

State stalls on working out a contract by June 30

With a June 30 contract deadline looming, the state has dug in their heels at every bargaining table and said they “don’t have the money.”

By the end of last week Local 1000 negotiators had made progress in rolling over language from our hard-won 2006 contract guarantees. “Our bargaining teams are angry and more committed than ever to force the state to do their job and negotiate a contract by June 30,” said Larry Perkins, chair of Bargaining Unit 4.

Nearly every economic proposal presented by Local 1000 negotiators has been met with the same line of resistance, pointing to a \$15 billion dollar deficit and a multiyear financial problem. “All proposals with

costs will be rejected because there is no money in the budget,” said Randy Fisher, a state negotiator for Unit 21.

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Randy Fisher
—state negotiator

After Local 1000 pushed hard to sign tentative agreements on non-economic issues, takeaways by the state have begun to appear at a number of bargaining tables – including members’ ability to grieve sexual harassment or discrimination and an attempt to derail a year-long effort to reclassify program technicians in Unit 4.

“We’re extremely frustrated by the state’s actions – they aren’t holding to previous commitments they’ve made to our members, and we’re ready to fight them at the bargaining table and in the field,” Perkins said.

“We’re working our teams 12 to 14 hours a day to get a deal, not just a deal but a good deal that works for our members and for the state,” said Yvonne Walker, Local 1000 vice president for bargaining. “But state management is obviously not on the same page.”

“We have to do whatever it necessary to let the state know that state workers will no longer be silent,” Walker said. “We will not be ignored.”



**Rally at the
Department
of Personnel
Administration
June 30**

We’re marching on the Department of Personnel Administration to demand a contract that provides:

- Fair wages for quality work
- Protection for our hard-earned retirement benefits
- Reasonable health care premiums and co-pays
- Solutions for workload issues, recruitment and retention
- Professional development and upward mobility

Free bus transportation available for most downtown buildings – route map available at seiu1000.org

RSVP your participation to DPARally@seiu1000.org or sign-up with your CAT leaders at your worksite

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

Kaiser rates draw ire from state, Local 1000

8.16% increase called “an outrage” and “above industry trend”

Local 1000’s campaign to slow runaway increases in the cost of our health benefits took a major step forward last week, when the State Treasurer, the State Controller and DPA joined Local 1000 in calling for more competition and a change in the way benefits are negotiated.

State officials joined Local 1000 in condemning Kaiser after it announced an 8.16 percent rate increase for 2009, despite CalPERS’ own analysis showing that rate trends should not increase more than 4 to 4 ½ percent.

(The July 2 edition of *Update* will carry a complete listing of CalPERS’ 2009 health care rates.)

“Lack of competition between CalPERS and health insurance corporations is a key factor in driving up rates.”

– Jim Hard
Local 1000 President

“It’s an outrage that Kaiser came in above the industry trend for 2009 premiums when the state is facing a \$17 billion deficit,” said Local 1000 President Jim Hard. “CalPERS created an oligopoly with next to no competition and we believe this has contributed to high rates ... We’re glad that the Treasurer, the Controller and DPA are ready to join

us and look at a new way of negotiating health benefits.”

For two years, Local 1000 has campaigned for more transparency, more competition and insurance rates that reflect the true cost of healthcare for our members. “Closed door negotiations and lack of competition between CalPERS and health insurance corporations is a key factor in driving up rates at more than three times the pace of inflation,” Hard said.

In testimony before the CalPERS Board of Administration last week, Hard said that Local 1000 may seek legislation to open up competition to insurers outside of CalPERS if transparency and rates aren’t brought under control.

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