

One of my goals, if re-elected, is to make better use of the gains from our past financial and organizing successes to fight for higher wages and to protect our benefits and employment rights.

I also want to work on changing the largely one-way flow of information and ideas from Local 21 staff and leadership to the members into a more balanced, two-way flow to and from members, leaders, and staff.

One of the things I do *not* want to see changed is Local 21's commitment to open and transparent decision-making and careful adherence to the Union Bylaws. This is an issue that, at times, has put me at odds with other members of the current Local 21 Executive Committee.

There is no question about who has the experience, the successful track record, and the proven leadership ability to get us through these critical times. I humbly ask you to vote to re-elect me as Local 21 President so I can get this vital job done.

**\*\*\*Re-elect Local 21 President Dean Coate\*\*\***