

Union ★
Update

OPEIU
Local



For Local 8 Members at Cascade Regional Blood Services

May 4, 2022

Bargaining Update

So, you all got an email today from Chris Swinehart, CEO of Cascade Regional Blood Services regarding the current negotiations for the Union Contract.

In her communication, your CEO stated that we've been bargaining for four months. Well, that's not exactly accurate. We did bargain in November and December, but they were not available to meet at all in the months of January and February so in reality, we have had exactly 7 sessions – one in November, one in December, three in March and one in April.

We did make good early progress in reaching agreement on medical benefits for 2022 and agreeing to look at more affordable plans for 2023. We have also reached tentative agreement on a few language changes to the contract, but we are still very much apart on wages.

The Employer sent you their proposed wage increases but what they don't really explain is that they are proposing that the wages become effective upon ratification of any tentative agreement not on January 1 so no back pay for the two months that they were not available to meet for bargaining. And with their proposal is for no wage increases in any subsequent years of the agreement. Their proposal would also mean several current employees would not see any increase in base wages throughout the life of the agreement.

- The Union has proposed that no job classification makes less than \$18.00 base rate.
- The Union has proposed a fair percentage increase to base rate of pay effective 1/1/2023.
- The Union has proposed another fair percentage increase to base rate of pay effective 1/1/2024.
- The Union has proposed to increase longevity rates and add more longevity steps
- The Union has proposed to increase vacation accrual with it being earned on a pay period basis.

The employer fails to take into account any future increases in the cost of living and their inability to recruit and retain employees. Their proposal to “front-load” increase actually decreases your wages over the term of the contract.

Your bargaining team, Bridget Hack, Roger Simmons and Jordan Cox, will be responding to the employer’s last proposal with a counter proposal that addresses the values that you have made clear you want – fair and competitive wages and benefits.

Thanks for your support.

Bridget Hack, Roger Simmons and Jordan Cox

