

MAY 21
2014

UNION UPDATE



Local 1000 wins million dollar settlement for correctional dental assistants

A grievance filed by Local 1000 led to a settlement that was approved last week by the governor's office.

Thanks to contract enforcement by Local 1000, nearly 550 Registered Dental Assistants (RDAs) at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) will receive lump sum settlements ranging from \$1,750 to \$3,500.

CDCR stopped paying a \$100 monthly RDA differential in November of 2007, after a side letter negotiated with CDCR provided salary increases for dental assistants—although the provision in our contract governing the differential remained unchanged.

“This is one example of the real representation and contract enforcement that is at the core of the Local 1000 mission,” said Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president. “This is a win that came from a team of members and staff working together to fix a problem and defend our hard-earned rights.”

Local 1000's grievance argued that correctional RDAs were still entitled to the differential, and the final settlement may exceed \$2 million. The settlement impacts both current and former RDAs in CDCR. The settlement will be paid as a lump sum with no deductions, and our contract will be amended to exclude CDCR RDAs from the differential pay. To see a summary of the settlement, visit the Unit 20 web page at seiu1000.org. The differential for RDAs in other state departments will continue to be paid as before.



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—Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 President

Another victory: post and bid for dental assistants

The settlement Local 1000 reached with the state includes adding post and bid language in the contract for all CDCR dental assistants—a long sought-after addition Local 1000 has proposed for many years and had rejected by the state each time.

Is your name on the settlement list?

Local 1000 continues to gather names of RDAs who are not on the settlement list but who believe they are covered by the settlement. Visit the Unit 20 web page at seiu1000.org to read the current list of names or to add yours to the list. Once CDCR approves the list of additional names, a new list will be posted online.

Voting by mail has never been easier

Tens of thousands of Local 1000 members across California

will make their voices heard in support of leaders who will make our economy work for everyone, not just the wealthiest few. And many are choosing the quick and easy option of voting by mail.

Any registered voter may use a vote-by-mail ballot. Registered voters may apply for a vote-by-mail ballot (permanently or on a one-time basis) for the upcoming election.

For the June 3 election, your application must be postmarked no later than May 27.

You can apply online or at your county elections office.

Get vote-by-mail information from the California Secretary of State's website at sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm#apply

Local 1000 Nurses call on Legislature to stop mandatory overtime

Dangerous practice threatens safety of patients, workers and the public

Local 1000 is fighting to ban the unpopular practice of mandatory overtime and is asking nurses and nursing assistants at prisons and mental hospitals throughout California to send in their stories of how mandatory overtime affects them and their patients.

“For years we have been working to improve the safety of patients and nurses by getting rid of mandatory overtime, and now the issue is before the Legislature,” said Kim Cowart, chair of Bargaining Unit 17, which represents all registered nurses (RNs). “We have nurses who are forced to work double shifts day after day, week after week, and it creates a dangerous situation.”

Cowart and Rionna Jones, chair of Unit 20, which represents licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) and certified nursing assistants, (CNAs) both testified at the Capitol last month in support of AB 2155, a bill to ban mandatory overtime. The Assembly Committee on Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security voted to approve the bill.

The use of mandatory overtime for nurses in the private sector in California has been banned since 2001 by the Industrial Welfare Commission, but nurses working in the public sector were exempt from the ban. So far 11 other states have adopted legislation similar to AB 2155.

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—Kim Cowart, Chair, Bargaining Unit 17 Nurses

“Imagine that your child is sick, and you can’t go home to take care of them because you have been forced to work another eight hours,” said Jones. “Imagine pulling off the freeway to sleep on your way home after being forced to work 16 hour shifts for two days in a row. Imagine working two, 16-hour shifts with only four hours of sleep in between. These are not hypothetical scenarios. Our members have to deal with issues like these every single day.”

“My job requires and needs me to be mentally alert at all times so I can provide the proper care to those the state has entrusted to my care,” Jones added. “How can the same people who force me to work mandatory overtime until I can’t think straight expect me to provide 100 percent quality care to patients? It just doesn’t make sense.”

AB 2155 is currently awaiting action before the Assembly Appropriations Committee. If you wish to share your story of mandatory overtime, go to seiu1000.me/1juX2cW

Resource Center

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

Website

seiu1000.org

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DMV activist honored as Unionist of the Year

To Richard David Turner, helping his fellow employees solve problems at work is second nature. As a steward and Local 1000 activist, he’s worked for nearly ten years to improve working conditions at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), while volunteering his personal time to build a better community.

Turner was honored as “Unionist of the Year” for his efforts by the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council. He received three separate certificates on April 25—one from his Congressman, one from his Assemblymember and a third from his state senator.

“I started working for the state at the DMV in 2005, and I signed up to become a steward right away,” said Turner, who works at the DMV office in Capitola. “I just want to

help people.” Turner is a member of DMV “HEAT” (Heavy Enforcement Action Team), the group that last year successfully completed a nine-year reclassification effort that yielded new job specs for more than 4,000 DMV employees, along with raises ranging from 1.5 to 7.5 percent.

“Richard is really living the Local 1000 Purpose Statement,” said Tamekia N. Robinson, Local 1000 vice president for organizing/representa-



(l-r) Assemblymember Luis Alejo, Richard David Turner, Sen. Bill Monning

sentation. “Through his actions and accomplishments at work and in the community, he sets a standard for all of us to follow.”

“I had no idea this was coming,” Turner said. “I was floored by these honors. I do my union work and community volunteering because it’s the right thing to do. I don’t do it for recognition or advancement, but I am honored.”