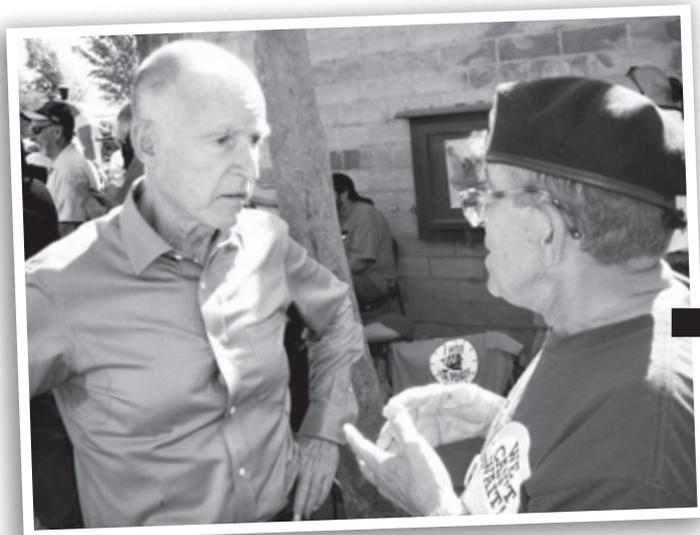


DECEMBER 8, 2010

# UNION UPDATE



## A seat at the table

### New contract & new governor means members have more workplace clout

Between the ratification of our new contract and the election of Jerry Brown as governor, Local 1000 is poised to play a more active role in workplace decisions in 2011.

“Our new contract gives us a stronger voice in important decisions and with Jerry Brown as our governor we will have a seat at the table in decisions that affect our members,” Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker said.

#### Outsourcing questioned

Brown, who takes office in January, will be faced with an estimated \$24.5 billion budget deficit. He has promised to seek worker input as he looks for ways to deliver state services at less cost increasing efficiency.

“Local 1000 members have the opportunity to steer the state in the right direction when it comes to efficiency,” Walker said. “There’s nobody better in the state workforce than our members when it comes to improving the efficiency of state government and what could be done differently to get rid of costly outsourcing.”

Our political success in electing a new governor who supports state services and the employees who provide them is compounded by strong new language in our contract that enhances Local 1000’s profile in the workplace.

#### Stronger joint committees

Under our new contract, Joint Labor Management Committees (JLMC) will have increased prominence in working out workplace issues. The new language allows either Local 1000 or management to call for establishing a new committee to address local or departmental issues on workload, productivity or improving service. In the past, there had to be mutual agreement in order to establish a JLMC.

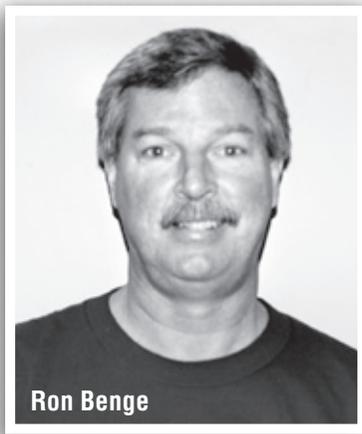
“This new language gives us much more power when it comes to dealing with specific sets of issues,” said Margarita Maldonado, chair of Bargaining Unit 1. “We can require management to meet with us on these issues, and I think this will lead to better outcomes and a faster resolution to problems.”



Questions about the new contract?

call the **Member Resource Center**

**866.471.SEIU (7348)**



Ron Benge

## Members recall life of longtime activist

Members gathered last weekend to celebrate the life of Ron Benge, a longtime Local 1000 activist who died suddenly last month. Benge was serving as president of District Labor Council 793 at the time of his death on Nov. 10—after holding a number of other volunteer positions in Local 1000.

Benge, 57, worked for the Employment Development Department for 10 years in offices in Roseville and in Sacramento. His sudden death from an undisclosed medical problem left his many friends in Local 1000 shocked.

“In addition to being a great friend, Ron really cared about the union and our members,” said Yvonne Walker, Local 1000 president. “He was totally unselfish about volunteering his time to help fellow state workers.”

Benge’s friendly demeanor and his charm was a big reason he was able to recruit many new activists into Local 1000, his friends said.

“He was a great guy—a really great friend to me and my family,” said Gail Hannon. “But that’s how Ron

was. He was a great friend to a lot of people. He had this great sense of humor, a sort of sardonic wit that’s really funny once you got it.”

A Kentucky native, Benge had a wide and varied career before he began state service. He owned his own health care business for several years, he taught history in Greece for five years, and he taught ballroom dance on and off. Benge was a proud Republican who often campaigned for Democrat candidates, and a small business owner who was deeply committed to organized labor.

“Ron was the kind of guy who was hard to categorize,” Hannon said. “He was active in so many ways. We will really miss him.”

### Resource Center

Monday-Friday  
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
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seiu1000.org

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## Local 1000 hires Capitol veteran as chief of staff

### Nolice Edwards served Speaker Bass & Gov. Davis

Nolice Edwards, the former top aide to Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, has taken over as Local 1000’s chief of staff.

“Nolice is well known inside the State Capitol for her tireless advocacy for state service and public safety, her stellar record as a chief of staff for former Speaker Karen Bass and two other Assembly members, plus her work as a leading policy advisor inside the administration of Gov. Gray Davis,” Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker said.

“I’m looking forward to helping move Local 1000 forward as we begin work with a new governor in 2011,” Edwards said. “We plan

to build on Local 1000’s success as a tireless advocate for state employees and California’s working families.”

Edwards has been involved in the legislative arena for nearly 30 years, first in the SEIU California State Council’s legislative office and then as a lobbyist for the Peace Officers Research Association of California—the largest rank-and-file law enforcement association in the state.

Nolice also served as legislative deputy in the Davis administration and chief of staff for former Assembly members Diane Martinez (D-Los Angeles) and Carl Washington (D-Compton). Nolice worked as Assembly member Bass’ chief of staff since Bass was elected in 2004.

“We have been without a chief



Nolice Edwards

of staff for nearly a year and, after an exhaustive and intensive search, I am pleased to have someone of Nolice’s experience and stature working for Local 1000,” said Walker. “There is no doubt that Nolice will be a major force in helping us realize our goals of being the most effective union in California, building our political power and better serving our members.”

Edwards, who has two sons and three grandchildren, has a bachelor’s degree in government from California State University, Sacramento.