



Optical Chapter Bargaining Update

(April 18, 2012 Session)

At the table. We showed Kaiser representatives a glossy mailer that SEIU had sent to our members, wherein SEIU claims they have reached a contract agreement with Kaiser, purportedly without takeaways, covering about 500 IT workers. We asked if this was true and if so, would Kaiser be withdrawing its takeaway proposals to us. The chief negotiator for Kaiser denied knowledge of the terms of the agreement and said he would not go out of his way to find out for us. However, he did say he would respond to our written information request and provide copies of the tentative agreement once the IT contract was ratified. If it is true this agreement contains no takeaways, then there is no reason for Kaiser to continue to push its takeaway proposals on us. It is more likely, however, that SEIU's agreement is "less than it seems", to quote a top Kaiser official from Southern California. In this case, we will need to continue to push back, both at the bargaining table and publicly. During this bargaining, we also presented proposals on seven sections of the contract and a counter proposal on the one section the Employer had made a proposal. We had much productive discussion and believe we will soon have tentative agreements on Employee Classifications, Vacancies/Transfers/Job Postings, Lead Differentials, Performance Evaluations and Union Bulletin Boards.

In the facilities. Because the outcome of SEIU bargaining could significantly impact our ability to win a fair contract, we need to help educate our co-workers who are currently represented by SEIU. Kaiser is intent on extracting benefit takeaways from all of its employees and SEIU is doing nothing to prepare its members to fight. Rather, SEIU's message is that workers need to get healthy if they want to keep their benefits and if they don't, it's their fault. We need to encourage our SEIU co-workers to JUST SAY NO to Kaiser and SEIU and not accept any takeaways.

We must all stand united to win a fair contract!

The NUHW Bargaining Committee: Michael Nelson, Sonia Askew, Sonia Minor, Gloria Villasenor, Jonathan Moore, Otto Pimentel, Elvia Plata, Daniel Torres, Mario Pineda, Toni Gianti and Dan Egan

Our next bargaining sessions will be Wednesday, May 30, 2012 and Thursday, May 31, 2012, both at 9:00 a.m., location yet to be determined. Members are welcome to attend. Please let your steward or a bargaining team member know if you wish to attend.