

MARCH 17, 2010

UNION UPDATE



Furlough exemption bill heads to governor's desk

Bill to stop non-General Fund furloughs

With overwhelming votes in the Assembly and the state Senate, the Legislature has sent Gov. Schwarzenegger a bill to end furloughs at non-General Fund and tax collecting agencies.

The passage of SBX8 29 is a part of Local 1000's multi-pronged effort to end furloughs for as many state workers as possible – as soon as possible.

Member lobbying pays off

"I am happy that it passed by a wide margin – all of my work on informing the Legislature was worth it," said Lowell Landowski, an employee of the California Department of Parks and Recreation who lobbied legislators on the importance of this bill. "I really hope the governor stops playing games with state employees and signs this bill."

"It passed by a wide margin – all of my work on informing the Legislature was worth it."

—Lowell Landowski

California Department of Parks and Recreation

At press time, SBX8 29 was on Gov. Schwarzenegger's desk awaiting his signature. The governor's spokesperson was quoted in the Sacramento Bee saying that Schwarzenegger would likely veto the bill.

The bill, sponsored by Senate President Pro tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), would accomplish virtually the same goals as a Local 1000 lawsuit in which a superior court judge ruled that non-General Fund workers should receive back pay for unpaid furlough time and that the governor's furlough orders are illegal.

Local 1000 also has three other lawsuits, at various stages of litigation, to exempt General Fund workers from furloughs.

Bipartisan support to end furloughs

On March 8, the state Assembly approved SBX8 29 by a 70-7 vote. The bill passed the Senate by a 30-6 vote on Feb. 18.

SBX8 29 would exempt more than 50,000 workers represented by Local 1000 from furloughs, including employees in positions funded at least 95 percent by sources other than the General Fund. The measure would also exempt the main revenue collecting agencies – Franchise Tax Board and the State Board of Equalization.

CHANNEL 1000 LIVE

Monday, March 22

6 p.m.

Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker will be answering your questions **LIVE** during an interactive webcast.

Chat with members, submit questions, watch the town hall.

Tune in at seiu1000.org and click on Channel 1000.

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Prison LVNs win stable schedules

Corrections system to implement Post & Bid schedules in April

After a struggle of nearly four years, licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) won an agreement for Post and Bid schedules at state prisons that eliminates favoritism and provides stability for our members and their families.

"I'm ecstatic that we won after fighting for all these years," said Sonia Martinez, a nurse at Kern Valley State Prison. "Up until now, our schedules have been all political. They can change your hours, change your days off and ruin your family life on a whim. That's all gone under the new agreement. Now we have stability, we have rights and they have to treat us with respect. This was worth fighting for."

Predictable work schedules

Under the new Post and Bid agreement that Bargaining Unit 20 leaders signed with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) on March 1, LVNs will now have the same schedule for two-year periods.



Sonia Martinez, an LVN at Kern Valley State Prison, and LVN Valerie Hooper of California State Prison, Los Angeles County (Lancaster), hold a copy of the Post and Bid agreement.

Members will be able to put in requests for shifts and locations which will then be allocated by seniority. The system, which is similar to a Post and Bid system used by Bargaining Unit 17 registered nurses working at prisons, will be rolled out beginning April 2. The agreement affects 1,600 workers.

Four-year fight with receiver

Ever since CDCR began using LVNs in 2006, Local 1000 has been insisting that CDCR administrators and the federal court-appointed receiver adhere to our contract and implement a Post and Bid system. CDCR agreed to a settlement just as the case was scheduled for arbitration.

"I think they realized we were never going to give up until we won Post and Bid," said Unit 20 Chair Rionna Jones.

Candidate endorsement meetings

Members quiz politicians at town hall-style meetings

Local 1000 will join other SEIU locals around the state to hold a series of town hall endorsement meetings in which frontline members can ask candidates questions.

"This is our chance to get involved early in the process to help elect a boss who will support state services and the workers who provide them," said Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker.



Members are invited to come to any of the upcoming meetings, question politicians and participate in the endorsement process.

On **March 17**, three candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction, state senators Gloria Romero and Tom Torlakson and retired educator Larry Aceves, are scheduled to appear at a candidate forum at the Local 1000 office in Sacramento. Later that evening, four candidates for attorney general — assembly members Ted Lieu, Alberto Torrico and Pedro Nava as well as San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris,

are scheduled to appear at the meeting.

To **RSVP** for that event, contact Michael Anadon at manadon@seiu1000.org

On **March 20**, there will be endorsement meetings at 10 locations all over the state including Los Angeles, Oakland, San Diego, San Jose, Fresno, Sacramento, Riverside, Fairfield, Ventura County and Orange County.

For complete details on each event, go to seiu1000.org or call the Local 1000 Resource Center at **866.471.SEIU (7348)**.