

local unit Newsletter

WSNA Local Unit SKAGIT VALLEY HOSPITAL

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Local Unit Officers

John Tweedy	Co-Chair
Brian Francis	Co-Chair
Tom Nyland	Treasurer
Linda Warman	Grievance
Deb Reimer	Grievance
Juli Hansen	Membership
Jean Engbrecht	Membership

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WSNA Web Site

www.wsna.org

*The Oldest and Largest
Union Representing
Registered Nurses in
Washington State*



Thank-You For All You Do - Each and Every day for our patients and for each other!

Your Elected and appointed WSNA/SVH Local Unit Officers all hope that you enjoyed the Nurse Week Celebrations and events that were done for you and with you from May 4th thru May 12.



It was our pleasure to give something back to all of you here at SVH who are the staff nurses of SVH and especially who are our staff nurse members of the WSNA/SVH Local unit.

The Local Unit officers want to also extend a big: **Thank-You**, to Lorraine Landstrom, who stepped in for a short period of time as Grievance officer.

We appreciate your stepping up when you were needed for all of us here at SVH.

Julia Weinberg, Advocate

It is with a great deal of pride that the local unit leadership of WSNA bids farewell to a constant figure in the local unit leadership.

Julia Weinberg is leaving the position as Local Unit Co-Chair to embark on her new role as WSNA President. Julia has been a Local Unit leader for the past 18 years. During that time, she has held multiple offices on the local, state and the national levels.

She has been a member of the WSNA Board of Directors, Cabinet on Economic and General Welfare, as well as being the Vice Chair of the Cabinet on Economic and General Welfare, before being elected as WSNA President.

Besides being a strong patient and nurse advocate, Julia has given a great deal of time and effort to help make Skagit Valley Hospital a strong Local Unit. She is an outstanding Local Unit historian.

We will still be seeing Julia at the hospital in her role as a PACU nurse. However, we are sure that she will be on the road a lot in her new role as WSNA President representing nurses on the state and national levels. We wish her the best in her new role.



WSNA Convention was held April 30th thru May 1st

WOW! Was it a great event. We want to thank our two nurse winners from our WSNA/SVH Local Unit who both wrote essays for our contest: explaining the reasons “Why they should be chosen to attend the convention”. These nurses essays were both selected and their attendance was paid for in full by the local unit funds.

*Kathy Brown RN
Kelly Bradford, RN*

Staffing Committee Updates:



The staffing surveys results have been reviewed and the information that was gleaned from these have been sent back to each unit council responsible for their staffing model.

These same unit staff need to then follow-up with reviewing their current staffing model and acuity tool if they have one first. If you do not have an acuity tool, then you need to develop one if applicable or you may be already using your national organization standards for staffing recommendations such as the AORN or CCRN which has already defined recommended staffing for these units. The staffing committee is also recommending that you look at your processes and systems that were identified as issues and seek solutions to these as well as you under take the reviewing of your staffing model, proposing improvements, or maybe you will decide that you do not need improvements. In either case the staffing committee members will be seeking your proposal in July/August of what you want and need for staffing in a letter to the committee members for their review. The staffing committee members may also at that time when your unit comes up, seek to have a representative from your unit come and explain your proposal to them and help to answer any further needed for information as the staffing

committee prepares to take the recommendations of safe staffing models to the CEO in September 2009.

DRAFT Peer Committee Policy Update:

Your WSNA/SVH Local Unit officers continue to give our input into Peer Review policy. We continue to stress that peer review should be seen as an opportunity to educate and focus training for nurses found needing these due to those issues found regarding patient care and practice. We do not want to see this forum used as a way to punish or discipline nurses.

We will continue to keep you updated through this process.

Grievance Updates

We are awaiting 4 arbitrations to be heard.

Three of these four have to do with Terminations without Just Cause.

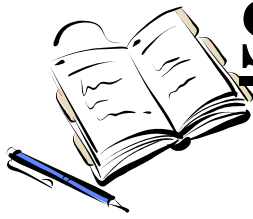
The fourth is about Charge Nurse Pay and Charge Nurse Role disappearing from Hospice staff nurse model and thus the Charge Nurse pay also disappeared in Hospice.

On Going Stuff

We have had several Nurse/ Manager Meetings these past months: having to do with multiple topics for which your WSNA/SVH local unit reps. have been in attendance to support and to be there for our members “just in case” any discipline may occur.

Grievances Won

We have won grievances on schedules changed without seeking volunteers first or changing without mutual consent after the schedule posted. Low Census rotation and charge nurse role is to not be considered a Low Census turn.



Save The Dates!

Restoring & Training Nurses in Recovery

October 23, 2009

WAMU Cedarbrook Leadership Institute, SeaTac

Violence In the Health Care Workplace – Translating Knowledge to Prevention

Bellingham – October 12

Seattle/Tacoma – October 22

Yakima – November 11

Spokane – November 19

(see WSNA website at WSNA.org for registration information)