

We Know What's Right

We heard that negotiations will take place again on Sept 16th, 24th, and 25th, but what we don't know is where the bargaining team has drawn the line in the sand. Is it outsourcing? Wages? Retiree benefits?

No matter what we expect Kaiser to propose during the upcoming negotiations, we know what is right. We should not fear for our jobs being outsourced when Kaiser can afford to pay us all. We should not be begging for a raise when they can afford millions for their CEO. And lastly, we should not have to worry about our benefits after retirement when we have given decades of our lives to producing Kaiser's billions in profits.

Clear Demands

During recent negotiations, both SEIU-UHW and Kaiser have mentioned the "Workforce of the Future." This proposal is a \$40 million sum that will be allocated for a "Workforce Development Fund." This fund would be used for training on new healthcare technologies.

But a lot is left unclear. First of all, given that Kaiser has expressed clear intentions to outsource many positions, would the people trained be guaranteed a job at Kaiser with equal pay to current workers' wages? And what would these workers be paid during training?

Until we know the answers to these questions it sounds very suspicious that this is just another Kaiser scheme to save money by creating a two-tier wage system.

Kaiser's Foul Fact of the Week

One year of Kaiser's CEO's salary, \$16 million, is enough to pay for 280 Medical Assistant positions. Who could we live without?

Speak Out Now Forum
The Climate Emergency

Climate scientists have warned us that we are facing a planetary emergency which threatens the survival of most species on the planet. Our only hope is to organize to overturn their entire system of destruction. Join us for a presentation and discussion.

Saturday, September 28th, 2019, 7pm
South Berkeley Senior Center
\$5 admission
(No one turned away for lack of funds)

Celebrating the Profits Workers Make

Arlene Peasnell (Senior VP of HR at Kaiser) recently put out a statement entitled "Celebrating the People Who Power Kaiser." She claimed Kaiser supports the workers through its wonderful labor-management partnership and celebrated how great UBTs are at giving workers a voice in the workplace.

There's nothing that celebrates workers in her statement. We all know the labor management partnership is just a partnership where management tries to tell us what to do. And are we allowed to have a voice in UBTs? Yes, as long as we don't talk about real problems in the department like understaffing and work flows with increasing task lists. If Kaiser really wanted to celebrate workers, they wouldn't be sitting on record amounts of money while trying to increase our co-pays, and cut the wages and benefits of new hires.

Healthcare House of Horrors

Recently, at SF General hospital, psychiatric patients started being forced to sit upright in chairs programmed not to recline for almost 16 hours a day. This "vertical treatment" strategy was created to keep patients awake and shorten their stay in the ER, since the number of patients seen in the city has increased dramatically in the past four years.

Clinics like these are often the only safe space for those going through a crisis, where patients can get treatment, or even a place to sleep.

Hospitals are where you see some of the biggest problems in a society: homelessness, substance abuse, chronic illnesses, and even malnutrition. These are all reflections of the unequal economic system we live under, and responsibility for them should not fall on the shoulders of only a few healthcare workers.

