

April 21, 2023

Union ★
Update

OPEIU
Local



for OPEIU Local 8 members at Kaiser Permanente/Washington



COALITION OF
KAISER PERMANENTE
UNIONS

National Bargaining Kicks Off in Oakland

Earlier this week we had our first session of bargaining for our National Contract in Oakland, California. Hundreds of Coalition members from across the country were in attendance, along with numerous executives and management from various KP Markets. Unfortunately, our CEO Greg Adams was not in attendance, but did join briefly to share some thoughts and opening remarks via Zoom/Teams.

During our first 3-day bargaining session we focused on our staffing crisis and the effect that it has on not only our patients' care, but the physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing of the KP employees who work together to provide that care. This included open discussions, data analysis, and even a video message to KP from our Coalition staff explaining how severe the staffing situation is, across all regions.

From these talks, the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions presented a challenge to KP management to hire 10,000 **new** Coalition employees by the end of 2023. Management accepted that challenge! A team made up of both Coalition and management is being formed to focus on this task. Together they will work to identify inefficiencies in the hiring process while removing structural barriers to hiring new employees. Additionally, they will focus on reducing the amount of agency/contract workers as well as reducing the overall time required to fill vacant positions. This group will report back on their progress at the next bargaining session on May 16.

We still have a lot of work to do, but this was a good first step toward securing a new National Contract that all Coalition members can be proud of. Our next bargaining session will be May 16 – 18 in Los Angeles, and we will continue to send updates as the sessions progress. Your Bargaining Team – **Paul Bender** (PVU/Labor Liaison), **Bobbie Pringle** (PFS), **Kenyatta McDowell** (PAR/PCAC), **Brenda Huffman** (PAR/Cap Hill), **Marissa Wilson** (PAR/PCAC), **Misha Smith** (Membership Rep V) and **Lynda Bates** (PAR/PCAC) along with Suzanne Mode and Leslie Liddle are ready to tackle the most important issues at the National Table to address wages and the partnership.

[Click here to view our video message](#) from the Coalition to KP management. (A special shout out to our very own Local 8's Terry Kohler for contributing to this emotional and impactful message).

[Check out the Coalition's official update here.](#)

Your Bargaining Team:



Back row, Left to right: Marissa Wilson, Paul Bender, Brenda Huffman, Suzanne Mode, Lynda Bates

Front row, Left to right: Kenyatta McDowell, Bobbie Pringle, Misha Smith, Leslie Liddle

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