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# UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000  
**SEIU**  
Stronger Together



## Why we support fast food workers

### A larger middle class helps us all



By Yvonne R. Walker, President, SEIU Local 1000

Local 1000 members have joined a national campaign to increase the wages of fast-food workers to help the middle class, stimulate the economy and stop the race to bottom for American workers.

These fast-food employees virtually all work in non-union shops. Most are paid at or near minimum wage, and they have almost no job protections. Many work for employers—in a \$200 billion a year industry—that steadfastly refuse to provide even basic health or retirement benefits.

This effort is central to Local 1000's Purpose Statement. By lending our support and solidarity to some of the most vulnerable workers among us, we are taking a stand for the economic justice that all Californians should be able to enjoy, and fighting for an economy that works for working families.

Despite the stereotype that most fast-food employees are teenagers just getting started in the work force, only 7 percent of low-wage workers are teens. Most low-wage workers are adult women with high school diplomas, including many mothers who support small children—like Shonda Roberts, an Oakland KFC employee and mother of three, who stood up for better wages and the right to join a union.

"All we want is to be able to make enough money to provide the basic necessities of life: food, rent, clothing for our children," Roberts said. "It's not fair that these companies make billions of dollars while the people doing the work need food stamps and public health care just to survive."

Roberts was part of a one-day strike on Aug. 29 that took place in 50 cities nationwide—including Oakland and Los Angeles—and affected hundreds of fast-food outlets. Marching alongside the fast food workers was Connie Kabeary, a longtime Local 1000 steward at Caltrans in Oakland.

#### Stopping the race to the bottom

"We cannot get stuck in a race to the bottom," Kabeary said. "Good jobs improve our economy and strengthen the middle class."

Local 1000 members—like all Californians—just weathered the worst economic recession since the 1930s. The economy is improving, but millions of low-wage workers are being left out. By including low-wage workers in the economic recovery, our entire community reaps the benefit.

It's time for us to reach out into our communities - to rebuild an economy that works for us, and provide more workers with a path to the American Dream.



**"Good jobs improve our economy and strengthen the middle class."**

—Connie Kabeary  
Caltrans

## Resource Center

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

## Website

[seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org)

## Connect with Local 1000

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**“Our work is not done. On the national level we face economic attacks on the middle class, politically motivated efforts to restrict our right to vote and challenges over providing health care and retirement security for all Americans.”**

**—Yvonne R. Walker**  
President, SEIU Local 1000



**“It’s not enough for us to just take care of our own members. We need to work so that the most vulnerable members of society have a living wage and a shot at the American Dream.”**

**— Margarita Maldonado**  
Vice President for Bargaining,  
SEIU Local 1000

# LABOR DAY: A time for unity

**Local 1000 members and their families joined representatives from other unions as well as public officials at Labor Day events throughout California.**

In Sacramento, leaders and members from dozens of unions came together to celebrate unity, mingle with friends—and consider the challenges that working families still face. Local 1000 leaders drew cheers when they spoke to the gathering.

“Last year when I spoke here—we were in the middle of a tough political campaign,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. “We won in last year’s elections. This year our members obtained a new contract. However, our work is not done. On the national level we face economic attacks on the middle class, politically motivated efforts to restrict our right to vote and challenges over providing health care and retirement security for all Americans.”

Vice President for Bargaining Margarita Maldonado joined Walker on the stage. She spoke about immigration reform and the campaign to increase minimum wage.

“It’s not enough for us to just take care of our own members,” Maldonado said. “We need to work so that the most vulnerable members of society have a living wage and a shot at the American Dream.”



▲ Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker mingles with public officials, representatives of other unions and Local 1000 members and their families at the annual Labor Day picnic in Sacramento.

▼ Vice President for Bargaining Margarita Maldonado greets Dean Vogel, president of the California Teachers Association.



## CalPERS to host retirement fair in Los Angeles area

As part of an ongoing program to help public employees plan for their future, CalPERS will host a two-day retirement fair in Long Beach.

The event, free to all CalPERS members will be held Sept. 13-14 at the Westin hotel in Long Beach.

For more information go to  
[calpers.ca.gov/retirementplanningfairs](http://calpers.ca.gov/retirementplanningfairs)