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UNION UPDATE



# Engaging members to win

## BARGAINING UNIT 17 CHAIR KIM COWART FIGHTS FOR CHANGE BY ACTIVATING HER COWORKERS

Whether she's enforcing contract language to reduce/eliminate the dangerous practice of mandatory overtime or improving the recruitment and retention of registered nurses across the state, Kim Cowart believes that the key to success is engaged members.

"We have accomplished so much through members who have stepped up," she says, adding "by harnessing the passion of my coworkers who want better jobs and better working conditions, we are overcoming obstacles together."

A 19-year state employee, she's been a job steward since 2002 when she decided to empower herself with knowledge about her contract rights after seeing a coworker bullied by a supervisor.

She's been a member of the Unit 17 bargaining team since 2004 and the chair since 2011. Kim is heavily involved in enforcing hard-won contract language that will reduce or eliminate mandatory overtime by July 1, 2019. She was part of a strong union effort that attracted new activists and leaders who took the fight to their individual workplaces to track and report overtime abuse.

"When we engage new members, we get new voices that help us create innovative solutions to the problems we face," Cowart said.

Kim is regularly inspired by a quote from a fellow member of the Unit 17 bargaining team. "It's not about you ... it's about us; the bargaining unit and all the members we represent."



*"I choose my union because it's a family that stands united during good times and bad to make a better life for us all. When we work together as a union of engaged members, we have the opportunity to accomplish so much."*

**Kim Cowart**  
Registered Nurse, DSH, Napa  
Chair, Bargaining Unit 17

**Become a member today!**

Protect your hard-earned contract rights, your wages, benefits and retirement. Have a voice in the direction of your union. Join now ... *we are stronger together!*

[seiu1000.org/joinus](http://seiu1000.org/joinus)



# UNION INFORMATION

## Resource Center

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

## Website

[seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org)

## Connect with Local 1000

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## Members making politics matter

### STATE WORKERS VOLUNTEER FOR PHONE BANKS, PRECINCT WALKS TO GET OUT THE VOTE NOV. 6

With less than two weeks remaining before the Nov. 6 general election, our members are making politics matter by phone banking and precinct walking to get out the vote to elect leaders who share our values and will stand up for working families and their communities.

At six locations across the state, members have already completed hundreds of shifts, talking to voters about SEIU-endorsed candidates and propositions. When we vote, we have the opportunity to elect our bosses—the lawmakers who ratify our contract and pass laws that affect our jobs. We have the opportunity to make real change and choose our future by making our voice heard. Vote on Nov. 6, and volunteer your time to encourage others to do the same.

### SIGN UP FOR A PHONE BANK OR PRECINCT WALK TODAY!

There are dozens of opportunities across the state now through Nov. 6. See complete list of dates and locations online at [seiu1000.org/calendar](http://seiu1000.org/calendar)

**866.471.SEIU (7348)**

Monday—Friday: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## #IChooseMyUnion



*"I want to create a strong relationship between workers and their union. I want to 'be the difference' and make the difference to create a stronger labor force."*

### Francina Stevenson, Unit 4

Legal Secretary, DOJ  
President, DLC 794



*"Solidarity through membership is the best way to protect our right to fair wages, safe workplaces and to elect lawmakers who share our community and family values."*

### Victoria Martire, Unit 1

Senior Claims Adjuster, State Fund  
Vice President/Chief Steward, DLC 752