

THE SOLIDARITY PIPELINE



March 2010

NEWSLETTER OF HPAE LOCAL 5091 UNITED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

AND YES WE WOULD LIKE PAJAMAS FOR OUR PATIENTS

We returned to the Community Oversight Board (COB) and Bergen County Improvement Authority (BCIA) recently. The BCIA is responsible for the license of the hospital. Although the COB now pays a stenographer to record the minutes of their meetings, they wanted me to put into writing what they termed were a "litany of complaints over the working conditions that did not have an impact on patient care." They advised me to show a correlation between what I was telling them and the impact on patients. I will give them copies of this newsletter.

The assault of a CNA in Long Term Care was brought up during the CEO report of Susan Mendolowicz. I told the COB that they should look into the age of the resident involved and the aggregate age of all our Long Term residents as we may possibly be the only Long Term facility in the nation that is getting younger. I also stated that there were many more assaults that occurred in that time period. Assaults in the hospital are under-reported to the governing bodies.

Joe Orlando said during his "State of the Hospital" meetings that our Outpatient Clinic has had a 30% increase in volume; Mrs. Mendolowicz repeated at the COB; I mentioned that there was no correlating increase in staffing and no full-time permanent RN assigned to the area.

Dr. Peter Bryer reported on "utilization" of the

hospital. He stated that as usual we were "near capacity." He mentioned that there was some staff shortage around the holidays and that he was told it was probably due to "sick calls." I told the COB that "sick calls" were not the reason we were short at the holidays. I told them that the upper managers of the hospital do not allow the people on site to do what is necessary to provide adequate staff. I stated that there is an over-reliance on Agency and per diem staff, many of whom have tried to get permanent work at the hospital but are told there are no open positions. I continued that our regular staff shows up to work, I also told them about our staffing office and about our lack of an acuity system in Psychiatry. I told them how dangerous the TBS unit is and why. I told them that if we're treating over 1,000 pts/day, a growing outpatient department, employees and their families, then we need to return to a 24 hour pharmacy.

The COB talked about insurance questions they had. I talked about the camera systems and possible violations. I then once again asked for pajamas for our patients.

If you wish to contact the COB or the BCIA the # is (201) 336- 6352. E-mail is BCIA@co.bergen.nj.com

Jeff Peck
Local 5091 President

AS WE PROCEED WITH CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS ALWAYS FEEL FREE TO CONTACT YOUR UNIT CAPTAIN.

We will Miss Eleanor Lukas.

We are sad to announce the recent passing of long time Bergen Pines/ Bergen Regional Social Worker and HPAE Treasurer Eleanor Lukas. We all benefit today from the work she put in. Our Social Workers in particular have things today that they would not have but for Eleanor's efforts on their behalf. Godspeed.



Welcome Leo Torrey

HPAE Local 5091 members welcomes Leo Torrey as our new HPAE Staff Representative.

Leo works out of the HPAE office in Emerson and you can contact him at 201-262-5005 ext. 141 or via email at: ltorrey@hpae.org

5091 BRMC Negotiating Committee

Christina Bader
Mike Bellamy
Charlene Cain
Carole Fitzsimmons
Mary Ann Grieco
Mary Ann Macrae
Wendy Mager
Reysa Manible
Frederick Paff
Jeffrey Peck
Carol Quinn
Barbara Rosen
Carol Stern
Mary Tietjen



Bergen Regional Medical Center-Local #5091

Officers:

PRESIDENT:	Jeffrey Peck (RN)	A-1	night	ext. # 5172
VICE-PRESIDENT (RN's):	Mary Ann Grieco (RN)	AG	eve	ext. # 5182
VICE PRESIDENT (PRO's):	Carole Fitzsimmons (SW)	Behav. Health	day	ext. # 5820
SECRETARY:	Fred Paff (CADC)	F-1	day	ext. # 5080
TREASURER:	Carol Quinn	A-2	night	ext. # 5562
GRIEVANCE CHAIR:	Carol Stern (RN)	BG	day	ext. # 5591
MOBILIZATION COORD.	Mary Tietjen (RN)	10-Util. Review	day	ext. # 5776

Grievance Committee Reps:

Carol Stern	BG	day	ext. # 5591
Mary Tietjen	Util. Review	day	ext. # 5776
Carol Quinn	A-2	night	ext. # 5270
RoseAnn Tucker	C1	night	ext. # 5382
Michael Buonagurio	B1	night	ext. # 5400
Catherine-Ann Doyle	Evergreen	day	ext. # 4396
Howard Tokarski	BG	eve	ext. # 5591
Donna Winterich	A-2	eve	ext. # 5562
Charlene Caine 5100	12B	day	ext.#

Union Office:

Leo Torrey, HPAE Staff Rep. - (Office # 201-262-5005 ext # 141)

Ammie Knipe, HPAE Support Staff - ext. # 122

Fax # 201-262-4335 or 201-262-1482

HPAE – 110 Kinderkamack Road - Emerson, NJ 07630

Membership meeting on March 4 –
7:30-8:30 AM, 1:30- 3:00 PM and 3:30-4:30 PM in the BRMC auditorium to discuss possible contract issues.

April 1 – Membership meeting (same times and location) for ratification of contract proposals.

We plan to begin negotiations the week of April 5.

AFT NATIONAL DUES

Effective March 1, 2010, the AFT National dues will be increasing at the following rate per each pay period. Full time employees – additional \$0.33/per pay period to \$5.70.

Part time employees (more than 20 hours per week) – additional \$0.16 per pay period.

Per Diem employees (less than 20 hours per week) – additional \$0.08 per pay period.

On or about March 1, 2010, the premium for locals that purchase the AFT Liability Insurance (Temple, JSMC, Virtua, Wanaque, Llanfair, Meadowlands and Southern Ocean County) will be decreased by \$0.05 per pay period.



HPAE
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Emerson, NJ 07630