

UNION UPDATE

A Publication of Backus Federation of Nurses
July 20, 2013



Upcoming Events

August 2nd is the AFT Connecticut Leadership Training Day. This is a training session being held by AFT for delegates or future delegates. This program will cover training for grievances, representing a coworker, and the duties of a delegate. We have several individuals attending. If you are interested please see a member of the executive board for more information.

Sept 13th is the AFL-CIO Community Service Golf Tournament to benefit the Gemma E. Moran United Way Labor Food Center. We are looking for any golfers who would like to form a Backus Federation of Nurses team for the United Way. Please let any member of the executive team know so we can provide you with more information.

Keeping Our Local Strong

A few of your union leaders just returned from the Baltimore AFT Healthcare Conference. We attended conferences that reviewed varying aspects of the new healthcare reform and the impact on us as healthcare providers and citizens. We also attended classes on how to continue to grow strength in our union local. I learned we are already very strong and have made progress where other locals have not. We heard stories from other locals who are still fighting to have a signed contract over a year later. We were able to share how we have a successful Labor Management Committee that has been very effective in developing solutions to various issues. This is extremely rare amongst many of the locals we met.

John and I attended the Connecticut AFT Convention in Plantsville Connecticut a couple weeks ago. We were able again to hear from Governor Malloy, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman and Senator Blumenthal. John even spoke with Senator Blumenthal and encouraged him to visit our hospital in the near future. He was very interested in coming to see us in the near future.

Finally, John has just returned from Washington on a very successful trip speaking to a group of nurses whom have just become new members of AFT. John shared our story with this new group who has also struggled along the way. He shared our successes and where we are now one year after having a contract. John shared how we continue to build more strength every year.

One great example is our political liaison, Carol Adams, keeps our voices heard at the legislative level. We recently blocked a bill being passed for mandatory flu shots with no provisions for health or religious exemptions. One of our own nurses, Erin Cummings, submitted testimony that helped to block this bill. We continue to fight for a safe staffing bill that would mandate nurse-patient ratios and require regular reporting by hospitals and public postings.

After attending these conferences and witnessing the influence our union has politically, I was able to truly appreciate how successful we are and how strong we have become. We continue to build strength in our local and continue to expand our friends within the organization and beyond. Our relationship with the United Way and the community continues to grow every day. I encourage more people to get involved and see what it takes to keep our union strong and also see the strength we have in each other.



A Union of Professionals

An affiliate of the AFT, AFL-CIO

Message from the President

Dear Members,

This week we "effects bargained" on a new attendance policy. "Effects Bargaining" is a right we gained in our contract. Prior to the contract management would change a policy and we would complain about it but have to live with it. Now, while they continue to have the right to change a policy, we have the right to bargain how it will effect the nurses. In the end, we arrive at a policy that we agree with parts of it and compromise on other parts, but the important thing is that we have had an influence over the final product. We gave them our concerns with the first draft, they will come back to us with a modified version and we'll meet again.

Also as many of you may have heard, our sister Locals at L+M received good news this week. The hospital had shifted some work "off campus" and then claimed those workers were not covered by the contract. The Locals offered a compromise and the hospital rejected it and the Locals filed unfair labor practice charges and this week the National Labor Relations Board agreed with the Locals and issued a complaint, which is equivalent to an indictment in civil court. The hospital will now have to come to an agreement acceptable to the Locals and the NLRB or defend itself in trial.

Please remember to speak to your delegates or officers with any questions or concerns.

In Service,

John Brady

IMPORTANT

Attention All Members:

This union newsletter will be sent via email to all members with a few newsletter still available in unit breakrooms. It is very important that we have an current email address for all of our members to ensure that you stay informed of all union information. If you have not updated us with your current email address please do so as soon as possible. The easiest way to do this is to send an email to the Backusnurses@gmail.com with a simple message. We will then be able to add your email address that you send from to our contact list. Please let us know if you do not have an email address, so that we may ensure you receive a paper version of this newsletter. Thank you.

Our New Office

The lease on our office (which we assumed from AFT Connecticut) is almost up. The executive team has found a place closer to the hospital with better parking, slightly smaller and significantly cheaper. We hope to be moved into the new place by the end of summer and hold an open house .

Delegates

Mary Anne Jodiatis Endo/A2 Rep
Kara Giroux D2 1st shift
June Anctil A3 2nd shift
Cynthia Ezzell CCU 1st shift
Marji Foxon A4 3rd shift
Ruth Sandberg A4 1st shift
Nancy Deady PACU 1st shift
Gail Pascarello O.R. 1st shift
Carol Adams E3 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

The Backus Nurse Federation

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Secretary: Donna Grabarek