



COUNCIL ALERT



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MERITER NURSES' COUNCIL, SEIU HEALTHCARE DISTRICT 1199WI
UNITED FOR QUALITY CARE

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED ***COUNCIL ELECTIONS***

By Mary Malaney, RN, 4 East

It's election time for our Meriter Nurses' Council! Our Nurses' Council is a great way to gain a broader view of the challenges we all face, to see the common problems and to help be part of the solution. You will earn the respect of your peers and have a positive impact on our working environment.

Nurses Council meets on the third Wednesday of every month, from: 11:30 AM to 1 PM odd months and 5:30 PM to 7 PM even months. At these meetings we discuss and problem solve current issues. On the same day we also meet with nursing management from 1:30 PM to 3 PM odd months and 3:30 PM to 5 PM even months.

Be a Proactive Part of the Solution!!
We need Strong Leaders on Our Union Team!!

Meriter Nurses' Council Elections

Tuesday, October 30

7:00a-8:00a

Tower C

11a-2p

Tower C

2p-7p

Tower D

Mark your Calendar
Plan to Vote!!

Each Nurses' Council member is assigned to some nursing units as a liaison person in order to enhance communication between our Nurses' Council and each nursing unit. Also, Council members need to be active on one additional standing committee, frequency of meetings for these committees varies.

Council Co-chairs set agendas for meetings, preside at Council meetings, and attend a monthly meeting with management called Good Relations. Co-chairs automatically serve on the bargaining team during their term [our next bargain is 2/09]. The Co-chairs and Council members organize and run our membership meetings and elections.

Sound a little daunting? We train and provide support! This is your opportunity to do something constructive with your concerns and frustrations.....run for a Nurses Council seat! The nomination form accompanies this alert, fill it out and return it to our **Union office by no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 24, 2007.**

The following Council members' seats are up for election: Co-Chair, Marian Stokes (6N); Council Members, Barbara Boehm (6N), Katie Cole (4/5N), LeEllen Jordan (10T), Julie Stellmacher (6T) and one currently vacant seat with a one-year term.

Lawson Payroll Implementation

Many of you may have noticed a change in your overtime computation on your premiums. With Lawson implementation, Meriter unilaterally changed the computation. A grievance has been filed and our Union is attempting to resolve the issue.

Mandatory Overtime Survey

Please complete your mandatory overtime survey that you received in the mail a couple of weeks ago. Our Union is proceeding to arbitration and, therefore, if you want to be considered for any possible compensation that may be ordered by the arbitrator, you must provide documentation of your mandate. You must complete this form even if you have reported the mandate to our Union previously.

If you are having trouble remembering your mandates, please check your unit logs for help. All mandates from September 1, 2006 to present should be included on the survey. Mandates that occur after the survey is returned should be called into our Union office at 277-1199,x18.

Meriter Nurses' Council Duties

Co-Chair Duties Include: (The Co-Chairs shall equitably share and rotate the following responsibilities during their terms of office.)

- ⇒ Preside at all regular and special Council meetings, Unit Representative and Membership meetings.
- ⇒ Serve on the Bargaining Team; (including next negotiations in 2009)
- ⇒ Serve as an ex-officio member of Special and Standing Committees;
- ⇒ Appoint members to Special Committees as necessary;
- ⇒ Represent the Council in special meetings with management as appropriate;
- ⇒ Call Special Board meetings to deal with emergent issues;
- ⇒ Submit Agenda items for UP/NAC meetings and prepare agendas for Council meetings;
- ⇒ Maintain close communication with Union Staff.

Council Board Duties Include:

- ⇒ Attend Council, Unit Rep., Union-Management and General membership meetings.
- ⇒ Serve as a Chair on a Standing Committee, may serve on additional Standing and Special committees;
- ⇒ Seek, encourage, recommend and approve members to serve on Standing and/or Special Committees;
- ⇒ Maintain ongoing written/oral communication with designated Unit Representatives;
- ⇒ May be requested to Chair general meetings for Co-chairs.

Contract Update: Proofing of the re-opener language should be complete by the end of October. Contract books with the new language should be available in November 2007. Thank you for your patience.

Correction

An inadvertent error was printed in the August Council Alert in the article on Seniority—Weekends and Holidays. Please be aware that nurses in variable positions can only be put on call when scheduled for a variable shift.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused anyone.