APRIL 2017

SALINAS VALLEY MEMORIAL

PAID SICK LEAVE GRIEVANCE GOES TO ARBITRATION

Earlier this year SVMH management proposed changes to our Paid Sick Leave policy. Our position is that if management wanted to make changes they should have proposed them during our recent contract negotiations. We have filed a grievance on this, but unfortunately both parties haven’t been able to come to a mutual agreement on the grievance. The matter is now going to arbitration since it could not be resolved in negotiations.

KITCHEN ROOM SERVICE CHANGE GOES LIVE END OF APRIL

The hospital is moving to the “Room Service” model to better serve our patients; this means going from a buffet style to an on-demand restaurant style service. Shop stewards Patty, Ernesto, Esther, and Rosie had a number of meetings in fall 2016 to oversee the development of the program. On March 28, these stewards met with management, heard about implementation dates, and reviewed a draft of the new room service menu.

NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED

NUHW welcomes Alfred Diaz-Infante, who was appointed by the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System Board of Directors to a position on the board, replacing Rafael Garcia who resigned. Diaz-Infante will fill this position until the next election in November 2018.

In a public statement Diaz-Infante says, “I’m grateful for this opportunity. I know my community well and am aware of its needs. I look forward to working with the other board members of this public healthcare district.”

A Salinas native, Diaz-Infante is currently the CEO of the non-profit Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association (CHISPA), the largest private, nonprofit housing developer based in Monterey County. He previously served as President of the Hartell College Foundation.

HAZEL HAWKINS MEMORIAL: CONTRACTS AVAILABLE SOON

The contract is now ready and will be going to print soon. Members can expect copies and a distribution date within the coming weeks.

VNA SANTA CRUZ: LABOR MANAGEMENT MEETING APRIL 26

We will meet with management for our regular monthly meeting on April 26 at 8:30 a.m. If you have any concerns that you’d like to add to the agenda, please let your stewards know.

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NUHW MEMBERS TAKE PART IN THE RESISTANCE

Throughout the state, scores of NUHW members are engaged in the resistance movement to defend working people, immigrants, and an equitable healthcare system.

NUHW members’ commitment was on full display at many town halls. At Congressmember Barbara Lee’s joint town hall with Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan, dozens of workers from UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland gathered with more than 500 Oakland residents to discuss the importance of retaining services and care through the Affordable Care Act. NUHW members also participated in Assemblymember Jim Wood’s town hall in Eureka and Congressmember Mike Thompson’s town hall in Napa. At these town halls, many participants provided powerful testimonials about their own experiences trying to navigate our complex and often problematic healthcare system.

NUHW members were also out in full force to defend our right to healthcare. Kaiser IBHS and Optical leaders joined hundreds of their neighbors at a community meeting at the Maidu Community Center in Roseville on March 26 to champion Medicare for All in the form of SB 562: The Healthy California Act. Introduced in February by state Senators Ricardo Lara and Toni Atkins, SB 562 would develop a single-payer Medicare for All system that would establish comprehensive and accessible healthcare for all Californians, regardless of employment or immigration status. NUHW is among a broad array of labor and community groups sponsoring the fight for the Healthy California Act.

For additional information, please contact NUHW Organizer Grant Joel Hill at (831) 521-8493 or ghill@nuhw.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

SVMH Membership Meeting
Wednesday, April 19
Every third Wednesday
4:30 – 6 p.m., Room CP-4

SVMH Steward Training
Saturday, May 27
9 – 11 a.m., room TBA
Learn about your rights in investigatory meetings (known as Weingarten rights), get an overview on the grievance process and how to handle meetings with management.

Hazel Hawkins Labor Management Meeting
Friday, April 7, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Steward Council Meeting
Thursday, April 13, 4 – 5:30 p.m.
Main hospital board room

SB 562 – rally in Sacramento
Wednesday, April 26
The single payer bill hits the senate committee floor. Rally at noon, then march to the Capitol for hearing. If you need a ride to Sacramento from our Emeryville office, please RSVP to Vanessa Coe at vcoe@nuhw.org.

May Day activities – Monday, May 1
Details forthcoming

SB 562 Lobby Day – Friday, May 19
Details forthcoming

Around the union

continued from front

Sterile processing techs at Napa’s Queen of the Valley organized their co-workers in other departments to join them in a march on the boss to address chronic understaffing and poor communications at the hospital. In their meeting with the hospital’s CEO, they outlined issues and asked management to take specific, concrete steps to resolve them. Management committed to deal with these staffing issues by hiring and strategically using more per diems, and to respond soon with a more thorough plan.

After a year of contentious bargaining, NUHW reached an agreement with Providence St. Joseph Health to add 49 outpatient imaging workers to our 700-member bargaining unit at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. The agreement includes placing workers on the existing union wage scale, which provides wage increases for both cost of living and experience. It also includes protections for workers who don’t complete the work of co-workers who call off or are floated to the hospital from their clinic. Finally, it includes a process that recognizes seniority for staffing during expanded weekend, evening, and holiday hours.

Patient care committee meetings are up and running at Kindred Hospital Brea and Kindred Hospital Westminster in Orange County. Committee members at both hospitals have been meeting regularly to address staffing issues and develop solutions. Both committees fought to re-implement interdepartmental huddles to address workload and other workplace issues.

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