

SEIU Local 26 Janitors Timeline



1937: building janitors founded Local 26 after city wide strikes, and new federal legislation made unions legal.

1980: Local 26 was almost destroyed as a new wave of “subcontracting” eliminated pensions, healthcare, fulltime jobs, wages. Before that most janitors worked directly for the owners of the buildings.

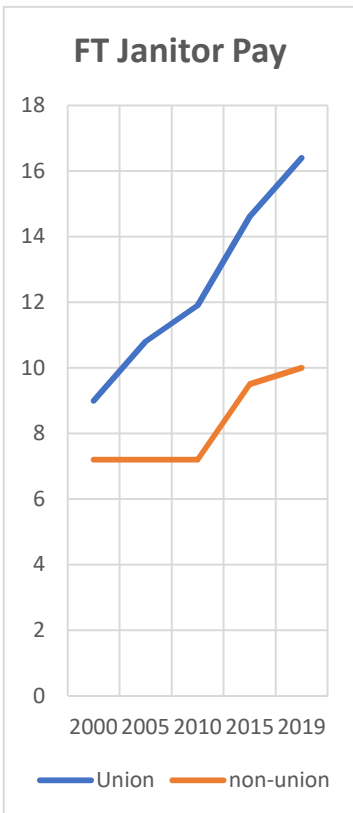
2006: Under new leadership, our union began to fight back with new strategies! We won a healthcare fund controlled by the union (previously each company just offered their own plans, often really bad ones), and finished moving our market from mostly part time to 80% Full time in larger buildings.



2009: Began “open bargaining” for first time at Local 26, with a large elected bargaining committee of over 80 workers. We voted to strike for the first time, and (after 26 hours bargaining overnight before the deadline) we won a new union contract with improved healthcare benefits, stronger definition of Full time at 40 hours, green cleaning rules, and new language protecting immigrant workers.



2012: After 4 months of stalled negotiations, janitors set a deadline for a strike. At 2:30 am that night, the company representatives came back into negotiations, and were met by 150 janitors packing the room, fired up and ready to go! We won \$1.20 raise over the contract, additional sick days, and vacation roll over for the first time.



2015: Janitors struck for one day, for the first time in the local’s history, winning walkthroughs (with stewards on paid time) as a tool to reduce workload, and \$1.80 raises.

2017: 400 Janitors participate in a scientific study on the impacts of workload, published in multiple academic journals.

