

UNION UPDATE

A Publication of Backus Federation of Nurses

June 2014



Current Topics

Backus Union Nurses serving and protecting our patients and families in our community hospital

- On June 6, 2014, Connecticut AFT had a healthcare committee meeting. The 2014 legislative session was discussed. One win was the passing of SB 35 the Hospital Conversion bill. This bill establishes a firewall between for-profit and non-profit medical foundations and limits each entity to one medical foundation, requires an additional public hearing before a hospital conversion is filed, establishes additional criteria for hospital conversion applications (including the requirement that hospital staffing levels be an indicator of quality patient care) and allows the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Public Health to put any conditions on a hospital conversion. One loss was HB 5384 the Hospital Nurse Staffing bill. This bill would have required all hospitals to report actual nurse staffing ratios. It passed the House and died in the Senate, despite support from the Connecticut Hospital Association.
- Another win during the 2014 legislative session was SB 36 which allows APRNs with three or more years of licensed experience, in collaboration with a physician, to practice independently.
- Each year the Department of Public Health has available, on line, a report on the Financial Status of Connecticut's Short Term Acute Care Hospitals. It covers a statewide hospital system profile, a statewide hospital profile, and individual hospital profiles. The report is easy to read and shows data from 2008 to current. According to the Department of Public Health, Backus Hospital is one of the most profitable in the state of Connecticut and Backus nurses have worked hard to help make that happen. We encourage members to look through the report.
- 2014 is a year for midterm elections which are general elections held two years after the presidential election. All 435 seats of the House of Representatives, approximately one third of the 100 US Senate seats, and 36 of the 50 governors are up for election. Midterm elections are sometimes regarded as referendum on the sitting president and/or the incumbent party's performance. The incumbent president tends to lose ground during midterm elections. The most import issue for people, both union members and nonunion members, is to vote. The primaries for both parties are August 12, 2014 and the general midterm election is on November 4, 2014. All voters must register before the primaries and the general election. The deadline for registration is available on the State of Connecticut website. AFT has endorsed candidates based upon their views and support for labor/worker's rights. Please vote.
- The Windham nurses have worked hard to negotiate a new contract with their hospital; they need security for their hospital but also for their livelihood and families. There has not been an agreement on a new contract yet. We know the nurses at Windham want the hospital to be successful as their jobs depend on it, but at the same time deserve to be fairly compensated for their hard work. We, as the Backus union, are in complete support of their efforts.



A Union of Professionals

An affiliate of the AFT, AFL-CIO



Current Events

- September 20, 2014, Connecticut AFT will have a health care conference. This is a great opportunity for nurses to get education about our profession and also learn about labor concerns.
- The union is planning to show the film "Citizen Koch" at a local theater. Date and time to be determined. This movie investigates big business and the effect on the middle class
- Upcoming community/labor summer picnics will be July 17 and August 21, in Hamden, from 430pm until dark with free food and drinks. Go to the AFT Connecticut website for more info.
- The contract negotiations will start by the end of the year. All input is important to help us and hospital management get the best contract for us.
- If anyone is interested in participating in a softball game with other locals please talk to your delegate. This is a good way to network and have fun at the same time. Some from L&M have shown interest.

Unionplus.org is website that offers Backus nurses various discounts. Union Plus was created in 1986 by the AFL-CIO to provide union members and their families benefits. By using the collective buying power of unions, Union Plus is able to offer valuable, discounted products and services **exclusively** to working families. Savings. Service. Solidarity

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Delegates

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