Today was the 36th day of negotiations, and while it would be wonderful to announce that we had settled our contract, unfortunately that has not yet come to pass. Our fellow CNA members at Sutter Santa Rosa have just settled their contract with no take aways; it’s time for Sutter ABSMC management to get serious, bargain in good faith, and settle here.

Let’s review the bargaining thus far, utilizing standards with which we’re all familiar - something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue.

The “old” -- ABSMC’s take aways still on the table... Let’s highlight some of the takeaways that are now 9 months old:
- 20 - 30% cut in pay/ differentials
- Stripping us of sick time and reducing vacation and holidays
- Effective elimination of Paid Education Leave
- Health Care Takeaways
- Loss of benefits for .5 through .7 positions and elimination of weekend only positions
- Loss of weekends off for Nurses over 20 years
- Elimination of charge nurses from the bargaining unit.
- And many, many more.

The “new” -- Sutter wants to hold a special open enrollment for CNA and CHEU members only. They announced that they are going to switch the administrator of their health plans from BRMS to Towers Watson, their current pension consultant. Our current contract allows Sutter to change administrators, as long as benefits are not affected, but that does not require an open enrollment.

The “borrowed” -- Sutter has borrowed from their old rumor play book. Their shadowy subsidiary ACES has sent out an email saying that they are preparing for a strike occurring anytime from February 22 to the end of March. Your negotiating team has not discussed the possibility of another strike, but that has not stopped Sutter from spreading falsehoods as in the past- can you recall the Christmas sick-out rumor?

The “blue” -- Our future if we accept these devastating takeaways. Sutter sings the blues while Pat Frye enjoys a $4.7 million salary---up from $3.9 the year before---and the corporation rakes in billions of dollars in profits.

Every member of CNA and CHEU must remain committed and engaged in the struggle for the contract we deserve. Become involved, stay informed, and ignore Sutter’s lies.

Our next bargaining dates are February 21 and 22 and our next Joint Bargaining Council (JBC) meeting is Wednesday, February 15, at 6:00PM at CNA. As always, we will keep you updated on any developments. If you hear rumors, please check with your nurse reps and bargaining team members before believing what you’ve heard.

CNA Web Page: http://www.nationalnursesunited.org/affiliates/entry/sutter
CNA Hotline: (510) 433-2798