Another $1 billion quarter for Kaiser

Bargaining Update #7 – Aug. 8, 2017

Consistent with the CNA Bargaining Team’s goals of enhancing patient care and improving staffing, CNA made a proposal today to significantly strengthen the implementation of the GRASP system. The proposal was reinforced by two presentations from CNA Nurse Negotiators. The first presentation focused on the reasons Kaiser originally adopted GRASP and how GRASP, if implemented properly, can provide nurses a voice in staffing decisions. The second presentation discussed Kaiser’s unwarranted and unilateral changes to GRASP and their negative impact on patient care, as well as noting the very clear connection between insufficient staffing, workplace violence, and workplace safety.

As we’ve discussed before, CNA RNs/NPs have contributed significantly to Kaiser’s success. On Friday, Kaiser released its quarterly earnings and reported another $1 billion in profits. In recognition of RNs/NPs important contributions, CNA made a proposal to enhance nurses’ retirement benefit by increasing the pension multiplier.

Despite earning $1 billion in profits, Kaiser rejected CNA’s proposal to return active medical benefits to the pre-2017 level, i.e. $5 co-pays, and stated they were not interested in any further discussion of that issue. As this remains a priority for RNs/NPs, we will continue to advocate for this and encourage Kaiser to reconsider its position.

The parties had useful and educational exchanges regarding side letters and appendices. CNA agreed to the deletion of one appendix that was dated and no longer relevant. We then discussed why other appendices and side letters remain relevant. Our next bargaining session is scheduled for Thursday, August 10.