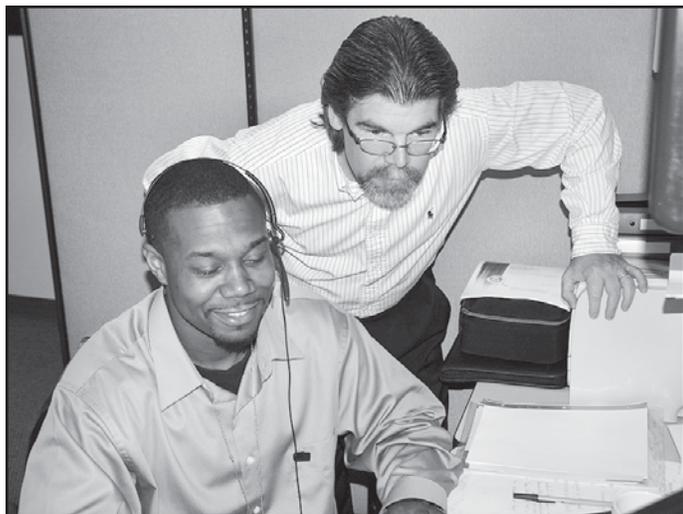


Local 1000 Resource Center now open



Local 1000 Resource Center coordinator Tracy Peake assisting Tommy Steele, one of seven resource representatives at the new call center.

New call center offers members quick, reliable service on all issues

A new member benefit – the Local 1000 Resource Center – launched operations Monday. This state-of-the-art call center offers members a single point of entry for all communications with Local 1000.

A single toll-free number, 866-471-SEIU (7348), will connect members with a well-trained, knowledgeable member resource representative who will answer questions and, when necessary, refer them to Local 1000's professional staff for representation or other issues.

Calls will be answered Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Member resource representatives are well versed in issues of importance to all state workers. Any question – ranging from filing a grievance, to finding the address of a meeting, to learning about discounted Disneyland admissions and

other member benefits – can be answered by calling the Local 1000 Resource Center.

“We’re stepping up our commitment to serve the needs of our members in a more meaningful and effective way,” said Yvonne Walker, Local 1000 president. “And we’re backing that commitment with a promise of quick and thorough responses to their questions.”

A tool for better representation

The Local 1000 Resource Center allows our representational staff to identify and respond to urgent issues quickly and gather intelligence from the field that will help shape our response to member needs.

A high-tech call handling system ensures each call will be tracked and the results tallied with an eye on constant improvement of service. “With all member calls coming to a single place, we can act in real time to events that crop up throughout the state,” said Walker.

Local 1000 Resource Center **Open Monday – Friday 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

1-866-471-SEIU (7348) – One number for all your questions

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✓ contract information | ✓ representational issues |
| ✓ discount admissions | ✓ legislative updates |
| ✓ member benefits | ✓ meeting dates and times |

Members inundate state with grievances

Nearly 20,000 workers seek holiday pay, class action case moves forward

Nearly 20,000 state employees have filed grievances over the state's denial of premium pay to Local 1000 members who worked on Columbus Day.

Because of the sheer volume of grievances, Local 1000 attorneys are trying to consolidate the case so that the legal issues will be adjudicated together. The state has 30 days to respond to the grievances before Local 1000 can begin to move the case toward arbitration, as outlined under Article 6 of our contract.

While the state has acknowledged receiving the grievances of thousands of individual members, "we haven't received any substantive response from the state," said Brooke Pierman, the Local 1000 attorney heading Columbus Day litigation.

Meanwhile, a class action challenge over Columbus Day premium pay that Local 1000 filed in September is moving closer to arbitration. Both sides are expected to agree to an arbitrator before the end of November. Although the process is

slow, Local 1000's legal team is hoping to expedite the case and achieve a just resolution that will provide members with back pay for working on the holiday.

"The bottom line is that thousands of our members were ordered to work on Columbus Day, which remains a holiday under the terms of our 2006 contract," Pierman said. "We will keep fighting until these workers are fairly compensated for working on a holiday."

State scheme 'borrows' workers' tax money

Members should speak to tax advisors about Nov. 1 paycheck withholding changes

Because of an accounting gimmick that legislators inserted into the July budget balancing deal, state employees will automatically have more money withheld from their paychecks.

Under the payroll change, which began Nov. 1, lawmakers are "borrowing" future income withholding taxes in order to raise \$1.7 billion for this fiscal year. Taxpayers will get their money back come tax time,

unless they underpaid their withholdings.

Payroll withholding for California personal income tax from wages and or pension income has gone up 10 percent. The actual tax rates have not gone up – just the amount that is withheld.

Critics say the state is basically borrowing money – interest free – from taxpayers who will likely see larger refunds next spring.

State workers should speak with a tax professional about whether changing their withholdings to offset the new changes is prudent.

In addition, the state is also requiring freelancers and small businesses that make estimated tax payments to pay more money earlier – another accounting move that is designed to help the state balance its budget this fiscal year.

Run-off election set for CalPERS board

Ballots to be mailed out on Nov. 9, Vote for Cathy Hackett in runoff

There will be a runoff election for a key seat on the governing board of CalPERS – our pension system.

Run-off ballots will be mailed to our homes on Nov. 9. This election is important because it comes at a time when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is trying to cut our jobs, and others are attacking our retirement benefits.

That's why Local 1000 supports our former Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer Cathy Hackett for the CalPERS board. Hackett has been active in defending employee benefits and workers' rights for more than 30 years. She is not afraid of the governor. Hackett was a key leader in the Local 1000 pension protection campaign that stopped the Governor's attempt to wipe-out our secure retirement.

"We are defending CalPERS against attacks by politicians

who want to undermine our retirement security. We want a clear course to stronger investment returns," Hackett said. "And we are working to make sure that both active and retired members have affordable, accessible health care."

Cathy Hackett is:

- A tough-minded, independent leader
- A professional budget analyst with a master's degree in public administration
- A successful advocate for our retirement and healthcare

Cathy Hackett will:

- Protect our hard-earned benefits
- Invest for long-term stability
- Make Wall Street firms accountable
- Improve member service



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

SACRAMENTO (916) 554-1200 • **OAKLAND** (510) 452-4357 • **SAN DIEGO** (619) 624-0515

LOS ANGELES (323) 525-2970 • **RANCHO CUCAMONGA** (909) 466-5044 • **FRESNO** (559) 226-0756



Watch Early Edition Wednesdays at 7 a.m. at seiu1000.org