

MAY 28
2014

UNION UPDATE



Salaries to increase 2% July 1

Governor says “fiscal targets met”

Local 1000-represented employees will receive a 2 percent salary increase beginning July 1—after Governor Brown’s May budget revise projected that state revenue will exceed certain targets, triggering the pay jump. Seasonal clerks will receive a 50-cent hourly increase, also effective July 1.

The increase is the first portion of an across-the-board 4.5 percent increase Local 1000 negotiated as part of our contract last year. The remaining 2.5 percent increase will become effective July 1, 2015. State employees will see the higher amounts in their August 1 paychecks.

“This is a much-deserved increase for our members after we shared in the pain of a severe recession and California’s fiscal crises,” said Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president. “We all made sacrifices and tough choices, and then we did our part to get responsible leaders elected to take the reins of the state’s economy and state workforce. Our hard work and grassroots organizing paid off when we won this raise at the bargaining table last year.”

Local 1000 members ratified our new contract in July 2013 that achieved their four top priorities: protecting retirement security, preserving our 80/20 health benefit formula, no new furloughs and a wage increase for all employees.

Revised budget includes new hires at EDD

An additional \$67.6 million has been allocated to bolster resources in the Employment Development Department’s Unemployment Insurance (UI) program—including 208 new UI staff. Those funds will be used to increase service levels for unemployed Californians by reducing the turnaround time for benefit claims and eligibility determinations, and accelerating responses to phone and online inquiries. Local 1000 has collaborated for months with state officials to address understaffing and the challenges of increased workloads.



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—Yvonne R. Walker,
Local 1000 President

GET OUT THE VOTE:

Make our voices heard June 3

Elections have consequences, and as state workers, those consequences affect our lives at every turn. From furloughs and layoffs to our new contract, to the May

revise, we’ve seen that we can bring raises to our families and new jobs to our communities when we unite the power of our voices. The June 3 primary will be incredibly close

— sign up today to make sure the outcome is decided by our votes. Call the Member Resource Center at **866-471-SEIU** (7348) or online at **seiu1000.me/1mZKZLZ**



Fighting for better jobs in our communities

Members help low wage workers organize

Local 1000 members advanced our fight to grow the middle class and protect all workers from the race to the bottom by participating in a global wave of strikes and protests on May 15 in 150 cities across the US and 33 additional countries on six continents. "As someone who cares about where our economy is headed and what kind jobs are being created in my neighborhood—this is my fight," said Beth Snyder, a steward at the Department of State Hospitals who attended actions in Sacramento. "Plus, as a former fast food worker myself—and current state worker—I've seen first hand the difference a union makes. All workers deserve a voice on the job and a living wage."



"The only way that we are going to receive a living wage and not be treated like dirt is if we have a strong union at work."

—James Perez, McDonald's worker

Snyder was one of dozens of Local 1000 members and staff who participated in a day of protests at fast food restaurants in Sacramento and Oakland on May 15. Nearly 100 workers walked out of more than a dozen restaurants in Northern California.

"I'm on strike today to help myself and my fellow workers get a raise and get a union," said James Perez, 22, who is earning only \$8 an hour after working at a Sacramento McDonald's for a year and half. "The only way that we are going to receive a living wage and not be treated like dirt is if we have a strong union at work."

Shrinking middle class

With seven of the top ten jobs being created today paying less than \$15 an hour, last year, the Local 1000 Council voted to support low wage worker

campaigns—including the early childhood education and fast food workers' efforts, as part of our ongoing commitment to economic justice.

Currently, the top three largest US employers are Wal-Mart, McDonald's and the corporation behind KFC, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut. Standard practices in these industries include wage theft, firing women when they become pregnant, firing workers who suffer burns and firing workers for attempting to form a union.

"This trend toward low wage, no benefit, union-busting jobs represents the future of our economy and the kind of employment available in our communities—unless we do something about it," Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker said. "It's up to the labor movement to organize the low wage jobs of today into the good jobs of the future."

Resource Center
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