

## Union Victory: Safer Working Conditions Secured for Fresno Call Center Employees



A years-long health and safety battle at the Fresno DMV Center has resulted in a union victory: later this fall, our represented employees will move into a new workspace, leaving behind a rat-infested office that the state management and the property owner never fully resolved.

The rat problem wasn't just an inconvenience; it was a serious health hazard, with several members requiring medical attention. This issue went beyond cleanliness—it was about ensuring safety, dignity, and respect for every worker.

DMV was slow to respond, but our Fresno members never relented. Local

1000 leadership, legal, the SEIU State Council and our community allies all rallied to demand change.

This victory is a testament to the power of standing together. It was the efforts of our members in Fresno that made the difference. When we unite and demand respect, we can achieve real, lasting change for all workers.

A huge thank you to our members! Your courage and persistence made this win possible. Together, we're building safer, healthier workplaces for all.

If you've experienced similar issues, share your story with us, and let's keep fighting for the rights and safety of every SEIU Local 1000 member.



### A message from **President Anica Walls**

Dear Local 1000 Members – This month's newsletter highlights the incredible progress we've made together. From securing safer working conditions to resolving contract violations, we've proven the strength of our union time and time again. I'm so proud of the work our members and stewards are doing every day to stand up for our rights. As we move forward, let's keep building on these successes and pushing for even more. Together, we'll continue fighting for better wages, safer workplaces, and a stronger future for all state workers.

In solidarity,  
Anica Walls

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Chief Negotiator • Activist Adam Basler • Apprentice Program

# Susan Rodriguez Elected to Chief Negotiator Position



There's new leadership for our contract bargaining team: Susan Rodriguez, the Chair of Bargaining Unit 1, has been elected to the position of Local 1000

Chief Negotiator and will guide the 60+ members of our bargaining team as they work to improve our wages, benefits and working conditions in 2026 negotiations.

Susan has been on the bargaining team for the last four contract cycles, in 2013, '16, '19, and 2024. She was the Unit 1 bargaining chair for the last two campaigns and will retain that role moving forward.

A 23-year veteran of state service, Susan works at State Fund as a Senior Worker's

Compensation Claims Adjuster. It's her experience as a rank-and-file state employee that informs and motivates her work at the bargaining table as well as protecting our hard-earned contract rights.

"We're working to make the jobs and lives of state workers better," Susan said. "State workers provide vital services to California every day, and they deserve to be respected and valued."

In 2023, Susan was part of the bargaining team that, with the support of thousands of Local 1000-represented workers, won the largest contract in our union's history.

"Members really made the difference in bringing home a contract that puts more money in their pockets,"

she added. "We won a 10% general salary increase, special salary and wage adjustments for more than 300 job classifications, a health care subsidy and a reduction in pre-retirement deductions."

What's next? "A great contract in 2026," says Susan Rodriguez. How do we get there? "A strong membership is always our top priority. More members equal more POWER that leads to more money in our paychecks! And it is going to take everyone represented by SEIU Local 1000 to make that happen."

**Join the fight for a better contract!**  
We win better wages, benefits,  
and working conditions when  
we have a strong membership.  
More info at [seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org)

## Protecting Your Hard-Earned Contract Rights

### Saying "no" to bullying and harassment works

A supervisor at an Housing and Community Development office created a hostile working environment by interrupting staff their duty-free lunchtime and by standing over them until they complied with requests—a clear violation of our contract rights.

Two members submitted internal complaints, a vote of 'no confidence' was issued to the department, and a grievance filed. Our members were compensated for the lost time, and the

supervisor was suspended, investigated, and eventually left the job.

### Improving working conditions with just a conversation.

Concerned workers at a SoCal Department of Rehabilitation office solved six different health and safety issues by working with their Local 1000 Union Rep and department management.

The concerns included ceiling leaks, fire hazards, pest control, a missing handicap button in the restroom, a

moldy couch ... even a proper bulletin board to post union information

Local 1000 reached out to the department, and just three weeks later, DOR had resolved all the issues, without a grievance having to be filed.

**If you feel your rights are being violated, speak with your Local 1000 Job Steward or call the Member Resource Center at 866-471-7348.**



**YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!**  
POLITICS MATTERS TO ALL OF US. LEARN MORE ABOUT  
HOW TO JOIN THE FIGHT AT [SEIU1000.ORG](http://SEIU1000.ORG)

# Adam Basler: A Voice for Justice and Fairness in Local 1000



From a young age, Adam Basler knew he had to stand up for those who couldn't always speak for themselves. This instinct, first sparked when he defended a differently abled classmate in school, has shaped his life's work as an advocate for justice—and as a strong union leader.

For more than 18 years in state service, Adam has been on the front lines, speaking up for his colleagues as a Unit 3 teacher at the Department of State Hospitals, Napa. When low pay, understaffed departments, and tough working conditions threatened his fellow workers, Adam found his union voice. "Unit 3 is a small unit, but we needed a voice to fight for a living wage and fair treatment for teachers in state facilities like the School for the Blind."

## **A union advocate committed to strengthening Local 1000**

When Adam Basler saw his colleagues struggling under unfair conditions, he knew he had to step up—not just for himself, but for all Unit 3 workers. "It's not a fair fight when we're dealing with management on our own, so I knew we needed protection," he said, recalling

his decision to become a delegate to the SEIU International convention.

Stepping up empowered Adam to use his new-found union power to help his fellow workers. "When I throw on my purple jacket, I feel more confident, focused, and management treats us more politely, knowing that we're organizing. It's a coordinated, collaborative relationship."

Adam's journey as a contributor to his colleagues, his union, and to his community continues. His next step is attending Local 1000's Leadership Apprentice Program for Stewards (LAPS). As a steward, he'll amplify his ability to make a difference.

***"When I throw on my purple jacket, I feel more confident, and management treats us more politely."***  
**– Adam Basler, Unit 3 Teacher, DSH**

It won't surprise you that Adam's past includes work as an ACLU board member, a County Human Rights Commissioner, a Restorative Justice practitioner. And, earlier this summer, he was appointed the Statewide Disability Advisory committee, which through the Office of Human Rights, advises the Director on issues of concern to employees with disabilities at the Department of State Hospitals.

Now, Adam is committed to creating a stronger Local 1000, with a clear plan and strategy for the future. "We need to keep this momentum going in the right direction, and that means organizing together."

Local 1000 is stronger because of members like Adam Basler, whose dedication to improving the lives of his colleagues exemplifies the power of collective action. For Adam, advocacy isn't just a responsibility—it's a way of life. "You can use a loud voice, or a quiet voice... but the important thing is always to use a strong voice."

## **Join Adam in strengthening Local 1000**

Adam's story shows the power of using your voice to make a difference. Whether it's by attending meetings, becoming a steward, or simply supporting your fellow members, you too can play a part in making Local 1000 stronger. Stand with us in the fight for fair wages, better working conditions, and a brighter future for all state workers.

**Get involved** today by visiting [seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org) or reaching out to your local steward to find out how you can contribute!



**Step into your leadership! Become a Local 1000 Job Steward today.**  
Information and application available online at [seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org)



# UNION INFORMATION

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

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## Correctional Healthcare Training Programs Expand

### Upward mobility is a union value

There's more opportunity on the horizon for our members in the healthcare field to make a dramatic career change and receive additional skill-building training. Local 1000 is announcing a dramatic expansion in its Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) to Registered Nurse (RN) apprenticeship program.

A \$4.5 million grant in High Road Training Partnership (HRTP) funding established the High Road to Correctional Health Professions (HRCHP) partnership with CCHCS and builds upon our existing portfolio with new and innovative training programs.

Planned projects include extending the geographic reach of the LVN-to-RN apprenticeship by adding Bakersfield College as a partner, introducing a RN residency program to improve skills application and increase retention, and training healthcare staff in telehealth delivery.

New training will include high-priority skills upgrades such as life support and emergency response, using the state-of-the-art simulation lab at Loma Linda University.

Local 1000 also is looking ahead to design and develop a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)/Medical Assistant (MA)-to-LVN apprenticeship for CCHCS employees.

The High Road to Correctional Health Professions aims to provide increased

and improved training to over 500 RNs and to provide more than 50 new LVN-to-RN apprenticeship slots.

### Member input shapes program

Our member leader, Bob Mutebi, a Unit 17 RN, joined a site visit and High Road partner meeting at Loma Linda University in July. He offered valuable feedback about improvements to training and new opportunities. 'As this program grows, we're helping to improve the quality of prison healthcare,' said Mutebi.



***"We're helping to improve the quality of prison healthcare."***

***– Robert Mutebi***

### Valuable community partnerships

Our educational partners help make Local 1000 apprenticeships possible. Bakersfield College and Loma Linda University have joined with Riverside City College, and San Joaquin Delta College as our partners in apprenticeship and career development. We are also very proud of our work with CCHCS, and this expansion of training opportunities comes directly as a result of management and labor working together.

**LOCAL 1000 OFFERS SEVEN DIFFERENT APPRENTICE PROGRAMS, COVERING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, FINANCIAL SERVICES, OFFICE ADMINISTRATION, AND HEALTHCARE. LEARN MORE AT [SEIU1000.ORG/GROW](http://SEIU1000.ORG/GROW)**