



Alameda Hospital Workers Win New Contract

Over 3 Years, Pay to Increase 18 Percent

SEIU UHW members at Alameda Hospital near Oakland today ratified a new three-year contract, retroactive to April 2008. The new agreement covers nearly 130 workers and contains across-the-board wage increases of 18 percent. It won overwhelming approval, with more than 80 percent of ballots marked "yes." Workers voting "yes" also represent an outright majority of the bargaining unit.



Annie Daniels (back) joins Alameda Hospital workers Edith Dimalanta (left) and Lyn Marie Malacapo in cheering a new contract.

Members cheered the new contract as a hard-won protection at a time when more than 2 million Californians are out of work. They challenged fellow members of SEIU UHW working under open or expired contracts to follow suit. Having fended off attempts to divide their unit, they called their victory a direct result of focus and unity.

"This drive at Alameda Hospital was a true demonstration of member-driven negotiation. We stayed committed and united against all distractions," said Rex Dizon, a surgical porter, union steward, and bargaining team member at Alameda. "Our membership is amazing. Our unity and support for the bargaining team made all the difference. **Our victory is an example of what all UHW members can continue to win by coming together and focusing on what's really important to us and our families.**"

The new contract also contains improvements in retirement pay and shift differentials, respect for seniority in scheduling, and limits on how management can use letters placed in a worker's personnel file. It comes nearly a year after the expiration of the previous agreement.

"Our unity and backing from our entire union family got us over the goal line," said Annie Daniels, a member of the bargaining team and a longtime diet aide who recently retired from Alameda after 39 years. "We won a fair contract with new language on discipline and cancellation. And we won wage increases of 18 percent that I believe are the highest in the history of the hospital."



Rex Dizon is a bargaining team member at Alameda Hospital.

More info at www.seiu-uhw.org