

local unit Newsletter

WSNA Local Unit Children's Hospital

In This Issue

- Note from the Co-Chair – Edna Cortez
- A Word from Your WSNA Nurse Rep
- Nurse Staffing Bill Passed Legislature
- Meet Your Co-Chair
- From the Desk of Jeremy King, LU Co-Chair
- 2008 Local Unit Awards

Local Unit Officers

Edna Cortez	Co-Chair
Jeremy King	Co-Chair
Jean Pfeifer	Grievance
William Berko	Membership

WSNA Nurse Representative

Rosie Tillotson
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WSNA Web Site

www.wsna.org

*The oldest and largest
union representing
registered nurses in
Washington State*



**WASHINGTON STATE
NURSES ASSOCIATION**



Note From The Co-Chair

Edna Cortez, RN, Local Unit Co-Chair

My name is Edna Cortez and I am your Local Unit Co-Chairperson along with Jeremy King. I have been working for Airlift Northwest for a little over a year and a half. I love the flying and yes, I have become nauseated and have thrown up. Before flying I was grounded to the Intensive Care units as a critical care float and on the ground infant transport team. Before then I worked in the PICU and did several years on the surgical unit as well as doing fill in-house supervisor. I am still on the ECMO team.

The loves of my life are my niece, nephews and my 2 shih tzus! I am willing to talk anyone's ears off about them!

Please, do not hesitate to email any of your Local Unit Officers about any contract concerns or questions (home: epcortez920@comcast.net or work: edna.cortez@airliftnw.org). Also, if you can't remember any of your Officers, please call WSNA and ask for the Children's hospital Nurse Rep Rosie Tillotson.

Well, first of all, we, Children's Hospital Local Unit Officers would like to congratulate WSNA for their 100th year anniversary! What a wonderful evening! The pictures and the people around the dining room show what the organization has done with its history and will do for the future of nursing in our state. The statement of 'Pride in our past.....Confidence in our future' makes a very bold statement. I, myself, being a nurse for almost 20 years can only imagine what nursing was like 100 years ago, especially forming a professional nursing organization. Amazing! The struggles, the strides and the accomplishments are what keeps nursing alive. Keep it up WSNA!



Secondly, we would like to thank all of those nurses that attended with us to the gala. It was an enjoyable dinner with nurses who work in different areas of Children's hospital. I would like to share this story about a chance meeting. Karen Kelly and Penny Pefley were discussing some work talk, like any nurse does with another nurse. Well, apparently, Penny, who works with the Consulting Nurse group, was working the night that Karen Kelly's (ECMO charge nurse) nephew was admitted to the Emergency room became the first pediatric patient placed on ECMO over 15 years ago. It was Penny that advised the family to go the ER. Penny told Karen that she often thinks about him and how he is doing.



Karen told about the 15 year anniversary of ECMO at Children's hospital. The rest is history!

Alright, I'm going to be a little mushy, but oh well. As nurses, we affect our patient's lives one way or another - just like the example of Karen's nephew and Penny's advise over the phone. I am very proud to be nurse and am equally proud to be proud a member of WSNA.

A Word From Your WSNA Nurse Representative Rosie Tillotson, RN, MSN

As your newly designated WSNA Nurse Representative, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have been a Registered Nurse for twenty-three years. I have comprehensive experience in emergency medicine, peri-operative services and out patient cardiology. In the past, I have been a staff nurse and a nurse manager. In 2006, I graduated with a Master's in Nursing from the University of Phoenix. I have been a member of various different unions during half of my nursing career.

Now, working for WSNA, I can help nurses achieve an optimal work environment. It will be a pleasure working with nurses who strive to achieve their highest nursing objectives.

I am looking forward to working with you, addressing workplace issues and promoting fair treatment of nurses at Children's Hospital.

*Rosie Tillotson RN, MSN
Nurse Representative
206-575-7979, ext. 3039
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Nurse Staffing Bill Passed Legislature

The Safe Nurse Staffing Legislation (House Bill 3123) passed the Legislature with near unanimous votes. Governor Gregoire is expected to sign the bill into law. Highlights of the new law will include:

- Each hospital, by September 2008, must establish a nurse staffing committee composed at least half direct care nurses. This committee will develop, oversee and evaluate a nurse staffing plan for each unit and shift of the hospital based on patient care needs, appropriate skill mix of registered nurses and other nursing personnel, layout of the unit, and national standards/recommendations on nurse staffing.
- If the staffing plan developed by the staffing committee is not adopted by the hospital, the CEO must provide a

written explanation of the reasons why, to the committee.

- The staffing information must be posted in a public area and must include the nurse staffing plan and the nurse staffing schedule, as well as the clinical staffing relevant to that unit. It must be updated at least once every shift and made available to patients and visitors upon request.

Ensuring safe nurse staffing has been a top priority for WSNA for the past several years. A growing body of research confirms what we all know, that the care provided by registered nurses has a direct impact on quality of hospital care and patient safety. Nursing care requires continuous patient assessment, critical thinking and expert judgment, advocating on behalf of our patients, and educating patients and their families. Those activities are the essence of nursing care and are critical factors in avoiding preventable complications, injuries and avoidable deaths.

Here are the Facts:

- In a major study, risk of patient mortality within 30 days of admission among surgical patients was found to increase by an average of 7% for every additional patient in a nurses' patient assignments
- Inadequate staffing was found to be a contributing factor in 24% of all unanticipated events that resulted in patient death, injury, or permanent loss of function
- A higher proportion of hours of registered nursing care per day are associated with better outcomes for hospitalized and these outcomes can result in significant cost-savings to the system.

Over the past year, WSNA has collected and synthesized the evidence-based data on nurse staffing, conducted nine regional workshops across the state on the history and development of the nurse staffing outcomes data, our proposed legislation and the legislation and regulation being considered and passed in other states.

WSNA has been working very hard throughout the past year to educate our members, our legislators and our former opponents about the important evidence-based impact of nurse staffing on patient safety and nurse retention and satisfaction. Since last fall, WSNA has been engaged in a mediated process with the Washington State Hospital Association, the Northwest Organization of Nurse Executives and the other nurse unions on the critical issue of nurse staffing.

In addition to the jointly supported legislation that passed in 2008, the collaboration with the stakeholders also includes a Memorandum of Agreement that includes the following ongoing work and discussions on nurse staffing:

- Establishment of a Ruckelshaus Steering Committee composed of two representatives each of WSHA, NWOE, WSNA, SEIU, and UFCW.
- Dialogue through October of 2008 on minimum nurse staffing standards and public disclosure of nursing sensitive quality indicators.

- Conduct a survey of all hospitals to compile the nursing sensitive quality indicators currently collected by hospitals. Based on the results, selected those most meaningful for hospitals to share with the staffing committee of the hospital and the Ruckleshaus Steering Committee.
- Develop a process to identify, standardize, and collect at least five nurse sensitive quality indicators to be collected by all Washington hospitals.
- Pilot project of an immediate staffing alert system designed to address real time staffing concerns in several Washington hospitals.
- Establishment of an advisory committee to support the work of the staffing committees in hospitals. The committee would compile nurse staffing guidelines; collect, develop, and disseminate materials; serve as a resource and collect best practices; and recommend and provide training for nurse staffing committees.
- Jointly urge the Washington State Department of Health to include nurse staffing information on the state's adverse events reporting form in order to examine the impact of nurse staffing on the adverse event.

Meet Your Co-Chair

Jeremy King, RN, Local Unit Co-Chair

Jeremy King has been a nurse for 10 years. He graduated from Seattle University in '97 and is 35. He got involved with WSNA upon his arrival to Children's hospital and has served on 2 bargaining committees, as Grievance Officer, and now as Co-Chair with Edna Cortez. He has worked Hem/ Onc, ICU and Emergency where he is currently a nurse.

Outside of work Jeremy is married to Allison and they have a daughter together named Fiona. Fiona is a contender for cutest kid in the world. Allison and Jeremy live in north Seattle and are currently building there house while living in it-Good Times! Jeremy is always available to chat about nursing stuff, show you some pics of Fiona or help you with any contract related issues.



From the Desk of Jeremy King, RN, BSN, Local Unit Co-Chair

Hey folks we want to hear from you! We will be setting up a survey on the WSNA website so we can figure out what folks want and how best to help them. We also need to increase PARTICIPATION!!! We are hoping the survey will also serve to increase awareness of WSNA at the hospital and help folks get involved.

Remember please that your local bargaining unit is member driven meaning that the more folks we can get involved the more stuff we can accomplish. If you don't feel like filling out the survey and just want to talk about various contract and WSNA related issues, feel free to contact Jeremy King who works in the hospital, Edna Cortez, who works for Airlift or Bill Berko who works in ICU.

One of the items we want to know about is how we should best get the bargaining unit together for a social gathering/membership building event. Please see the website for details. Instructions for website survey are as follows: Just go to <http://www.wsna.org/Local-Unit/Childrens-Medical-Center/> and look for the link to the survey, near the top of the page.



2008 Local Unit Awards Presented by the WSNA Cabinet on Economic and General Welfare

The WSNA Cabinet on Economic and General Welfare is proud to announce the annual Local Unit Awards to be presented during the 2008 Leadership Conference on September 29, 2007 in Lake Chelan.

*This is your chance to nominate someone that you feel has done an outstanding job as a Local Unit leader. This can be someone who is, or has been, a Local Unit leader who you feel deserves some recognition. So please submit your nominations before the **July 25, 2008** deadline.*

*To nominate the person, or persons of your choice, please complete the nomination form after reviewing the criteria for each award. **More information on you nominee is best! Please add additional pages if necessary!***

The Categories for the Awards are: Outstanding Local Unit Chair, Adversity Award, Local Unit Star, Outstanding Negotiation Team, Membership Award, and Outstanding Grievance Officer.

Nomination forms are available on wsna.org on the Leadership 2008 page.