

Supporting Our Kaiser Operating Engineers in Local 39

RESOLUTION 34-21

Over 700 engineers who work for Kaiser in northern California and are represented by IUOE Stationary Engineers Local 39 have been on strike for 13 long weeks. They are fighting for the principle of a prevailing wage, a commonly recognized practice in the building trades to pay a rate (wage plus retirement) that is standard for the trade in a geographic area. Kaiser is demanding the engineers abandon the prevailing wage and accept compensation that by 2023 will be \$4.75 an hour less than what Sutter, Dignity and commercial real estate companies pay their engineers in the area.

Whereas, the Kaiser Local 39 engineers have waged a noble fight against Kaiser's determination to lower compensation where other unions have recently conceded,

Whereas, the Kaiser engineers and their families have sacrificed financially and their union's strike fund has been substantially depleted during the 13-week strike,

Whereas, Kaiser has raked in billions of dollars of profit during the pandemic, continues to stockpile its reserves, and pay dozens of executives million-dollar-plus salaries, while at the same time seeking to reduce compensation for frontline caregivers and support staff,

Whereas, Kaiser wages and benefits have set the standard for all healthcare workers to work towards, including the members of our Hospital Division,

Whereas, it is in the interest of SEIU-UHW members for the engineers to succeed,

Whereas, SEIU-UHW Kaiser members in northern California have demonstrated their commitment to support the engineers by engaging in a highly successful one-day sympathy strike on November 18, 2021,

Whereas, if Kaiser executives are successful in achieving an inferior contract with the engineers, they will be emboldened to fight to do the same when 58,000 SEIU-UHW members negotiate in little over a year,

Therefore, be it resolved that SEIU-UHW will make a contribution of \$300,000 to the IUOE Stationary Engineers Local 39 strike fund from our general fund (line item: Solidarity Donations), with the intention that it support our Kaiser engineers.

Be it further resolved that SEIU-UHW will support Local 39 in other ways including publicly raising awareness of the importance of the engineers to the care team and quality patient care, sounding the alarm over unresolved problems with medical equipment and hospital facilities that Kaiser's replacement engineers are failing to address, organizing actions in facilities to share these concerns, mobilizing political support, and potentially doing an additional sympathy strike in the future.

Presented: 12/10/2021
Adopted: 12/20/2021
Amended: