

May – June
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Ken Deitz, RN
President

Barbara Blake, RN
State Secretary

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State Treasurer



President's Message

Most people know Registered Nurses simply as caregivers. And that we are. What the public doesn't often see is that beyond functioning as "angels of mercy," there are times when RNs must step in and forcefully advocate for patients in matters ranging from acquiring sleeping aids for a patient when none have been ordered to preventing life threatening medications from being administered.

Every day, Registered Nurses save lives. A Registered Nurse functions as more than just a trusted colleague to a doctor. The RN can make the difference between life and death. Registered Nurses are a vital link between physicians and patients because the RNs provide the bulk of the care to patients. Registered Nurses make up the largest segment of health care employees. Whether you're in a hospital or a doctor's office, we are literally everywhere. We are on the frontlines of care, and we are the last line of defense.

One of the unique features about a Registered Nurses' union is that we bargain for ways to strengthen our role as patient advocates. However, at the bargaining table lately, we have had to fight tooth and nail for our wages and benefits in addition to the right to bring patient safety issues to the attention of management. Speaking up for ourselves is not something that Registered Nurses are used to doing, but we've learned the best way to do this is to join together in a union and use our collective voice. This year, I say we make every week Nurses Week. Health care is a team sport, RNs are vital members of the team, and this can be said for all the health care professionals who make up the United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals.

In solidarity,



United Nurses Associations of California

Union of Health Care Professionals

KP Contract Specialists Take Charge



The KP Contract Specialist Program has been launched in 2011 at our Kaiser affiliates with much fanfare. The program has

been popular because the contract specialists receive fantastic training. They are thoroughly trained in the Kaiser

Collective Bargaining Agreement with UNAC/UHCP. Throughout the one year term, the contract specialists assist UNAC/UHCP members to learn about their contractual rights. Kaiser Sunset Contract Specialist Teresa Mulroy, RN, explained that in addition to rounding, contract specialists also frequently attend meetings with members throughout their facility. She said she has learned that the union is involved in a wide range of activities that she had not been aware of previously.

For her part, Mulroy said she is enjoying her time as a contract specialist, "It's a great job. I love it!"

Parkview RNs Fight On

Contract negotiations for the Parkview Registered Nurses Association began in March. Debby Cruz, RN, NICU, Viera Daniels, RN, Peds, Linda Hippolyte, RN, Admit Unit, Jackie Johnson, RN, ASC and Judy Vargas, RN, ICU are representing the PRNA members. Negotiations have been lively, with significant PRNA member attendance at the bargaining sessions. The bargaining team is expecting to finish negotiations by May 31st.



St. Francis Negotiations Kick Off



The collective bargaining kickoff for SFRNA took place on April 27 at the St. Francis Medical Center. Members gathered to support the bargaining team and discuss the results of the bargaining survey.

On May 16 the SFRNA contract negotiations opened. The contract expires on June 30, 2011. Additional negotiation sessions have been scheduled for May 17, 18, 31, June 14 and 15.

The bargaining team members are Scott Byington, RN, Rosa Carcamo, RN, Marilen Castanon, RN, Janice Fraser, RN, Edwin Guardado, RN, Sandi Marques, RN, Virginia McCoy, RN, and Miriam Pinawin, BSN, RN.

Beverly RNs Head to the Bargaining Table

The Beverly Community Hospital Registered Nurses elected the bargaining team on April 21, 2011. Those elected are: Veronica "Vero" Arellano, T3/Telemetry, Kathy Bennett, T5/Med/Surg, Zeidy Gomez, MCH/Peds, Marlene Ontiveros, T4/Med/Surg, Maria Salcido, T5, Med/Surg, Isaac Saroia, OR/PACU/OPS/Cath & GI Labs, Fred Young, SCU/ICU, and Wilhelmina "Mina" Zulueta, ECC. Bargaining commenced on May 5, 2011. The team is led by Joy Harvey, RN, UNAC/UHCP Staff Representative.



Happy Nurses Week!

UNAC/UHCP affiliates celebrated Nurses Week with many different events such as Nurses Week breakfasts, lunches and dinners, a Nurse Recognition Fair, a Nurse of the Year event, Membership Appreciation Breakfast and Dinner, and a

Nurses Week Tea. In honor of Nurses Week, UNAC/UHCP made a \$10,000 donation to the Los Angeles House of Ruth, serving homeless, battered women with children. This year, Kaiser West LA selected the charity.

GET THE LATEST NEWS

In the last year, UNAC/UHCP has emailed out critical information to members about contract negotiations, license notices, and health care benefits. Don't be left out because we don't have your email address. Send us your email address at publicaffairs@unac-ca.org along with your name and your affiliate.



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LEGISLATION SPOTLIGHT

SB 233 WE SUPPORT **Emergency Services and Care**

This bill will clarify that a physician assistant can provide treatment and consultation in the emergency care setting.

AB 30 WE SUPPORT **Security Plans**

Would require the hospital to adopt specified security policies. The bill would also require the hospital to evaluate and treat an employee who is involved in a violent incident and to provide specified follow up care. The bill would prohibit a hospital from prohibiting an employee from, or taking punitive or retaliatory action against an employee for, seeking assistance from local emergency services or law enforcement when a violent incident occurs.

AB 375 WE SUPPORT **Hospital Employees: Presumption**

Would provide, with respect to hospital employees who provide direct patient

care in an acute care hospital, that the term "injury" includes a bloodborne infectious disease, neck or back impairment, or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) that develops or manifests itself during the period of the person's employment with the hospital.

AB 1136 WE SUPPORT **Employment Safety: Health Facilities**

Would require an employer to have a zero lift/safe patient handling policy for patient care units, and to provide trained lift teams or staff trained in safe lifting techniques in each general acute care hospital. The policy would require the replacement of manual lifting and transferring of patients with powered patient transfer devices, lifting devices, or lift teams, as specified.

AB 788 WE OPPOSE **Health Care Service Plans; Vision Care**

This bill would authorize a non-optometric corporation to own a health care service plan that provides vision

care services. The current laws are designed to protect the consumer. Licensed health care professionals have a fiduciary responsibility to their patients to put the patient's best interest first and foremost in all decisions affecting that patient (consumer). Non-professionals or lay people do not have this same level of responsibility and in a retail environment, may put revenue generation ahead of what is best for the consumer or patient. While stating that medical or clinical decisions by the health care professional must be unhindered by any business relationship, there are ways to circumvent this piece of the law. Putting pressure on the doctor to do certain things or risk losing their practice location or job can hinder clinical decision making.

On April 27, 2011, three UNAC/UHCP ODs went to Sacramento to testify at the Assembly Business and Professions Committee in opposition to AB 788, dubbed the "LensCrafters" Bill. The ODs were: Danny Pollack, OD, KPASCO President; David Huang, OD KPASCO Treasurer; Madhu Chawla, OD, KPASCO member.

EVERYDAY LEADER

sunday monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday



Ahsan Haque, RN
St. Francis Registered Nurses Association

Unit: Telemetry/DOU

Registered Nurse: 7 years

UNAC/UHCP Member: 6 years

Hometown: Southern California

“I can express my voice through my union.”

I have a lot of friends that work in non-union hospitals. When their management makes a decision, there's nothing they can do about it. That's the way it has to be in a non-union hospital.

I say, “That's wrong, I can express my voice through my union. We have the right to say yes or no, and we can address our concerns. We have a voice.”

They respond, “Wow, you're fortunate to be part of a union.”

As a union, we're strong at St. Francis. We're one of the highest paid hospitals. Management knows that before they make changes, they must get the input of our union. Our main goal is to work together to represent the nurses and advocate for

the patients.

Still, negotiations are going to be really tough, after the last few years of a bad economy. What are our future goals? How can we run our units smoothly? The bargaining table is where we will talk and break down every issue. So let's see what comes, and we'll face it together.





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Union in Brief

BEAR VALLEY BACK TO BARGAINING —

The Bear Valley contract expires at the end of June and the nurses are preparing for another round of tough negotiations. Negotiations will be led by Mike Zackos, RN, Staff Representative.

UNAC/UHCP RETIREE CHAPTER PLANS NEXT STEPS —

United Nurses Association/ Union of Health Care Professionals Retiree Chapter Committee member Brenda Jordan, RN, wants UNAC/UHCP members to know, "UNAC/UHCP does not end when you retire. It is a new beginning."

Retired UNAC/UHCP members can join the Retiree Chapter at the rate of \$15 per year. The retiree committee that plans the chapter's activities is currently engaged in a number of projects, including recruiting more members to the Retiree chapter. In the future, Retiree chapter members will have the opportunity to attend educational conferences and special events. Retiree Organizing Committee Chair Sonia Moseley, NP, is joined in her endeavors by Fred Tinamisan, RN, Brenda

Jordan, RN, Ethel Richmond, RN, Ann Foster, RN, Connie Whitehead, RN, Fran Powell, RN, Donna Knoch, RN, and Amy Teufert, RN. For more information, please call 909-618-0657.

CHINO VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER LEGAL UPDATE —

On June 6, the National Labor Relations Board will begin its prosecution of Chino Valley Medical Center on the charges of: dismissal of Ronald Magsino, RN, for his union activity in the organizing campaign; issuance of widespread discipline after the RNs voted for UNAC/UHCP representation; threatening RNs; unilateral changes to various policies and benefits; interrogation and surveillance of union activity. The hearing before an Administration Law Judge is scheduled to last seven days with an expected ruling to be issued in early July. Check unacuhcp.org for updates.

NEW OFFICER TRAINING —

Over thirty new affiliate officers attended a training in the San Dimas office on April 14, 2011. The new officers, and the affiliates they will be representing, are as follows:

Geraldine Aguilar-Gongar, RN, KBPRNA Secretary; Dr. Christopher Albaugh, KPASCO Parliamentarian; Karla Bernier, RN, KDRNA Master Committee Chair; Kellie J. Brooks, NP, KRHCPA Parliamentarian; Carina Castanar, RN, KOVHCPA Secretary/ Parliamentarian; Eva Chroust, RN, KWHRNA Hospital President; Debby Cruz, RN, PRNA President; Viera Daniels, RN, PRNA Treasurer; Jettie Deden-Castillo, RN, KDRNA Executive Council Representative; Blanca DUBY, RN, KSRNA Treasurer; Janice Fraser, RN, SFRNA Treasurer; Edwin Guardado, RN, SFRNA Secretary; Linda Hippolyte, RN; PRNA Secretary; Theresa "Teri" Holthues, RN, KFRNA Secretary; Rita Ihenacho, RN, PMRNA Associate Rep. Coordinator; Maria Martin, RN, BRNA Secretary; Mary Jane Mendoza, RN, PMRNA President; Chad Najera, RN; KOCPA Parliamentarian; Serenity Pascual, RN, BRNA Treasurer; Regina Perez, RN, KWRNA Secretary; Korla St Cyr, RN, KBPRNA Clinic Co-Chair; Laurilyn Teodoro, RN, GGRNA Associate Liason; Judith Vargas, RN, PRNA Vice President; Yadira Velazquez, RN, KSBHPA Secretary; and Veronica White, RN, KWHRNA Clinic Vice President.