New Member Program Launched

TOGETHER WE WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY BY BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LOCAL 1000 MEMBERS AND LEADERS

More than 100 member leaders from across the state gathered in Sacramento for a three-day training to launch our comprehensive New Member Program.

They’re part of a statewide effort to bring new members to Local 1000 by building the next generation of leaders who will join our union to protect our rights and grow our power.

These certified New Employee Orientation representatives will communicate union values and the benefits of joining a member-led union to newly-hired employees as well as those already in state service.

“We’re building a stronger union, one member at a time,” said President Yvonne R. Walker, adding “We shape the future we want—for our jobs, our families and our communities—by creating new leaders like you here today.”

We were joined by SEIU Local 503 Executive Director Melissa Unger and Client-Home Provider Director Rebecca Sandoval, who shared their experience in developing a new member program in Oregon while fighting the same anti-union attacks we face here in California.

SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry was the keynote speaker at the conference on Sunday, sharing a message of encouragement and hope, calling Local 1000’s New Member efforts “a powerful union heartbeat leading the way for all unions.”

She joined with the 100+ member leaders at the event, echoing the pledge, “I’m a leader, and together, we will change the course of history.”

New Employee Committee Vision

Together we will change the course of history by building the next generation of SEIU Local 1000 members and leaders. We will lay a foundation of our union values by inspiring a sense of hope in what is possible for our families, our communities and our world.

NEO Committee (L-R): Robert Gilbert, Sheri Hinkle, Charity Regalado, SEIU President Mary Kay Henry, Regina Brooks-Fewell, Joyce Wheeler-Owens, Ruth Kiker
Unit 15’s Maria Patterson dares to care
LONG-STANDING MEMBER LEADER BELIEVES IN MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN FOR WORKING FAMILIES THROUGH UNION POWER

Whether it’s fighting for better working conditions, developing new union leaders or supporting her community, Maria Patterson, the chair of Bargaining Unit 15, is committed to building union power so all Californians can enjoy a good life.

Maria is a 22-year veteran of state service and works for DGS in Stockton. A lifelong union member, Maria was first represented as a janitor by SEIU 1817. When the state folded those positions into Unit 15, represented by Local 1000, she became a job steward and a District Bargaining Unit Representative (DBUR) in 2007.

“I got active in bargaining issues because I wanted to understand our contract,” Patterson says. “It was clear to me that we needed to fight to improve working conditions, so I stepped up.”

Unit 15, the Allied Service Workers, represents custodians, laundry workers, supervising cooks and food service workers.

Her Unit 15 team continues to fight for advances with three statewide task forces. The Food Service Task Force focuses on working conditions and wages for Correctional Supervising Cooks in prison kitchens; the Custodian Task Force is working on statewide application of language governing shoe allowances for Custodians; and an Upward Mobility Task Force is ensuring opportunities for career advancement.

Community matters to Patterson in a big way. She’s a member of a number of regional labor councils and spent six years on the San Joaquin Workforce Development Board providing area youth training and development opportunities as they enter the job market.

“I believe in making change happen through the power of strong, active members in Unit 15 and in our union,” says Patterson. “I do what I do because I dare to care.”

“Well, I choose my union because I can be part of something bigger than myself to ensure job security, improve wages and protect our pensions.”

Maria Patterson, DGS, Stockton
Bargaining Unit 15 Chair

Enjoy the benefits and protections of union membership

Union members have a voice in their future, a direct role in voting for our union’s officers, electing our bargaining team and ratifying our union’s contract.

Union members enjoy enhanced protections and can utilize representation and legal services for non-contractual issues and appeals to SPB.

Union members enjoy valuable benefits including exclusive discounts on travel, entertainment, insurance, goods and services and real savings on travel, theme park admissions and other entertainment venues that can add up to hundreds of dollars.

Become a member today: seiu1000.org/joinus