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# UNION UPDATE



## DMV HEAT team signs up 1000 new members

### We are growing stronger together

In a huge win, Local 1000's DMV "HEAT Team" signed up 1000 new members.

"Our DMV HEAT Team is doing some amazing work," said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. "Our DMV member leaders are setting an example—and raising the standard—for everyone in Local 1000. It really shows the power of effective workplace organizing."

Since January, DMV has opened four new offices [San Jose, Granada Hills in Los Angeles, Stanton in Orange County and Lompoc] to accommodate the rush of license applications resulting from AB 60, a bill passed in 2013 that allows undocumented workers to obtain driver's licenses.



*"This process has made me a better organizer. The new employees related to my personal story of how Local 1000 has really improved my family's life."*

—Griffin Tufuga  
DMV HEAT Team Member

In all four of these new offices, more than 80 percent of the employees enjoy the benefits of full union membership.

DMV workers understand the value of standing strong in the workplace surrounded by other Local 1000 members. It makes a difference at the bargaining table as well as when a new manager in a new state office doesn't understand, and consequently violates, our contract.

#### Organizing from orientation

Local 1000 successfully anchored these new members by sending stewards to each new DMV employee-orientation meeting. At those meetings, stewards were able to present the new workers with information about the benefits of Local 1000 membership.

"We knew that we had all these new state workers coming onboard and going through training last fall, so we made sure we had a strong presence at every single new-employee orientation meeting," said Deleon Secrest, a DMV HEAT Team member based in the Los Angeles area.

Griffin Tufuga, another DMV member from Sacramento, said she upgraded her own organizing skills by making presentations at several meetings.

"This process has made me a better organizer. The new employees related to my personal story of how Local 1000 has really improved my life," said Tufuga, who personally signed up dozens of new members. "I talked about all of the years of work that we put into the reclassification



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—Yvonne R. Walker  
Local 1000 President

drive that means more money for current employees."

Richard David Turner, a DMV team leader from Santa Cruz who helped recruit members in San Jose, said he was impressed that so many employees wanted to participate politically in SEIU through COPE.

"These new employees understand the connection between the political/legislative process and new jobs," Turner said. "I was impressed that so many new employees want to support the important work Local 1000 is doing."

## Local 1000 takes the lead to IGNITE! change in the labor movement

### “Economic justice for all” theme of national conference

A Local 1000 delegation joined other SEIU members, staff, officers and non-union workers from across the country for the IGNITE! Sparking Leadership Conference March 7-10 in St. Louis. IGNITE participants spent four days sharing their stories, exploring the connections between economic and social justice, and visualizing what it would mean to win \$15 an hour for millions of workers.

Twenty-five Local 1000 participants, including Vice President for Organizing/Representation Tamekia N. Robinson, attended IGNITE and came back ready to bring the inspiration of the conference to our local and to their daily lives.

Though a variety of leadership themes ran through the conference, the Fight for \$15—a nationwide movement uniting labor, low-wage workers, youth and faith-based groups in the drive to make corporations pay a living wage—was the major focus and became the rallying cry that the participants took home. After hearing from and celebrating the low-wage workers who bravely instigated the Fight for \$15 and a union,

IGNITE attendees committed to mobilizing their friends, families and coworkers to support the upcoming National Day of Action on April 15, 2015.



*“You want to be part of a change. I feel like I’m part of a labor movement. IGNITE changed me for sure.”*

—Tonya Bealey  
DMV Member Leader

The Fight for \$15 and a Union is about more than low-wage fast-food workers. The battle has expanded to include adjunct college professors—many of whom have advanced college degrees—healthcare workers and airport workers, among others. This is a battle where state workers can make a difference by helping working families, friends and our communities to achieve a more secure economy and a better quality of life for all of us.

“The energy was great,” said Robinson of IGNITE’s mix of hope and determination. “Over 1000

members and staff from across the nation coming together to ignite our leadership, and sparking change in the labor movement that we need to rise to the challenge of the moment we’re in.”

“You want to be part of a change. I feel like I’m part of a labor *movement*.” Tonya Bealey, DMV member leader said. “It’s changed me for sure.”

### Resource Center

Monday-Friday  
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
866.471.SEIU (7348)

### Website

seiu1000.org

### Connect with Local 1000

Facebook  
facebook.com/seiu1000

YouTube  
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## Our union protects prison jobs

### Salinas Valley State Prison defers post and bid

Local 1000 aggressively enforced our contract at Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP) and won our effort to protect jobs for our nurses. After pressure from the union on several fronts, the receiver managing California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) agreed to wait until October to open the post and bid process, effectively shelving dangerous plans to reallocate staff and cut overtime.

“The state wanted to redo the post and bid completely in violation of our contract,” said Nick Mannion, an LVN at SVSP.

“They were trying to cut our nursing staff in the yard. They wanted to implement changes without negotiating with us.”

Nurse staffing at California prisons is crucial to the safety and security of our members and the facilities; nurses not only care for the day-to-day medical and pharmaceutical needs of inmates but also respond to violent outbreaks. SVSP is known to house a particularly violent prison population.

According to Mannion, it was a victory on an organizational, political and negotiating level.



**Nick Mannion**  
Licensed Vocational Nurse  
Salinas Valley State Prison

“Every single nurse we work with had our backs,” he said, “We all got together. We stood strong.” Local 1000 proved once again that our union is strongest when our members lead.