



For Local 8 Members at Samaritan Healthcare

February 11, 2021

Thank you to all who could join our meeting on Tuesday night! There were lots of great questions asked and we were able to make a plan moving forward.

Below are some of the questions answered at the meeting:

Q: What does it mean that Samaritan did not approve an extension of our contract? Do we not have a contract now?

A: By law your Union Contract is valid for one year after it has expired, so your current contract is in force through January 31, 2022. The greatest impact we feel from them not allowing for another extension is a complete lack of respect. When you voted to extend the contract this spring, you showed Samaritan respect and understanding when we agreed to delay the start of negotiations due to the EPIC roll-out. Samaritan is not showing any level of respect for you, the work you do, and your wages/benefits/working conditions outlined in your Union Contract.

Q: How many dues paying members do we currently have?

A: Currently about 50% of your membership are dues paying members. This percentage is far too low and we all need to work together to strengthen and increase membership in the

Union. Samaritan is not taking your group seriously because your membership is low, and they do not feel there is strength and unity in your group. We need to prove them wrong and show them that you are UNITED and STRONG.

Q: Is the reason they are trying to lower our EIB that the hospital is hurting financially?

A: When looking at fiscal reports we see that the EIB line item is listed as a liability. That leaves us to assume that they want to lower that liability by lowering the EIB balances.

Q: Will we end up losing EIB hours?

A: We have not agreed to any of the proposals at this point. What is currently being offered would not reduce the number of hours you currently have but would reduce how many hours you are able to accrue in the future. In our last proposal to them we proposed to accept their proposed change to EIB but add another level of PTO accrual for all employees. Samaritan rejected that proposal and stated that they had no interest in offering an increase for any type of leave above what is currently offered.

Q: Can we talk to our co-workers about union activities while we are working?

A: You can talk to your co-workers before or after your shifts or while you are both on break. Please refrain from talking to co-workers while you are in pay status.

Q: Why are we not going on strike?

A: We are working together to create a multistep plan with you all. Our first steps in this process are listed below. I do believe that our actions will lead us to a natural progression of having Informational Pickets and Media coverage, but we need to lay the groundwork right now to strengthen and unify your group.

Next Steps

Sign the Unity Pledge — this pledge will be shared with the Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership. This pledge is very important to send a message that you are UNIFIED and deserve RESPECT!!!!

[Sign the Unity Pledge online](#)

The Unity Pledge is also available for you to sign in person. Several of your co-workers are on the Contract Action Team and will have hard copies of the Pledge and will be reaching out for signatures.

Wear Union stickers and masks — Show your support for your union! Thursday, February 18th I will be hand-delivering stickers, masks, and the Unity Pledge to each work location. I will also be in the Hospital Cafeteria from 12-3 to hand these things out, meet with anyone who has questions or concerns, and have Membership Applications for folks to fill out who have not joined the Union yet.

Membership Drive — Please join the Union and become a Dues Paying Member if you have not done so yet. If you are a Dues Paying Member, please encourage your co-workers to do the same!

[Sign up online](#)

Connect with your Contract Action Team

(These are volunteers to assist with handing out information, get the unity Pledge signed, and point of contact for me to deliver various things to throughout this process)

Dorinda Gardener	Ceairra Grey	Pamela Akerman
Alex DeLeon	Jennifer Mc Mann	Marcy Alvarez
Pamela Truman	Jennifer Nelson	Susie Soto
Moses Yanez	Tammi Forrest-Brown	Michelle Schmidt
Teresa Gonzalez		

Questions? Contact your Union Representative Angie Wedekind, 206-441-8880 ext. 122 or angie@opeiu8.org

Want to stay informed about union negotiations, meetings, and actions in your workplace?

Text **Local 8** to **97779** to receive text updates.

It will prompt you to let us know your name and where you work to make sure you get the right updates. (Message and data rates may apply)



OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 8
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