Bargaining Update

During bargaining the last two days with Sutter, we addressed several topics, including the issue of workplace violence. Management presented information from their Safety and Security directors, claiming that they had everything under control. In response to questions about unauthorized after-hours visitors, for instance, management claimed that all nighttime visitors are required to wear badges, and that most instances of unauthorized visitors are caused by employees letting visitors in through side doors. We know that that is not true. They also claimed that there were only two Code Silver incidents last year (involving weapons or hostages) – one was an elderly dementia patient waving a butter knife, and the other was a knife that was spotted in a visitor’s purse. Ironically, shortly after the discussion in bargaining today, there was a Code Silver incident involving a gun and hostages, in the parking area just outside Alta Bates.

Our December strike was very successful, as we continue to pressure Sutter to drop their massive takeaways. Our fight continues, at the bargaining table and in the facilities.

There have been rumors about an upcoming strike – the facts are that a non-RN union that represents Kaiser workers has announced that they will be striking Kaiser hospitals on January 31. Kaiser RNs supported their strike last September, and plan to do so again. Although Sutter nurses will not be striking that day, we encourage nurses to show up at the Kaiser picket lines (7am-7pm) to show support, as they have showed support for our strikes.

Our next bargaining dates are January 25 and 26. As always, we will keep you updated on any developments. If you hear rumors about anything, please check with your nurse reps and bargaining team members before believing what you’ve heard or passing it along.