

Council Alert



SEIU Healthcare MERITER NURSES' COUNCIL
United for Quality Care **JUNE 2009 ISSUE 2**

CONTRACT SETTLED!

Mary Malaney, RN, Council Co-Chair

Our new contract was ratified on 5/20. On your paycheck for 6/5 was your raise and \$200 bonus. The negotiations this year took the longest amount of time in many years, probably since the early 1980's. However, it was time well spent, as we were able to keep our mandatory overtime language intact in the contract. We did agree to allow limited mandates; 3 occurrences per RN from 5/1/09 thru 7/31/10 for specific circumstances to allow management more time to staff appropriately to stop mandates. This was a very difficult decision for the team and one that was not made lightly. We have new people in leadership positions from our CEO on down through directors. They assure us that they are committed to stopping mandatory overtime. Hopefully, they will live up to their word.

As important as our contract is, the best way to stop mandatory overtime is to get the legislative ban passed in our state. The bill is still in committee. In the coming weeks we will need help from you in various ways to help get this bill passed. We will be contacting nurses around the state and legislators to talk about this issue. Yes, our union staff could do this, but legislators are much more receptive to listening to nurses talking about nursing issues. So if you care about patient safety and stopping mandatory overtime say 'yes' when you are asked to do something to help pass this important legislation.

Be Part of the Solution—Get Involved!

Nurses' Council

CO-CHAIRS

Mary Malaney (3E/6E) Kathy Farwell (8T)

COUNCIL BOARD

Barbara Boehm (6N) Katie Cole (4/5N)
LeEllen Jordan (10T) Nancy Moore (3E/6E)
Bill Schmitz (ICU) Allison Sorg (4/5N)
Marian Stokes (6N) Rebecca L. Wolfe (ES)

Hospital Survey on Patient Safety

Please complete this important survey on Sourcenet.

Documenting and quantifying problems associated with patient safety will help prioritize the solutions. The survey is completely anonymous. The survey is conducted and tabulated by an outside entity. Make sure our voices are heard.

Member Involvement Was Pivotal

Mary Malaney, RN, Council Co-Chair

Our Union Bargaining Team appreciates the effort and support our members made during contract negotiations. Many thanks to members who: serve as Unit Contacts, talked with co-workers about the issues, wore the “Ban Mandates” badges, distributed and collected petitions, attended bargaining, distributed flyers, made phone calls, and gathered signatures on petitions at community events.

We could not have done it without you! We are stronger together!

Union Bargaining Team:

Mary Malaney, Kathy Farwell, Marcia Rayho, Marian Stokes, Kathy Flath, LeEllen Jordan, and Becky Wolfe.

District Membership Convention

The SEIU District 1199 Membership Convention will be held on October 28th and 29th at the Sheraton Madison Hotel, 706 John Nolen Drive.

The Annual Membership Convention, formerly called the Representative Assembly is the governing meeting of the union and is a vital part of our union democracy. Members from throughout Wisconsin gather to:

- ▶ make decisions about issues important to our professions
- ▶ take action on public policy important to our working conditions and healthcare in general
- ▶ build membership skills to lead the union on the job

Members are encouraged to attend any and all portions of both days of the Convention. In addition, as part of the Convention, all members are invited to a dinner in the evening where member activists will be recognized for their commitment to defending members at work and advancing our agenda to defend patients, professions and expanding quality, affordable healthcare for all.

If you would like to attend the Convention or would like to attend the dinner on Wednesday, October 28th during the early evening, please RSVP by responding to this message, or by calling Katy at 608-277-1199 or 888-285-1199.

New Staff Representative comes to SEIU

Greg Uselmann joins the SEIU District office to help support the staff at Mertier Hospital. Greg was an airline pilot for 25 years. As a member of the Airline Pilots Association he was active with his union at Midwest Airlines with roles as Vice Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and Training Committee Chairman. WELCOME GREG!!!