Our bargaining committee met with Kaiser management for the third time on September 25. We presented complete proposals on four Articles in the contract, covering issues such as subcontracting, overtime, and posting and filling positions. We have presented complete proposals on 24 of 29 articles on the contract so far.

For the first time, Kaiser brought a handful of proposals for us. Five of the six were related to paid leave, which would for the most part further restrict workers’ ability to access their contractually guaranteed time off. For example, under their proposal, transferring employees would not be guaranteed their pre-approved vacation.

We were bargaining on the day that the Coalition unions settled their contract with Kaiser, a contract that maintains $5 co-pays and the defined benefit pension for all employees. We urged management to extend the same benefits to its Optical workers.