

JUL 10
2013

UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000
SEIU
Stronger Together

Members approve new contract

RATIFIED

Our new three-year contract guarantees all members a pay raise and adds other improvements to our rights and working conditions.

Members voted to support ratification of the new contract. Members voted at more than 200 worksite meetings around the state while others mailed in their ballots or delivered them in person.

The new contract has already been ratified by both the Assembly and the Senate and will be signed by the Governor today.

Priorities achieved

“Our new contract delivers on each of the four top priorities identified by our members,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. “It protects retirement, preserves our 80/20 health benefit premiums, prohibits new furloughs or PLP days, and includes a wage increase for everyone.”

Members made the difference

Local 1000 deployed an army of member activists and staff across the state to mobilize support for our bargaining team. We successfully projected power at our June 5 rally at the Capitol, as well as in dozens of workplace actions.

“I knew that we would only succeed if members stepped up—so I got active and did everything I could to support bargaining,” said Griffin Tofuga, a DMV employee in Sacramento who got involved in her first contract campaign. “I am so excited about our new contract—we earned it.”



“Our new contract delivers on each of the four top priorities identified by our members.”

—Yvonne R. Walker, SEIU Local 1000 President

Highlights of the new contract

- An across-the-board pay increase for all employees
- No new furlough or PLP days during the term of the contract
- Reduction in health care dependent vesting from two years to one
- Increases in business and travel reimbursements
- Removal of the expiration date for PLP earned in 2010 and 2012
- A stronger dignity clause and workplace bullying protections
- More than 95 percent of the guarantees from our last contract renewed

For more information on our contract, go to seiu1000.org

Projecting power in the Capitol

Members work to get bills through legislature

Local 1000's legislative efforts are a key part of our effort to project power in the Capitol, in our workplace and in our communities; to build a stronger California.

"It is important for all our members to get involved in the legislative process," said Ray Altman, a Pelican Bay State Prison employee who testified in support of **AB 298**, a rural health care equity bill that is in the Assembly. "We need legislators to hear from front-line state workers about what is going on in the state."

Three bills—**AB 855**, **AB 494** and **AB 1019**—are all awaiting a floor vote in the state Senate this week. The Senate begins its summer break July 12 while the Assembly's last day was July 3.

AB 855 would strengthen due process by allowing an administrative law judge to make a determination whether the state properly invoked the AWOL statute to terminate an employee.

Two bills—**AB 494** and **AB 1019**—are designed to strengthen and update the state's commitment to academic and vocational prison inmate education in the post-realignment CDCR. **AB 494** is an update of the Prisoner Literacy Act of 1987 and would require CDCR to implement educational programs in each prison



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CDCR, DLC 749 President

to address low literacy rates and to make it possible for inmates to achieve a high school diploma or its equivalent before release. **AB 1019** would require CDCR to adopt a plan and set goals for vocational education. It would require rational criteria for program selection and program design.

Our Bargaining Unit 3 prison educators developed both bills and members have testified in support of both pieces of legislation.

"Our bills represent our continuing commitment to quality public services and will help our talented and committed correctional educators and librarians make a significant impact on public safety," said John Kern, chair of Bargaining Unit 3. "I'm proud of the fact that our common sense bills usually attract bipartisan support."

State hospital safety

Local 1000 will continue to fight for **AB 1340**, a bill that was de-

veloped by our nurses and health care workers in state hospitals to improve workplace safety. The bill cleared the state Assembly but has not made it to the full Senate for a vote.

Another bill that will be voted on by the full Senate, **SB 637**, calls on the Secretary of State's Office to expand and promote early voting in the State of California. This includes allowing people to vote early in person at their county elections office on the Saturday before primary and general elections.

"Democracy only works when people participate ... and that means voting," said SEIU Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. "California must continue expanding opportunities for voter participation, just as we did with voting by mail. **SB 637** is another step in making voting more accessible to commuters and working families by adding this important voting option."

Resource Center

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