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California nurses union wins first Nevada vote

East Bay Business Times - by [Chris Rauber](#)

Registered nurses at [Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center](#) in Reno voted Thursday night to join the [California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee](#), one of the nation's feistiest and fastest growing labor unions, the Oakland-based CNA said Friday.

The vote was 252 to 141 in a secret ballot election supervised by the National Labor Relations Board, according to the CNA, which said it will begin representing 500 nurses at the hospital, part of the San Francisco-based [Catholic Healthcare West](#) hospital system. The union says it now represents more than 10,000 RNs at 26 CHW hospitals.

The CNA/NNOC has grown by more than 350 percent in the past decade, it said, and won elections to represent 24,500 RNs at 72 hospitals since 2001. It now has more than 75,000 members in all 50 states, although only about 65,000 are represented in contract negotiations, according to spokesman Chuck Idelson.

Nevada has become the fourth state, joining California, Illinois, and Maine, where the CNA/NNOC represents RNs in collective bargaining. Executive Director Rose Ann DeMoro predicted the Dec. 6 vote "will be the harbinger of more victories to come in the state, where there is a booming interest in CNA/NNOC."