Early Saturday morning, November 16, 2013 your CNA bargaining team reached a tentative agreement with the University of California (UC) for a new CNA-UC contract. The agreement is subject to ratification by membership votes at all medical center and student health center locations. Voting schedules for each location will be announced early this week. Full details will be available at the ratification vote.

This historic agreement provides for a single-tier pension formula for all UC nurses and beats back UC’s proposal for two-tier pension. As importantly, the agreement provides for single-tiered retiree health benefits for all current nurses. The 4-year contract ending on July 31, 2017 also provides 4 percent across-the-board (ATB) increases to all nurses statewide with the exception of UC Berkeley student health nurses, where nurses will receive 7 percent increases for 2014 and 2015 followed by 4 percent increases in 2016 and 2017. The wage raises provide for fair wage increases for all UC nurses despite increasing employee contributions to secure equal retirement for all UC nurses, current and new hires, in the year’s ahead.

All UC takeaways in this round of negotiations were also withdrawn in the tentative agreement, and several additional significant improvements were made in patient protection and in nurses’ rights.

We have withdrawn strike notice for Wednesday, November 20, 2013, but CNA nurses will still be supporting our AFSCME colleagues by picketing during lunches and breaks or on our day off. Our new contract for 2013-2017 is an important victory in the fight back of all working people in America to retire with dignity.

Patients are our Special Interest: 12,000 UC RNs will be heard!