

FEB 15
2017

Black History Month

Vice President for Organizing/Representation Tamekia N. Robinson draws inspiration from past leaders

As our Vice President for Organizing/Representation, Tamekia N. Robinson inspires members and leaders to a higher level of commitment to face today's challenges. For her, Black History Month is an opportunity to pause and reflect on the inspiration she's drawn from two legendary figures from our past: Fannie Lou Hamer and James Baldwin.

The life and achievements of voting rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer serve as a guide to Robinson's personal journey as a leader of our Union. Hamer used her own struggles against racism to focus attention on the plight of African-Americans in the south. "She was unwavering in her commitment to black suffrage," said Robinson.

Arrested in 1963, Hamer received a vicious jail-house beating that left her with severe kidney damage and a permanent limp. A year later while speaking at the Democratic National Convention, she revealed to the nation the demeaning discrimination that black people were living under in the south and delivered the historic statement: "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired."

Baldwin, an essayist, playwright, novelist and social critic, was a highly regarded writer of his generation, whose insights into race, spirituality and humanity educated us about the stark realities of what it means to be black in America.

As a child growing up in Harlem, he was regularly exposed to racial harassment and abuse and would later experience the same as a teenager. The themes of discrimination informed his life's work, and he was an important voice in the Civil Rights movement.

Baldwin encouraged strength amid adverse conditions when he famously said, "To act is to be committed, and to be committed is to be in danger."

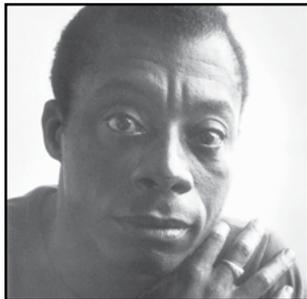
"James Baldwin had so much courage and conviction," said Robinson. "In a time when those who spoke up against the status quo faced withering criticism, Baldwin wouldn't succumb."

It is the strength of these leaders—Hamer and Baldwin—that drives Robinson today in her role as an officer and leader of Local 1000.

"As union members, and as Americans, we must rise to the fight. United together, we can use the lessons and leadership of history to protect our hard-earned rights at work and at home."



FANNIE LOU HAMER



JAMES BALDWIN



UNION UPDATE

Tentative Agreement making way through Legislature

Our Tentative Agreement cleared two hurdles last week as it makes its way through the Legislature and closer to the Governor's desk.

Vice President for Bargaining Margarita Maldonado testified before two Senate committees in support of our agreement, and both committees voted to move the TA forward.

Speaking on Feb. 6, Maldonado told the Senate Public Employees and Retirement Committee that we represent about 40% of California's total state employees and provide a broad range of valuable services to California and our communities.

"Like all Californians, we believe that people who work hard for a living should be able to provide for their families," she said. "Our Tentative Agreement helps thousands of families get closer to that goal."

Senate Bill 28, sponsored by Sen. Richard Pan (D-Sacramento) to make our agreement law, was approved by the Senate Public Employees and Retirement Committee on Feb. 6 and the Senate Budget and Finance Review Committee on Feb. 9.

The bill will undergo review in the Assembly and will then be voted on by both houses of the Legislature before going to the Governor for his signature.

Our Tentative Agreement includes across-the-board pay increases along with a \$2,500 bonus. In addition, we made numerous improvements in working conditions; upward mobility and professional development; and leaves and health and safety.

"This agreement represents our members' voices, their struggles and our work to ensure their real life circumstances are honored."

— Margarita Maldonado
Vice President for Bargaining



Resource Center

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

Website

seiu1000.org

Connect with Local 1000

Facebook
facebook.com/seiu1000

YouTube
youtube.com/seiu1000

Twitter
twitter.com/seiu1000



Member Resource Center FAQ

Q What is the difference between "Premium" holiday pay and "Regular" holiday pay?

Premium Holidays are equal to eight hours of holiday credit and one and one-half your hourly rate for all hours worked. Regular Holidays are equal to eight hours of holiday credit and regular hourly rate for all hours worked.

Premium Holidays Include: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas

Regular Holidays Include: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, César Chávez Day, Veterans' Day and Day After Thanksgiving

Q I have been called in to an investigation at my workplace. What should I do?

Whether you are a subject of the investigation or a witness, you should immediately call your steward or the MRC at 866.471.SEIU (7348) for assistance as soon as you are notified.

Learn more about our tentative agreement online at seiu1000.org