

APR 04

2018

UNION UPDATE

Members Making Change with the

POWER OF OUR CONTRACT

Our hard-earned contract, won after months of bargaining and the threat of a strike, and ratified just a year ago, is paying dividends beyond the many gains we achieved in wages, career development and upward mobility, and safer workplaces.

Those dividends are Joint Labor Management Committees (JLMC) and Task Forces (JLMTF), a benefit we negotiated as part of the contract that enables us to continue making changes and improvements in the years in between bargaining.

“We’re taking action now on a wide range of issues that affect different bargaining units, state agencies and, in some cases, all 96,000 members we represent,” said Margarita Maldonado, Vice President for Bargaining.

These committees and task forces are just part of a multi-pronged effort our union is undertaking—driven by members—to make real gains for state workers and all Californians. We’re engaging members at our worksites, in the communities they live and at the government level as well.

We’re fighting for economic justice for all members with our GeoPay Task Force, a group of six members from across the state working with a

group of state agencies to examine the high cost of living that state workers encounter in six different areas, which include housing, transportation, child care, health care and comparable wages.

In another example, we’re working with the state to stop the abuse and bring an end to the dangerous practice of mandatory overtime that creates unsafe conditions for our Registered Nurses and Licensed Vocational Nurses working prisons and in institutions.

More than 8,000 Information Technology workers stood strong during the hard-fought IT Reclass efforts, which brought current decades-old job specifications into modern times. Their work continues to bring salaries for the new classifications equally current.

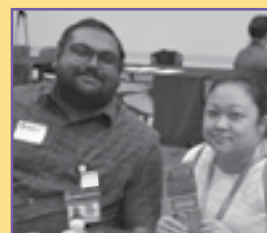
There are many more such efforts across our union. Unit 15, our Allied Service Workers, is working to improve conditions and create upward mobility for food service workers, laundry workers and civil service custodians.

Other examples include a JLMC at the Department of Justice (working conditions), a JLMTF at the Department of Veterans Affairs (working conditions) and a joint committee that oversaw the restructure of BOE into the new CDTFA.

“More than ever, our members are using the power of our contract to make change happen now.”

–Vice President Maldonado

MEMBERS BUILDING POWER AT THE WORKSITE



Our union thrives when our members stand together against the corporations and the wealthy few who want to take away our power to protect our hard-earned rights, benefits and retirement.

On March 7, union members at the Secretary of State’s office in Sacramento came together for a “Knowledge is Power” worksite meeting to share information about union-busting efforts like right-to-work.

Member leaders Tara Rooks, Cheryl Allen and Greg Buford were among those who organized the event and helped their fellow members understand the high stakes battle facing our union and what we stand to lose if we don’t stand strong.

DEPENDENT RE-VERIFICATION UNDERWAY FOR STATE EMPLOYEES

Our union contract provides health care, dental and vision benefits for our members, administered by CalPERS and includes coverage for their dependents.

Beginning in February, CalHR started a process of re-verifying the eligibility of spouses, domestic partners, children, stepchildren and domestic partner children (family members) enrolled for state health, dental and premier vision benefits.

In June 2015, SB 98 was passed, creating government code that mandated verification of all employee dependents prior to enrolling them in a health plan and to validate/verify dependent eligibility at least once every three years for most dependents. This is the first year the law came into effect.

Q: When will I need to re-verify?

A: Once every three years.

The re-verification period is based on your birth month. The following chart illustrates the schedule:

Year of Re-verification						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Employee Birth Month	April July October	February May August November	March June September December	January April July October	February May August November	March June September December

How will I know to re-verify my family members?

60 calendar days before your birth month, you will receive a letter providing the re-verification due date, a list of enrolled family members and acceptable re-verification documents.

Delay in providing re-verification documents to your departmental human resources (HR) office may result in your family members losing health, dental and/or premier vision coverage.

You should promptly provide re-verification documents to, and complete the Dependent Eligibility Verification Checklist (CalHR Form 781) with, your Personnel Specialist. The Personnel Specialist will re-verify the same family members for dental and premier vision benefits, if enrolled.

For more information:

www.calhr.ca.gov/benefits/Pages/dependent-re-verification-faqs-for-employees.aspx

Resource Center

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

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seiu1000.org

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"I CHOOSE MY UNION BECAUSE IT GIVES US A VOICE IN THE WORKPLACE TO BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS AND WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER."

TIFFANY CONTRERAS, LVN, UNIT 20, AVENAL STATE PRISON,
PRESIDENT DLC 771

