

MAR 16
2016

Celebrating Women's History Month

Women On The Front Lines Of Social Justice

Fannie Lou Hamer (October 6, 1917—March 14, 1977) grew up poor as a sharecropper in Mississippi, but she went on to be one of the most inspirational leaders of the Civil Rights Era whose fierce activism on behalf of voting rights inspired generations of activists.

Fed up with the inhumane treatment of black citizens by an oppressive Southern culture (forced sterilization was among the mistreatments Hamer en-

Hamer is probably most famous for organizing the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) delegation to the 1964 Democratic National Convention. The MFDP was a group of 64 black and 4 white elected delegates who challenged the legitimacy of unelected white segregationists representing Mississippi. Party leaders tried to compromise by offering the MFDP two seats. But Hamer famously responded:

for organizing/representation, has made that kind of commitment to social justice the cornerstone of her professional life. Rooted in a deep understanding of the power of collective action to bring about real social change, Robinson has brought her belief in, and passion for, organizing to every leadership position she's held in the labor movement.

Robinson says, when times are hard and social justice work



Tamekia Robinson

"Fannie had the fire of justice in her heart. Even when faced with the worst abuses of the Jim Crow South, she could not be broken."

—Tamekia N. Robinson
Vice President for Organizing/
Representation



Fannie Lou Hamer

dured), she became involved with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Her work with voter registration was extremely dangerous; Hamer was jailed and beaten so severely she had life-long health issues. But, however much she personally struggled, Hamer remained a force of life and hope for others and could be counted on to break into rousing renditions of "This Little Light of Mine" and "Go Tell It on the Mountain," to lift the spirits of fellow activists.

"We didn't come here for no two seats!"

Perhaps nothing Hamer said expressed her commitment to social justice as simply as what she said in a 1971 speech in Washington, DC:

"Nobody's free until everybody's free."

Courageous and determined women like Hamer forged a path for the women leaders of Local 1000 to continue the push for social justice that defined Hamer's life. Tamekia N. Robinson, vice president

seems overwhelming, she can look to the example of foremothers like Hamer to provide the inspiration to keep going.

"Fannie had the fire of justice in her heart," says Robinson. "Even when faced with the worst abuses of the Jim Crow South, she could not be broken."

"Nobody's free until everybody's free."

—Fannie Lou Hamer

UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000
SEIU
Stronger Together

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
youtube.com/seiu1000

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twitter.com/seiu1000



Unit 4 Bargaining Team



Third in a series on our 9 Bargaining Units

Stronger Together

Negotiations for our 2016 contract begin in April, and Local 1000's 63-member bargaining team is in place and deep in preparations, training and strategizing to bring the 95,000 state workers we represent the best contract we've ever had.

The bargaining team represents the union at the negotiating table and is made up of members from the nine bargaining units represented by Local 1000. Issues that affect all represented employees such as pay, benefits and retirement are negotiated at the master table while each of the nine bargaining teams negotiate unit-specific issues.

Unit 4: Office and Allied Workers

Bargaining Unit 4's 7-member (plus three alternate) team negotiates on behalf of more than 24,000 state workers in numerous professional classifications including program/tax technicians, key data operators, word processing technicians, stock clerks and other classifications. This unit also represents toll collectors and DMV employees across the state.

The Unit 4 bargaining team receives support from staff in our Contract Department, researchers and attorneys who work with the bargaining team on contract language and bargaining strategies.

Members of the Unit 4 bargaining team have been attending town halls and gathering input from members, identifying key issues that will guide the development of unit-specific and master table issues.

Unit 4 Chair Sophia Perkins says the bargaining process is about being a member and being involved. "I'm thankful that our members used their voice by coming to town halls and filling out surveys. I know that members will be standing behind us when we go to the table. And, when



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—Sophia Perkins
Chair, Bargaining Unit 4

we get a great contract, they'll use their voice to vote for its ratification." She adds, "If you're not a member, you can't participate in the ratification vote ... join us today!"

For information about becoming a member, log on to seiu1000.org and click the "join us" button.

Unit 4 Bargaining Team
Sophia Perkins, Chair DHCS
Karen Jefferies, Vice Chair DOJ
Deanna Jones, Alt. Vice Chair DMV
Eric Alcaraz CDCR
Estella Ambrose DMV
James Scott CDCR
Mindi Matsumoto DMV

To follow the work of Unit 4 and all contract negotiations, visit seiu1000.org/our-union-our-contract-our-future