

Outsourcing bill moves out of committee

“added Local 1000 staff making a difference”



Local 1000 member Marie Harder (l) and Assemblymember Mike Eng (D-Monterey Park) testified on AB 2603.

AB 2603, the Local 1000-sponsored legislation designed to help limit outsourcing, passed an important milestone last week, achieving unanimous support from the members of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee.

Authored by Assemblymember Mike Eng (D-Monterey Park) **AB 2603** provides greater transparency in the contracting-out process. The Local 1000 research staff has identified more than \$100 million in annual savings now wasted by outsourcing. The bill requires departments to report the number and type of contract employees retained by the state; the information will be used to monitor costly spending and staffing associated with information technology, medical registry and architectural and engineering services contracts.

Local 1000's expanded legislative staff is working on dozens of pieces of legislation that affect members. "Increased staff resources – paid for with member dues – are making a difference by allowing us to move and monitor legislation on multiple fronts," said Jim Hard, Local 1000 president. "A year ago, we didn't have the resources to lobby on all legislation impacting state employees."

This week alone, representatives from Local 1000 will participate in a half-dozen proceedings at the Capitol, including an important hearing affecting tax compliance and collection at the Board of Equalization and the Franchise Tax Board. Legislators will examine methods to remedy the \$8.5 billion in corporate and personal taxes that go uncollected each year – a concept brought to light by Local 1000's first white paper on the budget crisis, *The California Bottom Line*.

Local 1000 will also be on hand for a review of **AB 900**, the bill forcing the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to expand the rehabilitation programs delivered by Local 1000 members.



EDD Task Force members with Assemblymember Sandre Swanson (D-Oakland) after their testimony on out-of-control workloads.

“FOLLOW-UP” BARGAINING MEETINGS UNDERWAY STATEWIDE

Thousands of members in all 50 District Labor Councils (DLCs) are expected to attend “Follow-up” meetings to learn the results of the recently-completed bargaining surveys, and make their voices heard about priorities for upcoming contract negotiations.

“We’re soliciting additional

member feedback to further refine our bargaining strategies to reflect what’s most important to our members,” said Yvonne Walker, Local 1000 vice president for bargaining.

Member-elected District Bargaining Unit Representatives (DBURs) will guide the meetings - at worksites throughout the state – and will report

on key survey findings that included preserving retirement benefits, keeping a lid on insurance costs and preventing outsourcing.

Don’t miss your opportunity to weigh in on bargaining issues – contact your DLC president, Local 1000 steward or Local 1000 Area Office to identify upcoming meetings.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

YOUR UNION CONTRACT PROTECTIONS

Article 12 Expense Reimbursement

Your union contract contains hundreds of provisions designed to protect your rights. Article 12 – Allowances and Reimbursements, guarantees your right to recoup state business-related personal expenses paid out of your own pocket.

Your Local 1000 contract guarantees:

- Reimbursement for actual, necessary and appropriate business and travel expenses incurred 50 miles or more from home and headquarters.
- Mileage reimbursement when using a privately owned vehicle on state business will be reimbursed at the Federal Standard Mileage Rate (50.5 cents per mile)
- Meal and incidental expenses for every 24 hours of travel will be reimbursed in the amount of actual expenses up to the maximums:
 - Breakfast - \$6.00
 - Lunch - \$10.00
 - Dinner - \$18.00
 - Incidentals - \$6.00
- Lodging expenses for travel requiring overnight stays will be reimbursed in the amount of actual expenses up to the maximums:
 - Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara Counties - \$140 plus taxes.
 - Los Angeles and San Diego Counties - \$110 plus taxes.
 - All other areas - \$84 plus taxes.
- Expense items of \$25 dollars or more requires a receipt; receipts may be required for items of expense that are less than \$25.
- Employees utilizing mass transit are eligible for a seventy-five percent discount or reimbursement on public transit passes up to a maximum of \$65 per month.

How to take Action

Contact your Local 1000 steward if you feel your rights have been violated. Your steward will work with you and management to determine the best course of action, up to and including filing a grievance. For more information regarding Article 12 – Allowances and Reimbursements, review your contract by visiting www.seiu1000.org.

Arbitration victory secures re-class, back pay for 60 members

Approximately 60 employees at the Victims Compensation & Government Claims Board (VCGCB) have been reclassified and granted a year's back pay plus interest after a Local 1000 arbitration victory. The award is the largest monetary judgment in the Board's history.

The original grievance – filed in 2005 – was stonewalled by the state. A report commissioned by the Board found that victim compensation specialists were performing the duties of staff service analysts.

“With membership united on the grievance and the strong support of our union we won a very decisive victory.”

—Romer Cristobal, DLC 788 President

Despite testimony by both the department and DPA personnel that the employees did not perform “classic” analytical duties, arbitrator Fred D’Orazio found that the specialists were improperly allocated, adding in his decision that he “couldn’t reconcile the state’s reasoning with the findings of the independent commission.”

The 60 members have been reclassified as staff service analysts and awarded five percent over their salary at the time the grievance was filed.

“With membership united on the grievance and with the strong support of our union, we won a very decisive victory,” said Romer Cristobal, DLC 788 president.

Channel 1000 News goes live on Local 1000 website

Channel 1000, the online news station covering California’s largest state employee union, goes live this Friday at www.seiu1000.org.

The station’s flagship broadcast is Channel 1000 News, reporting each Friday afternoon on events and issues of importance to Local 1000 members.

You’ll also find the *Channel 1000 NewsWire*, featuring breaking news and up-to-the-minute information as it happens.



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

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