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# UNION UPDATE



# BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS to rebuild the middle class

## Members meet statewide, prepare to step up the fight against income inequality

Local 1000 membership up and down the state came together in regional meetings to work on specific plans to locally implement the union's key strategy for 2014: restoring the middle-class American Dream by fighting to eliminate income inequality.

At recent meetings in San Diego, Fresno, Oakland and Sacramento, members discussed the impact of income inequality they see every day in their own neighborhoods and across the nation, as well as ways to bring the conversation to their coworkers, friends, families and neighbors.

Many members shared examples of how inequality directly impacts their families and communities. Attendees shared stories ranging from their adult children struggling to make ends meet with full-time minimum wage jobs, to the disparities in educational opportunities and retirement security their children and parents face every day, to the lack of business investment and job opportunities in their neighborhoods.

"Today, we are a union focused like a laser beam on the defining challenge of our generation: income inequality," said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. "The work we are doing in these regional meetings allows members to really own the campaign in their own neighborhoods, form local grass-roots strategies and take the next steps towards bringing our friends and neighbors into this movement."

The members and staff who attended talked about practical ways to implement our Purpose Statement—to engage more members and develop relationships with groups who share our values. Member trainers led sessions modeling the conversations on issues that will engage our members and build relationships with our neighbors. "This is an opportunity to reach out and build deeper and stronger alliances in the



"You have to step outside your comfort zone, not just in who you are talking to, but in what you are talking about—**income inequality.**"

—Larry Vallejo  
DMV, Fresno

"The only way I can assure my children a better life is to ensure that the middle class doesn't go away."

—Dorrie Steadman,  
Prison nurse, San Diego



community," said Margarita Maldonado, Local 1000 Vice President for Bargaining. "We need to have more conversations, with more people about an issue that affects all Californians."

"You have to step outside your comfort zone, not just in who you are talking to, but in what you are talking about—**income inequality,**" said Larry Vallejo, a DMV employee from Fresno who has been a phone banker and political activist in the past. "This is an important extension of what we already do as activists."

In San Diego, members talked about what motivated them to step outside of their worksites and deepen their involvement in their communities.

"The only way I can assure my children a better life is to ensure that the middle class doesn't go away," said Dorrie Steadman, a Unit 17 prison nurse from San Diego County. "We can't let future generations lose the American Dream."

## The winning ticket— grass-roots organizing

Lottery members come together to improve working conditions



**Paulina Ishaya**  
Steward,  
CA Lottery

Member leaders at the California State Lottery are making connections and organizing their coworkers to build the power they need to resolve workplace issues and stand up for social and economic justice.

The stewards participate in weekly conference calls and spread the word about new grievances, organizing tactics and future strategies with their colleagues. These efforts are helping create strong, statewide member networks which help Lottery workers communicate with their colleagues and engage and develop more member leaders.

“Members at Lottery are spread out statewide, but we deal with similar issues across all our worksites. We face constant geographic, pay parity and reclassification challenges with management,” said Paulina Ishaya, who has been a steward for one year. “We’re really building statewide unity around our shared goal: to work with management in a harmonious environment to achieve what is fair and right for our members.”

“The grass-roots organizing these members are doing can be done in every department and worksite when leaders take charge,” said Tamekia N. Robinson, Vice President for Organizing/Representation. “Progress happens by building real relationships with our colleagues and connecting worksites across the state to each other and to their union’s resources.”

### Resource Center

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

### Website

seiu1000.org

### Connect with Local 1000

Facebook  
facebook.com/seiu1000

YouTube  
youtube.com/seiu1000

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twitter.com/seiu1000



## Members rally to reduce inequality in education

### ‘Gapbusters’ campaign seeks quality early childhood learning for all Californians

Local 1000 members joined education advocates from all over California to call for increased resources and support for early childhood education at a Feb. 20 rally at the Capitol.

The rally highlighted numerous studies proving that kids with a quality preschool education—particularly, low-income children—are much better prepared for school than other children. Without access to early



“Our members—including myself—benefit from quality early childhood education, but it’s an issue that is so important for the entire state. I’m proud that we are fighting for all Californian families.”

—Patrice Wilson  
Steward, Dept. of Public Health ▶



childhood education, California’s children—including the children of Local 1000 members—face lifelong economic, social and educational gaps that limit their opportunities and hurt our state’s economy

The Gapbusters campaign seeks to expand access to early childhood

education for working families and improve the recruitment and retention of early childhood education providers by giving the right to collectively bargain for their work and for improvements to the system. Assembly Speaker John Pérez, and Senator Kevin de Leon joined supporters at the rally.