

JULY 30  
2014

# UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000  
  
SEIU  
Stronger Together

# ORGANIZING PAYS OFF

## THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS TO RECEIVE PAY RAISE THIS WEEK

This week members are receiving their first paycheck with the 2 percent increase called for in our 2013 contract. A year from now, Local 1000 members will receive a second pay raise of 2.5 percent.

“What we see in our paychecks today is a return on an investment we made more than five years ago to take charge of our own future,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. “We made this pay raise happen through the long hours we put into improving our organizing ability.”

That contract achieved each of four priorities identified by members as key: protect our retirement, preserve our 80/20 health care premium, no furloughs, and an across-the-board pay increase.

The roots of our contract victory go back to 2009—a dark time when furloughs were being imposed on our members by then Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. That year the state signed a contract with Local 1000 but the bill never made it out of the legislature after Schwarzenegger continued his attacks on state workers by failing to support a contract his administration had already approved.

### Army of activists

Local 1000 members decided to form a standing army of activists—in the workplace, in the community, and at the polls.

It started in 2010 when Local 1000 played a large role in the successful effort to elect Gov. Brown—and defeat billionaire Meg Whitman, who had vowed to cut 40,000 state jobs. That year we also elected allies in the Legislature and in all five constitutional offices.

In 2012, Local 1000's members played a key role in passing Proposition 30, which brought much-needed revenue to the state. Together, we helped defeat Proposi-



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SEIU Local 1000 President

tion 32, an effort to silence our political voice, that was funded by secret out-of-state donors.

Our election wins included a two-thirds majority in the Legislature, which allows more flexibility in passing spending measures.

### Organizing made the difference

Thousands of members were “all in” for a good contract, organizing at the workplace and standing up for the priorities they identified as most important.

“There’s a direct connection between our ability to project member strength and bargaining a fair contract,” said Margarita Maldonado, vice president of bargaining. “We are building better futures for ourselves and all working families by organizing and standing strong.



More than 8,000 members rallied at the Capitol last year in support of a new contract. Now that contract is bringing pay raises.

# MEMBERS HELP WIN RAISE FOR LOW-WAGE WORKERS

Local groups act in support of Purpose Statement goals

A group of members in San Diego joined a broad coalition to successfully convince local officials to raise the minimum wage and require employers to provide sick days to all workers.

About 20 Local 1000 members attended the July 14 City Council meeting to urge local leaders to support increasing the minimum wage to \$11.50 an hour in San Diego by Jan. 1, 2017. They joined a coalition that included neighborhood groups, students, low-wage workers, clergy and former basketball star Bill Walton.

The San Diego campaign is part of Local 1000's commitment to strengthen the middle class. With seven of the top 10 jobs being created today paying less than \$15 per hour, we're supporting low-wage worker campaigns up and down the state.

### San Diego success

"We joined the Raise Up San Diego campaign because it was perfectly aligned with our Purpose Statement and the goals we adopted as a union in December," said Dorrie Steadman, a prison nurse who attended numerous organizing meetings and actions along with Otis Tidwell from the Employment Development Department. "We built a coalition, and took action to help lift thousands of low-wage workers closer to a middle class life."

Carol Jeffries, a Caltrans employee, brought a contingent of members to the July 14 meeting: "I'm proud to be part of a movement that is helping save the middle class."

### Bay Area campaign

San Diego is not the only community where Local 1000 members have become active in supporting legislation to help the lowest paid workers. Both San Francisco and Oakland are expected to have measures on the November ballot to raise the minimum wage.

John Torok, an Oakland resident and a steward at the Employment Development Department (EDD) in San Francisco, is part of a campaign urging the Oakland City Council to drop its opposition to a proposed ballot measure backed by labor, religious and community groups and signed by 33,000 voters.

"In my job as an employment program representative, I have come in contact with lots of low-wage workers and people who are out of work," Torok said. "I am proud to be part of a union that is committed to fighting income inequality. If we are going to preserve the middle class in America, it starts by strengthening those workers with the lowest incomes."

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~ Dorrie Steadman,

CDCR nurse and a leader in Raise Up San Diego



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