

UNION UPDATE

A Publication of Backus Federation of
Nurses



Current Topics

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

- On August 24th one of our members was seriously assaulted. Unfortunately, this was not the first assault committed by this person. Steps are being taken by the hospital and the union to have a protocol in place that will provide clear-cut measures to be taken whenever an assault occurs. John has already sent an e-mail outlining steps to be taken until such protocol is adopted. Melissa Hunter is on the committee. Remember, you are part of a union and if you have any concerns about anything that affects you, it is probably affecting all of us. Let your delegates and officers know about any assault or anything else that is a safety concern. Our contract provides the language in Article 60 which will allow us to grieve unsafe working conditions so everyone can do their jobs without fear. If an assault does occur, call 911, and then report it to John and Melissa by calling their phones.
- Melissa Hunter is the Backus Federation of Nurses Vice President. What does the VP do? Melissa currently works closely with hospital management to resolve grievances and is involved with the monthly labor management meetings. She serves as the Chief Delegate. Melissa and John work in tandem on all issues for the union, attending many meetings together, and she represents us if John is not available. Melissa is an experienced PACU nurse and is soon returning to the OR as a staff nurse there. She has valuable clinical skills and leadership. She has been with the union since the beginning of the Backus Federation of Nurses, even with her busy schedule as a mom and wife.
- We are now in the third year of our first contract, which will expire in May 2015. The time has come to start preparing for negotiations. We expect to start our discussions with administration after the holidays. At this time, we are reviewing our current contract. All full members are invited to share their concerns and thoughts at the fall Open Meeting on Nov 5 at our office from 6:00-7:30p.m. You may also contact a delegate. We will be working closely with our field rep, Greg Kotecki and Michelle Hayes, D2 delegate, who will be chairing our negotiations committee. Both Greg and Michelle were heavily involved in the negotiation of the first contract.
- All employees are required to sign up for health insurance during open enrollment October 20-31, 2014, even if there are no changes to your coverage. No late registration will be accepted. All enrollments are done online; this is a change from last year. If you do not sign up your insurance will be cancelled.
- Members should always let union leadership know if they have exceeded their FMLA time and they lose their position as they are then considered to be on inactive status. This entitles them to apply for posted positions consistent with other articles in the contract. If you desire to return to work, please let us know so we can assist you in obtaining a position you are qualified for. If you know someone who has lost their position within the last year and wishes to return to Backus, have them call John or Melissa.



A Union of Professionals

An affiliate of the AFT, AFL-CIO



Current Events/Issues

- Remember to vote November 4, 2014. The union has endorsed Governor Malloy, Betsy Ritter, and Linda Orange.
- The union is meeting with community leaders to improve the city of Norwich. Look for "Norwich Rising" news in the future. We are modeling a program done in Hartford. Schools, senior citizens, jobs, safety, and housing are areas we are discussing.
- Anyone interested in becoming a union delegate for A2, E3 or elsewhere contact John Brady or Melissa Hunter.
- Union members attended the Connecticut AFT health care conference September 20th. Educational seminars included HIPPA and Social Media, Workplace Violence Legal - Rights and Bullying, and Profits over Patients. Attorney Kelly Trautner was a presenter.
- The Backus Federation of Nurses welcomes the former clinical coordinators to our union as staff nurses. The hospital administration did reach out to the union before this transition. These nurses will now have the same rights under our current contract as all other staff nurses.

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
Fall Membership Meeting, November

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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