Members rise up statewide for contract we can all be proud of

Our bargaining team returned to the table this week boosted by strong weeks of solidarity actions with members statewide standing up and purpling up for a contract we can all be proud of.

Our voices echoed up and down the state as we delivered the message that California is the sixth largest economy in the world and—in our California—people who work hard for a living should be able to provide for their families.

In Sacramento, hundreds of members marched and picketed at the headquarters building of the California Department of Education.

“Now more than ever, it’s critical that we continue to rise up,” said Tamekia N. Robinson, Local 1000 Vice President for Organizing/Representation, at the Sacramento action. “Right here. Right now. We are making the difference.”

Nurses marched against Mandatory Overtime in Chula Vista at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

At the same time, we sent messages directly to CalHR director Richard Gillihan, calling for a contract that values our work and respects the services we provide. We told our personal stories about what a contract we can all be proud of means to us and our families.

Members fighting for fair pay took to the streets outside of the Caltrans office in Oakland.

Calling for better rural health care options, our members stood strong at the High Desert Prison in Susanville.

We also marched in Stockton, Norwalk, Ontario and Napa.

“Right here. Right now. We are making the difference.”

– Tamekia N. Robinson
Vice President for Organizing/Representation

“My paycheck is stretched so thin, I’m hard pressed to afford fresh fruits and vegetables for my family.”

– Antonio Valencia, DGS, Sacramento

For the latest bargaining updates, go to www.seiu1000.org
Each year, we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, but for our Local 1000 Latin@ Committee, recognizing our rich Latino heritage is part of their mission statement as they work to build a bridge between the past and the future of our brothers and sisters.

“The historic achievements of Latino leaders past and present is a template for the work of our committee and reminds us that we have more work to do,” said Miguel Cordova, committee chair.

Building on Pope Francis’ visit to California last year, we engaged the community in a series of conversations held at Local 1000 covering a range of topics that included immigration, the environment, and social and economic justice.

We celebrate our cultural heritage in many ways. For the past five years, our committee participated in Sacramento’s celebration of Dia de Los Muertos by recognizing those who lost their lives in an effort to come to this country and build a better life.

The committee is inspired by the sacrifices made by all Latinos who struggled and sacrificed to establish an identity, a sense of belonging for themselves and the communities where they live.

“Then, and still, we aspire to create our identity, in our jobs, our homes and our communities. To achieve and earn a life in the middle class, to find our place in this land we call home,” said Cordova.

To that end, our Latin@ Committee works to add to Hispanic Heritage by engaging members in three different areas: community, culture and politics.

Politically, the Latin@ committee has worked to pass immigration legislation in our state and nationally. We’ve hosted press conferences, worked in our communities to raise the profile of the issue and registered new voters.

“We celebrate the heritage and the spirit of those who took up the fight before us as we work to create a better future for generations to come,” said Cordova.

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– Miguel Cordova

Latin@ Committee Chair