

**WSNA Local Unit
UNIVERSITY OF
WASHINGTON MEDICAL
CENTER**

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Local Unit Officers

Steve Krauss	Chair
Harry James	Treasurer
Anita Stull	Grievance
Kathy Higgins	Grievance

WSNA Nurse Representative

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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**

Letter From The Chair . . .

By Steve Krauss, RN, CNOR



Hello, I hope you are having a good autumn. Even though the hot weather is over, issues haven't cooled down at the hospital. A long-standing issue of nurses' missed breaks, stemming from a grievance in the psych unit will be argued before a judge soon in arbitration. If you do not get your 15-minute rest breaks or your 30-minute meal break be

sure to call it to the attention of your charge nurse and document it.

There will be changes to the stadium parking lot soon. Watch for a message from management regarding choices for parking assignments. Sound Transit will be starting the major construction portion of the light rail station at UW, and has been sold a portion of the stadium parking area. E-11 and E-12 are going to be affected.

The local unit leadership team is still in need of two officers. If you would like to be directly involved in activities supporting the nurses at UWMC, please contact us. We need a Co-Chair and a Secretary, as well as an additional Grievance Officer. Negotiations for the next contract are about 8 months away, so this is a great time to join the leadership team.

If you are not yet a member, please consider joining. You are the strength we need when we meet with hospital management, whether for conference committee, grievances or contract negotiations. Increased membership translates into better working conditions for nurses.

Use it or Lose it!!

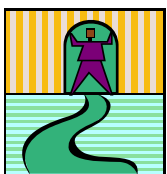
Use of accrued vacation time has been a recent issue here at UWMC as nurses have lost thousands of dollars worth of vacation time to an overabundance of accrued hours on their anniversary date. See contract section 12.4 (2) that explains that vacation that is accrued in excess of 240 hours will be lost on your anniversary date. We brought this to Conference Committee and UWMC agreed to add accrued vacation hours to your twice yearly benefit update. We are working to get these notices to become part of your monthly reports of your balances of all accrued leave. To learn your Anniversary date, please contact HR representative Becky Hammontree at beckyl@u.washington.edu or call her at 206-598-7786.



Know ahead of time and claim the vacation you have earned!

Sidewalk Social

Our September 3rd Sidewalk Social was a big success! A big thanks is in order to everyone who helped contribute to this event. This allowed WSNA and our Local Unit Officers to say “Thanks”.....Thanks for being a nurse, Thanks for being a part of WSNA and thanks for your ongoing support and suggestions. We want every nurse to know we are here to address your needs, preserve your rights and help make UWMC a top choice for nurses.



Congrats to David Echague, RN of 6NE who was the Drawing winner for the Starbuck’s Gift Card!!

Parking Update

Please see message below that is being relayed per WSNA request:

Per Commuter Services, the affected lots are E10, E11, and E12.

January 1, 2010 is the date for the first wave of required physical moves from the lots.

June 1, 2010 is the date for the second and final wave of required physical moves from the lots.

October 31st will be the deadline to log into the website to request your desired lot. Notifications will be sent via email and hard copy confirming the date the website will be available.

Nurses can contact Chris McDivit at 206-221-3701 or prkissue@u.washington.edu for general information. However, they will not be able to answer specific questions pertaining to each individual (such as “Am I going to get the lot I requested”) until all requests have been made and the requests processed. This should be sometime in mid November.

This is right around the corner so PLEASE be proactive despite the late notice by UWMC!

Flu Vaccine Update

WSNA encourages ALL nurses to get your Flu Vaccines. Please contact employee Health at your earliest convenience to schedule your appointment!! Please log on to WSNA website at www.WSNA.org. for the latest updates on H1N1 and all the latest available information.



New Patient Care Model at UWMC

As many of you have become aware, UWMC has started rolling out what is considered to be a “Trial Period” for a new Patient Care Model. This model increases the number of PCTs (Patient Care Techs)

on affected units to “allow nurses to concentrate on RN-specific duties.” What may not be realized with this new model is the fact that it actually decreases the number of RN FTEs and increases nurse/patient ratios in most cases.

Please voice your concerns and pass along your specific issues to the chairperson for UWMC Safe Staffing Committee, Theresa Ismach, RN. Her email address is tismach@u.washington.edu or she may be reached by phone at 206-598-5203.



You may also attend the monthly peer group meetings with Lorie Wild and be heard.

Patient Safety is our number one goal and any compromise to this should be recognized and challenged!

Dependant Audit

Please see memo below that was sent from Labor Relations:

- 1) Pending Dependant Audit for Insurance.....What is the deadline for this and who would they contact for questions?

Employees must contact the Public Employees Benefit Board about documenting dependents. The union, as a courtesy, might remind their members that they must respond to the PEBB mailing. The deadline for response is November 30, 2009. The Benefits website has great information including forms, contacts, etc. The Benefits Office or PEBB would be the place to direct questions.

<http://www.washington.edu/admin/hr/benefits/> (link to more info from list on the right side of the page)

<https://www.fuzeqna.com/pebb/consumer/kb/detail.asp?kbid=839>

New Fragrance Free Policy Goes House-wide

Starting November 1st, as part of a Revised Dress Code Policy, UWMC will go “Fragrance Free” house-wide. This has been put into place for the continued safety of patients and staff. Be aware of your lotions and colognes as they may be creating a health risk for your colleagues, patients and families.

Be respectful, be insightful and do not wear any products to work that contain fragrances. ☺

Play a Role

WSNA is looking for a few good RNs to assist in advocating for our nurses at UWMC. We need at least 3 more Grievance Officers to represent nurses at Investigatory meetings and advocate for contract rights. We have a one evening training session that will get you up and running.

Here is your chance to be empowered and help empower others.

Please contact me with any questions you may have at:

206-575-7979, ext. 3022
Ed Zercher, BSN, RN

Up Coming Events

*2010 Nurse Legislative Day
February 8, 2010
Olympia, WA*