

MAR 27  
2019

# UNION UPDATE



Susanville, March 14

## SHARE YOUR CONTRACT IDEAS

### GET ENGAGED IN THE BARGAINING PROCESS BY ADDING YOUR VOICE

Having a strong union means our members have a voice in the issues that affect us and the ability to shape our efforts in bargaining a new contract this year. Members are making their voices heard by attending bargaining Town Halls and by filling out bargaining surveys online. Negotiations begin later this year, and now is the time to share ideas to help our bargaining team fight for improved wages, benefits and working conditions.

### Attend a bargaining town hall

An opportunity to learn, meet bargaining team members, and share your ideas.

Meeting locations, dates & times available online

[seiu1000.org/townhall-schedule](http://seiu1000.org/townhall-schedule)

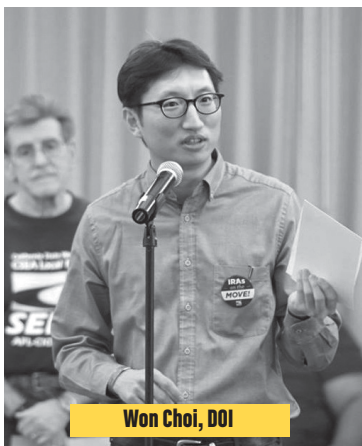
RSVP online, or by calling the Member Resource Center at 866-471-SEIU (7348)

### Take the next step:

### Fill out an online bargaining survey

Members: share more detail about what you'd like to see in the contract

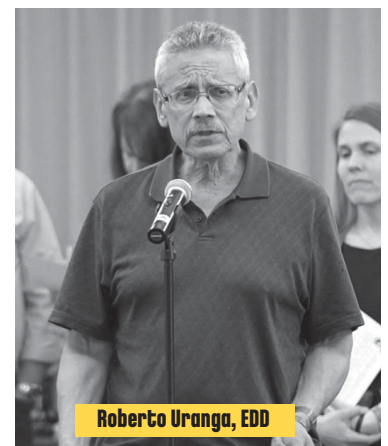
[seiu1000.org](http://seiu1000.org)



Won Choi, DOI



Natasha Kaupanger-Swacker, DIR



Roberto Uranga, EDD

# Pete Garza: Stepping into Leadership

Unit 15 activist leads Food Service Task Force efforts for better working conditions



"I am amazed by what members can accomplish by stepping up and standing together. We were able to make a real difference in our working conditions."  
Pete Garza, Valley State Prison

Pete Garza got involved in our union because he wanted change for himself and for more than a thousand of his fellow Unit 15 food service workers across the state. And in just a year's time, he's making a real difference in solving a critical issue.

Job vacancies—as much as 40% in some areas of the state—are forcing some food service workers to rack up between 80 and 100 overtime hours each month, resulting in serious retention issues.

"I stepped up because I didn't know what was going on," he says. "We didn't have a great relationship with management, and things needed to change." Garza is a 14-year veteran of state service, a union steward and a Unit 15 DBUR. He led the statewide Food Service Task Force and was joined by fellow members Lisa Bocast, Debbie Donnelly, Calixtro Duarte and Kevin Quaiife.

"We wanted to work together with the state to build a relationship and to solve problems," he said. In September of last year, they held the first of four meetings (over six months), and change is already happening. "We're seeing greater efforts in recruitment ... the state is expanding their outreach and changing employment qualifications," Garza said.

The Task Force and the state will work on an ongoing basis to improve workplace conditions for our food service members. At the same time, the Task Force will share valuable knowledge of these issues with our bargaining team for further discussion during contract negotiations. "I've seen the power of members working together for change, and we're just getting started," he said.

## Local 1000 convenes community forum

Connecting our neighbors and allies about homelessness

On March 19, our union partnered with Sacramento Area Congregations Together (SacACT) and Loaves and Fishes to co-host a community forum on homelessness in our region. This first forum featured the voices of our neighbors who have lived without permanent housing and the direct service providers who work with them on a daily basis. The next in the series will focus on how we come together to address this economic injustice. Fulfilling our Purpose Statement means that we use the power of our union to help all Californians—particularly those less fortunate—to have a good life. For more information, contact our Member Resource Center at 866-471-SEIU (7348).



Bobby Roy, DOE



Crystal McCray, CalEPA

### Resource Center

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

### Website

seiu1000.org

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