

# Speak Out Now At Highland

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## Contract Expired, But What Awaits Us?

Since the first of April AHS workers have been working without a contract. Over the past period the union has sent out several e-mails sharing a few things about what has been going on, they even gave out t- shirts. So what's on the table? From the union's side some things they've mentioned are pay raises and the conversion of SAN positions. Both should be top priorities, but other issues exist as well. From management's side we don't know much.

The deciding factor in all of this though is the engagement of the rank and file. It's not enough to have a few well-intentioned bargaining reps. The *full* strength of the workers needs to be felt at the bargaining table. The demands from both sides need to be known by everyone. The plan for moving forward and securing the contract that we all need and deserve needs to be determined by *us all*. Until then the question of what awaits us will be just that, a question.

## We Can't Make It Work

Most of us are used to our departments being understaffed. We fly from patient to patient, room to room, trying to make things work when we are short. When we can't keep up or mistakes are made, management blames us, for not working hard enough, or for calling out sick. But it *isn't* us that are the problem, the understaffing is! When we are understaffed, we can't make it work, period.

## Dave Chapelle on Racism

Dave Chapelle is back on Netflix! Two comedy shows with humor, politics, and insight. Here's some wisdom from the great Dave Chapelle:

"Things like racism are institutionalized. You might not know any bigots, you feel like "well I don't hate black people so I'm not racist," but you benefit from racism. Just by the merit, the color of your skin. The opportunities that you have, you're privileged in ways that you might not even realize because you haven't been deprived of certain things. We need to talk about these things in order for them to change." – Dave Chapelle

## Priorities

For Department of Defense, taxpayers in the United States are paying \$528.49 billion, not including the cost of war. Here's what those tax dollars could have paid for instead:

- 6.54 million Elementary School Teachers for 1 Year, or
- 59.31 million Head Start Slots for Children for 1 Year, or
- 51.15 million Military Veterans Receiving VA Medical Care for 1 Year, or
- 222.93 million Children Receiving Low-Income Healthcare for 1 Year, or
- 148.46 million Adults Receiving Low-Income Healthcare for 1 Year
- 15.91 million Scholarships for University Students for 4 Years, or

## Come Talk to Us

Are you interested in getting involved with the newsletter? Have any good article ideas? Want to discuss what you can do to fight back at work? Interested in changing the world? Talk to us when you see us out front!



## Discretionary Spending 2015: \$1.16 trillion

<b>Education</b>	\$71.5 billion / 6.2%
<b>Veterans Benefits</b>	\$65.5 billion / 5.6%
<b>Government</b>	\$63.9 billion / 5.5%
<b>Housing &amp; Community</b>	\$60.9 billion / 5.3%
<b>Medicare &amp; Health</b>	\$56.7 billion / 4.9%
<b>Social Security, Unemployment, &amp; Labor</b>	\$56.1 billion / 4.8%
<b>Energy &amp; Environment</b>	\$38.4 billion / 3.3%
<b>International Affairs</b>	\$38.2 billion / 3.3%
<b>Science</b>	\$29.2 billion / 2.5%
<b>Transportation</b>	\$26.1 billion / 2.3%
<b>Food &amp; Agriculture</b>	\$12.8 billion / 1.1%

