

Speak Out Now at Kaiser

A workplace newsletter for Kaiser Oakland workers

December 9th, 2025

“Shout Out” to the Parking Attendants and Shuttle Drivers!

Being a parking attendant at Kaiser is not an easy job. It means long hours on your feet, especially now in the winter time when it has gotten really cold outside.

It also means dealing with a lot of different situations. One day, someone's car battery might die in the “horseshoe,” causing major disruption to traffic flows. Another day, it may mean having to deal with an unsafe situation in one of the parking garages. And it always means dealing with patients and their families with grace and respect. Even if some of them may be stressed and act rudely when asking for directions or how to pay.

The same goes for shuttle drivers. They are essential for Kaiser's functioning, helping get people to and from the different buildings and from the BART station. They do their job professionally and with a smile, navigating the different crazy drivers we sometimes see in Oakland and people double-parking in front of Kaiser or the BART station.

Parking attendants and shuttle drivers at Kaiser deserve a “shout out” for their important work. But will they get the respect they deserve in their upcoming contract negotiations?

Who is Running the Show?

At Kaiser, there is no doubt who is responsible for “running the show.” While some workers and departments may have managers and supervisors that are more “hands on” than others, it's clear that it is the workers and not the managers that make Kaiser Oakland run.

When workers take a step back to analyze how Kaiser works, it can be kind of confusing to understand who is really making decisions about how resources are allocated given Kaiser's hybrid non-profit/for-profit structure. This is also confusing during bargaining.

But at the end of the day, whenever there is a strike, Kaiser suddenly has money to pay through the nose for replacement workers, and drag their feet in negotiations. For all the confusion, one thing is clear: they won't give workers what they want without a fight!



One Job Should Be Enough!

A long time ago, there were major labor campaigns where workers won the right to an eight-hour day. That victory came from the belief that everyone should have time to rest and enjoy life beyond work. But for many workers in the Bay Area it feels like we are slowly losing that right. Whether it's low wages, lack of benefits, enforced part-time work, or the high cost of living, too many of us end up having to work two or more jobs to survive. The hours across jobs add up, and effectively for many, that end up meaning working far more than eight hours a day, sometimes with no real break between weekdays and weekends and with no overtime benefits. The time left to live our lives becomes even smaller when we factor in the hours spent commuting to and from work—and between jobs.

At the end of the day, this situation only benefits employers, who save money by keeping people in part-time positions to avoid offering benefits, or by keeping us too exhausted to fight for better conditions for ourselves and others.

But it doesn't have to be this way! If people in the past were able to win such meaningful gains, we can too. We can unite with our coworkers to demand higher wages, benefits for workers with fewer than full-time hours, and—why not?—a six-hour day for everyone across the board.

SAVE THE DATE

Sat.
12/13
DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM
EVENT STARTS AT 6:30 PM

SPEAK OUT
HOLIDAY POTLUCK
Bring a dish to share!

Music, political discussions, crafts

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\$5 Donation

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