Our bargaining team returns to the table Oct. 10 to press the state for a response to our demand for dignity and respect in the form of a pay increase that recognizes the value of our work and the vital contributions our members make to California.

Every week, up and down the state, our members are taking action in growing numbers to demonstrate our resolve to win a contract we can all be proud of.

Thousands have taken the pledge to support our bargaining team and participate in all Local 1000-authorized actions.

"Now, more than ever, we must continue to stand up and stand together to win," said Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president.

Negotiations reached a crossroads in June when the state offered a pay increase of less than three percent a year in an era when California has the sixth largest economy in the world—including a budget surplus—while our members are still recovering from a painful furlough era.

We held town halls across the state and heard directly from members that the state’s offer does not value the work that we do. So far we've reached tentative agreements on dozens of contract articles that advance our rights by creating better working conditions, healthier and safer workplaces, and improving professional opportunities.

But we’re not finished yet. And we’ll keep taking action until we win a contract we can all be proud of. Together we are Unstoppable.

Apply by Oct.7 for the 2016 Leora Hill Scholarship

Our Union’s African-American Committee is now accepting applications for the annual Leora Hill Scholarship, honoring the union spirit and leadership of a former Local 1000 member-activist in an effort to help members of our Union family to attain their educational goals.

Union members, or their children, who are enrolled in middle school, high school or college, are eligible.

The deadline for submitting an application is Oct. 7. Submissions may be mailed or dropped off at any Local 1000 office. For more information, visit our African-American Committee’s web page at seiu1000.org.
PROTECTING OUR HARD-EARNED RIGHTS

Stewards, Union Resource Center unite to provide real representation

Representing our members and enforcing our hard-earned contract rights is a top priority for our Union. Our network of stewards—trained member activists—works closely with members to resolve issues in the workplace that violate our contract.

Often, the conflicts are resolved through informal discussions with management. In some cases, Local 1000’s contract department or our Union Resource Center (URC) steps in to support our stewards and more aggressively ensure that the language that governs our working conditions is adhered to.

Recent wins

Recently, our Union Resource Center helped to reverse a policy at the Department of Public Health (CDPH) mandating Health Facilities Evaluator Nurses to use their own cars when traveling to perform field audits. Personal vehicle use was never a condition of employment, and when our members pushed back, CDPH management didn’t respond. A grievance was filed and resolved, and car rental is now allowed.

A long-standing effort to convert Permanent Intermittent employees to full time status at Covered California saw additional progress when six members who were denied conversion appealed their cases at the State Personnel board. Their appeal was successful, and these members, along with hundreds of PI’s who were previously converted, enjoy the protections and benefits of full time, permanent status.

Other recent wins include members who received back pay reimbursements for working out of class; reversals of adverse action notices that were deemed to be unfair and unwarranted; removal of negative documents from personnel files; and adherence to our contract’s rules regarding sick leave documentation.

“Our members and staff work together every day to protect our rights when management oversteps their bounds and violates our contract.”

– Tamekia N. Robinson, Vice President for Organizing and Representation

Growing Latino Representation in State Legislature

Hispanic Heritage Month

Latino elected leaders, both past and present, play a big role in Latino heritage.

The first two Latinos in the California State Legislature were Phil Coto and John Moreno, both elected to the Assembly in 1962.

They were pioneers who paved the way for fellow Latinos to rise through the ranks in California politics. A decade later, a total of five Latino assembly members recognized their unified strength and formed the Chicano Legislative Caucus, a significant turning point in the political empowerment of the Latino community.

Today, the Latino Legislative Caucus is comprised of 22 members, 17 assembly members and 5 state senators. Its members hold strategic leadership positions and focus primarily on improving the quality of life for working families.

The growing strength of the Latino voice in California politics reached new heights in the just-completed legislative session. For the first time ever, two Latino legislators held the top leadership positions in both houses: Anthony Rendon, as Assembly Speaker, and Kevin de Leon, Senate President pro Temp.

With the changing demographics of California, it’s apparent that the issues affecting Latinos in California are issues that affect all Californians.