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2014

UNION UPDATE

Grassroots organizing yields quick results for CCHCS members

JLMC formed to deal with worksite and community safety issues has a fast start

A new Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC) at the Sierra Conservation Center (SCC) state prison, achieved major breakthroughs in improving conditions for workers, patients and the community at their very first meeting in January.

Since summer 2013, members at the prison were subjected to numerous violations of our contract. Employees were forced to come to work and work in close conditions with patients and fellow staff while sick. Protections against mandatory overtime were also ignored, and one member actually fell asleep at the wheel while driving home after being forced to work 40 hours during a 64 hour time period—posing a serious threat to her safety and the safety of all drivers in that community.



JLMC members Randy Stan, BU 17; and Krisse Fells-Kjono, BU 20

Members said 'enough'

Security concerns often present a challenge for union actions behind prison walls, but that did not stop our members from working together to effect change. They began by having meaningful conversations with each other, while learning about their rights and what could be done to enforce them. Their organizing escalated in January, as they drew attention to serious risks to the safety of patients and neighboring communities because of dangerously tired workers and drivers.

Members get results

The members' grassroots efforts resulted in a JLMC for the worksite to discuss and resolve issues collaboratively. After just one meeting, management agreed to stop docking pay for sick time, follow the progressive discipline and mandatory overtime rules outlined in the contract and meet every month with Local 1000 stewards to resolve issues facing medical workers.

"This JLMC is the product of our members supporting each other and taking action together to better our situation. Now we can meet with management and work out our issues in a non-hostile environment," said Krisse Fells-Kjono, Bargaining Unit 20 member who also sits on the committee. "I hope that we can be an example for other facilities—the solidarity that grew within our membership was truly inspiring."

"Our biggest problem was lack of communication between managers and workers, and that led to even more problems," said Bargaining Unit 17 member Randy Stan who sits on the committee. "This JLMC is a great step in the right direction, and I hope that other facilities and departments will use this tool to benefit our members."

Joint Labor Management Committee:

In 2013, our member-led bargaining team fought hard to expand the scope of JLMCs as a tool to bargain worksite issues between contract cycles. The committees consist of

management representatives and union members and help us address challenges in job classifications, compensation, recruitment and retention and working conditions. For

more information on JLMCs, contact the Member Resource Center at **866.471.SEIU** (7348) to be connected with your District Bargaining Unit Representative.

Member voices shape the 2014 elections

Candidates answer questions, hear from Local 1000 members at forum

Throughout February and March, Local 1000 is hosting candidate forums up and down the state. These “Our Voice” meetings help determine Local 1000’s election endorsements and provide members an opportunity to ask their questions and meet the candidates face-to-face.

During a forum in Sacramento on Feb. 6, members met and interviewed candidates from Assembly Districts 7 and 9 and Senate District 6. “The event was engaging and extremely educational,” said Ava Goldman, Bargaining Unit 21 member leader who works at CalPERS. “I appreciated the opportunity to meet with the candidates, learn their points of view on many different issues and vote for those I believed should receive Local 1000’s endorsement.”

Selecting our endorsements

Local 1000’s endorsement process allows members to play a hands-on role in California politics and vote for candidate recommendations for SEIU’s California State Council.

“I encourage every Local 1000 member to attend an Our Voice meeting in their area and participate in our endorsement process,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. “This is a unique chance to speak up, help shape the outcome of key races and make sure your community is heard in this year’s elections.”

Many legislative seats and statewide constitutional offices open

All 80 seats in the Assembly and 20 seats in the Senate are up for grabs this year, and Local 1000 is working to both elect candidates who will stand with California’s working families and hold lawmakers accountable to their promises. During the 2012 election cycle, hundreds of Local 1000 members volunteered thousands of hours to elect a majority of legislators who would invest in quality public services and working people. The current two-thirds majority in the legislature has made it possible to pass critically important bills into law, such as:

- **AB 1377** – Ratified our contract with the state
- **SB 102** – Funded the DMV reclassification and raises
- **AB 906** – Increased transparency and oversight of private vendor contracts
- **AB 10** – Raised California’s minimum wage to \$10 on Jan. 1, 2016



Assemblymember Dr. Richard Pan answers questions from Local 1000 members.

2014 is the year to step up!

This year, we will meet many political challenges and opportunities, and our success depends upon your involvement. Members can participate in a range of activities—precinct walking, phone banking, organizing, candidate meetings—all of which make the difference in our political program, which ultimately protects and improves the livelihoods of Local 1000 members. “I became involved in politics so that I could give my voice to issues that affected my family, our members and myself,” said George Cornell, Unit 11 member leader who works at Caltrans. “It’s important that we meet our legislators, testify before legislative committees and—most of all—vote.”

For a complete schedule of endorsement meetings, visit the events calendar at seiu1000.org

To join us and volunteer this election season go to <http://bit.ly/1ddK3Oz>

Resource Center

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