

Spokane Regional Health District



LABOR LOOP

PTE Local 17 Union Bulletin • Sept. 2011

Negotiations Update

First Session with Employer Cancelled

Negotiations for September 27th have been cancelled pending the election and preparation of a new Negotiating Team.

Negotiating Team Elections

During our recent meetings, employees expressed a desire to elect the 2011 Negotiating Team and to create divisional diversity on the Team.

The first step to electing the 2011 Negotiating Team is to nominate employees for the positions. We have created an electronic "Negotiating Team Nomination Form" utilizing Survey Monkey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BLBTWMQ>

All nominations must be received by **5:00 PM on Friday, September 30, 2011**. If you would like to nominate an employee but do not have internet access you may do so by contacting Nikola Davidson at 800.783.0017, ext. 111.

There are four slots available on the negotiating team. Local 17's goal is to have the slots filled by a cross-section of members from the various SRHD Divisions. (One person from each of the following divisions: DPR, EPH, and CFS and one from Non-Divisional/ Administration/ HP).

If there is more than one nominee for a slot that is willing to serve, we will hold an election for that position. An uncontested nominee will serve on the Negotiating Team.

Upcoming Negotiations

Once the Negotiating Team is in place your Union Representative, Carrie Blackwood, will meet with the team to plan next steps. The next session with the employer is scheduled for October 12th.

LMC Update

Please note that Labor Management Committee (LMC) meetings have been cancelled during negotiations.

Communication

Check Out Your Webpage!

Each bargaining unit in PTE Local 17 has its own website page with resources such as information about negotiations, healthcare, and your leadership as well as a copy of your contract. Check often for updates. Go to: <http://www.pte17.org/units/health/spokane/index.php>

Home Email List

Your Union Representative, Carrie Blackwood, has started a home email list. Carrie will periodically update members about the latest union information using the list. Any updates sent to the list will also be placed on the webpage. If you would like to be included in the list please contact carrie@pte17.org.

Union Education Corner

What is a Chapter?

Local 17 members are divided into Chapters around the state. Some of these member groups are organized by geography and others are by bargaining unit. SRHD has its own Chapter that is governed by elected Chapter Officers. The SRHD Chapter meetings are open to all SRHD members. SRHD Chapter meetings address not only workplace issues but also the governance of Local 17 by the election of Regional Executive Committee (REC) Delegates which attend Local 17-wide meetings.

Your Chapter Officers are: Secretary-Treasurer - Nancy Hawley Vice-President - Tammy McCauley who has been temporarily standing in for Nancy Wharton. However, the President, Bob Gaulke, has stepped down so Tammy McCauley is now the Acting President. Your REC Delegates are Colleen Gorman and Nancy Hawley. The next election for Chapter Officers and REC Delegates will be November of this year – stay tuned!

Who Are My Stewards and What Is Their Role?

Stewards are the most direct link to union representation at the workplace. Stewards are co-workers trained to help represent members in the workplace and act as a conduit between members and the Union Representative (Carrie Blackwood). Stewards are responsible for communicating with fellow members on union issues on a regular basis.

Current Stewards:

Bob Gaulke (EPH)

Colleen Gorman (Health Promotion-WIC)

Nancy Hawley (Health Promotion-Injury Prevention)

Tammy McCauley (CFS)

Vikki Barthels (EPH)

Debby Ryan (WIC)

There are some Steward vacancies in SRHD as not all areas are currently represented. Over the next few months Local 17 will be working to increase availability of Stewards in your area.

Remember, you can always find the current list of Stewards at: <http://www.ptel7.org/units/health/spokane/index.php>

Membership Meeting on Sept. 27th

Carrie will still be available to meet with members on September 27th to update you on the issues the Negotiating Team will be exploring. Tuesday, Sept. 27th, 5-6:30 p.m., Auditorium, Rm. 140. Pizza will be provided.

Member Q&A

Q: With the cost of health care going up I am concerned that our health care dollars are spent on alternative medicine in the form of things like massage, acupuncture, and chiropractic care. Would it lower our costs if we did not cover alternative medicine in our plans?

A: One, health care plans in Washington are prevented from excluding alternative medicine options.

Two, although adding a benefit like alternative care might seem like a luxury in difficult times a number of studies show that costs are either not affected by adding alternative care options or decrease due to the increased preventative benefits of alternative care.

Non-Rep/Nurses Health Care Plan

The overall renewal rates for the non-represented employees and those represented by the nurses came in 29% above the 2011 rates, as compared to PEBB's increase of less than 4%. Please see the attached PEBB renewal rates.



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2900 Eastlake Avenue East Suite 300
Seattle, Washington 98102

Your Union Representative is: Carrie Blackwood

Phone
206-328-7321, Ext. 120

Toll-Free
800-783-0017, Ext. 120

Fax
206-328-7402

Email
carrie@ptel7.org