

AUG 22
2018

UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000
SEIU
Stronger Together

Retirement security for all is a union value

OUR MEMBERS FIGHT FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS

Having a strong, member-led union is necessary to protect our hard-earned wages and benefits, which include a good pension at the end of a career in state service. At the same time, our Local 1000 Purpose Statement guides our efforts to use our power to “give our members—and all Californians—the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of social, economic and environmental justice.”

California is facing a projected tsunami of senior poverty that will take its biggest toll on women, Asian Americans and Latinos who are a growing share of future retirees.

Fewer than half of private sector workers in the state have access to a retirement plan through their work and only about a third actually participate in a plan.

7.5 MILLION CALIFORNIANS
WORK FOR EMPLOYERS
WHO DO NOT OFFER A RETIREMENT PLAN.

2/3RDS WORK FOR SMALL BUSINESSES
WITH LESS THAN 100 EMPLOYEES.

2/3RDS ARE WORKERS OF COLOR,
ALMOST HALF OF WHICH ARE LATINOS.

58% ARE WOMEN
AND MAKEUP 70% OF RETIREES IN THE
BOTTOM 25% OF INCOME.

The most ambitious push to expand retirement security since the passage of Social Security in the 1930s became a reality in 2016 when Gov. Jerry Brown signed SB 1234 and launched the Secure Choice plan, that made retirement savings possible for more than seven million Californians for the first time in their lives.

CalSavers, the simple, automatic retirement savings plan will roll out later this year and enrollment will begin in 2019. It’s a voluntary retirement savings plan for millions of private sector, home-based and self-employed workers who currently don’t have access to a pension plan. Savings are made through voluntary payroll deductions, and the accounts follow the workers throughout their working years.

ABOUT HALF OF HOUSEHOLDS
AGE 55 AND OLDER HAVE

NO RETIREMENT SAVINGS.

NEARLY HALF OF CALIFORNIA WORKERS
ARE ON TRACK TO RETIRE WITH INCOMES

BELOW \$22,000

A WIDELY ACCEPTED THRESHOLD FOR
SERIOUS ECONOMIC HARDSHIP.

Our members helped bring Secure Choice from concept to reality; following through on our commitment to ensure every Californian has access to a dignified retirement. Thousands of our members shared their stories, sent letters or testified at public hearings across the state as the bill was passed and the new plan was shaped.

“Local 1000 members believe a safe and secure retirement should be available to everyone who works hard throughout their lives,” said Yvonne R. Walker, President of SEIU Local 1000 and Chair of the SEIU Retirement Security Committee. “The Secure Choice plan is a turning point in the history of our state – and our 96,000 represented workers are proud to have fought for a plan that closes the income gap for all seniors.”



“Providing economic security for all Californians is at the core of Local 1000’s Purpose Statement.

The working families we represent and those that live in our communities all deserve to retire with dignity and security.”

**Yvonne R. Walker, President
Member, California Secure Choice Investment Savings Board**

Members step up to assist fire-ravaged communities

STANDING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT OUR UNION SISTERS AND BROTHERS

California's worst-ever wildfire season has already blackened nearly a million acres and destroyed thousands of homes and businesses. Northern California has been declared a federal disaster area, and the fires have temporarily or permanently displaced thousands of families, including our union sisters and brothers.

"Helping Californians to have a good life includes lending a helping hand when it's needed most," said Patterson. "Seeing the devastation first-hand underscores for me that we're all in this together, and we must band together and use our power in numbers to provide support and relief to our sisters and brothers in a time of crisis."

Our members across the state have stepped up in many ways to help support the families and communities most affected, providing food, clothing and household items and volunteering their time in evacuation and relief efforts.

Others are making donations to SEIU California's Disaster Relief Fund, which helps SEIU members suffering financial hardships by providing a supplemental reimbursement for unusual costs that stretch budgets during a natural disaster.

Maria Patterson, the chair of Bargaining Unit 15, is just one example of how members are fulfilling the Local 1000 Purpose Statement. Working with Stockton-area merchants, she collected several truckloads of much-needed food and water and delivered them to one of the Red Cross centers in the north state.

The Fund provides eligible members and their families assistance in two ways: costs for temporary housing or repair to existing housing; and reimbursement for disaster-related needs including cleanup, medical expenses, and replacement of household items. To make a contribution, or to apply for help, visit seiuca.org/disaster-relief/



Resource Center

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

Website

seiu1000.org

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#iChooseMyUnion

"I choose my union because we stand and fight for social justice at the worksite and in the community."

Misty Del Rosario, Dept. of Industrial Relations, Van Nuys
President, District Labor Council 725