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UNION UPDATE

Bargaining team compiling input from thousands of members

Surveys, bargaining meetings key to identifying priorities

Local 1000's member-elected bargaining team has begun the work of reviewing the contract priorities expressed by thousands of members, collected in person at recent bargaining town halls and worksite meetings held in February and March, and through online bargaining surveys.



"Members who are not involved in the bargaining process are missing out on a crucial opportunity to make themselves heard."

—Jody Price, Bargaining Unit 1

The team's goal is to identify the key themes that will become the proposals our bargaining team will present during negotiations for our new contract.

"We've met with and heard from more members than ever before ... and we're listening," said Margarita Maldonado, Local 1000 vice president for bargaining. "Our negotiations will reflect the priorities of our members to ensure that we win a fair contract that benefits all of us."

Statewide Bargaining Advisory Committee meets this weekend

More than 200 members of Local 1000's statewide bargaining advisory committee will meet for four days, starting Saturday, to examine the results of the bargaining surveys. From those, they'll develop conceptual proposals affecting our wages, benefits and working conditions to present to representatives of the state.

The member-elected bargaining representatives will also develop the strategies to effectively communicate bargaining developments to Local 1000 members.

Next step: projecting power

"Achieving success at the bargaining table requires more than assessing member priorities," said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. "Each one of us must be ready to step up—to project our power—in support of our bargaining team. It takes an army of members to show our strength, our resolve, in winning the contract we deserve."

Jody Price, a Bargaining Unit 1 member at the Veterans Home in Yountville, understands the value of stepping up. "Members who are not involved in the bargaining process are missing out on a crucial opportunity to help themselves as well as their coworkers. The strength of our bargaining team depends upon the Union's strength in the workplace—and I am here to add to that."

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Local 1000 fights for working families at the Capitol

Pressing for legislation to improve workplace safety, encourage early voting & expand inmate education

Contract legislation tops our agenda in 2013 while Local 1000 also backs a wide range of bills to help the state operate more efficiently.

Local 1000's top legislative priority is to make sure that once our tentative agreement is signed, the legislature passes our contract bill and that the governor then signs our contract into law.

Beyond our contract legislation, Local 1000 is sponsoring and backing several other important bills to either make our workplaces safer for our members, increase effectiveness in programs we manage, or help the state better serve California's working families.

One such bill is AB 1340, which would require that any mentally ill state hospital patient accused of assaulting a staff member or another patient be housed in a more secure area – away from the general population.

Workplace safety

"The security of patients and health care professionals has been a problem that the state has never adequately addressed," said Kim Cowart, chair of Bargaining Unit 17 and a nurse at Napa State Hospital. "This bill would require the state to adopt common sense protections that will save lives."

In 2010, a mental patient with a long history of violence killed a psychiatric technician at Napa State Hospital. Local 1000 and other unions have forced the state to make security improvements, but employees still feel unsafe at work.

Local 1000 is also sponsoring two bills to rebuild a prison education system virtually eliminated in 2010. AB 494 would require the state to implement educational

programs in each prison designed to ensure that, upon parole, inmates are able to acquire a high school diploma or its equivalent. AB 1019 would require goals be set for vocational education programs in prison so that parolees have an opportunity to earn a living wage after they serve their terms. Our Bargaining Unit 3 prison educators developed both bills.

Increase voter turnout

Another bill that Local 1000 is sponsoring – SB 637 – would require the secretary of state to perform a study for the legislature on different options to increase voter turnout through early voting.

"We support this bill because it is good for all Californians and strengthens the democratic process," Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker said. "At a time when some other states are making it harder to participate in elections, we believe that California should lead the way by removing barriers to voting."

Here's a summary of other bills we are sponsoring.

- AB 855 would strengthen due process by allowing an administrative law judge to make a determination whether the state properly invoked the AWOL statute to terminate an employee.
- AB 872 would require that the state complete employee investigations of misconduct within one year instead of three.
- AB 1346 would improve the health care options available to state employees in rural areas with fewer health care options.

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