



NUHW NEWS AND VIEWS

UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland

APRIL 2019

NUHW WINS FOUR ORGANIZING ELECTIONS

In four separate elections, more than 120 healthcare workers voted to join NUHW.

The elections expand our growing presence at Keck Medicine of the University of Southern California and Marin General Hospital, where our members have already won strong contracts for our members.



At USC, our newest members include technicians at a sleep disorder center, licensed vocational nurses, medical assistants and clerical workers at an internal medicine clinic and call center workers.

At Marin General, 28 pharmacy and medical technicians voted to form a union with us. They voted to join NUHW, at the same time our members at the hospital were putting the final touches on a new contract that will boost average wages by more than 30 percent over the next five years.

"These organizing victories demonstrate that workers in our facilities recognize that we can empower them to have a voice in their workplaces and win good contracts that improve their lives and safeguard patient care," NUHW President Sal Rosselli said.

CHILDREN'S TERMINATES EVS CONTRACT; WILL DIRECTLY MANAGE DEPARTMENT

As a result of our united front, management is terminating Children's contract with Crothall Healthcare, the outside management firm that spearheaded the failed EVS Rebid.



Starting in June, Children's will once again directly manage its EVS operations. Management first contracted with Crothall in 2017, convinced it could save money by shedding workers, but just a few months after the Rebid, it's clear that the hospital is dirtier than ever.

Crothall's departure is a testament to our determination and solidarity. We knew what our hospital needed, and we kept up with the fight, even when hospital management continued to believe Crothall over the very workers who keep this hospital clean day in and day out.

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TALKING SHOP AT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS



Each bargaining unit is holding a general membership meeting this spring to review recent developments and build solidarity. Service & Tech kicked us off with the first meeting on March 16, discussing strategy to encourage coworkers involved and build more power leading into bargaining next year. The Professionals had their meeting on March 26, when more 50 people came to learn more about everything we won in our contract. Business Office Clerical members will hold their general membership meeting on April 27. Ask your Steward for all the details.

VICTORY FOR THE INTERPRETERS— NO SUBCONTRACTING!

For years, the hospital has been subcontracting interpreter services to outside companies that do not provide the same quality of interpretation and care as our hospital interpreters. Subcontracting out such a vital service harms our patients, their families, and the reputation of our hospital. We knew we had to do something to stop the subcontracting, so we filed a grievance.



A year after we filed, we finally won. We mobilized our co-workers, remained united, moved a petition, and demanded the quality interpretation that our patients and their families deserve. As a result, the hospital is going to hire more interpreters and provide interpretation in Spanish, Mam, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Arabic. This is a huge win, and we did it by staying strong and fighting for what is right.

PHARMACY WORKERS MARCH ON MANAGEMENT FOR PATIENT SAFETY

Pharmacists and pharmacy techs delivered a petition to UCSF President Dr. Michael Anderson demanding safeguards for patients on the new Children's Hospital floor at Summit Medical Center.



The petition was signed by 95 percent of the department and delivered to management on March 21. At issue is the hospital's proposal that only one pharmacist works at the Summit pharmacy per shift, without a pharmacy tech or any other staff to double-check prescriptions.

We are committed to making sure pediatric patients at Summit get the same quality care and have the same quality control safeguards that exist at Children's Hospital.

EVS CONTRACT

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Management had to back down when 1,400 workers, including doctors and nurses, signed a petition, demanding that no EVS workers lose their benefits from the rebid. Following the rebid, we've been documenting every instance in which sections of the hospital have not been satisfactorily cleaned.

During our first rebid meeting, dozens of EVS workers testified about assignments that were too much for anyone to do in a single shift. Now Crothall is on its way out.

With Crothall departing, we have to keep the pressure on management until they increase staffing and assign reasonable workloads so our hospital is clean and safe for our patients.



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