PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center

October 2014

Local Unit Newsletter

1 **Christie Riley** (Co-Chair), **Ann Neil** (Co-Chair), **Christine Himmelsbach** (WSNA Assistant Executive Director of Labor Relations), **Mara Kieval** (WSNA Nurse Representative), and **Steve Hawkins** (Membership Officer)

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Leadership Conference was Fabulous this Year!

Our Local Unit Leaders were recognized with four awards! The Negotiation Team earned "Outstanding Negotiation Team". Dianne (DiDi) Gray won the "Rising Star" award, Ann Neil received recognition as "Outstanding Local Unit Chairperson," and our Membership Engagement Team received the "Membership Award." What a wonderful time we had at beautiful Lake Chelan, what great speakers there were, and what an esteemed gathering of Washington State's finest heroes!

2 **Julia Barcott** (WSNA Cabinet on E&GW Chair) presents **Ann Neil** (Co-Chair)—our very own Rosie the Riveter—with the award for Outstanding Local Unit Chairperson

3 **Dianne Gray** (Member-at-Large), who won the "Rising Star" award, accompanied by her own new Rising Star, Ben

4 **Marylyn Tollisen** (Member-at-Large), who is part of the PeaceHealth Southwest Local Unit Negotiation Team which received the Outstanding Negotiation Team Award

5 **Erica Ostenson**, from the PeaceHealth Southwest Local Unit Membership Engagement Team which was honored with the Membership Award

Local Unit Officer Elections

Are you a leader? Do you want to increase your active involvement in creating a strong unified voice for nurses at PHSW? WSNA is holding local unit elections soon. Nominations are being sought for all officer positions. Nomination forms will be mailed to your home in the next few weeks. Bring your own name forward, or you can nominate a willing colleague for the available office. Become a leader and advocate for your patients, your colleagues, and your profession! For more detailed information, please contact your WSNA Nurse Representative, Mara Kieval at mkieval@wsna.org.

Per Diem "B" RNs

As most PHSW RNs are aware, there are numerous issues that remain unresolved because of the new timekeeping/payroll system. WSNA leaders recently discovered that the newly defined Per Diem B RNs have yet to receive their newly negotiated $1.00 per hour premium. This premium has been due since the July 13, 2014, post-ratification pay period. WSNA brought this issue up with management. They have rectified the omission and will be issuing retroactive pay back to July 13th on your October 10th paycheck. Please continue to communicate with WSNA Nurse Representative Mara Kieval if you find any discrepancies on your paycheck when you compare it to your timecard. You can contact Mara Kieval at mkieval@wsna.org.

Responding to Change

The Season has changed; leaves are turning gold and red, and the weather is becoming cool. Our times have changed as well, and we of WSNA must adapt ourselves to the times. Change often startles or disturbs us, but can you think of anything good that has ever happened without some kind of change?

We are entering a new phase of nursing practice and challenge—hospitals are being run the way big business is run. Yet we know that patients are not commodities. We know we cannot care for our patients effectively when we are being expected to work like machines. Does that sound extreme? Hospitals are getting extreme. But that does not mean we have to give in. WSNA nurses are gathering together, thinking as one, supporting one another, and fighting to keep our nursing practice personal, caring, and respectful of the individual patient. The changes we accept must be improvements, not downgrades.

That being said, we are changing our approach, too. We are reaching out to every nurse in the hospital, asking them to step up and join our growing group, and asking them to speak up in support of their patients and their RN practice. Step up, stand out, and speak up for quality patient care! When you get involved, you will find that union activity and CHANGE equal greater NURSING POWER.

How do we stand up and speak out? Collectively, that is how. Management is proposing a lot of changes lately. Some are positive; some we must think seriously about and shake our heads from side to side.

There is a balance between our work lives and our personal lives. Nurses should not have to give up their personal lives to take care of others, but we are being asked to do this more and more.

Do you realize that YOU are WSNA? The only way we can change things for the better is to come up with a plan about how to prevent "bad change" from happening. And any plan we come up with must be originated by and designed for the nurses who work at PeaceHealth – though it will be directly aided by and supported by WSNA leaders who work with the nurses involved. Strategic planning to prevent "bad change" and promote "good change" must be part of our future vision in an active, real way. It is our future, and it is up to us. We must accept that things progress and are altered, either for better or for worse, but we of WSNA are committed to making them better! Join us now!

Speaking of sea change, changing seasons and change that empowers nurses....we are trying out some new ideas for fun events. Our recent "breakfast at Elmer's" on September 25, 2014 was great! Good food and congenial company made it so. We had a lively turnout, and got to network with a few new members. You really must get out more, right? Please think seriously about joining our unique "WSNA club". We keep up on all the happenings in each unit—we have representatives in almost all our units now—so if you want to stay in touch with what is going on, come to our next gathering!

Local Unit Officers...

Co-Chair	Christie Riley, RN - CVICU
Co-Chair	Annie Neil, RN - ICU
Vice-Chair	Summer Heasley, RN - Behavioral Health
Treasurer	Renee Richardson, RN - NICU
Secretary	Mariah Niemi, RN - Care Mgt
Grievance Officer	Christie Riley, RN - CVICU
Grievance Officer	Annie Neil, RN - ICU
Grievance Officer	Jonathan Chase, RN - 7th floor Tower
Grievance Officer	Ruth Williams, RN - Home Care
Membership Coordinator	Steve Hawkins, RN - PCU
Member-at-Large	Marylyn Tollisen, RN - 3N
Member-at-Large	Mary Oster, RN - Endoscopy
Member-at-Large	Danielle Coates, RN - PCU
Member-at-Large	Robin Larson, RN - ED
Member-at-Large	Dianne Gray, RN - Resource Team
Nurse Representative	Mara Kieval, RN - WSNA

NURSING NEWS ONLINE!

WSNA has a new nursing news blog, called **Nursing Update**. Check it out for the latest news for nurses in Washington State.

www.wsna.org/update

New Members!

We celebrate our newly hired nurses and our great new members, going back to the beginning of summer. Here they are:

Susan Escoe, Sunjoo Jang, Candi Conners, Cherie Coiner, Carey Grubbs, Jan Miller, Tanya Johnson, Evonne Penaloza, Elisabeth Sofianos, Anita Gonzales, Angela Godwin, Glenn Yauncey, Jill Zekanis, Jacqueline Storey, David Lee, Trena Kelley, Sandra Hadenfeld, Marcia Fellman, Deanna Lawler-Schmidt, Angella Kazmierski, Teresa Linkous, William Laycock, Jeri Miller, Audrey Mauro, Stephanie Fresh, Jeanne Olmsted, Jeffrey Glover, Andrea Thompson, Kirsten Goldsmith, Loren Forney, Rochelle Mereen, Megan Parsons, Vickie Hempelmann, Joline Walker, Brooke Churchman, Pauline Weintraub, Julie Wheaton, Nicole Lembrick, Marvin Recolizado, Julie Larson, Kristen Heims, and Amber (Christine) Bruie.

We know there are many more of you who joined in the earlier part of the year and into spring, and we just want you to know—we celebrate you all! Space does not permit us to list everyone who has joined and chosen to stand united beneath the WSNA umbrella, but you ARE ALL WSNA, and without you, there would be no unity – and no fun at all!

Why It Is a Great Idea to Join WSNA

When we are members of our union, we have a stronger, collective voice and a host of other nurses standing by our side. We have the right to vote on our contract and to vote for the WSNA nursing leaders who are elected in our Local Unit. We can sit on the Safe Staffing Committee, become local unit officers, participate in the Conference Committee and talk to management about our nursing issues, and ask for local unit funds to attend WSNA events.

When we and our fellow RNs are members of our union, we become a large, united group of professionals who cannot be ignored. WSNA is stronger and better able to gain a good contract when we all get actively involved. After the contract is obtained, our united strength and clout will help ensure that the contract is enforced, and we will be able to continue promoting improved wages, hours, and working conditions for our benefit and for the benefit of safe patient care.

When we are members of our union, we have a say in how nurses provide safe patient care and how nurses as a profession can work more safely under the provisions of their license and the Nurse Practice Act. WSNA continuing education offerings are available online at www.wsna.org, and we have such resources at our fingertips thanks to our union. Frequent training events and nursing periodicals are available to us too, just to cite a few other benefits.

When we are WSNA members, we are kept in the loop on what's happening on the cutting edge of nursing-related legislation, and we can participate in supporting Washington State laws which benefit our profession as a whole. By becoming a WSNA member, we support and stand ethically beside our RN colleagues statewide, and we all share the costs of keeping ourselves, as WSNA, viable and active in our own hospital. Sharing and supporting is the right thing to do for ourselves and our profession.

Save the Dates for These Upcoming Events

VICTORY + VISION REGIONAL UNITY DINNER

October 20, 2014

We are planning an action-packed Regional Unity Dinner on October 20, 2014. Come and see what solidarity looks like! We will celebrate our victories and share our vision of the future. This is about empowering all RNs throughout the entire PeaceHealth system. It is about joining together in solidarity for a fun, supportive event! There will be great food and great information on what is happening now.

This event will be at the Vancouver, Washington Hilton on October 20, 2014. Greeting and mingling starts at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Join us and be a part of this exciting, challenging time! RSVP by calling 1.800.231.8482, ext 0, or sending email to wsna@wsna.org.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CAMP

January 15, 2015

Enjoy a day of intense advocacy & activism training in a small classroom setting, followed by a reception that evening with Washington State legislators.

NURSE LEGISLATIVE DAY

February 9, 2015

Join hundreds of nurses and nursing students for incisive legislative and health policy analysis. Participate in one of the largest "lobby days" in Washington State - meet with legislators and attend afternoon hearings at the state capitol.

WASHINGTON STATE NURSES CONVENTION

April 22-24, 2015

The Washington State Nurses Convention will be the premier nursing event of 2015. You won't want to miss out on the renowned speakers, the opportunity to fulfill all of your continuing education requirements at one event, nursing sim lab, networking with nurses across the state, discussion groups to plan the direction of WSNA for the years ahead, and so much more. There will be something for everyone, so bring yourself and tell your colleagues. In addition to the serious business of learning, connecting and engaging, there will also be plenty of opportunities to enjoy Tulalip Resort Casino with new and old friends.

For more information, visit RNConvention.com.

WASHINGTON STATE NURSES CONVENTION

SAVE THE DATE!

April 22-24, 2015

Nationally-recognized Speakers • Nursing Sim Lab
Poster Sessions • A year's required continuing education in one event!

Tulalip Resort

Shopping / Spa / Restaurants / Casino / Nightlife / Golf & Skiing

Don't miss the premier nursing event of 2015!

PRESENTED BY
The Washington State Nurses Association

WSNA™

Washington State Nurses Association
575 Andover Park West, Suite 101
Seattle, WA 98188

Union bug

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