

WSNA Local Unit Yakima Regional Hospital

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Julia Barcott	Vice Chair
Pamela Rimel	Treasurer
Anne Whitley	Grievance
Debra Corning	Grievance
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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**



From the Desk of Nurse Representative at WSNA

There are a multitude of things happening this year, state and country wide that we feel you should hear about. We want you to take action, so your voices can be heard and your input needs to be 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 impact 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.

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.

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.

In Solidarity,

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UPDATES:

Many of you may have recently received a check in the mail from HMA. This check was a result of an arbitration decision on missed rest periods and meal breaks. An arbitrator ruled that missed rest periods are to be paid and that all nurses that wrote down a missed rest period during the time in question would be paid for them.

Why is my check so small or why didn't I get one?

The time period that was covered under the arbitration only covered 9 months. Many of us did not write down our missed 15 minute rest periods because we were never informed that rest periods were to be paid. Also, there were time exception

sheets from some units that management was unable to find so they were never produced.

What now?

You are entitled to a 15 minute rest period every 4 hours. This means that if you work 12 hours you should have 3 rest periods and 8 hour shift nurses should take 2 rest periods. We contend that these are 15 minute blocks of time that you are able to leave the floor or go take a break while being relieved of your duties. Each time you miss a rest period you need to write down on the time exception sheet **missed 15 minute rest period**.

ADO INFORMATION:

I know that many of you don't believe that **ADOs are helpful**, but **they are**. The recent arbitration was a perfect example of why ADOs are so important. Over 900 ADOs were put into evidence and were instrumental in proving our case. Also, if you fill out an ADO and end up being disciplined later for a problem that occurred during that shift, you can produce the ADO showing that you had voiced concerns over unsafe staffing, an unsafe assignment or other problem.

How do I fill an ADO out and what should I do prior to doing one?

When you are aware that there is a problem let the charge nurse, staffing or manager know. Tell them the problem that you feel is unsafe and that you are going to fill an ADO out. Even if the problem is resolved later during the shift, it is still important to fill one out showing that there was an issue to begin with. Try to fill in as many areas of the ADO as possible. Make sure that you make a copy for yourself, your manager and send the original to **Lori Bethay in PACU**. Remember that we can't bring up issues if we don't know about them. An ADO is a perfect example of how to inform us and how to protect your patients and yourself.



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.

