

QUEEN OF THE VALLEY: DENYING WORKERS A VOICE, THREATENING PATIENT CARE

The National Union of Healthcare Workers represents 420 employees at Queen of the Valley Medical Center, many of whom have worked there for decades. These caregivers voted to join our union last year to have a stronger say at their community hospital, whose out-of-town corporate managers had begun focusing more on profits than patient care.

However, instead of bargaining a contract to address chronic short-staffing and curb the outsourcing of full-time jobs, **The Queen's corporate executives have waged an unprecedented fight to overturn their workers' vote to unionize. After losing two appeals, they are now preparing to file a federal lawsuit in Washington, D.C. seeking to overturn the ruling of the National Labor Relations Board.**

The Queen's intransigence is not just an insult to its dedicated workers – it's an insult to democracy. Hospital executives say they want the election results tossed out because the federal government conducted it by mail. They claim that a legitimate election can only take place inside the hospital. This belies the fact that 90 percent of all eligible workers cast ballots in the vote-by-mail election and that 92.8 percent of Napans voted by mail last November. In fact, next year the county will conduct its elections almost exclusively by mail.

NUHW members' decisive vote to unionize was a principled stand by caregivers who have grown frustrated that their community hospital is now controlled by Providence St. Joseph, a massive healthcare conglomerate headquartered in Southern California and Washington State. **By refusing to give these workers a seat at the table, this hospital chain has laid bare its disregard for its caregivers, the patients they care for, and the community they call home.**

TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT PATIENT CARE

Please tell Queen of the Valley CEO Larry Coomes that it's unacceptable to keep wasting money on out-of-town lawyers, money that should be spent on patient care in this community. You can reach him by calling (707) 252-4411 and asking for Larry Coomes' secretary. Or email him at Larry.Coomes@stjoe.org.

For your convenience, here's a sample script:

"As a member of this community, I stand with our caregivers at Queen of the Valley. I am asking you to drop your frivolous lawsuit, recognize their union and bargain with them in good faith. Do the right thing, Larry."



For more information, contact
NUHW organizer Hilda Poulson at
(510) 214-6732 or hpoulson@nuhw.org.

