

APR 11

2018

UNION UPDATE



Honoring the Chavez legacy with a commitment to keep up the fight



On Saturday, March 31, our members came together with the Sacramento community to celebrate the life of Cesar Chavez and his legacy as a fighter for social and economic justice.

At the 18th annual Cesar Chavez march, we joined in unity to honor the great labor leader and to remember that we are stronger together against the corrupt, big-business agenda that continues to create poverty while lining the pockets of the wealthy few who would strip unions of their power and strip immigrants of their rights.



“Our power is our members and our communities who will not just accept what is handed to us. We are prepared and ready to take to the streets if necessary to have a California we can all be proud of.”

—Yvonne R. Walker,
President, SEIU Local 1000

Unit 15 CalVet Members Fight and Win Unpaid Shoe Allowance

Our Unit 15 members at the Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) used their collective power to enforce our contract to require the state to make good on an unpaid safety footwear allowance—after not receiving their checks for more than a year.

Worksite health and safety was a key theme in our 2016 contract negotiations, and a priority for our Unit 15 members was an annual uniform replacement allowance of \$500 and an annual safety footwear allowance of \$100. You can read more about these allowances in article 12.11 of our contract.

For Unit 15 members, oil- and slip-resistant shoes are essential when working in potentially unsafe conditions. When the state failed to pay the footwear allowance, our members banded together and filed a grievance in late December 2017. Management responded on Feb. 1, and the payment is forthcoming.



“This is a great example of how having a strong union and a strong contract makes a difference. We projected our power to win this allowance and used it again to collect an unpaid debt.”

—Maria Patterson,
DGS, Stockton, Bargaining Unit 15 Chair



REMEMBERING DR. KING

Members join with community to rededicate themselves to the principles that still resonate 50 years after his death.

Fifty years ago, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called for a “revolution of values,” inviting people who had been divided to stand together for economic justice. People from diverse backgrounds throughout the United States responded by building a “Poor People’s March on Washington” in 1968 to demand a Marshall Plan for America’s poor.

In 2018, workers’ rights are still being jeopardized, and together with other labor unions, community and educational allies, our members gathered on April 4 in Fresno to honor his principles.

King was struck down in Memphis while helping low-wage sanitation workers fight for fair pay, safe working conditions and union recognition.

“Dr. King believed that labor unions were the way forward for all poor and people of color, and that still holds true today,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker.

President Walker was the keynote speaker at a symposium titled “Undoing Injustice,” and offered a timely reflection of Dr. King’s work on the Poor People’s Campaign, the civil rights movement and its impact on today’s labor movement.

“Fifty years after his assassination another attempt by billionaires and corporations to weaken unions is present in the Janus v. AFSCME case in front of the Supreme Court,” said Walker. “We’re in a war, and they are coming to take away our rights and our power.”

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