

MAY 15
2013

UNION UPDATE

Fighting for retirement security



Take action today to strengthen and protect your retirement benefits

“Protecting our pensions is critical to our long-term economic security ... today’s actions directly support our efforts at the bargaining table.”

—Brenda Modkins
Chair, Bargaining Unit 1



Thousands of Local 1000 members are standing up and fighting for their #1 priority - protecting their hard-earned retirement—by demanding that Wall Street banks pay back CalPERS’ investment losses stemming from illegal and unethical actions.

On May 15, our Sacramento members are rallying outside a CalPERS board meeting and then marching on a JPMorgan Chase bank in Sacramento. Similar actions are taking place at Chase branches up and down the state.

recover funds lost because of illegal and unethical actions by financial institutions. Another demands the state to create a task force to evaluate the impacts of those lost funds on our communities and the state.

“Protecting our pensions is critical to our long-term economic security,” said Brenda Modkins, chair of Bargaining Unit 1. “Our members identified retirement as the key issue in our contract negotiations, and today’s actions directly support our efforts at the bargaining table.”

CalPERS lost nearly \$70 billion in investments in the economic crash of 2008-09 caused largely by the illegal and unethical actions of big Wall Street firms—many of which later accepted federal bailouts. However, CalPERS has never been made whole for the losses incurred as a result of the crash.

Local 1000’s bargaining team has presented two proposals to the state that strengthen and protect our retirement benefits: One demands CalPERS investigate and take legal action to

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SAVE THE DATE

**‘I’M ALL IN’
June 5 Rally**

At the Capitol/West Steps

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

RSVP
to the Member Resource Center
866.471.SEIU (7348)

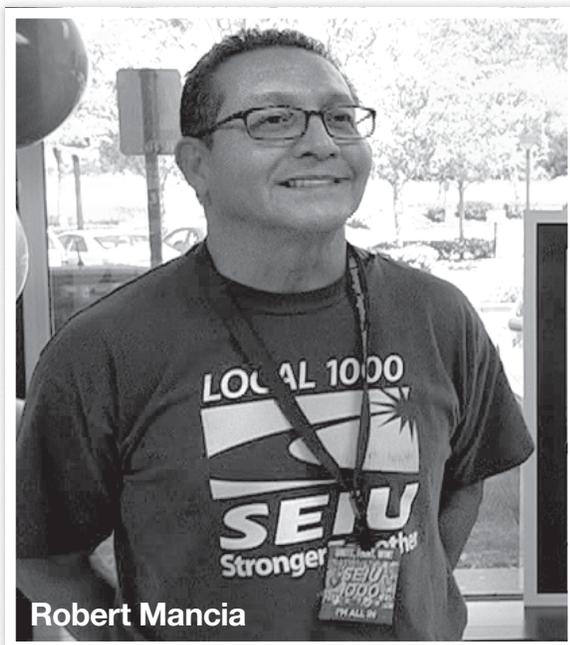
Member strength profile: Robert Mancía

Fighting for justice – at work & in the community

SCIF employee loves to represent workers and recruit young activists

The more active Robert Mancía has become, the more active he wants to be.

“There are not enough hours in the day for all the important causes we need to work on in this country,” said Robert Mancía, 62, a Bargaining Unit 1 member who has worked 34 years for the state. “I find that the more active I’ve become, the more I would like to help people – not just our members but all working people.”



Robert Mancía

Mancía enjoys representing coworkers at the State Compensation Insurance Fund (SCIF) so much that in October, he went on union leave to work fulltime at the Union Resource Center (URC) in Los Angeles where he now represents members at all departments.

“When I was working fulltime at SCIF, I always felt like I wanted to learn more about representation – I wanted to hone my skills,” Mancía said. “I’m excited to have had the opportunity to defend my fellow members.

When you talk to members about why we need a better contract, I just look at the cases we handle in the URC. Our contract is what protects you from abusive bosses. If our contract is stronger, you are stronger; it’s that simple.”

Mancía, who immigrated to Los Angeles from Guatemala at age nine, has been active in progressive Latino causes all his adult life. However, he was not involved in Local 1000 until eight years ago, when his section at State Fund was under regulatory scrutiny.

“I had supported my union passively up to that point, but everyone in my office was worried so I realized I need to study the contract – we need to know our rights,” Mancía said. “First, I just wanted to know my rights, then I wanted to be a steward, then chief steward. Then, when Schwarzenegger attacked us, I realized that it’s time to develop myself as an activist at work, in my union and in my community.”

***“If our contract is stronger,
you are stronger;
it’s that simple.”***

– Robert Mancía
Bargaining Unit 1, State Fund

In his spare time, he also organizes members in Contract Action Teams (CATs) and represents Local 1000 at a variety of community events in Southern California. He recently helped organize SEIU’s participation at labor fairs at Cal State Dominguez Hills and at Harbor College.

“These colleges are where we need to be right now because these students are the future of the labor movement,” Mancía said. “Our union does not exist in a vacuum. We need to reach out in the community and show that we are relevant. Otherwise, the labor movement will die, and the entire middle class will suffer.”

**Resource
Center**

Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
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