

SEPT 10
2014

UNION UPDATE



100+ new union members at DMV

NEW HIRES ALREADY BUILDING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

More than 100 newly hired state workers have become full dues-paying union members at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), signing on after presentations made by member leaders of DMV's Heavy Enforcement Action Team (HEAT).

"These new members saw real value in joining Local 1000, and having a voice in their workplace," said Tamekia N. Robinson, Local 1000 vice president for organizing and representation. "They're helping to build the collective power necessary to move us forward."

Coalition building to help working families

Many of the new workers were hired as Motor Vehicle Representatives to implement AB 60, a new California law that allows undocumented immigrants to apply for a California driver's license.

Local 1000's HEAT team has been working closely with over 20 community-based immigrant rights groups all over the state on the issue of driver licenses for undocumented drivers. "In order to make this law work we need to build relationships in the community and keep the lines of communication open," said Victor Alvarez, a Driver Safety Officer and HEAT Team activist. "These new members will be the face of AB 60 implementation so it's important that we begin the community dialogue about how to ensure fair treatment for everyone early in the process."

AB 60 is a common sense way to make the roads safer and shield undocumented drivers from having their vehicles impounded. Its passage in 2013



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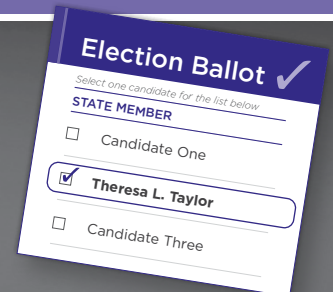
created over 800 new positions at the DMV and was a victory for public safety.

"By reaching out to the community to explain AB 60, our new members and the HEAT team are building new relationships and better opportunities for working families," said Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president. "It's a prime example of the Local 1000 Purpose Statement in action."

Elbia Bernal, a recently hired DMV Motor Vehicle Representative and new Local 1000 member is eager to play a role in implementing policies that protect public safety. "I think the law makes sense and I'm excited to work with Local 1000 to make it a success."



—Theresa—
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Making politics matter for workers, working families

Legislative session closes with four bills on governor's desk

Five of six bills sponsored or supported by Local 1000 made significant progress at the Capitol as the 2013-14 legislative session came to a close at the end of August. Three bills—all sponsored by Local 1000—are on the governor's desk awaiting his signature, along with a fourth bill we supported.

Each piece of legislation stands to have a significant impact on working conditions for Local 1000-represented employees and on working families pursuing financial stability.



Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 President

“From grass-roots organizing, to building coalitions and lobbying, we’re projecting the collective power of 95,000 members and making a difference at the Capitol.”

Bills sponsored by Local 1000

Ending mandatory overtime for nurses

AB 2155 (Ridley-Thomas)
Nurses and Patient Safety Act

STATUS: On the governor's desk for signature

This bill improves the quality of patient care and the safety of nurses and the public at large, by putting an end to the dangerous practice of mandatory overtime for public sector nurses.

Shining a light on employers of low-wage workers

AB 1792 (Gomez)
Public Assistance Beneficiary Employer Disclosure

STATUS: On the governor's desk for signature

Requires an annual report to the Legislature of employers whose employees receive taxpayer-funded public assistance and the cost to the state of providing that assistance. Companies that pay low-wages with no benefits force an increasing number of workers to rely on public assistance just to make ends meet.

Greater safety for employees at state hospitals

AB 1340 (Achadjian)
State Hospital Employees Act

STATUS: On the governor's desk for signature

Requires each of the five state hospitals to establish and maintain an enhanced treatment unit for the treatment of aggressive patients that pose a danger to themselves, other patients and our members.

Bills supported by Local 1000

Relief for employees at unsafe state buildings

AB 1656 (Dickinson)
Department of General Services (DGS)—State Buildings

STATUS: amended

Originally intended to solve the problems at the troubled Board of Equalization headquarters in Sacramento, a recent amendment calls for DGS to survey all 34 state offices in Sacramento and West Sacramento to assess and plan for replacement/repair of the three worst public buildings.

Better wage and benefit opportunities for low-wage workers

SB 610 (Jackson)
Franchisee bill

STATUS: headed to Governor for signature

This bill will pave the way for increased wages and benefits for low-wage employees, as franchisees like McDonald's would no longer have to worry about the threat of contract termination for introducing such benefits.

Recovery of unpaid wages for laborers and employees

AB 2416 (Stone)
California Wage Theft Recovery Act

STATUS: died in the Senate

This bill would have strengthened the ability of employees to record and enforce wage liens against their employer. Currently, only 17 percent of wage claims are successful. The bill may be introduced again next year.

Resource Center

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