



Ending the Year with a Message of Peace and Hope, Clergy and Community Unite with RNs

The holiday season is a time of peace, and on December 17, Saint John's RNs joined with clergy and community supporters to call on hospital administration to work out a peaceful union organizing process.

In addition to Saint John's RNs, CNA member RNs came to show support from as close as UCLA-Santa Monica Medical Center and as far away as Long Beach Memorial Medical Center.

We gathered at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church just down the street from our hospital.

Sister Mary Jean Ferry led us in prayer as we lit our candles, and Cantor Steve Puzarne led us in song.

Then, undeterred by the freezing, driving rain, we proceeded to the corner of 20th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard with our candles, signs and banners.

We spoke of our goal of forming a union with CNA, so that we can negotiate a fair contract that will help our hospital to attract and retain RNs and ensure that RNs have an independent voice for patient advocacy.

Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels of Beth Shir Shalom spoke of the moral and ethical importance of our struggle to gain a voice for our patients and our profession.

Harry Keiley, president of the Santa Monica/Malibu Classroom Teachers Association spoke of the teachers' overwhelming support for our campaign, and of the importance of professionals like teachers and nurses having a voice through union representation – a voice that belongs to the professionals themselves and that is independent from administration.

We are confident that hospital administration will stop disparaging us for speaking up for what we know is right, and begin to listen to RNs' concerns and engage in a reasonable dialogue to work out a peaceful & fair process for union organizing.



"We are committed to this union campaign because we love Saint Johns Health center, our patients and our community. We are certain that in having a voice we will be able to improve patient care at Saint Johns."

— *Lori Hammond, RN, L&D 29 years*
Liz Wade, RN, L&D 10 years

CNA/NNOC: A Voice for Nurses. A Vision for Healthcare.