

**JUNE 6**  
**2018**

**UNION UPDATE**

LOCAL 1000  
**SEIU**  
Stronger Together

## Somos Una Familia event brings family and community together



Our Local 1000 Purpose Statement leads us to build stronger communities and a better life for our members and all Californians. On May 19, we celebrated the importance of our shared cultures at our first annual Somos Una Familia block party at our Union headquarters. The event was hosted by Local 1000's Latin@ Committee.

Hundreds of attendees joined the festivities, which included more than 50 booths featuring arts and crafts, local artists, community organizations and public services. More than 300 books donated by our members were given away to young readers, who also enjoyed face-painting, arts activities and piñatas. Live music and dancing entertained the crowd throughout the day. Information on how to apply for state service was a popular attraction, providing packets on available state positions and test taking on site for state jobs.

Somos Una Familia brought the neighborhood together to reinforce the importance of family and unity. For more information about Local 1000's Latin@ Committee or our other Human Rights Committees, go to [seiu1000.org/latinolatina-committee](http://seiu1000.org/latinolatina-committee)



## #iChooseMyUnion



*"As a state worker and a leader in my union, events like Somos Una Familia reflect the work we do as a union and how we share the values we want for our children, our community and how we choose to live in our city,"*

Sylvia Ramos, State Controller's Office, Sacramento  
DLC 789 President, Member of the Latin@ Committee

## Resource Center

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

## Website

[seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org)

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# Covered California employee receives state's highest honor

Our member, Stephen Madrigal, has received the Medal of Valor Special Service Award from Gov. Brown for his efforts in breaking up a deadly confrontation on his commute home. The Award recognizes state employees who go beyond their normal duty to save a life, despite personal risk.

Madrigal was cited thusly: "With no regard for his own safety, Mr. Madrigal's heroic service saved two men involved in a street fight."

In December of 2015, Madrigal and his wife Rosalie, were heading home from their job at Covered California's Fresno call center. Stopping at a convenience store, they witnessed two men fighting in the road. Worried that one or both may be run over, he intervened. The assailant produced a knife and began stabbing the victim, but Madrigal was able to calm the situation until law enforcement arrived.

Madrigal didn't realize that he had suffered a knife injury that nearly cut off his thumb. He received treatment and was soon back at work, able to do his job despite what he called "a humongous cast."



He was one of just two people who received a Medal of Valor this year who doesn't work in law enforcement, and he told a Fresno news outlet, "It was awe-inspiring to hear some of these stories and to be part of that day, and I feel humbled."

## GeoPay Update: May meeting focuses on transportation costs

Our six-member team of Local 1000 leaders—the GeoPay Task Force—met with the state on May 25 to discuss the continuing increase in transportation costs facing members and to find creative and reasonable solutions to offset those costs.

The GeoPay Task Force is meeting with the state monthly to discuss the higher costs of living facing certain geographic regions. A half-dozen state agencies are represented, and the topics include transportation costs, housing costs, commute costs, child care, health care and comparable wages.

Input from members across the state is helping to shape the ongoing discussions. Members shared their stories of how their hard-earned pay is consumed by soaring gas prices, vehicle maintenance, commuter fees and parking.

The affordability crisis in our communities affects us all. Many members can't pay the housing costs necessary to live close to work. Instead, they face long commutes with excess wear and tear on their vehicles. Often, it's not practical or even possible to use public transportation to and from work.

At the same time, the Task Force discussed the inadequate reimbursement rates for business-related transportation costs.

In June, the GeoPay Task Force will be focusing on the high costs of child care in the State of California. Again, we'll be using personal stories from our members to shape the discussion.

Take action: go to [seiu1000.org/geostory](http://seiu1000.org/geostory) to share your story about the high cost of child care and how it affects your family.

**"Transportation costs are an issue that deeply affect many of our members. Our hard-earned pay is being eroded by these costs, and we shouldn't be forced to sacrifice the welfare of our families just to serve the public."**

Jessica Reed,  
California Coastal Commission, San Francisco