



Mario Gonzalez-Brito, OE3 Business Representative

Mario Brito brings over two decades of organizing and campaign experience to ACMEA. He spent the last three years as Business agent for CEMA (Santa Clara County Management Association) an OE3 Public Employee Division affiliate. While at CEMA he spearheaded the campaign bring CEMA's membership from below 1,400 to now over 1,700. He also introduced a budget engagement workshop to allow CEMA members to have an active role in the County budget process. In addition, he created a rapid text alert network and routinize the CEMA E-Blast to help keep OE3/CEMA's members informed and engaged.

His organizing career began at age 17 as a full time organizer with the United Farm Workers (UFW). It was with the UFW that he learned to be an organizer under the direction of such mentors as Pete Velasco, Dolores Huerta, David Martinez and Cesar Chavez. Shortly after joining the UFW, Cesar tapped him to lead his first strike of palmeros (date workers) at DOLE. In 1994, Mario ran the union's successful organizing campaign at Ocean View Produce. This was the first in a series of over a dozen election victories that UFW would win that year. He credits those formative experiences with preparing him for a life time of labor and social justice work.

Mario gains his working class perspective from his parents and family. His mother was an activist and his father was a rank and file United Steelworker member. Both taught him the value of hard work and collective action. Mario resides in Oakland with his wife Paulina, also a former UFW organizer, they are raising three children, a chocolate lab and a beagle together.

Of his 25 years in the labor movement, Mario is most proud of having developed hundreds of leaders, organizers, and activists. Mario believes much like his mentor Cesar did; "A good organizer has to work hard and long. There are no shortcuts. You just keep talking to people, working with them, sharing, exchanging and they come along."