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UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000
SEIU
Stronger Together



President Yvonne R. Walker and Local 1000 members meet with the Catholic Diocese of Monterey and COPA

Building Powerful Alliances

Local 1000 reaches out to faith and community leaders to achieve shared goals

On October 23, Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker accepted an invitation from Central Coast members to tour the correctional facilities in Soledad, and the visit provided an opportunity to connect members from across the state with important struggles that are going on there. It also helped solidify alliances the union is making to honor our Purpose Statement's directive to build better and more sustainable communities for all Californians.

President Walker began the day by touring the Correctional Training Facility (CTF), Department of State Hospitals (DSH) and Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP). Her host was DLC 741 Chief Steward and Vice President Nick Mannion, who works as an LVN at SVSP. She then met with union leaders and representatives from both the Catholic Diocese of

Monterey and the group Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA).

Walker's meeting with the diocese was made possible by members who had met with Bishop Robert Garcia and Deacon Warren Hoy a month earlier about the distressing use of mandatory overtime as the state's fallback

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—Tim McManus, COPA

staffing tool for nurses and nursing assistants at state facilities. Those members shared with the church leaders how, after working sixteen hours, they were often so sleepy that they drove off the road and how the back-to-back double shifts impacted their ability to administer medication. They explained how they couldn't spend as much time with family or even attend church. The members expressed that the stress and tiredness would cause medical errors that would in turn jeopardize their licenses.

Walker, who has elevated the cause of ending the routine use of mandatory overtime to a top concern for the union, used her Soledad visit to have deep conversations with members about how they have suffered under the practice. She then secured commitments from the diocese and COPA to join the fight against mandatory overtime.

"Yvonne heard lots of stories about the impacts of working sixteen hour days because of mandated overtime," says Mannion. "The icing on the cake was learning that Bishop Robert Garcia is committed to ending MOT and wants to join our union efforts to protect worker safety."

For Walker, the trip solidified her belief that Local 1000 continues to find new ways to grow and build power by encouraging and incorporating the ideas of our members.

"Sharing COPA's organizing tradition with experienced and emerging leadership of SEIU Local 1000 has allowed working families in our region to develop a voice like never before. We look forward to growing this partnership," said COPA's Tim McManus.

Workers Training Management

Covered California workers discover the power of membership

The Fresno Action Committee, the Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC) for the Fresno Covered California office, is building a voice for workers to demand respect at that worksite. A recent meeting resulted in management conceding a number of items, including the right of workers to have a coffee and water club, to monitor their cell phones for emergencies and to have ample time to check emails and study.

“It was not a teamwork atmosphere,” says steward Vanessa Watts of the early days at the department. “Now, with the union involved, management is looking for ideas and solutions from workers. We have someone to back us and we know our rights.”



—Vanessa Watts, Local 1000 steward, Covered CA

The Fresno Action Committee is currently in discussions with management over issues such as study time, ample training for special projects and making new policies and procedures more streamlined.

Covered California, created in 2012 to implement the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare) in the state, brought a lot of new workers into state service. Many of those workers had never had union representation before. Likewise, many of the managers came from the private sector and have never managed a unionized workforce before. Thanks to Local 1000, our new members are learning the collective power available when workers stand together, and managers are learning they must respect that power.

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“We will continue to challenge Covered California on the issues that are important to our mem-

bers,” says Sophia Perkins, chair of Bargaining Unit 4. “They are gradually beginning to understand that they have to deal with us.”

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A Veterans Day Message

from President Yvonne R. Walker

November 11 is Veterans Day. As a veteran of the Marine Corps and the daughter of a Marine, Veterans Day is a special holiday for me. It is a day that, with solemnity and pride, we honor the people who choose to step forward and risk everything in service to their country.

That spirit of sacrifice and honor is what fills our country and our state with hope and promise. We can all draw inspiration from the examples of our veterans by stepping up when we are called to service—whether it be to our families, to our communities or to our coworkers.

To all of our veterans, thank you.

To contact the SEIU Local 1000 Veterans Committee, please email veteranscommittee@seiu1000.org or visit us online at seiu1000.org/veterans-committee

