

# Back at the bargaining table

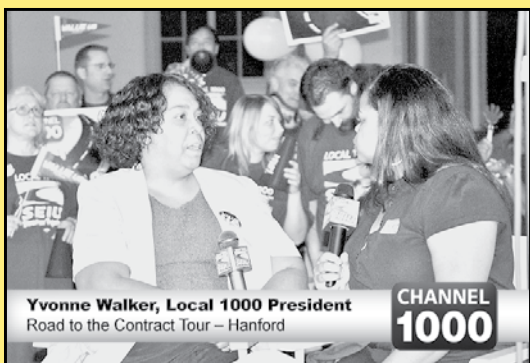
## *Negotiations resume in shadow of state budget crisis*



Hundreds of members from across the Inland Empire rallied for a fair contract in San Bernardino earlier this month.



Caltrans Director Will Kempton reviews a petition signed by hundreds of Caltrans members seeking pay parity.



President Yvonne Walker talks about bargaining on the Channel 1000 "Road to the Contract Tour" broadcast from Hanford last week.

Local 1000 returned to negotiations this week – during increasingly uncertain times for the national economy and the state's fiscal health.

At the very same time that we are scheduled to negotiate economic issues with the state, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has called legislators back to Sacramento in order to deal with an expected budget shortfall estimated as high as \$10 billion.

"We don't know what to expect because state budget deficit estimates and the national and worldwide economic situation are all so fluid," Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker said.

**"This is a time when everyone needs to stand in support of our contract ... we expect tough going."**

—Cindie Fonseca  
Chair, Bargaining Unit 3

Our return to bargaining follows a month of worksite meetings and rallies designed to show the state we are unified about getting a new contract. At an event in Marysville, members presented Caltrans Director Will Kempton petitions seeking pay parity.

On Monday, our Educational Consultants and Librarians (Unit 21) resumed bargaining. Tomorrow our Printers (Unit 14) return to negotiations.

"We're hoping that the state is finally ready to bargain seriously," said Unit 14 Chair Al Troyer. "We've been bargaining since May but the state always seemed to be slowing things down."

On Sunday, our bargaining team goes back to the Master Table to negotiate over financial issues against a backdrop of new budget problems. Since bargaining began in May, tax revenues in California are running at least 10 percent below expectations.

So far the state has not proposed any takeaways in negotiations, but our bargaining team is preparing for the worst.

"This is a time when everyone needs to stand with us in support of our contract because we expect tough going," said Cindie Fonseca, chair of our Professional Educators and Librarians (Unit 3).

★ ★ **Make your voice heard** ★ ★

# **Vote in Tuesday's election**

**State workers can't afford to sit this one out**

If you haven't already voted, please cast your ballot *today*.

This may prove to be a historic Election Day, with turnout expected to be at the highest level since 1964 because of the excitement over the presidential race. Whether you like it or not, the political process affects the lives of state employees. That's because elected officials in Sacramento must ultimately approve the contract that sets our wages and working conditions as well as legislation that funds our state programs.

So we also encourage all members to vote for candidates who support state workers. For a list of crucial races for the state Legislature, go to **seiu1000.org** and click the button for "Political Action." Many of these are very close races where your vote can make a difference.

Local 1000 also encourages you to vote on state propositions, including many that have an impact on state finances. More information on state propositions and SEIU endorsements can be found at **seiu1000.org** in the "Political Action" section.



**Vote for candidates  
that support state workers!**

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

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