Member leaders from across the state—elected officers from each of our 50 District Labor Councils (DLCs), 9 Bargaining Unit Chairs and our statewide officers—came together Aug. 24-26 to create a stronger future for working families.

Local 1000, and the 96,000 workers we represent, is comprised of 50 “districts” that elect local officers (president, vice president, secretary/treasurer and chief steward) who engage with members of their DLC to build union power.

Each DLC president sits on the Local 1000 Board of Directors, which helps set policy and the direction of our union.

During the meeting, the elected officers were trained on Board of Director governance responsibilities. They also received comprehensive training for DLC governance, such as member engagement and communications, as well as financial compliance for our union’s resources and the direct responsibility of the DLC accounting practices.

“This is a democratic, member led union, and we’re working to make Local 1000 stronger. These activists are at the core of our mission to create a better experience for our members, develop new leaders and to build a better California,” said President Yvonne R. Walker.

“We’re working to make Local 1000 a stronger union by connecting with our members and engaging them to build power at the worksite, power in the community and power through our contract.”

- Yvonne R. Walker, President
For Terry Hibbard, the newly-elected Chair of Bargaining Unit 3, the path to winning a good contract is to build power in the worksite and develop new member leaders. And it starts with state workers choosing their union.

Hibbard has been a teacher in the state’s correctional system for 14 years, working at Corcoran State Prison in Kings County, near Fresno. He joined Local 1000 and has served as a job steward since 2006.

He became active in his union after management at his worksite used stalled contract negotiations as an excuse to ignore worker’s rights.

He took a more active role in his leadership in 2012 as an elected District Bargaining Unit Representative (DBUR). In 2015, he became a part of the 63-member bargaining team, and in July, he became the Unit 3 Chair.

As the new chair, Hibbard is working to meet with Unit 3 members statewide to hear their issues and create stronger relationships. “When we build our leadership and membership, we build the power necessary for the state to see our strength and value our work when we bargain a new contract,” he said.

With his fellow bargaining team members and the resources of the union, he’s working to enforce our existing contract language in the areas of temperature control in prison classrooms. In 2016, we won stronger language that provides our teachers and students a reasonable climate—regulations that some institutions are not complying with.

"Unit 3 made some fantastic gains in our last contract, and we are continuing to expand and enforce our rights. We are only as strong as we choose to be," says Hibbard.