

MAY 14
2014

UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000
SEIU
Stronger Together



EDD Director Patrick Henning Jr. (back row, center) met with Sacramento area stewards and statewide officers April 30

Sacramento stewards meet new EDD Director

Local 1000 gains an ally in its ongoing efforts to improve working conditions, service levels

After months of collaboration with state officials to address issues facing EDD, Local 1000 hosted new Director Patrick Henning Jr. in a meeting with Local 1000 stewards, to hear first-hand the comments and concerns of rank-and-file workers now in his charge. He came to underscore his commitment to “helping Californians when they are at possibly the lowest point in their lives.”

The gathering was just one stop of many planned by the newly-appointed Henning, who plans to visit EDD stewards up and down the state as part of his efforts to “move the department forward with greater efficiency.”

“This represents a real opportunity for us to have an real partnership with EDD,” said Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president. “It’s clear that we share the same goals of improving working conditions and delivering on our promise to vulnerable Californians.”

Among the topics raised with the director: understaffing and the challenges of increased workloads; the proper use of permanent intermittent employees; technology issues; and, improving relations between workers and management.

Henning is a veteran labor union activist, from a family with a strong record of supporting working families. His father served as EDD director from 2004-2009, and his grandfather was an undersecretary in the Labor department for both the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

EDD’s new director made a commitment to ‘walk a day’ in our shoes to better understand what EDD workers face every day. He plans to “get on the phones so I can personally experience how we interact with the public,” and added, “together, we can do better, and I’m looking forward to looking closely to working with Local 1000.”



MEMBER TESTIFIES:

Will our daughters *EVER* be able to retire?

Capitol hearing focuses on income inequality, access to early childhood education and lack of retirement options for women

Local 1000 participated in a select committee hearing held on May 5 to illustrate the comprehensive inequalities facing women in the workplace - ranging from unequal pay for equal work, lower retirement savings rates, finding affordable quality education for young children, and the high ratio of single mothers working in low wage jobs.

The hearing was designed to address the pressing challenges of preserving and strengthening the middle class for future generations at a time when middle-income opportunities are shrinking for many workers – especially women, according to state Sen. Holly J. Mitchell (D-Los Angeles), chair of the Select Committee on Women and Inequality.

Mitchell hosted the May 5 hearing, in which women from across California testified about the financial inequalities they and their families face. Tonya Bealey, a DMV employee from Los Angeles County



“The inequality women face at work haunts us for the rest of our lives.”

—Tonya Bealey, DMV, Los Angeles County

addressed the retirement security gap that affects many women.

Bealey testified that, after a lifetime of work, her mother survives solely on a small Social Security check. Meanwhile, her adult children are in their 20's and cannot find jobs with a retirement savings plan.

“Out of the three generations of adult women in my family, I am currently the only one who will have something more than Social Security to support me in my retirement or even have the option of retiring at all,” said Bealey. “Women retire with less because we still get paid less for the same work, and frequently, we are in lower paying positions or lines of work. The inequality women face at work haunts us for the rest of our lives.”

“It’s clear to me that all these issues are connected to larger issues of income inequality and a shrinking middle class in America,” said state Sen. Norma J. Torres (D-Pomona). “That is the central challenge that we need to address immediately.”

Resource Center

Monday-Friday
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Members knock on doors to say “politics matter”

Volunteers hold thousands of neighbor-to-neighbor conversations

Hundreds of Local 1000 members went door-to-door last weekend in support of candidates who will make our economy work for everyone, not just the wealthiest few.

“This is how we put real power in the hands of regular people,” said Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president. “As we did with Propositions 30 and 32, we’re organizing at the grass-roots level and having

conversations about what’s at stake in this election.”

Tens of thousands of Local 1000 members will make their voices heard on June 3, and we’re working the phones and knocking on doors up until the polls close. You can volunteer by contacting your Local 1000 representative or by calling the Member Resource Center at **866.471.SEIU** (7348).



Local 1000 member Theresa Hubbard (right) walks a precinct in Davis on May 3.