

SEP 25
2013

UNION UPDATE



Priority bills on governor's desk

DMV reclassification, worker protections & prison education top our list

The 2012-2013 session of California's State Legislature has come to a close and Local 1000 is poised to deliver several key legislative victories, both for members and for working families across California.

"The hard work of Local 1000 members and staff sent our issues to the governor's desk – now it's time to raise all our voices and ensure these bills become law," said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. "We're in the final stretch, and we need the grass-roots power of our members to get this done."

AB 10 will raise the current minimum wage to \$9 in July of 2014 and \$10 hour in January 2016, providing a long-overdue wage increase to millions of struggling Californians and boosting the entire economy from the bottom up. Local 1000 is part of a broad national coalition supporting AB 10 in California as well as raising the federal minimum wage.

SB 102 approves and funds the DMV reclassification agreement Local 1000 signed with the state last month, culminating a decade-long campaign by DMV workers to modernize those classifications. It will provide pay raises ranging from 1.5 percent to 7.5 percent for Local 1000-represented DMV employees.

AB 855 will strengthen the rights of our members and streamline AVOL termination court proceedings. The reforms will save money, help prevent the abuse of the system by management and reduce unjustified terminations.

Both **AB 494** and **AB 1019** earned broad bipartisan approval because this legislation would rebuild California's prison education system and reduce recidivism rates. Our Bargaining Unit 3 prison educators helped develop both bills.

"AB 1019 would reduce criminality, victimization and prison overcrowding through well-planned job training



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—Yvonne R. Walker, President, Local 1000

programs. AB 494 would raise the literacy standards for inmates, making it more likely they will succeed upon release from prison," said John Kern, a longtime prison educator who is chair of Bargain Unit 3. "That's why I'm urging all of our members to join me in asking the governor to sign the bills into law."

AB 800 protects member jobs by ensuring that state employees administering the existing state health care program for low-income children will continue to do that work for Covered California, the new Affordable Care Act (ACA) healthcare marketplace. The bill will also simplify the process for families who are now eligible for Covered California and ensure a smooth implementation of the new federal law here.

AB 906 will increase oversight and scrutiny of costly state outsourcing contracts.

POLITICS MATTER

Make your voice heard

Your voice can help put these crucial bills over the finish line. Visit seiu1000.org/politics-legislation to send a letter to Gov. Jerry Brown.



"Local 1000 is not just a presence in the workplace... These gardens will give back to the community just like Local 1000 has."

—Dalia Jaramillo, CalTrans



SEIU Local 1000 members volunteered to build planter beds at a Los Angeles community garden for their low-income neighbors.

LA members plant seeds of collaboration in the community

Local 1000 builds community gardens, improves the sustainability and health of low income neighborhoods

The Los Angeles Real Time Strategic Change (RTSC) team is putting the Local 1000 purpose statement into action by collaborating with nonprofit Little Green Fingers to build gardens in several low income neighborhoods - improving the health and sustainability of their local communities. In partnership with Little Green Fingers, project of the Los Angeles Community Garden Council, the team spent a day building garden beds for low-income families in Sylmar, a community in the San Fernando Valley. Local 1000 members and staff cleaned the area, cleared debris, pruned trees and built and prepared the new garden beds for planting.

Volunteer efforts such as this happen all year long across the state as part of the goals set by regional RTSC teams. The teams volunteer frequently and come together every year in December to share their experiences and set the next year's goals. They strive to engage and develop more members, maintain a stronger presence on our communities and work to make the Local 1000 Purpose Statement a reality.

"We're demonstrating that we're not just a labor union that fights for members; we are part of our community, partnering with our neighbors to help local residents,"

said Char Gonzalez, an Employment Development Department employee who also serves at president of District Labor Council 725. "This project will bring us together with the community through the many phases of growth and production and will make a positive, tangible impact on the day-to-day lives of families in this neighborhood. We can literally see the results flourish."

Healthy food for kids

Members in the neighborhood can apply at Little Green Fingers for space in one of the newly constructed beds where they can plant and maintain a garden. Little Green Fingers offers free workshops on how to grow wholesome food – which research has shown is a powerful tool for putting children on a path to academic success and in fighting the childhood obesity epidemic.

"It feels good to get out and help our brothers and sisters. Local 1000 is not just a presence in the workplace - we fight for all of California's working families," said Dalia Jaramillo, Los Angeles RTSC member in Bargaining Unit 1. "These gardens will give back to the community just like Local 1000 has."

Resource Center

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