Today, we met with Palomar and gave them our counterproposal on economics and staffing issues. Our proposals address the long-standing issues of short-staffing, lack of supplies and equipment, retention and recruitment of caregivers, in order to provide safe, quality patient care. In contrast, Palomar has made proposals that will drive workers away and make everything worse. In fact, their proposal from the previous bargaining session of only 0.75% once a year is insulting.

Palomar said that the step increases that everyone gets should be counted as a wage increase worth 2.28%. However, when we checked their math, it was wrong! CEO Bob Hemker was previously Palomar’s Chief Financial Officer. Why can’t they do the basic math about the value of their economic proposals. Either they can’t do the math or they aren’t being honest. Even with this incorrect math, their compensation proposal is less than the last contract, which was negotiated in our worst years economically. Of course, this poor financial situation was created by the executives vast overspending on the new hospital.

Once again, Palomar has all the articles in their hands. Like the RNs, we did agree to a tentative agreement on Article 11 – Discipline and Discharge. However, at this rate, it will take 16 more sessions to settle the contract. We made it clear that we want to settle this contract soon. If not, we told them we intend to escalate and provide the needed motivation.

CHEU negotiates again on July 10th.

ACTION STEPS:
• Attend these meetings. Bring your coworkers, family, friends, and neighbors. Palomar is their hospital too.
  o Monday, July 10, 6:30p – Board Meeting, Poway/Pomerado Third Floor Conference Room
  o Tuesday, July 18, 6p – Board HR Meeting, PMC Escondido, Raymond Conf. Rm. 2nd Floor
• From July 17-22, watch for a vote on CEO Bob Hemker’s Leadership. How do you think he’s doing?