

JULY 21, 2010

UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000
SEIU
Stronger Together

Members fight statewide

More than 20,000 say 'No' to minimum wage, 'Yes' to a fair contract

In an unprecedented display of activism, more than 20,000 Local 1000 members have engaged in work actions, made phone calls, written letters, sent e-mails and contacted their elected state representatives in support of our bargaining team and opposed to minimum wage.

"If only a few of us stand up, we won't succeed, but if thousands of us stand united, we can win a decent contract and protect our families from minimum wage," said Gwenell Williams, who works in the DMV office in Concord. She was one of hundreds of DMV workers who helped gather and deliver 4,000 petitions against minimum wage in a coordinated statewide action on July 12 that involved virtually every DMV office in California.

Backing a new contract

The member actions are also designed to support our bargaining team which has been meeting the governor's representatives in Sacramento in an effort to agree on a new contract that will avoid minimum wage and furloughs and protect our retirement from further political attacks. (For the latest bargaining news go to seiu1000.org)

Public actions have taken place everywhere from El Centro to Crescent City. But much of the activism involves members e-mailing or phoning during their lunch break, or participating in other workplace actions.

Lobbying for AB 1699

More than 800 state workers have visited their local legislator's office, specifically to urge state senators to return to the Capitol and pass AB 1699, which would allow the state to pay its bills and state employee wages. AB 1699 has passed the state Assembly but needs the votes of a few Republican senators to pass the state Senate.

Manuel Rodriguez, who works at Wasco State Prison, was part of a group that visited the Bakersfield offices of Republican state Sen. Roy Ashburn.

"His staff said they might support AB 1699 if we made some changes. We made those changes and we are going to go back and ask the senator to support state workers and keep state services running in his district as well as all of California."

Read what your fellow members are saying and doing – on page 2.

Here is a sampling of the scores of recent actions where thousands of members expressed support for our bargaining team, our lobbying efforts and our legal fight against minimum wage.

July 16 – More than 300 members gathered outside the Sacramento Superior Court to support our legal team in our efforts to derail minimum wage.

July 16 – More than 150 members joined other state workers and their families in San Luis Obispo for a "We Are California" rally designed to draw attention to the economic problems caused by minimum wage. Some of the participants also lobbied their state legislator at his district office that day.

July 15 – Several hundred workers from CalPERS, Board of Equalization and the Department of Housing and Community Development joined together for a lunchtime solidarity walk in support of our bargaining team and legislative team.

July 14 – About 40 state workers rally at the state building on 7575 Metropolitan Drive in San Diego in support of AB 1699 and our bargaining team in the fight against minimum wage.



UNION INFORMATION



Here is what some members said they are doing to support the bargaining team and to make sure AB 1699 passes and minimum wage is avoided:



Gaspar Oliveira of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing has helped organize two events in San Diego as well as writing letters in support of AB 1699.

"I've asked my co-workers in the building to sign petitions, contact their state elected representatives, and to let their families, friends, and neighbors know about the destructive impact that federal minimum wage will have on the local economy and our families. In order to stop minimum wage, we need to all work together to pass AB 1699. We need to fight this on every front."



Jackie Davis of the Franchise Tax Board has lobbied her legislator in support of AB 1699, sent e-mails, and signed petitions on behalf of AB 1699.

"I'll do anything to stop minimum wage. This is about protecting the security of our families. We need to step up and do whatever we can to make sure we are getting our full paychecks."



Peter Brand of the California Coastal Commission wrote an opinion article in the Sacramento Bee pointing out the futility of imposing minimum wage and how it hurts the state in the long run.

"I wrote the opinion piece to help arm my fellow workers and legislative staff with the facts. A 40 percent decline in pay is obviously unacceptable. And too much of the discussion around state employee compensation is based on myths that are easily disproved."



Eveline van Cutsem of the Department of Social Services lobbied her legislator in Sacramento but she won't stop there.

"I'll stay focused on fighting against minimum wage in the short term. I'll contact as many senators as I can. And I'll fight to get a fair contract. But long-term, we need to change the two thirds majority so that there are enough votes to support state services, and we don't have to go through this drama every year."

Know Your Rights

As our bargaining teams work to secure a fair contract, your rights to take action in support of Local 1000 are protected by California state law and provisions in our union contract. If you are ever prevented from exercising your right to participate in any way, contact your Local 1000 job steward.

You have the right to participate in union actions

Express your union beliefs

Your right to support the union and to express pro-union opinions to other employees and to management. (Government Code section 3512 et seq. – "Dills Act")

Wear your union colors

Your right to wear buttons and stickers, and to wear union clothing. (Dills Act)

Display union materials

Your right to post and display union materials inside your workspace. (Dills Act)

Distribute union materials

Your right to distribute union materials during non-work time. (Contract Article 2.4)

Post union materials

Your right to display union materials on appropriate bulletin boards. (Contract Article 2.4)

Attend union meetings

Your right to attend union meetings on non-work time. (Contract Article 2.5 and Dills Act)

Picket and demonstrate

Your right to picket or demonstrate in support of the union during non-work time. (Dills Act)

Resource Center

Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
866.471.SEIU (7348)

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seiu1000.org

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