

FEB 18
2015

UNION UPDATE



Toll collectors organize for victory

Caltrans agrees to holiday back pay after organizing effort

Toll collectors at some bridges in the Bay Area have won back pay and leave credits after they organized to fight a dispute over holiday pay with Caltrans.

Members united to pressure Caltrans to correct payroll errors and to clarify departmental policy after the agency failed to credit employees properly for working on premium holidays. Two separate grievances were filed and were subsequently settled by Caltrans.

“We got together to make sure that all workers—especially toll collectors who serve the public 24/7—are compensated fairly for working on holidays,” said Larry Collins, a toll collector who serves as chief steward for DLC 747. “The state created multiple problems because management didn’t follow the contract. This was easier to fix because we all worked together through our union.”

The first case involved toll collectors on the San Mateo-Hayward and Dumbarton bridges who were denied holiday pay for working Christmas 2011 and New Year’s Day of 2012. Because both Christmas and New Year’s Day occurred on Sundays, the state declared that Monday, Dec. 26 and Monday,



“The state created multiple problems because management didn’t follow the contract. This was easier to fix because we all worked together through our union.”

—Larry Collins, Caltrans toll collector

Jan. 2 would be the official state holidays. Under our contract, employees who worked either day were entitled to a maximum of one day of premium holiday pay. However, Caltrans failed to properly compensate nine toll collectors.

The second case involved a series of errors made in pay and leave credits for toll collectors who work 4-10 shifts. In some cases, those who worked 10 hours on a premium holiday were only paid eight hours of holiday pay. Caltrans also incorrectly credited some 4-10 workers with using two hours of vacation time without the permission of the affected employees.

Visit the new seiu1000.org!



“I’m excited to share our powerful new tool with you.

You’ve been asking for better navigation, faster access to information, more news about union wins and updates on Local 1000 activities.

We listened and included all of your requests. I hope you’ll visit the new Local 1000 website soon.”

—Yvonne R. Walker, President



Members give back to the community

Tax preparation event helps dozens save money and file early

For the third year in a row, Local 1000 provided free tax preparation and filing assistance in Sacramento Feb. 7 for more than 50 union members and community residents.

income taxes prepared for free by a trained community volunteer under the federal government's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

The participants, who make \$50,000 a year or less, had their

All of the volunteer tax preparers were Local 1000 members and staff who received special training.



"Local 1000 has put money in my pocket through the pay raise in our contract and by helping me with taxes."

—**Juanita Daniels**
Steward, Contractors State License Board

"Local 1000 is providing me with a great way for me to give back to the community by putting skills that I have to good use for other working people," said Nadine Ontiveros, a CalPERS employee who formerly worked as a professional tax preparer.

"We are putting the Local 1000 Purpose Statement into action by helping others through what can be a stressful process," said Wandra Pitts, a CalPERS employee. "It's rewarding to do volunteer work through our union that is directly relevant to the lives of others."



"I'm proud to be part of a union that gives back to our members and the community."

—**Rakesh Sharma**
Board of State and Community Corrections

Participants who had their taxes done were also enthusiastic about the program.

"Local 1000 has put money in my pocket through the pay raise in our contract and by helping me with taxes," said Juanita Daniels, a steward at the Contractors State License Board. "I tell everyone I know about this great program."

Resource Center

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

Website

seiu1000.org

Connect with Local 1000

Facebook
facebook.com/seiu1000

YouTube
youtube.com/seiu1000

Twitter
twitter.com/seiu1000



Unit 15 Task Force seeks to hire and retain talent

After years of experiencing high turnover rates in CDCR's Correctional Supervising Cook (CSC) classification and losing talented workers to other professions, members in Unit 15 have reached an agreement with CDCR to address the turnover issue.

Supervising cooks in facilities across the state launched a task force in December and will meet with CDCR management four times over the next 12 months. These meetings will be an

opportunity for the CSC Task Force to present proposals aimed at promoting the hiring and retention of skilled and experienced CSCs.

Daniel Cooper, a CSC at California Men's Colony State Prison and chair of the CSC Task Force, is excited about the upcoming talks. "Over the years it's been difficult to keep good Supervising Cooks on board. We're ready to look into why that is and come up with solutions."