

SEP 30
2015

UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000
SEIU
Stronger Together



Connecting Common Values

Papal visit forums focus on opportunities for economic and social justice

Pope Francis' first visit to the U. S. since being elected to the papacy in 2013 provided Local 1000's Latino/Latina Committee with the opportunity to host two nights of discussion on the visit's significance. Called "Connecting Common Values: Income Inequality, Environment, Immigration, Race" the forums were held September 15 and 22 at Local 1000's Sacramento Field Office in partnership with Sacramento Area Congregations Together (ACT). The forums were inspired by this pope's embrace of many progressive issues and the opportunities for social and economic justice presented by his leadership.

"Our members and our local are engaged in issues such as

immigration and income equality," said Miguel Cordova, Latino/Latina Committee chair. "It's important to create a space for dialog about how we share and stand up for these common values."

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"The way we bring change is not by what we discussed this past week but what we do tomorrow."

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—Miguel Cordova, Local 1000 Latino/Latina Committee Chair
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Francis has made a huge impact inside and outside the Catholic

Church by taking outspoken positions on these issues as well as the environment, immigration and race.

"The energy generated by the pope's visit provides a spark," said Cordova, "but it's up to Local 1000 members to turn it into a fire."

"We know that the work is ongoing," said Cordova. "The way we bring change is not by what we discussed this past week but what we do tomorrow."

Francis, the first pope elected from the Americas, was in the U.S. September 23 through 27. While here, he became the first pope to address Congress or visit a U.S. prison.



Local 1000 members and community members met to discuss the Papal visit.



Grievance win forces state to properly apply leave policy

A Local 1000 member at Covered California wins a grievance against manager who deemed her AWOL while on active military duty.



“Our contract is clear on leave, and we will take whatever action we need to enforce it.”

—Tamekia N. Robinson
Vice President for Organizing/Representation

The member works as a Program Tech II, Permanent Intermittent. The member was written up several times for misusing sick leave and being out on military leave without proper authorization. The Covered California employee is a member of the armed forces in the reserves who is called into active duty for training every year.

Ignoring our contract language and the members’ rights, Covered California management denied her medical and military orders,

insisting that medical notes be explicit and demanding letters from her commander for every day that she was out on military leave.

The member turned to Local 1000 through her steward, Paul Lee. Lee helped her file a grievance against the department for violation of our contract’s leave policy. All the issues were resolved in the member’s favor. The corrective memorandums were expunged from all files and

her timesheets were corrected to remove any AWOL status from her records.

“This was particularly shameful on the part of the department because they were punishing our member for being in the military,” said Tamekia R. Robinson, vice president for organizing/representation. “But our contract is clear on leave, and we will take whatever action we need to enforce it.”

Resource Center

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CalPERS open enrollment period has started

Educate yourself on your coverage options and changes

Open Enrollment for CalPERS members started September 14 and ends October 9. Changes made during this open enrollment period take effect January 1, 2016. During this time, eligible employees may:

- Enroll in a CalPERS health plan if you don’t currently have CalPERS health coverage
- Add dependents to your health coverage
- Remove dependents from your health coverage
- Change your CalPERS health plan
- Cancel your current CalPERS health coverage

Contact your health benefits officer or human resources department for required forms and documentation to make a health plan change.

If you are keeping your current plan and aren’t making any changes, you don’t need to do anything. But there could be changes to your coverage that you should make yourself aware of.

You can compare premiums for different health plans and see the contribution rates online with CalHR’s benefits calculator, available online at <http://eservices.dpa.ca.gov/BenefitsCalculatorExternal/Default.aspx>

For more information, visit the CalPERS home page at calpers.ca.gov or call **1-888 CalPERS (888-225-7377)**.