



Sutter workers ratify contract

Posted: 12/08/2009 01:15:19 AM PST

Sutter Solano Medical Center's hospital workers have voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new contract, union officials announced Monday.

The 126-9 vote, taken Friday, secures a new contract that union officials say "maintains high standards for patient care by retaining the facility's quality staff with 9.27 percent wage increases, compounded over the next three years, securing jobs with subcontracting protections and protecting employer-paid health care."

Sutter spokesman Russell "Sy" Neilson said hospital officials are "pleased with the outcome."

Sutter Solano's Service Employees International Union, United Healthcare Workers-West (SEIU-UHW) members have been without a contract since June 2008. It represents about 200 Sutter Solano employees who fill a variety of positions, including operating room technicians, certified nurse assistants, certified phlebotomists and environmental services workers, union officials said.

"We stood together and were able to push back on management to get what is important -- a strong contract that protects employees and gives us job security so we can provide the best care," said Tami Richmond, a medical records clerk at Sutter Solano.

Link to article: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_13950126?IADID=Search-www.timesheraldonline.com-www.timesheraldonline.com