

MAR 29

2017

UNION UPDATE



REGINA WHITNEY

MEMBER LEADER PROFILE

For more than 17 years, Regina Whitney has been an activist and a leader in our union. As a job steward since 1999 and as President of District Labor Council 743, she's seen many campaigns and many changes. But her proudest moments come when she develops and encourages new leaders.

"Many people don't see themselves as leaders, just like I didn't see myself as a leader so many years ago," said Whitney.



Regina Whitney, President DLC 743

"If you have passion, enthusiasm and care about your coworkers, you can be a leader, too."

Whitney first became active in our union by becoming a job steward. Working in San Francisco at the Department of Justice as a Senior Typist, Legal, she learned that there was, as she said, "no voice in the department." So she stepped up for steward training and encouraged three of her colleagues to become job stewards as well.

Stepping into that leadership role paid dividends later when the Typists organized to become Legal Secretaries. It was during that campaign when Whitney met another emerging Local 1000 leader: President Yvonne R. Walker, who was working in the same DOJ position in San Diego.

"I'm proud of my Union Sister Regina Whitney," Walker said. "She's made a tremendous contribution to the history and accomplishments of our union through the leadership she's provided."

One of Regina Whitney's guiding principles in leadership is this: "Ability is what you're capable of. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it."

¡SÍ SE PUEDE!

HONORING THE LEGACY OF CESAR CHAVEZ

On March 31, we honor the heroic and pioneering achievements of Cesar Chavez, the labor leader and civil rights activist who changed the landscape for farm workers by securing raises and improving working conditions in the fields of California, Texas, Arizona and Florida.

Working with another prominent labor pioneer, Dolores Huerta, he co-founded the National Farm Workers Association in 1962, which later became the United Farm Workers (UFW). They won the first collective bargaining agreements for farm workers, including the first-ever health and pension plan for farm laborers.

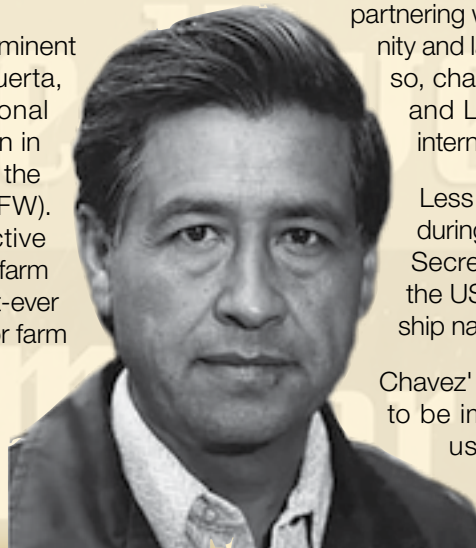
Building on his early experiences as a migrant farm worker, he used

non-violent tactics and a public campaign to make the farm workers' struggle of low wages and harsh working conditions a moral cause, which gained nationwide support.

As an international leader, Chavez built power by partnering with a range of religious, community and labor organizations, and by doing so, changed the lives of Black, Filipino and Latino families in the U. S. and internationally.

Less known is Chavez' Navy service during WWII. For being what the Navy Secretary called an "American hero," the USNS *Cesar Chavez* was the first ship named after a Latino.

Chavez' values and practices continue to be important guiding principles to us today. Chavez died in 1993, leaving a legacy of social and economic justice for all of us.



AUTHENTICITY: A KEY TO LEADERSHIP

When you ask Margarita Maldonado, our Vice President for Bargaining, about the women who've inspired her in her leadership journey, she points to many, all of whom she calls "authentic to themselves."

Coretta Scott King, wife of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was authentic because she fought for a more civil society while staying grounded as a mother and raising a family.

Eleanor Roosevelt's legacy as an activist is another inspiration for Maldonado. Roosevelt is remembered as being a vital part of the White House, both as a gracious First Lady and a relentless power broker. She held more than 300 press conferences, visited U. S. troops overseas during the war, and fought mightily against poverty, segregation and injustice. About authenticity, Roosevelt said, "Do what you feel in your heart to be right, for you'll be criticized anyway."

Vice President Maldonado also finds inspiration in the commitment of the thousands of nameless women who are creating change in the social and economic landscape by being authentic and true to their core values.



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Be your authentic self and
stand in your own shoes.
Because being a leader means
being strong and uncomfortable
at the same time.

—Margarita Maldonado
Vice President for Bargaining

Resource Center

Monday-Friday
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SAVE THE U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION!

H.R. 899, a bill that would eliminate the U. S. Department of Education, has been introduced in Congress by Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Kentucky). The bill's simple language: "The Department of Education shall terminate on December 31, 2018."

Let's protect the educational opportunity our nation affords to all of its students and stop this dangerous legislation in its tracks.

Proponents of H.R. 899 say the bill gives the power and the funding back to states and local communities to run their own Departments of Education. Yet, the bill provides absolutely no guidance as to how, or when, those funds will be made available or distributed.

The U.S. Department of Education focuses national attention on key educational issues and works to prohibit discrimination and ensure equal access to education.

Federal funding provides 14 percent—nearly \$10 billion— of our state's \$70 billion dollar K-12 educational budget. A loss of those funds would have a severe impact on the vital education that California's students receive.

Our member Patti Heynen, an educator at the California School for the Deaf in Riverside, has been a lifelong activist supporting educational initiatives. She's working to bring awareness of the attempt to undermine the valuable contributions to our schools that H.R. 899 threatens.

"We are the ones who create change through awareness," said Heynen. "Write, fax or call your U. S. Representative today!"

To find the contact information for the congressperson in your district, log on to www.house.gov/representatives/find/