

UNION UPDATE

A Publication of Backus Federation of Nurses

April 2014



Current Events

- Union leadership and management have been discussing the attendance policy. As with any new policy, there are sometimes unintended consequences and a second look is sometimes helpful.
- E3, A2, and the resource pool do not have union delegates. Anyone who is interested contact John Brady or Melissa Hunter.
- Article 42 of our contract is important for any member out of work using FLMA, workers' compensation, or military leave. After sixteen weeks the worker will be considered inactive by the hospital. According to our contract that worker is eligible for rehire for one year after their status is deemed inactive. The person can apply for their former position or a different position
- To all members: Please help us keep our records in good order and let John know if you are out on a leave and hope to come back. No personal details are necessary; we just need to know if we need to keep you on our roster. The hospital only provides us a list that shows whether dues are being deducted and not your status, i.e. you are on unpaid leave and plan on returning. Thank you!
- Nurses are no longer required to fetch prescription pads out of the pyxis for doctors, the doctors now get them from pharmacy. Union leadership believed that this took away from nursing time and had caused issues with miscounts that involved much time and anguish to get resolved. Union leaders worked with hospital management to change this.
- Union leaders also worked to change a process involving using vacation time if you are cancelled for an approved shift that would have brought you over your budgeted hours. The hospital was not allowing vacation time to be used for any hours over your budgeted. This was changed after we discussed it so that you can be paid vacation hours for any approved scheduled hours, even if this brings you over your budgeted hours. You may also elect to take this as unpaid.
- On Saturday April 5, 2014 Backus Nurses were recognized by the L&M union for the support the Backus union gave during the strike. They were recognized at the L&M victory dinner at Ocean Beach. Prominent attendees included Senator Richard Blumenthal, lieutenant governor Nancy Wyman, the mayor of New London Daryl Justin Finizio, and state representative Kevin Ryan (who serves on the state public health committee), among many others. All these people spoke of their support of healthcare workers. They will support us next year during our negotiations.



A Union of Professionals

An affiliate of the AFT, AFL-CIO

activities

- Workers Memorial Day observations are scheduled for April 28 in Groton and Hartford. Contact your union rep for more info.
- Sunday May 18, there is a walk against hunger in Norwich and the Backus nurse's union is planning to volunteer. All are welcome to volunteer for a good cause.
- Saturday May 17, the AFT state convention will be held.
- May 8-10 Backus union leaders and delegates will attend 2014 Healthcare Local Presidents Conference and the 2014 AFT Healthcare Professional Issues Conference & National Federation of Nurses Annual Labor Academy at the Hilton Baltimore, Md.

Mohegan Oil Company

Is offering new members of the Backus Federation of Nurses a discount on home heating oil.

**CALL
(860) 536-4294
For discount**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Delegate and Executive Committee Meetings: First Wednesday of the Month at Union Office, 24 Sachem Street 4:30pm

Delegates

Mary Anne Jodiatis Endo/A2 Rep
Kara Giroux D2 1st shift
Cynthia Ezzell CCU 1st shift
Marji Foxon A4 3rd shift
Ruth Sandberg A4 1st shift
Nancy Deady PACU 1st shift
Gail Passarello O.R. 1st shift
Robin Coleman D1 1st shift
Jessica Harris E.D 1st shift
John Brady E.D. 1st shift
Melissa Hunter PACU 1st shift
Michelle Hayes D2 3rd shift
Donna Callicutt A3 2nd shift
Donna Grabarek Endo 1st shift
Brandy Donahue E4
Dee Arndt LDRP
Dave Misiaszek CCU 1st shift

The Backus Nurse Federation

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Vice President: Melissa Hunter
Treasurer: Donna Callicutt
Secretary: Marji Foxon**