

Becoming the Union the World Requires Us to Be

A new direction launches a crucial mission for Local 1000
Includes Purpose Statement

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SkillBrief



A difficult economic landscape and harsh political realities compel us to refocus our efforts as California's most powerful state employee union. To meet the challenges ahead, the officers of Local 1000 developed a new Purpose Statement and worked with 400 members and staff to begin the process that will make our vision a reality.

We have faced many challenges

We organized. We grew stronger together, achieving some victories while facing significant challenges. We defeated Meg Whitman, who was no friend of state employees and the work we do. We stopped the giant tsunami of anti-union candidates that swept the nation. We negotiated a tough contract that achieved certainty and stability for our members and our families. We faced layoffs in numerous departments. We elected a governor that respects state workers and the valuable services we provide to California.

Our successes have always been on the defense, trying to protect what we have achieved. However, we have to do more. If we fail to improve the economic conditions for all Californians--for all Americans--we will forever find ourselves playing defense. In the end, we will lose the financial security we have worked so hard to achieve.

Achieving our common dreams

The fate of our members is linked to the fate of all Californians. We can't have good contracts, a secure retirement and enjoy meaningful lives if the families around us--our friends, neighbors and communities-- are going down.

That's why we have adopted a Purpose Statement that focuses on reaching out to the community and finding strategic allies to make California a better place.

The best way that we, Local 1000 members, can improve our own situation is to join with others to rebuild the middle class. Our state and country is becoming increasingly polarized as the wealthiest 1 percent get richer and richer, fueled by tax cuts, loopholes and taxpayer-funded bailouts for Wall Street banks. Meanwhile, conditions for the average family--the 99 percent of us who depend upon wages-- have declined.

We see more and more families slipping out of the middle class, their dreams eroded, their homes foreclosed and their breadwinners unemployed. We haven't seen income inequality like this since the years before the Great Depression.

We can make change happen

It doesn't have to be that way.

We can fight back. We must demand a contract for all Californians that includes good jobs with benefits, a good education for our children and retirement security for all.

As 2011 draws to a close, we can be proud of what we've accomplished. In the year ahead, we will use our new Purpose Statement to guide us as we reach out into our communities across the state to improve the quality of life for all Californians. I invite you to join me on this journey.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of Local 1000 is to have the power necessary to give our members - and all Californians - the opportunity to have a good life, live in sustainable communities and enjoy the fruits of social and economic justice.

We will achieve this by engaging and developing our members and by creating strategic alliances with key leaders and organizers who share our purpose and values.