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A voice for nurses. A vision for healthcare.

## ***Sutter RNs United | Bargaining Update***

California Nurses Association

# OUR UNITY IS OUR STRENGTH

**A huge shout-out to the Sutter Nurses (and Techs at Alta Bates Summit) for their determination in fighting Sutter's attack on working conditions, professional standards, and community safeguards. The leadership shown by Bargaining Team RNs, FBC members, and Nurse Reps has been exemplary, and the strikes at Mills Peninsula, Alta Bates Summit, and Eden/San Leandro all showed excellent compliance. Below are some recent victories against Sutter outside of our picket line triumphs. Onward!**

**Marin General Hospital Wins \$21.5M Arbitration Award From Sutter :** Sutter has been ordered to pay back \$21.5 million to Marin General Hospital who accused Sutter of draining its reserves after the 2 entities agreed to sever ties. That amount represents only a portion of the \$180 M Sutter diverted to its corporate entity during the time it operated the hospital under a longterm lease. Despite the order to pay, Sutter unbelievably described the decision as exonerating them. See details at:

<http://nationalnursesunited.org/page/m/6c0b0cd2/ac52b0c/713f8a6c/16862fe2/2392464817/VEsE/>

**Sutter's Alta Bates Summit Fined for Negligence on Meningitis Case:** ABSMC was fined last week for its negligent failure to notify key agencies, employees, and other employers regarding a bacterial meningitis exposure--resulting in the permanent disabling of a Summit Respiratory Therapist, and a first responder (Oakland Police Officer). The Respiratory Therapist stated, "ABSMC needs to account for their failure in taking appropriate steps to protect me, my family, the police officer, and my co-workers. This is a small triumph for the huge price I paid in becoming permanently disabled." See SF Chronicle report:

<http://nationalnursesunited.org/page/m/6c0b0cd2/ac52b0c/713f8a6c/16862fe3/2392464817/VEsF/>

**Unfair Labor Practice Charges Filed by CNA Against Sutter Facilities:** Numerous charges have been found to have merit by the Labor Board at various locations:

- Unlawful elimination of shifts in the Emergency Dept. at ABSMC
- Unlawful scheduling changes in the NICU at ABSMC
- Unlawful unilateral changes in posting on bulletin boards
- Unlawful implementation of health plan changes at Mills Peninsula
- Unlawful change in policy regarding sick leave notification at Sutter Delta
- Unlawful scheduling change at Eden

- Unlawful failure to provide data to CNA in response to our requests for information
- Unlawful discipline of striking RNs at ABSMC in September 2011
- Unlawful lockout of RNs at ABSMC in the September 22, 2011 strike
- Unlawful withholding of information requested by CNA on the stolen records of Sutter Health patients, including HIPAA violations of CNA-represented RNs.

**Sutter CPMC's Own Financial Data Threatens Approval of Its SF Cathedral Hill Project:** At a SF City Hall hearing, attended by nurses from St. Lukes, CPMC, San Leandro Hospital, Mills Peninsula, and Marin General, nurses eloquently spoke about the need to hold Sutter accountable for maintaining healthcare services to the poorer segments of our communities. At this hearing, it was revealed in bombshell fashion that Sutter CPMC's own financial data could allow it to "escape" from its 20-year commitment to running St. Luke's Hospital, one of the dangers CNA has warned City officials about for a long time. This commitment has been part of an agreement that allows Sutter to build its enormous Cathedral Hill Hospital in SF. Later documents from a whistleblower showed CPMC's finances could allow them to "escape" in as little as 3 to 5 years. As such, it appears Sutter's SF project may be delayed yet again:

<http://nationalnursesunited.org/page/m/6c0b0cd2/ac52b0c/713f8a6c/16862fe0/2392464817/VEsC/>

**Berkeley City Council Meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>:** Nurses from Alta Bates Summit rallied and protested at the Berkeley City Council meeting over the issue of noise from the picket lines. Of late, the City Manager and the environmental department at the City of Berkeley have harassed nurses at the Ashby picket line over the level of noise from bullhorns and sound systems. At the May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup> strikes, a city worker measured throughout the day the decibel levels, and at different points, contacted the Berkeley Police Department to put a stop to our sound on the picket lines. It was revealed that written complaints to the city were written by managers at ABSMC. Nurses protested to city officials and expressed their outrage that city leaders would act on behalf of corporate management over the nurses' right to free speech. On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, without a sound permit, the harassment by city officials ceased!

**There are many avenues by which CNA has been actively working to protect its RN members (and CHEU Techs) in this contract campaign. As you can see, that fight extends far beyond the bargaining table. Your solidarity has been instrumental in keeping up this fight. We'll continue to keep you posted with our collective progress on the many and varied fronts!**

**Contact your Labor Reps for further information:**

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