



### Message from the President

Summer is coming to an end and children have returned back to school. As we prepare ourselves for the coming winter holidays, I am reminded it has nearly been two years since the restructuring of the hospital. Wow, how time flies. We are also quickly approaching election season. HPAE is endorsing Hillary Clinton for President and believes her policies and agenda are in line with our union. Are you registered to vote in the coming Presidential election, November 8, 2016? If you are not registered you still have time. In New Jersey you have until October 18, 2016 via mail and in-person to register to vote. "Change the world... vote."

During our last membership meeting on August 25, 2016, those in attendance received our new contracts. Items discussed were related to lack of administrative support, accountability and RNs still covering call-outs. Union reps have met with administrators and presented our signed petition (20 out of 25 RN') and have provided several suggestions. Administrators have been made aware that patient care is OUR FIRST PRIORITY. Nurses were asked to submit suggestions to union reps on how sick call coverage could be returned back to administration. Covering sick calls is outside of our contract and is considered non-nursing duty."

It was agreed by those in attendance at the membership meeting that **on-call supervisors would be notified of all sick calls and asked to advise on how to proceed.** Please be prepared with staffing sheets and inform administration of you unit's acuity, pending admissions, # of Q15 min precautions, number of patients needing hands on assistance with ADL's, etc. Patient care suffers when you have to spend hours on the phone to find available staff. **Administrators should make all staffing decisions.** Have them make the decision on who is called (RN or IA) and if someone is called. Again, OUR position is that this is a "NON-NURSING DUTY," and was a task performed by administration prior to selling of the nursing home units and should continue to be an administrative duty.

The September 7, 2016 Labor Management meeting was cancelled by Cornerstone Administration.

Please hand in your surveys to Elaine, Cindy S or Priscilla. Your completed surveys are needed so we can serve you and your needs and collectively be a better union. Please contact Priscilla for copies of your newly printed contract.

Lastly, we have been chosen by HPAE to pilot text messaging. Using this technology will enable our local to communicate more efficiently, keeping you, the membership, informed about patient issues and actions.

A special thanks to Wendy RN (CSW), and Flo (CSE); both plan to participate on the Health and Safety Committee. The meeting date and time to be announced.

Stronger together,  
Priscilla Surles-Burrus  
Local 5112 President

### Report on HPAE New Officer Training

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, I attended the New Officer Training offered by HPAE at the Rutgers University Labor Education Center. My goal was to become a more informed and effective representative of Union County Behavioral Health's registered nurses. Although I have always passively supported the union, I decided now is the time to become more actively involved.

The training included a brief history of HPAE and the American labor movement; membership representation and the grievance process; building a successful leadership team; and organizing and political action.

I am currently the COPE representative. COPE is the Committee on Political Education. This committee is one of the most active within HPAE, and its goal is to inform the public and our elected representatives of issues important to health care in NJ. Safe staffing legislation is a legislative priority, as well as protecting access to quality affordable health care and strengthening the standards for buyers of community hospitals.

I left the meeting knowing much more about HPAE, and am now even more committed to ensuring our workplace is a safe, productive, and therapeutic environment for our patients and ourselves.

Diane Carroll

### UNDERWEAR DRIVE



We are having an underwear drive month of November 2016 all month.

Collection bins to be placed on Cornerstone East, West and

Administration. Our patients are transferred to cornerstone with no clothes or underwear. Donate bras, female and male underwear socks of all sizes. Winter is coming, so please also donate thermal underwear and sweat clothes.

Help HPAE meet our clients basic needs.

Thanks,  
Priscilla

# HPAE CONVENTION 2016: "Challenging Corporate Healthcare"

October 6 - 7, 2016 Bally's Atlantic City



## REGISTER ONLINE NOW

[www.hpae.org/campaigns/  
convention2016](http://www.hpae.org/campaigns/convention2016)

**HEAR FROM** national healthcare advocacy experts, including Jessica Curtis of Community Catalyst and Dr. Fred Hyde from Columbia University, on the trends in corporate healthcare affecting our members and communities.

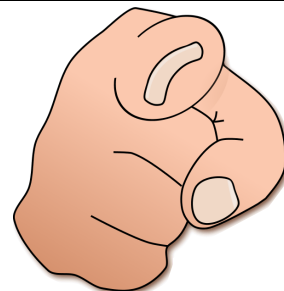
**DISCUSS EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES** for challenging corporate healthcare in bargaining, organizing, community alliances, and politics.

**VOTE ON** HPAE's strategic plan for challenging corporate healthcare and updating our union's constitution, bylaws and dues.



# HPAE

Want to communicate with you  
Cornerstone RN's



**Please text 69238 and type 5112**

On your cell phone (text messaging may apply)

We have been chosen by HPAE to pilot this communication technique to keep our members informed and engaged.

**We need 100% participation to make this pilot program  
successful!!!**