CMH Nurses unanimously voted YES to ratify a historic collective bargaining agreement! The votes were counted this afternoon and 100% voted in favor of the new contract. Nurses across the hospital reflected this past week on how the contract represents historic wins for nurses, our patients and our coastal community. We've been fighting for decades to make these changes a reality.

In particular, making improvements across the board from unit to unit was essential. Not only will we be on par with our peer hospitals in wages, but we also won increased safety for our patients and a process to protect nurses from seeing their paychecks drastically cut due to management errors. Clinic nurses who had been held back on lower pay scales will see 15 percent raises in their next pay periods. We also reached an agreement on an improved vacation request process and a significant increase in cell phone reimbursements for hospice nurses. And if management or SEIU folks at CMH see improvements to their health premiums, so will we.

However, nurse leaders are reporting that our efforts to make our hospital better are not over. Our new protections for patient safety need to be implemented as we work towards safer staffing plans in all departments. We look forward to seeing even more nurses get involved as leaders in ONA to carry this forward. So, don't just thank your bargaining and contract action teams, let them know you're ready to stay involved and keep pushing forward to make CMH a place we are all proud to work.