

going at 50 dollars a paycheck ... so it's about 150 a paycheck that I'm paying off. I had some sleep studies that had to be done for my sleep apnea. They were \$5,000 apiece out-of-pocket for me, so it was like 10-G in a couple of months. I'm still paying that for the next five years or so."

For nurses who chose to strike, paying this month's bills may be more difficult. For engaging in the one-day strike, nurses were forced to take an additional four days off without pay.

"They're locking us out to punish us," Navarro said. "That's kind of their thing, to lock us out for four days, so we can't get back in to make money."

"They say it's part of the replacement nurses' contracts, but we see it as a punitive action," Teteak added. "We can't go back to work until Wednesday morning at 7:30."

In response to the strike, Barton also canceled a scheduled Sept. 25 negotiation date and has requested dates in October instead.

Barton's statement said hospital administration "is eager to return to the bargaining table to resolve this outstanding contract," but added that "CNA has arranged to have nurses from at least 12 hospitals in three states walk out on September 20, so this is clearly more about CNA's national agenda than about resolving a contract for Barton's nurses."

STRIKE BREWING?

Nurses at Saint Mary's, who are also unionized through CNA, weren't striking on

Wednesday Sept. 18. They were holding an informational picket to raise awareness of what they consider patient care concerns at the hospital.

"It was to bring awareness to the fact that we are fighting for our nurse-to-patient ratios to be guaranteed in the contract—and that we have those ratios guaranteed throughout the day, during breaks and lunches and all of that," said Darrella Lydell, a member of bargaining team for Saint Mary's and 18-year employee of the hospital. "We want our patients cared for."

But after the picket, Lydell said, the hospital's legal counsel walked out of a Sept. 20 meeting to catch a plane having made no progress in negotiations with the bargaining team. On Sept. 24 Lydell was informed that the hospital had also chosen to cancel bargaining dates scheduled for Sept. 25 and 26.

"It's the corporate management we're having trouble with," Lydell said, referring to Prime Healthcare, which acquired Saint Mary's several years ago. "Local management has been great. I wouldn't say they're supportive. They're not out there standing in the picket line with us, but they've tried to get a lot of other benefits that corporate just said no to."

According to Lydell, if negotiations don't result in an agreement in the near future, Saint Mary's nurses may soon notify the hospital of their intent to proceed with their own one-day strike. □

In memory



Carolyn Olsen-Landis spoke about Dennis Myers at his memorial service on Sunday, Sept. 15, at the McKinley Arts & Culture Center. Approximately 200 friends, relatives and community members attended to pay their final respects to Myers, a career reporter and news editor at the Reno News & Review for nearly two decades.

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