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UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000

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Local 1000 Stewards Meet with New State Controller

Free-ranging discussion promises cultural shift at SCO

On Wednesday, May 13, State Controller Betty Yee met with Local 1000 stewards from her department to talk over their concerns and set a fresh tone of openness and cooperation in her new administration's relationship with its workers. Held in the executive conference room of the State Controller's Office (SCO), the meeting was also attended by Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker and Local 1000 Vice Presidents Tamekia N. Robinson and Margarita Maldonado.

The hour-long meeting was a free-ranging exchange, and Yee outlined a new strategic vision, promising to work with the union to keep talent as well as to develop upward mobility in the department.

When stewards reported some members feel too intimidated by management to meet with them in their own worksites, Yee responded, "I hear you, and that does have to change. We encourage engagement; we encourage stewards to meet with their members."

"I am so happy to have a controller who knows the importance of working with labor," said Theresa Brooks, who works with Yee at SCO and was one of the eight stewards who attended the meeting. Brooks is pleased by what she has seen of Yee's performance in the first five months of her administration. "She has been committed to resolving whatever workplace issues that we have," Brooks said.



"It makes us feel we're important to the organization and that the Controller is willing to work with the stewards at SCO."

Rebecca Griffiths
SCO Steward

Rebecca Griffiths, another SCO steward who was there, agreed. She described how Yee attended a Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC) meeting soon after being sworn in. "It makes us feel like we're important to the organization," said Griffiths of Yee's interactions, "and that she's willing to work with us as she develops a relationship with the stewards at SCO."

"She was a phenomenal partner when she was at the Board of Equalization as board chair," said Vice President of Organizing/Representation Robinson, who worked with Yee there. "I think she

will continue to be a great partner at the State Controller's Office. I look forward to seeing her work with a new group of stewards and foster a relationship with them."

Members at School for the Deaf flex organizing muscle to win

Local 1000 academic calendar win

Increased membership and a growing spirit of activism at the California School for the Deaf in Fremont (CSDF) led to a major organizing win for Local 1000 members there. When management tried to change the school's academic calendar without employee input, members stood together and pushed back. All of the union's demands were met, demonstrating that the greater our numbers, the greater our power.

Academic calendars are the work schedules of teachers and school staff, so when management sent a proposed change in the school year to the Department of Education without staff involvement, Local 1000 members, led by tireless steward Sulghi Hong, quickly organized and demanded a Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC). The members drafted a petition—collecting nearly 200

signatures in three days—and presented strong arguments for keeping the calendar as is.

Management relented and the calendars came out with the school year mostly unchanged. But there were still some changes to staff development days, so the fired-up members challenged a second time—and won.

"It was a double victory," said John Kern, chair of Bargaining Unit 3. "Members showed strength in numbers. And management acknowledged the good ideas from the rank and file."

A surge in membership made the CSDF activism possible: The school has gone from around 50 percent membership to over 75 in the past few years. With those numbers, and that majority, management is forced to take employee input seriously.



"Membership matters. We wouldn't have this success at lower membership levels."

—John Kern
Chair of Bargaining Unit 3

Resource Center

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Members help secure health care services for Monterey County's uninsured

Community partnerships build on core values

Local 1000 members active in Monterey County are helping a community organization start a pilot health care program that will expand vital health care services to that area's uninsured population.

The proposed program would pay for medications, lab work and radiology. While the Monterey County Clinics and Natividad Medical Center there provide care to patients regardless of immigration status, these services are often inaccessible to the uninsured because they are too expensive.

The program is the initiative of Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA), a regional nonprofit made up of 25 member institutions of churches, synagogues, public schools, labor organizations and nonprofits.

Jack Funk, a radiology technician at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad and president of DLC 741, addressed a May 5 meeting of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors as part of COPA's drive to secure \$500,000 in funding for the program.

"These services should be made available to everyone," said Funk,

as he spoke of the importance of radiologic testing in a moving testimony. "They can aid in the diagnosis of medical issues. And they help prevent chronic disease."

Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker says supporting community groups that embody our core values allows our members to reach out to their neighbors and is an important part of our union's larger mission.

"Building strategic alliances with partners like COPA helps us achieve the goal of healthy and sustainable communities," says Walker. "That is the heart of our purpose statement."



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—Yvonne R. Walker
President of Local 1000