

## **RNPA MEMBERS OVERWHELMINGLY RATIFY TWO-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION**

On Wednesday June 3, 2009 the RNPA general membership voted (83%-17%) to ratify a two-year contract extension that will protect our current level of health care benefits, protect our current pension benefits, and will protect our wage package from our previous contract.

“Our membership followed the Board recommendation to approve this contract. While other unions across the state are seeing wage decreases, pension benefit cuts, and health care cuts, RNPA has protected what we have gained over the years”, says Rosemary Knox, President of RNPA.

The RNPA membership clearly understood that these unprecedented economic times has decimated the County budget and that by working together with the County we may be able to stave off more draconian cuts.

“This was not an easy decision for the membership, but it was the right decision to make. RNPA has always been about delivering quality patient care and I believe this contract will allow us to continue to do just that”, says Liz La Rosa, VP of RNPA.

All current provision of the existing contract have been extended until November of 2012 when RNPA will begin negotiations on a new collective bargaining agreement.

“The leadership of RNPA will now continue our focus on improving working conditions within the Health and Hospital System and promoting efficiencies that can save money, protect nurse to patient ratios, and protect our members, says VP Daisy Brown.

The County Board of Supervisors will now vote formally in the coming weeks on our contract and RNPA will announce that decision to you.