



SEIU Local 1000 members know organizing is one of the most powerful tools we have to enact change in our fight to build a California for All. When we can organize our workplaces, we can ensure that our voice is heard and amplified by the whole union. By supporting organizers and strategizing to defend the rights of state workers in their workplace, we can defend our contract, our members, and our movement for social, economic, and environmental justice.

Bobby Dutta: organizing for union power in Sacramento



"You wouldn't drive a car without insurance which is why you have a union in your workplace."

- Bobby Dutta

Bobby Dutta is building union power in Sacramento, organizing one member at a time. He's seen how having conversations with his coworkers and developing relationships translates into gains in his workplace and in our union as a whole.

A Local 1000 member for just over 3 years, Bobby is organizing workers at CDPH/Sacramento in his role as a union steward.

"What drives me is a sense of unfairness," he says. "I came to public service later in my career and wanted to help address the problems my coworkers and I faced."

Seeing the results of paying dues and making gains in the workplace helps remind workers of the power and security of having a union. "You wouldn't drive a car without insurance," Bobby commented, "which is why you have a union in your workplace."

Tara Rooks: developing new member leaders *"Education is the key to expanding our union"*

Education is one of the most important tools for an organizer. We all learn powerful lessons from those around us that help us grow and define our careers. Tara Rooks, a Local 1000 steward and DLC 769 president, reflects on the legacy of those who have taught her throughout her life: her parents, her son, and her coworkers and fellow organizers.

When Tara came to work for the state in 2007 as a licensed vocational nurse in Folsom State Prison, she understood the need to help her patients recover and to teach them to care for themselves.

As time went on, she became a voice for her coworkers, addressing unsolved issues in the workplace, eventually leading her to join the Leadership Apprenticeship Program for Stewards (LAPS) in 2017 to step further into her leadership.

Her relationship to education is deeply personal. "Nursing and education involve the same skills," she reflected. Her son, who has graduated high school and entered college, was struggling in his studies. Remembering her father who instilled in her the value of a strong education, she was inspired to guide her son in the same way.

Today, she is applying her skills to develop 20 new member leaders who are stepping up to become stewards themselves. Her efforts will bring DLC 769 to a total of 33 stewards to ensure that 2,500 members get the representation they deserve. Her passion for educating members has taken her to organize Northern California with SEIU's Political Education and Engagement program. "We have to work hard to raise awareness," she says, "but when we work together and learn from each other, we all win."



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**- Mary Kay Henry
SEIU International President**

International board meeting kicks off 2020

Local union leaders from the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico, representing the full scope of our strong, vibrant, and diverse membership, gathered at the SEIU International Executive Board Meeting and Division Meetings in San Diego, January 27-30.

Led by Mary Kay Henry, SEIU International President, leaders and board members confronted the challenges we face and heard about our plans to build a more powerful, member-driven SEIU, create an inclusive, multi-racial democracy, and to fight for unions for all.

"These meetings are important," said President Henry, "because they make it possible for SEIU to bring our best thinking to the question of how we can use the power of our numbers to make life better for all black, brown, Asian Pacific Islander, and white working families."

Members of the SEIU Board developed the program for the upcoming quadrennial SEIU Convention, April 20-26 in Chicago, an event that will be attended by more than 60 member delegates representing Local 1000. The convention will bring together members from across the nation to plan and implement the "Unions for All" campaign to make it possible for more working Americans to join a union and bargain for a better life.

"The power of our union comes from all of us playing a part, from everyone participating and getting involved," Mary Kay continued. "That's true at the worksite, and it's true of every level of our union."

Here, and across the nation, joining in and supporting a union empowers working people to gain a strong voice for the good, family-sustaining jobs that build thriving communities.

Become a member today: seiu1000.org/joinus

**Member Resource Center
866-471-SEIU (7348)**



**Learn more
www.seiu1000.org**