

Hospital Workers at Sutter Solano Reach Tentative Agreement for Strong Contract

Agreement ensures staff retention and high standards for patient care

Vallejo, CA – Hospital workers at the Sutter Solano Medical Center will vote Thursday, December 3, 2009 to ratify a new contract that maintains high standards for patient care by retaining the facility's quality staff with 9.27% wage increases, compounded over the next three years, securing jobs with subcontracting protections, and protecting employer-paid health care.

"We provide quality service to our patients, and this contract will help ensure that we maintain the quality staff we need to continue serving our community, " said Tami Richmond, a medical records clerk at Sutter Solano. "We stood together and were able to push back on management to get what is important – a strong contract that protects employees and gives us job security so we can provide the best care."

Workers at the hospital, members of the Service Employees International Union, United Healthcare Workers – West (SEIU-UHW), have been without a contract for 18 months (June 2008).

"Quality patient care includes ensuring the safety of patients and staff and to do that you need to attract and retain the best staff," said Roschelle Pierce, a member of the bargaining team who works in environmental services at Sutter Solano. "We went into these negotiations united and working as a team and we got management to listen to us. Now, we have a fair contract with good wages and that does not raise health care costs, so we will keep the staff necessary to ensure quality patient care."

The agreement will cover approximately 200 members of SEIU-UHW who work at the Solano Medical Center in a variety of positions, including operating room technicians, certified nurse assistants (CNA's), certified phlebotomists and environmental services workers among others.