

APR 18

2018

UNION UPDATE

MEMBER LEADER

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST

JEROME WASHINGTON RESPECTS AND PROTECTS THE NATURAL WORLD ON AND OFF THE JOB

Environmental justice is one of our key union values—as expressed in our Purpose Statement—and part of our mission to provide our members and all Californians the opportunity to have a good life.

For Local 1000 member Jerome Washington, the environment is something he gets to protect, respect and enjoy in his professional as well as personal life. He’s fulfilling a lifetime appreciation for our natural world as an Associate Environmental Planner at Caltrans in Eureka.

A fifteen-year state employee, Washington acts as an Environmental Construction Liaison for Caltrans, ensuring that the roads and bridges built and maintained by the agency comply with the environmental permits and regulations that help keep our environment healthy.

“I’ve had a love for the outdoors since my childhood,” says Washington. “Now, I’m working to make sure the next generation has the opportunity to visit and appreciate the beaches and redwoods I’m enjoying with my family now.”

He reminds us that “the transportation system is how we get to these beautiful places,” and is particularly proud of a recent project he worked on—the Willits Bypass—where Caltrans built a much-needed 7-mile road while managing to preserve and improve the environment at the same time. The agency set aside a significant portion of the land they acquired to protect wetlands and enhance the habitats of native elk and salmon.

“This was a win-win partnership that overcame the environmental challenges of road construction while serving the needs of those living in and around Willits,” said Washington.

He applies his passion for the natural world as a member of Local 1000’s Environmental Committee because “our union is part of a larger movement to achieve environmental justice,” citing our support of the upcoming observance of Earth Day and the March for Science. “Anytime you can add science to the decision making process, you can expect a better outcome.”

Building A Stronger Union

While striving to preserve and enhance our environment, Washington is a dedicated and busy union activist. He became a steward around the time then-governor Schwarzenegger threatened to pay state employees minimum wage. “I realized what my family and my coworkers stood to lose,” he said. “Standing together with other members, we could (and can) fight off the challenges that threaten us.”

Washington was soon elected as a District Bargaining Unit Representative and later became the president of DLC 749. “We are constantly faced with threats that will take our rights away. That’s why I’m sticking with my union.”



CELEBRATE EARTH DAY APRIL 22, 2018

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE:

WWW.SEIU1000.ORG/POST/ENVIRONMENTAL-COMMITTEES-2018-EVENTS

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

FACEBOOK.COM/SEIU1000ENVIRONMENTAL

#iChooseMyUnion

“I’M PROUD TO BE PART OF A UNION BECAUSE IT GIVES ME THE POWER TO PROVIDE FOR MY FAMILY AND OTHER WORKING FAMILIES.”

-JEROME WASHINGTON

CALTRANS, EUREKA, JOB STEWARD AND PRESIDENT, DLC 749



PERB DECISION REINFORCES STEWARD'S RIGHTS TO ENGAGE IN UNION ACTIVITY

A recent win at the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) underscores the importance of our stewards' ability to engage in representational activity guaranteed in Article 2 of our contract.

California Correctional Health Care Services management at a Southern California prison engaged in retaliatory activity against one of our LVNs after she wrote memos to the warden and the CEO expressing concerns about a change in policy and its impacts on the delivery of care by our health care professionals.

In the memo, she asked for a meeting with management. At the same time, she sought to discuss the concerns with the Joint Labor Management Committee.

She never got a response but instead received an Employee Counseling Record reprimanding her for "failure to follow the chain of command" even though the policy change identified the warden as having overall responsibility for the new policy.

She was also told that engaging in similar behavior would result in an adverse action.

Our Union Resource Center filed a grievance, and ultimately PERB handed down a ruling in her favor recognizing that "employees who are also union officials are sometimes placed in uncomfortable positions during their advocacy because they take positions contrary to those of the employer."

The PERB ruling cited a number of cases where stewards have been protected for their conduct or speech "even if it has been characterized by management as deserving of discipline or corrective action."



"This is a great example of one of our own, standing up and doing the right thing for the members they represent, even when faced with an aggressive and unfair response."

-Yvonne R. Walker, President

Resource Center

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

Website

seiu1000.org

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Ballots for the Local 1000 leadership election will be mailed April 20 and will arrive in your mailbox in the following days. This is your opportunity to vote for elected union officers and representatives who choose the direction we take in our fight for better wages and working conditions.

Local 1000 Leadership Election Ballots Coming Soon



MUST BE A MEMBER OF LOCAL 1000 IN GOOD STANDING TO PLACE YOUR VOTE



COMPLETED BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MAY 21



RESULTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON MAY 30

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.SEIU1000.ORG/LOCAL-1000-ELECTIONS
OR CALL THE MEMBER RESOURCE CENTER AT 866.471.SEIU(7348)