Same Story, Different Day

Sutter Health showed up today with no intention of bargaining; their “team” consisted of only two outside attorneys, and the Sutter East Bay HR Director. They again refused to provide any information to back up their claims of doom and gloom.

In his recent message to staff regarding the hospital’s proposal to replace sick leave with a short-term disability program, Chuck Prosper stated that “In my opinion, this proposed change benefits both parties.” Today in bargaining we offered to put that issue to a vote of all Alta Bates Summit RNs, and to be bound by the result – if the nurses prefer the short-term disability, we would accept it, and if the nurses prefer to keep their current sick leave, Sutter would withdraw their proposal. Without even checking with Chuck, Sutter’s attorney rejected our proposal. Who is calling the shots here? What are they afraid of?

Throughout this morning’s abbreviated “bargaining” session, Sutter repeated their doom and gloom mantra, trying to take advantage of the overall economic situation while ignoring the fact that they made over $300 million in profit the first quarter of this year. They tried to compare Sutter to the cities of Stockton, San Bernardino, and an unnamed city back east, showing only that Sutter’s reps can read newspapers.

Because the hospital continues to refuse to provide information or bargain on their proposals, tomorrow’s negotiations were cancelled. We are next scheduled to meet on July 25 and 26. Plan on attending and let your nurse negotiator know you are interested.

Please join us at membership meetings next Wednesday, July 18 at the Faith Presbyterian Church, 430 – 49th Street at Webster, Oakland. The times are 0730 to 0930, 1130 to 1300, or 1630 to 1830.

Check the CNA hotline (510-433-2798) for the latest information; stay strong and stay united.