

FEB 20

2013

UNION UPDATE

FIRST STOP ON CONTRACT TOUR

Members step up in San Diego

At the bargaining town hall kickoff on Feb. 11, nearly 150 members shared their ideas, asked questions and received information regarding the next steps toward negotiations with the state.

Members of the elected bargaining team spoke to attendees about what takes place at the table and the crucial importance of member input and support during these initial stages—the strength of our army depends upon it.

Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker told the crowd that bargaining is about power. As Federick Douglass said, “Power concedes nothing without a demand.” The state gives employees a raise not because they deserve it, but because an organized workforce demands it.

Instead of heading home afterwards, members had the chance to meet their representatives and share their thoughts.

“I’m impressed with this program and how much information there is about bargaining,” said Dorrie Steadman, Unit 17 nurse at Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego County. “I appreciate the bargaining team making themselves available because it helps us understand the contract process.”

“This meeting really gave us a chance to learn about the process firsthand and get our questions answered,” said John Heredia, a Bargaining Unit 1 business tax representative, who asked several questions he gathered from coworkers at the Board of Equalization. “State workers must be their own advocates, and support from members in the workplace makes the union stronger.”



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—John Heredia
Business Tax Rep., Board of Equalization in San Diego



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Technology connects members and their bargaining representatives

One of the highlights of these town hall meetings is the use of advanced technology. Using text messaging, members answered survey questions about their priorities and viewed instant results generated by participants. They also had a chance to subscribe to a text messaging service that will allow them to receive real time updates from their bargaining team members during negotiations.

“This system will give us the ability to walk out of the bargaining room and text our members about what transpired,” said Rionna Jones, chair of Bargaining Unit 20. “I am excited to see it in action.”

**Receive instant updates from your team:
Text 1000 to PURPLE (787753).**

Standard text messaging rates may apply.

Meetings are happening statewide. You can find the one nearest to you and RSVP at seiu1000.me/OOjzLB



Let's get active

2013
CONTRACT
TOUR

Bargaining meeting draws newly active members

The bargaining process has barely begun, but already members who have never previously participated in union meetings are starting to show up at events.

Several who attended the first town hall meeting on our 2013 Contract Tour said they are now inspired to become involved.

Elisa Ward, who has been a state employee for three years with the Employment Development Department (EDD) in San Diego, said that hearing from statewide officers and elected bargaining team members inspired her to become more active.

"This is the first time I've ever gone to a union meeting—I've really learned a lot," said Maribeth Leonardo, who has worked nearly five years for EDD in San Diego.

Casey Wear, a 16-year employee of the California Parks Department, said she only recently became active in the union after winning a grievance.

"I've never been in a union before, so I came here really wanting to learn how the bargaining process works ... now I feel more excited about the process, and I'm interested in contributing to our success."



Elisa Ward

"I really wasn't familiar with the union or the bargaining process before. Now I want to get more involved and maybe become a steward."



Maribeth Leonardo

"My union got me promoted because I was doing the work anyway, so that got me thinking that I should become more active. Now I realize that bargaining is the most important way for us to move forward."



Casey Wear

Resource Center

Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
866.471.SEIU (7348)

Website

seiu1000.org

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Helping members help their families



Monica Grimes-Burger helps her daughter, Kassia Burger

Local 1000 assists students in finding financial aid for college

Local 1000 is teaming up with state and local officials to help offer state workers and their families help obtaining financial aid for college.

Nearly 70 Local 1000 members and their families attended a Feb. 12 event in Sacramento where they were able to obtain information on various options for financial aid for college and begin the aid application process with the U.S. Department of Education.

"This event gave us a jump start in the financial aid process," said Monica Grimes-Burger, a California Department of Education employee who was there with her daughter, Kassia Burger. "Young people need a college education to get ahead, but it has gotten so expensive now that any help is very welcome.

The event was hosted as part of our purpose statement to be relevant in the lives of our members and our communities.

For more information on how to apply for financial aid for college go to fafsa.ed.gov or calgrants.org