

Union ★
Update

OPEIU
Local



For Local 8 Members at Samaritan Healthcare

August 3, 2023

Bargaining Update

“As negotiations move forward, I have to wonder if Samaritan is willing to live up to their values of ‘Listen’ and ‘Respect’. I was assuming that these values were not only for the community that we serve, but also for the employees as well. Responses from Samaritan (management) seem disingenuous and one can only hope that if they are serious about improving employee perspectives about the work environment, that they meet us with open minds and (a) willingness to (create) change for a better Samaritan culture”.

We met with Management on **July 25th** for an all-day session and on **July 31st** for a short session. We have made some movement and have reached a tentative agreement on some of our non-economic proposals.

We are working to address changes to the wage scale to make it fair and consistent for all Samaritan employees. Management presented their proposal for the new wage scale. While we are in agreement in theory about how the wage scale should look, we could not agree on how the across-the-board increases impacted the scale.

We are continuing to fight to ensure that the scale is fair, that every Samaritan employee receives a cost of living adjustment that is commensurate of the hard work and dedication that we give, and that the attendance policy that is flexible and non-punitive.

We meet again with Management on **August 28th**. We encourage you to continue talking with your coworkers about the issues that are important. **United we bargain, divided we beg!**

We are continuing to ensure that our bargaining priorities are front and center. We meet again with Management on **July 25**.

Quotes from our bargaining team:

“The last bargaining meeting was nothing what I expected, I feel the employees at Samaritan are not valued and they say they are listening to what the employees are asking for but clearly there not”.

“I feel that negotiation are tenuous and things are being negotiated this contract and last contract that should not brought to the bargaining table”.

“On the last bargaining meeting I didn’t feel heard (by management). We get told that Samaritan listens to our concerns but their actions show otherwise. Our voices need to be heard so better things can happen in the organization”.

“Most of their proposals are punitive to employees. This shows their (management) refusal to make this organization a better place to work. The culture they want is of a dictatorship not a culture of compassion and of quality of care”.

Union Bargaining Team: Marcelina Alvarez - ER, Nyki Burnham – Respiratory Therapy, Alex DeLeon – MRI, Ana Dircio Gutierrez – Pediatrics, Dorinda Gardner – Central Services, Daniel Luna Garcia – Laboratory, Shailah Meza – Family Medicine, Mona Moreno – Plant Services, Stacey Vander Vloedt – Diagnostic Imaging

Contract Action Team: Pam Akerman – Diagnostic Imaging, Analilia Beltran - ICU, Tamii Brown-Frost – Diagnostic Imaging, Jason Burnham – Respiratory Therapy, Teresa Gonzalez – Patient Financial Services, Belem Lemus – Environmental Services, Breanna Olive – Laboratory, Alona O’Toole – ER, Aracelli Ramos – Med Surg Unit, Jamie Vienhage – Health Information Management

If you are interested in joining the Contract Action Team, please contact organizer Omar Cuevas Vega, omar@opeiu8.org 206-441-8880 ext. 116.

If you have any questions, please contact Angie Wedekind, Union Representative, angie@opeiu8.org, 206-441-8880 ext. 122.



OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 8

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