

## “Follow-Up” meetings preparing members for bargaining

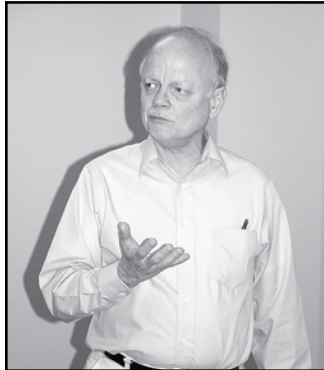
Local 1000 members and activists are coming together at workplaces across the state to discuss the results of the bargaining surveys and prepare for upcoming negotiations. The “Follow-Up” meetings are the next in a series of steps designed to prepare Local 1000 and its membership for contract negotiations which begin May 20.

“This is shaping up to be the most important contract campaign in our history,” said Jim Hard, Local 1000 president. “We’re dealing with a multi-billion dollar deficit, a termed-out governor, and attacks on our health care and pensions.”

In February, more than 10,000 members attended “Listen-Up” meetings throughout the state, and more than 22,000 members completed detailed bargaining surveys, saying what they’d like to see in our new contract.

Preserving hard-earned retirement benefits, keeping a lid on insurance costs, and preventing wasteful outsourcing of state work were among member priorities.

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— Bob Buckley  
Caltrans/Sacramento

Caltrans associate program analyst who attended one of the first “Follow-Up” meetings last week. “There were very few issues that weren’t considered and the respondents felt very strongly about the issues.”

Denise Jackson, an associate

program analyst, attended a “Follow-Up” meeting to learn more about health care and upcoming negotiations. “Everybody is feeling the economic crunch, and Local 1000 is giving us the opportunity to make our voice heard.”

As Local 1000 moves to the bargaining table in May, thousands of members are gearing up to demonstrate their support and take action by joining Contract Action Teams (CATs) – member networks that will communicate

rapidly between worksites and the bargaining table.

“If we work together, we can accomplish what we want for the good of all state employees,” said Mark Swabey, Local 1000 steward, DLC 767.



**“If we work together we can accomplish what we want.”**

— Mark Swabey, Local 1000  
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## Channel 1000 providing members with news and updates 24/7

The premiere broadcast of Channel 1000 news went live last Friday – a six-minute online newscast informing California state employees about issues that impact them and the work Local 1000 is doing on their behalf. A fresh newscast will be posted every Friday afternoon at [www.seiu1000.org](http://www.seiu1000.org)



Up-to-the-minute breaking news is also available on the *Channel 1000 NewsWire*, always on the Local 1000 website. As we move into negotiations for a new contract, Channel 1000 will provide updates on bargaining sessions and on actions members can take to support our bargaining teams.

Channel 1000 was created to meet the changing nature of communications. The ever-increasing emphasis our society places on video and internet content was a key communications finding of our Committee for a 21st Century Union; they addressed this fact by recommending that we, “Develop and maintain state-of-the-art communications systems, including online resources and other electronic mediums ... .”

## Article 8.2 Sick Leave

Your union contract contains hundreds of provisions designed to protect your rights. **Article 8.2 Sick Leave** describes your right to be absent from work—with pay—for medical reasons. Your Local 1000 contract guarantees:

- Paid sick leave when you are ill or injured.
- Paid time off to care for an ill or injured child, mother, father, husband, wife, domestic partner, brother, sister or person living in your home.
- Sick leave to attend medical appointments or to take a dependent to a medical appointment.
- Full-time employees receive eight hours of sick leave credit upon working 11 days in a month; part-time employees receive the pro rata equivalent.
- No discipline for appropriate use of sick leave.
- Sick leave can be accumulated without limit.
- Sick leave may be taken in 15 minute increments.

### How to take Action

Contact your Local 1000 job steward if you feel your right to use sick leave has been violated. Your job steward will work with you, management and your contract to determine the best course of action, including whether or not to file a grievance.

For more information regarding **Article 8.2 Sick Leave**, review the Local 1000 contract by visiting [www.seiu1000.org](http://www.seiu1000.org)

## Case Records Analysts exonerated in Olson sentencing snafu

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation informed three correctional case records analysts that they were exonerated of all wrongdoing in the mistaken release of bank robber Sara Jane Olson.

All three analysts, who work at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla, learned from Warden Deborah Patrick that they had been cleared of all wrongdoing.

"The involved staff were not culpable of misconduct," CDCR stated in a letter sent April 18.

CDCR initially blamed Olson's release on a "clerical error." After a Local 1000 investigation revealed that managers and administrators had reviewed Olson's file four times in three months before her release, the CDCR top brass acknowledged administrative mistakes also occurred.

"We're happy three innocent Local 1000 members were exonerated in this case," said Local 1000 President Jim Hard. "But this never should have happened. "CDCR tried to make them into scapegoats but these are three tough women and Local 1000 stood behind them 100 percent."

"The nightmare is over – we wish this had never happened," said one of the analysts, who did not want her name released. "This process has been incredibly stressful for all three of us. We knew it wasn't our fault."

## Assembly budget committee backs tax gap plan

With Local 1000's support, an Assembly budget sub-committee has adopted the governor's proposals to add 243 Franchise Tax Board positions to go after tax cheaters and non-filers.

In the same April 15 hearing, Assembly Budget Sub-Committee No. 4 Chair Juan Arambula (D-Fresno) kept alive a similar tax gap proposal at the Board of Equalization to fund 136.5 more tax collecting positions by postponing a vote until a future meeting in May.

The \$14 million allocated for the new BOE positions would collect about \$32 million in additional taxes in 2008-09 and \$61 million in 2009-10, according to the Schwarzenegger Administration. The governor wants the new positions in BOE and FTB in an effort to collect more of the estimated \$8.5 billion in uncollected taxes each year. Local 1000 members have testified in favor of closing the tax gap.

"The sub-committee sees the importance of bringing in these uncollected taxes," said Theresa Taylor, an FTB senior compliance representative. "We really need these positions to increase revenue at both FTB and BOE."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL LOCAL 1000 TOLL FREE: (866) 471-SEIU (7348) or visit our website: [www.seiu1000.org](http://www.seiu1000.org)

**SACRAMENTO** (916) 554-1200 • **SACRAMENTO OUTLYING** (916) 554-1300 • **OAKLAND** (510) 452-4357

**LOS ANGELES** (323) 525-2970 • **RANCHO CUCAMONGA** (909) 466-5044 • **FRESNO** (559) 226-0756 • **SAN DIEGO** (619) 624-0515

