

JAN 7
2015

UNION UPDATE



—KEEPING OUR— COMMITMENTS

Message from the President

In 2014, we made a difference. We fulfilled our promises. We stayed true to our Purpose Statement. In December of 2013, several hundred of us met in San Diego and we pledged to use our collective power to defend the rights of state workers on the job and to fight for fair wages and retirement security for all. Over the last year, we have vigorously enforced our contract rights at every level, and we received our two percent wage increase in July. Moreover, we continued to lead SB 1234 oversight efforts through our participation on the Secure Choice Retirement Investment Board.

A year ago we committed to reaching out in our communities and across the state to build alliances that will strengthen the middle class. We have been working closely with community-based economic justice organizations fighting for \$15 and a union for low-wage workers. In the Central Valley, Local 1000 has been working to promote jobs and training opportunities around the high-speed rail project with a broad array of faith groups in the area.

A year ago we also rededicated ourselves to building political power. Through the hard work of our members, we were able to elect Theresa Taylor to the CalPERS board in October of this year and followed that with Betty Yee's general election victory for State Controller and Kevin McCarty's win in Assembly District 7. In all, SEIU-endorsed candidates won in over 80



percent of their races. That's a record we can be proud of.

While we can rightfully celebrate our victories in 2014, we have many looming challenges in 2015 and 2016. In many other states, working families suffered setbacks. A powerful, well-funded movement is working to undermine organized labor and legal protections for working people nationally and in many states, including California.

We will prepare for these challenges by doing what we do best: organizing. We did a great job of organizing in 2014, and we will do even better work in 2015 because we must grow stronger in order to succeed.

As we bid 2014 farewell, we can be confident about our record of achievement. There is no doubt—when we are united—we can accomplish great things.

In Solidarity

Yvonne R. Walker, President Local 1000

Soledad nurses take action over poor safety conditions

Management promises change after nurses take their issues to local city council

Nurses and other healthcare professionals from facilities in the Salinas Valley won promises from management to address safety concerns after our members took their issues public before a local city council.

Dozens of members from the Salinas Valley State Prison, the Correctional Training Facility and the

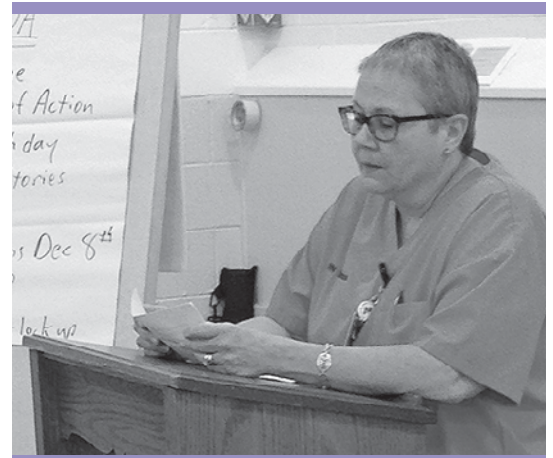
Department of State Hospitals, as well as family members and allies, held a news conference and march in Soledad on Dec. 3 before addressing the Soledad City Council about poor safety conditions at state facilities. The city council has no authority over state facilities, but the action by members gained local publicity, including an article in the Salinas newspaper.

“Until we got organized as a group and pressured management, nothing ever got done about the safety conditions.”

— **Nick Mannion**
LVN, *Salinas Valley State Prison*

“When our community organizes itself for a good purpose, it is important for government to listen,” said Soledad Vice Mayor Alejandro Chavez. “I am glad to hear that the state paid attention to the safety concerns brought forth to the City of Soledad.”

As a result, management at Salinas Valley State Prison asked to meet with our members to hear their concerns over faulty safety lights. Call light systems are in wide hospital use and allow patients to summon a nurse should they experience any sort of medical distress. Local 1000 members



Bargaining Unit 17 Registered Nurse Terri Strauss testifying at the Soledad City Council meeting

pointed out that many of the lights don't function properly, which compromises patient safety.

Management made a promise to our members to replace the faulty lights and to notify stewards when the work order was accomplished.

“Until we got organized as a group and pressured management, nothing ever got done about the safety conditions,” said Nick Mannion, a licensed vocational nurse at Salinas Valley State Prison. “We need to keep moving forward so that we can address other workplace issues such as mandated overtime.”

The Salinas Valley campaign included a strategic alliance with local clergy, who supported our members' goal to improve workers safety at the state medical facilities.

“What we are doing is aligned with our Purpose Statement because we are all part of this community, and the health of the community is dependent on the health and safety of the people who live here,” Mannion said. “We will continue to fight for a safer community in the Salinas Valley, both inside and outside the prison walls.”

Resource Center

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7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
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