

# DID U KNOW

June 2015

## NEW CONTRACT LANGUAGE

### 2.09 Voluntary Check-off for COPE

You can now authorize the Medical Center to deduct monies authorized by you for the Union's political action fund called HPAE Committee on Political Education (COPE).

Unions can't use dues money towards political action. HPAE relies solely on monies donated from the membership. You need to fill out a COPE deduction form which can be obtained from the union office and/or a union officer. If you donate a \$1.00 a pay check that will amount to \$26.00 a year.

HPAE Members formed COPE to educate our elected officials about what is really going on in the healthcare system – and to fight for change. HPAE tracks the voting records of state and federal legislators on HPAE issues. COPE also screens and interviews candidates and makes recommendations to the membership. Through COPE, HPAE members have been instrumental in the drafting of new legislation, in providing testimony before legislators and government officials, and in organize letter writing efforts to persuade elected officials to support HPAE legislation.

Some of our legislative accomplishments:

- Violence in the Workplace (2008)
- Safe Patient Handling Act (2008)
- Paid Family Leave Act (2008)
- Mandatory Overtime Law (2004)
- Safe Needle System (2000)

Current legislative agenda:

- A bill that would mandate safe staffing ratios and acuity systems.