



# NUHW NEWS AND VIEWS

Seton Medical Center • Seton Coastside

SEPTEMBER 2017

## AROUND THE UNION

Helping elect the next governor of California will be one of our top political priorities of 2018. NUHW stewards will hear from several of the candidates at our Leadership Conference in October and vote on our union's endorsement. The four leading Democratic candidates have responded to our questionnaire and their full responses are posted on our website, [NUHW.org](http://NUHW.org). Be sure to review and share them!

More than 50 treatment technicians, custodians, office assistants, and cooks at **Janus of Santa Cruz**, a nonprofit drug treatment center, voted overwhelmingly to join NUHW in August to improve working conditions, wages, and benefits.

NUHW's rapid growth in Santa Cruz continued a few weeks later when 98 physical, occupational, and speech therapists at **Dignity Health Dominican Hospital** voted to join our union. Workers organized to fight outsourcing and to improve working conditions.

More than 100 **Queen of the Valley** employees, neighbors, and allies, gathered August 25 for a vigil outside the hospital in Napa to urge management to improve working conditions and patient care. Workers voted to form a union last November. Instead of working with caregivers, the hospital withdrew recognition of the union and initiated a costly legal fight to overturn the election.

Nursing home workers formed picket lines at Brius Healthcare-owned **San Rafael Healthcare and Wellness Center** and **Novato Healthcare Center** on August 22 to defend free speech after Brius refused to settle contracts unless we take down our watchdog website, [BriusWatch.org](http://BriusWatch.org). Caregivers are leery of agreeing to take down the watchdog website when Brius continues to leave their facilities understaffed and under-resourced.

## WE BUILD OUR POWER THROUGH COPE

*John Ryan*

The new administration in Washington has been on a path to obliterate the Affordable Care Act. With uncertainty now about access to healthcare, and potential negative impact on caregivers, how do we “cope” with this landscape?

We have a strong contract thanks to the great support of our local leaders who stood up to Verity-Blue Mountain during a town hall meeting. We have political leaders who are willing to hold this company accountable to ensure that our hospital remains a community provider.

Now, in the new direction that Seton is heading with NantWorks and with the possibility that millions of Americans could lose medical insurance, our union needs a strong presence here locally, but also in Sacramento and Washington D.C.

Let's do more than just “cope” with these issues.

Politics is important to all of us, but to healthcare workers in particular, since government funds and regulates healthcare. Many of the issues that affect us are decided by elected leaders. And those elected office holders can help us in our own workplaces. You can contribute, even if you don't have time to phonebank or go to city council meetings.

Your union steward has sign-up sheets that allow you to make small contributions to our union's Committee On Political Education (COPE). The committee help us participate in politics — we interview candidates who run for office, coordinate voter registration programs and “get out the vote” activities, monitor legislation that affects us, and elect candidates who support our families and community.

**Join us in the COPE drive this month. Sign your sheet today — the healthcare you save may be your own. Contact Laura Watson or your union steward for more information on how to be a contributor and get involved!**



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Seton Coastside Labor-Management/Patient Care Meeting**  
Monday, September 18, 1-3 p.m.  
Solarium room, Coastside

**Seton Labor-Management/Patient Care Meeting**  
Thursday, September 21, 1-3 p.m.  
HR conference room, Seton

**NUHW-Seton Coastside General Membership Meetings**  
Wednesday, November 1, 7 a.m. and 2 p.m., Solarium room, Coastside

**NUHW-Seton General Membership Meetings**  
Thursday, November 9, 7a.m. and 2 p.m., CDR-2 cafeteria conference room, Seton

*For more information, please contact NUHW organizer Laura Watson at (510) 220-4578 or [lwatson@nuhw.org](mailto:lwatson@nuhw.org).*

