

# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BARGAINING UPDATE

DECEMBER 4, 2009

Yesterday, December 3rd, was the second official session of bargaining with the County, since the Local 21 Bargaining Committee was elected. The critical part of the meeting centered around the Union's proposal to bargain healthcare first, and then focus on the rest of the contract. The County refused this proposal on the grounds that they believe a full initial contract can be bargained within one month. Upon their response, the Union offered 14 dates for negotiations between now and January 1st, when the increases are scheduled to take effect. Of those 14 dates, the County only accepted 8. This means that the entire MOU must be bargained and agreed to in 8 days, which the Union believes is an impossible task.

Bob Britton, Director of Field Services at Local 21, presented the Union's position and legal opinion ( find the legal opinion on our website: [http://ifpte21.org/ccorg/correspond/lcarter\\_legal.pdf](http://ifpte21.org/ccorg/correspond/lcarter_legal.pdf)) on the healthcare cuts to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on December 2nd. The County's response, delivered by Ted Cwiek, Director of Human Resources, was a list of all the dates of the sessions that occurred prior to electing the Bargaining Committee (at which ground rules and housekeeping were the only topics of discussion) and neglected to even address the legal issue that was presented. In light of this, the Union will be filing an Unfair Practice Charge on the County's actions and will be working towards obtaining injunctive relief for its members.

Tuesday, December 8th is our last opportunity to request that the Board of Supervisors require County representatives to bargain the healthcare cuts with the Union prior to imposing this dramatic increase to our members monthly premiums. **Please join us on December 8th from 9:30-10:30 at the Board chambers to rally together on this monumental issue and help secure the right to bargain healthcare benefits for all Local 21 represented employees.**



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