

**WSNA Local Unit
ST. LUKE'S
REHABILITATION
INSTITUTE**

In This Issue

- ◆ Join Today And Have A Say!
- ◆ Make Your Voice Heard!
- ◆ Dues, Dues, Dues!

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WSNA Web Site

www.wsna.org

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



Join Today And Have A Say!

We need to increase membership in preparation for our upcoming contract negotiations this year. You have to be a member to have a say in the negotiation process and vote on the contract. This is our contract and we do not want to lose the benefit of our voices being heard loud and clear. There is power in numbers!

Membership forms are on the WSNA web site, www.wsna.org.

JOIN TODAY!

Make Your Voice Heard!

There are a multitude of things happening this year, state and country wide that we feel you should hear about and we want you to take action, so your voices can be heard and your input considered when the decisions are made. As Nurses and voters there are now issues at the legislative and senate arena about safe staffing that we can have an impact on.



The fact that nursing care has a direct impact on patient outcomes is no longer in dispute. There is an abundance of research that demonstrates the critical link between nurse staffing and patient safety. Inadequate staffing is one of the primary reasons nurses leave bedside nursing. WSNA, working with stakeholders and lawmakers, is proud to have legislation in Olympia (The first is the House Bill 1809 and Senate Bill 5696) that will ensure quality and safe patient care, provide transparency on specific patient outcomes, empower consumers with more information on hospital care, and increase nursing retention at this time of a critical nursing shortage.

Go to www.wsna.org and www.wsna.org/legal/takeaction.asp for more information about this and other critical nursing legislative issues. This will guide you right to the link to contact your legislator, and there is an e-mail all set to go asking them to support this bill. The more nurses that send this message the more of a voice we have in these becoming law. How empowering is that?

In an added aspect of this inadequate staffing, we need to look at the instances of medical harm that occur daily in U.S. hospitals, (more than 40,000). Many risk factors exist within every nurse's day-to-day work environment that impacts his or her ability to provide safe patient care. We know that we have more acutely ill patients, frequent patient turnover, high staff turnover, increased interruptions and demands on nurses' time, long work hours, overtime and inadequate staffing are just a few of these contributing factors that affect the quality of patient care. At the end of 2006, ANA participated with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement to endorse its new national campaign to protect patients and reduce medical harm by 5 million incidents. This is the largest campaign undertaken by the health care industry to improve patient safety. What can you do? **Go to www.NursingWorld.org "Protect the Five Million Lives from Harm"** to learn more about strategies to reduce injuries and errors and to see how you can help achieve the goal.

One in forty registered voters in the state of Washington is a Nurse. What a voice we have, let us put them to good use and make an impact on healthcare and patient safety. It truly is in our court now and instead of questioning how to do it, we now have the power to make it happen.

Make your Voice heard this month and next month by e-mailing your legislators to ask them to vote the House Bill 1809 and Senate Bill 5696, into law.

Dues, Dues, Dues!

As we start the New Year, you will also notice that there is an additional small amount coming out of your membership dues. This is the money that is being allocated to the UAN to hire organizers. There are still many nurses out there that are not receiving the benefit of being unionized, and our goal is to help that happen. All the dues that you pay and where they go were broken down and explained in the Jan/Feb Washington Nurse.

It doesn't cost to be a union member – it pays!





Make your plans now to attend the 2007 WSNA Convention

Don't miss out on this important opportunity to join your nurse colleagues from all across the state. Learn about the important issues facing nurses today and what's being done to address them. The 2007 Convention will feature many nationally recognized speakers and presenters, poster sessions, exhibits, CE sessions, association recognition awards, as well as fun-filled events, good food, and lots of opportunity for networking and renewing friendships! Be sure to register early and invite your nurse-friends and nursing students to do the same and plan to attend the Earlybird Reception on Wednesday evening.

When

May 3-4, 2007

There will be an Earlybird reception on May 2, 2007 to start things off, so please plan to attend that evening.

Where

Tacoma Sheraton Hotel
1320 Broadway Plaza
Tacoma, WA 98402

Lodging

Discount prices on room reservations are good through April 11, 2007. Call 888-627-7044 to reserve your room now. Hotel policy requires cancellation before 6 p.m. on the day before check in.

Room Rates

Single King & Double - \$119 per night
Club King & Club Double - \$139 per night
Deluxe King - \$149 per night
King Suite - \$239 per night

Parking

Special parking rate \$8 per day.

