



For Immediate Release  
September 24, 2007

## **Sutter Nurses Step up the Fight: 10-Hospital RN Delegation to CEO Pat Fry will deliver nurse pledges to strike if patient care issues not resolved**

*Tuesday Sept. 25 11:00 a.m. –Sacramento*

A delegation of registered nurses representing 10 Northern California Sutter Health hospitals who are currently in bargaining will present to Sutter CEO Pat Fry cards signed by a vast majority of the 4,200 RNs, pledging to strike if key issues of patient care and healthcare coverage are not resolved soon.

RN delegations have delivered copies of the cards to the CEOs of their individual hospitals over the last two weeks. This latest action is an attempt by the CNA Sutter nurses to demonstrate their unity and support for their bargaining team's patient care proposals and that reductions in healthcare and retirement are unacceptable.

"I have dedicated my life to this community hospital," said Linda Carter, an intensive care unit RN at St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco for 37 years who will be a part of Tuesday's delegation. "The nurses feel that Sutter is not taking us seriously and we have to stand up for what is right for our patients and for our profession. This is a demonstration of our unity and our support for our bargaining teams."

### **Delegation to Sutter CEO Pat Fry**

**Date: Tuesday, September, 25, 2007**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

**Place: Sutter Health Corporate**

**2200 River Plaza Drive, Sacramento, 95833**

The RNs at all 10 hospitals voted earlier this month to authorize a strike if an agreement with the hospital chain is not reached. There has been no progress in bargaining over the core issues of the contract, which include important patient safety concerns, adequate RN staffing, and protection for nurse healthcare coverage.

A major area of dispute is patient care protections, which the nurses intend to significantly strengthen. The RNs have proposed including specific 2008 RN-to-patient staffing ratios in their contract to assure compliance with state law. Sutter has refused, as they have refused to agree

to dedicated meal and break relief nurses or a proposal that all patients be assigned directly to a registered nurse.

Major differences also remain on critical issues such as healthcare for nurses and retirees. Establishing strong healthcare and retirement protections is a significant retention and recruitment issue, say Sutter RNs. They note that many area hospitals, in a very competitive market during a nursing shortage, offer much better healthcare and retirement medical benefits.

**The pledge card states:**

**As a Sutter Health registered nurse I believe that any proposal to reduce my benefits or compensation is indefensible given Sutter's record \$587 million surplus last year. If implemented, these cuts would cause registered nurses to leave Sutter. Takeaways are unacceptable.**

**I believe that improvements to our healthcare, retiree healthcare and pension are critical for Sutter Health to effectively recruit and retain registered nurses. I believe that my Bargaining Team's staffing proposals are essential to my ability to provide safe patient care.**

**I believe that every bedside RN has a right to union representation, and that Sutter RNs at non-union facilities should be able to form a union without harassment or intimidation. Patients and RNs will all benefit if Sutter nurses negotiate a single master agreement together. We are all Sutter nurses and we stand united.**

**I support my CNA Bargaining Team as they negotiate a contract that supports us and improves the care that we provide to our patients and the community.**

The Sutter RNs who voted to authorize a strike work at the following hospitals: Mills-Peninsula Health Services in Burlingame and San Mateo, San Leandro Hospital and Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, Sutter Delta in Antioch, Sutter Solano in Vallejo, California Pacific Medical Center and St. Luke's hospitals in San Francisco, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Berkeley and Oakland, Sutter Santa Rosa, Sutter Marin General Hospital in Greenbrae, and Sutter Novato Hospital. CNA/NNOC represents more than 5,000 RNs in 14 Northern California Sutter hospitals.

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*Representing some 75,000 RNs in 50 states, the California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee is the largest and fastest-growing association of direct-care RNs in the nation. Learn more at [www.calnurses.org](http://www.calnurses.org)*