Local 1000 members are using the power of our union contract to address a wide variety of economic factors that deeply affect our members.

The GeoPay Task force, comprised of six members from across the state, is working this year with a group of state agencies to examine the high costs of living that state workers encounter in six different areas, which include housing, transportation, child care, health care and comparable wages.

The Task Force will meet with the state throughout the year, where in-depth discussions and presentations on each of the six areas of focus will take place. Participating state agencies include CalHR, EDD, CDTFA, DGS and the PUC.

Rental housing costs were the first topic addressed in a meeting held Jan. 9. Our team illustrated a range of challenges to state workers: in one example, we showed how 96% of state workers in the Bay Area couldn’t afford basic rent for a two-bedroom apartment. In another, half of the state workers in Southern California couldn’t find “affordable” housing (defined as 30% of income).

In the north state, where housing is more affordable, availability is the problem.

Paul Langley, a third-generation state worker with 24 years’ experience at the Coastal Commission, testified as subject matter expert, explained his commonly-shared plight of only being able afford to live and work in San Francisco by sharing the rent of his two-bedroom apartment with two additional boarders.

The work of the Task Force is a prelude to geographic-based compensation negotiations when we bargain our next contract in 2020.

“**This is an issue that impacts a majority of our members. We are creating a pathway to better economic justice for all state workers.**”

— Margarita Maldonado, Vice President for Bargaining
Members Stand Up for WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

The Women’s March has been called the “march heard around the world,” and in its second year, hundreds of Local 1000 members in Sacramento, Redding, San Diego and Los Angeles stood together with millions more across the world to call for transformative change, shed light on silenced voices and dismantle systems of oppression at the workplace and in communities.

“This is a rallying cry to empower women, to build a more inclusive community that offers women greater self-determination, dignity and respect,” said Rionna Jones, a Pharmacy Technician and the chair of Bargaining Unit 20.

Just a year ago, on President Trump’s first day in office, more than two million gathered to call for a “revolution” against the new administration and the Republican-led Congress, fearing a roll-back of reproductive, civil and human rights.

This year, marchers launched “Power to the Polls” – a nationwide grass-roots movement to register new voters and effect change by advocating and voting for progressive policies and women candidates.

Leadership Nomination Forms Due Feb 12.

As a member-led union, Local 1000 relies on its elected officers and representatives to choose the direction we take in our fight for better wages and working conditions. Our leaders are at the forefront of organizing our efforts to give our members—and all Californians—the opportunity to have a good life, live in sustainable communities and enjoy the fruits of social, economic and environmental justice.

As a statewide officer, as an officer in your District Labor Council, or as a bargaining unit representative, you have a voice in the activities that matter most to you, your fellow workers and your families.

Nomination forms are due Feb. 12, 5:00 p.m. Voting begins April 20 and concludes on May 21. Results are announced May 30.