

# UNITE HERE! Local 11

July 19, 2023

Steven Rathgeb Smith  
American Political Science Association  
Executive Director  
1527 New Hampshire Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20036-1203  
[smithsr@apsanet.org](mailto:smithsr@apsanet.org)

Dear Mr. Smith:

On behalf of 15,000 UNITE HERE Local 11 members who work in Los Angeles area hotels, we respectfully request that you cancel your upcoming 119th American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition taking place in Los Angeles on August 31 – September 3, 2023.

We did not come to this decision lightly. As you are aware, we have been in negotiations since April 20, 2023 with the hotel industry for a living wage that will allow those workers who are the backbone of our region's most important industry, tourism, to afford to live in the city where they work. On June 8, 2023, workers voted 96% to authorize a strike. [On June 29, 2023, the Westin Bonaventure reached a tentative agreement. Starting on July 1, 2023, thousands of workers in 33 hotels have struck.](#) Workers are picketing daily at their respective hotels.


Our struggle for a living wage is the same for all working people in Los Angeles, from teachers and adjunct professors to hotel workers to actors and writers. In a recent membership survey, 53% of hotel workers said that they either have moved in the past 5 years or will move in the near future because of soaring housing costs. Meanwhile, the hotel industry in Los Angeles is booming. Room rates and revenue exceed pre-pandemic levels. Billions of our tax dollars are being allocated on infrastructure in anticipation of the World Cup in 2026 and the Olympics in 2028.

Yesterday, July 18, 2023, we returned to the bargaining table, hoping the remaining hotels would agree to the terms of the Westin Bonaventure settlement. They did not. Instead, the hotels went backwards. Not only did their proposal not include one penny more for wages, pension or health care, they reduced the value of their wage proposal by 10% by adding an morally repugnant provision requiring that workers must wait 6 months after the expiration date of the contract to receive another raise. Though the Union has not conditioned settlement on them, the industry also continues to reject all proposals that would assist our members' housing needs, including a fee on guest rooms to fund construction of workforce housing.

After the bargaining session, the negotiating committee voted unanimously to request that APSA cancel your 2023 Annual Meeting. We wish you could have been in the room as striking workers spoke of how they are proud of their jobs, how they want to provide excellent guest service to your group, but that the hotel's greed forces them to make another sacrifice for the greater good. The boycott is a powerful tool; [workers won the union at Chateau Marmont after an historic boycott.](#) Los Angeles groups, such as the Democratic Governors Association, Japanese American Citizens League, W.K Kellogg Foundation and Vanderpump Rules have canceled or moved their events. We believe that unless the hotel industry shares its historic profits, we may soon have no option but to call a boycott of the City of Los Angeles.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need help in relocating this event.

In Solidarity,

  
Kurt Petersen  
Co President

### Hotel Bargaining Committee

Name	Hotel
<u>Joe M. Rangel</u>	<u>HOLIDAY INN LAX</u>
<u>Mari Ra Morzed</u>	<u>Beverly Wilshire Hotel</u>
<u>Alba Gonzalez</u>	<u>Beverly Wilshire</u>
<u>Edwin Calero</u>	<u>Beverly Hilton</u>
<u>Ana Cortez</u>	<u>Beverly Hilton</u>
<u>Linda Lopez Guzman</u>	<u>Fairmont Century Plaza</u>
<u>Lucero Ramirez</u>	<u>Waldorf Astoria</u>
<u>Melissa Dogoldogal</u>	<u>Waldorf Astoria - Beverly Hills</u>
<u>JOSE LUIS ACOSTA</u>	<u>WESTDRIFT HOTEL</u>
<u>Jummy morales</u>	<u>Fairfield INN &amp; Suites, El Segundo CA</u>
<u>Maria Tinoco</u>	<u>Aloft El Segundo</u>
<u>Ricardo de la Torre</u>	<u>Intercontinental LA</u>
<u>Genoveva Guzman</u>	<u>Tempe mission Pals AZ</u>
<u>Thomas C. Bradley</u>	<u>Union Extra</u>

**MAIN OFFICE**

464 LUCAS AVE., SUITE 201  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90017  
213.481.8530  
FAX 213.481.0352

**GARDEN GROVE OFFICE**

13252 GARDEN GROVE BLVD., SUITE 200  
GARDEN GROVE, CA 92843  
714.750.4373  
FAX 714.750.5638

**AIRPORT OFFICE**

4634 W. IMPERIAL HWY.  
INGLEWOOD, CA 90304  
310.671.0720  
FAX 310.671.5021

**PHOENIX OFFICE**

1021 S 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
PHOENIX, AZ 85007  
480.795.5330  
FAX 480.795.5326

<u>Roxana Torres</u>	<u>Sheraton Universal</u>
<u>William Rodriguez</u>	<u>Sheraton Universal</u>
<u>Dina Manuig</u>	<u>Sheraton Universal</u>
<u>Rene Trotter</u>	<u>Sheraton Grand</u>
<u>Angie <del>Sunad</del> Hernandez</u>	<u>Intercontinental</u>
<u>Ariana Alvarado</u>	<u>Intercontinental</u>
<u>Monica Cordeur</u>	<u>Waldorf Astoria BH.</u>
<u>Eduardo</u>	<u>Intercontinental</u>
<u>José Aviles</u>	<u>Intercon &amp; Delfina SM.</u>
<u>ANA M. Aviles</u>	<u>Biltmore</u>
<u>Carlos Martinez</u>	<u>Delfina</u>
<u>Raymundo Rivera</u>	<u>Delfina</u>
<u>Odilla Barrios</u>	<u>Viceroy</u>
<u>Rosario Ceballos</u>	<u>Viceroy S.M.</u>
<u>Ana molina</u>	<u>1 Hotel</u>
<u>MORENO Hernandez</u>	<u>andaz</u>
<u>David Stookey</u>	<u>1 Hotel West Hollywood</u>
<u>Xiomara Quintero</u>	<u>1 Hotel west Hollywood.</u>
<u>Cecilia Alvarado</u>	<u>Holiday Inn LAX</u>
<u>Dora Mendez</u>	<u>Holiday Inn LAX</u>
<u>Lorena Villafana</u>	<u>Court yard Marriott</u>
<u>Ana Uivar</u>	<u>Hotel June</u>

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Lucy Misaugos  
Conira Zatarain  
Jeff Collier  
Pat Latham  
Julzer Medel  
Joy Johnson  
WILFRIDO VERDUZCO  
Jeffrey Santos  
GUADALUPE FLORES  
ANDRES FLORES  
Kena Castañeda  
ELI QUINONEZ  
Gustavo Rivera Melgar  
Hermilia Valencia  
Gilberto Santora.  
Claudia Sanderson  
Ana Palacios  
Jonathan Aguilar  
Andres Murillo  
Astrid Francisco  
Selvin Lemus  
Ana Hernandez

Biltmore  
Biltmore  
JW Marriott LA Live  
JW Marriott LA Live  
E. Central.  
WESTIN LAX HOTEL  
Westin LAX  
I HOTEL WEST HOLLYWOOD  
I HOTEL WEST HOLLYWOOD  
Hotel westin LAX  
HOTEL SHERATON LAX  
Loews Hollywood.  
Indigo L.A.  
Indigo L.A.  
Indigo L.A.  
Proper Hotel DTLA  
W-hotel West Beverly hills  
L.A. Grand Hotel  
Sheraton Grand DTLA  
Sheraton Grand DTLA  
Sheraton Grand DTLA

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<u>Mario Brander</u>	<u>Hyatt Regency LAX</u>
<u>Yolanda Sanchez</u>	<u>Hyatt LAX</u>
<u>Yanet Palacios</u>	<u>Line Hotel</u>
<u>Alex Garcia</u>	<u>Line Hotel</u>
<u>Picardo Castaneda</u>	<u>Courtyard DTLA</u>
<u>Nallely Gomez</u>	<u>Courtyard DTLA</u>
<u>Maria Gurrula</u>	<u>Double Tree</u>
<u>David Ventura</u>	<u>Hotel Maya</u>
<u>Soledad Garcia</u>	<u>organizer</u>
<u>Michelle Bain</u>	<u>Hyatt Regency of LB</u>
<u>Soledad Cabrera</u>	<u>Hyatt Regency Long Beach</u>
<u>Juan Cruz</u>	<u>Hotel Maya</u>
<u>Bellen Valle</u>	<u>JW Marriott</u>
<u>Zhara Sophie Sharkov</u>	<u>W Hollywood</u>
<u>Wayne Masias</u>	<u>(LOR) local ll organizer (Whittier College)</u>
<u>Ernesto Martinez</u>	<u>JW MARRIOTT</u>
<u>Tony Ramirez</u>	<u>Glendale Hilton</u>
<u>Carolina Gonzalez</u>	<u>Glendale Hilton</u>
<u>Claudia Alvarado</u>	<u>W Hollywood</u>
<u>Eledda Manzo</u>	<u>Jw marriott</u>
<u>Cristina Betancourt</u>	<u>Jw Marriott</u>
<u>Stephanie Gutierrez</u>	<u>SLS</u>

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 480.795.5330  
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Brittany Williams

ESSANG UZMAN

Crystal Padilla

Martha Esquivel

Marta Vela

Florinda Santiago

Sonia Zepeda

Maria Zaragoza

Maria Camarena

Diana Rios Sanchez

Dina Paredes

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THE SHERATON BY MARRIOTT ANTIUM PITX

Holiday Inn LAX

Hampton Inn Santa Monica

Hotel JUNE

Loews Hollywood Hotel

Loews Hollywood hotel

Loews Hollywood hotel.

Intercontinental

ALCCE Hotel

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Elizabeth Talley

Veronica Perez

Roxana Orozco

SLS

Hotel June

June Hotel

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