

Speak Out Now in Healthcare

A workplace newsletter for Highland and Kaiser workers

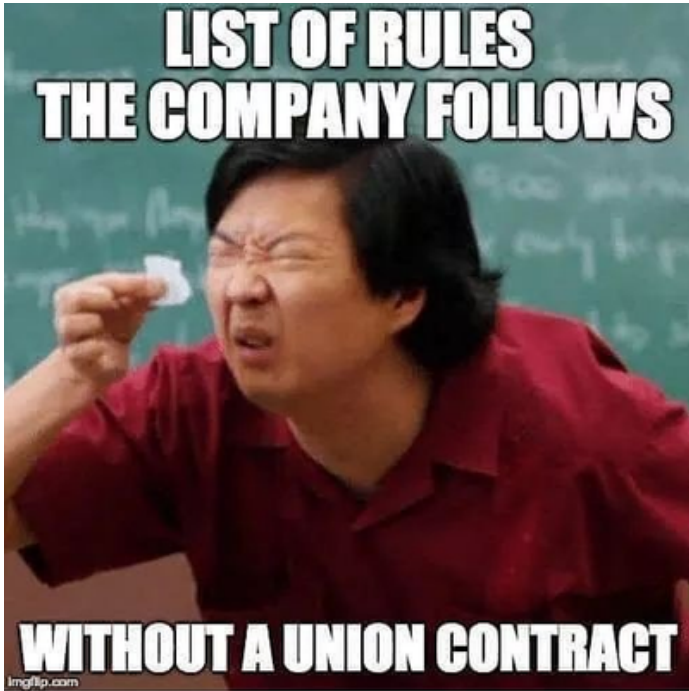
March 26th, 2024

Engineers STILL Working With No Contract

If you look up the Kaiser engineers' contract on the web, you'll find little to no information. The engineers' union, Local 39, has no updates on its website. Kaiser Permanente's website has an update, but it's dated January 31, 2024.

What do we know? The 700 stationary engineers at 24 Northern California hospitals went on strike for 90 days, and ended their strike on December 18, 2022. Officials of the IUOE Stationary Engineers Local 39 told Kaiser the engineers would return to work unconditionally while negotiations continue.

It is March 2024 and there's still no settlement. Local 39 and the Kaiser bosses were at the bargaining table again this spring, and came to a tentative agreement. Kaiser offered a 27% raise over a 6 year period. But Kaiser's salary proposal does not match the Building Owners Managers Association (BOMA) standard, which provides certification for a specific salary and work quality standards for engineers. Local 39 members rejected the agreement, and now the union and the hospital are back at the bargaining table.



Follow the QR code to the right for more resources on Palestine



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No Support for Genocide Joe!

Some members of SEIU are feeling skeeved out about our union announcing it will shell out \$200 million in the upcoming election and endorse Joe Biden for president. The ick is real - why should our dues help pay to elect a president who is supporting a genocide against the Palestinian people?

Some are calling on SEIU to rescind their endorsement, unless Biden demands an immediate ceasefire, stops sending weapons to Israel, restores UNWRA funding, and demands an end to the occupation of Palestine. All highly unlikely given his ongoing support for Israel.

So what is the alternative to Biden? Certainly not Trump, with his racist, sexist, anti-immigrant attitudes. And a third party vote is essentially a protest vote.

Which leaves us to ask - why are these our options? Both the Democrats and the Republicans represent the interests of the wealthy elite, not regular working people. Regardless of who's been in office, we've seen our wages stagnate and social services defunded, while billionaires get larger tax cuts.

The problem is not who is in the presidential seat, but the whole system itself. We have a government of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich. We need a new system that is run by working people, for working people.

So we should absolutely tell SEIU we do not support our funds endorsing Biden. Not just because of his support of genocide, but because he is a defender of this capitalist system!

Theft at the Parking Lot

Over the past few weeks, the Kaiser parking lot has been the setting for more thefts. Two weeks ago a nurse's car was stolen in the parking lot right before her very eyes. And if we remember well, just weeks ago Kaiser released a statement suggesting workers at the downtown office not go outside the building during lunch in response to such crimes.

But the real crime is that while we are trapped at work making a pittance of a wage compared to Kaiser's profits, we can't even expect that our belongings will be safe. This is the last thing we need to worry about while working on the job!

We're taking a break!

We'll return the week of April 9th

IG: @sonsocialists

