



Message from the President

Happy Fall! As we anticipate the leaves changing colors and air becoming crisp, we know that Union County has not changed their colors. You are the Union! Please continue to advocate for your hard won rights as well as the safety of our patients. Your officers, Priscilla (President), Elaine (Secretary-Treasurer) and Valerie (Grievance Chair)], continue to work on your behalf to reinforce our contract. We are awaiting the final draft of our new contract. Once it has been printed, we will hand deliver to each HPAE member at Cornerstone.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 9/18/19

The Labor-Management committee was introduced to the new Operation’s Director, Rick Smiley. We provided Mr. Smiley with a tour of the proposed break areas on Cornerstone East, (nursing lounge and the activity storage/closet) as well as reminded him of the County’s contractual obligation to provide a dedicated area for members to take their break and/or lunch in a sanitary and safe area. We expressed our concern, yet again, that staffing on both units continues to be done in accordance with the census as opposed to the acuity of the patients. We also discussed the need to ensure that we have the necessary tools available to ensure that we can provide safe, quality care to our changing population (i.e. Geriatric Psychiatry and medical co-morbidities). Lastly, we addressed the many payroll issues that continue to persist however we were unable to reach a resolution and have escalated these matters to the County Administrators.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE 9/23/19

Restraint incidents and injuries were reviewed with 1 minor injury since the last quarter. A commitment was made to make the committee more proactive to reduce violent incidents as opposed to reactive in the upcoming year. Wendy E., RN was missed and has been an asset to this committee. Get healthy and see you soon, Wendy!

Lastly, we were advised by the County that the wage increases are tentatively scheduled to go into effect in the November 15th paycheck. In addition, the County is also in the process of calculating the retroactive monies owed since the ratification of the contract and have not provided HPAE with a date for distribution as yet. HPAE will continue to monitor this issue and commits to providing updates as the information develops.

In Unity,
Priscilla

“Labor Walkers” Needed

On Tuesday, November 5, 2019 voters in New Jersey will go to the polls to elect, NJ State Senators and Assembly persons. In Philadelphia, voters will head to the ballot box to vote on municipal and judicial candidates. We need to talk with our co-workers and neighbors about the key issues facing our union and the candidates who “have our back.” Sign up to help to make calls and knock on doors on our “Labor Walks” to urge union members to support pro-labor candidates.

Go to the HPAE web site and sign up for a labor walk: www.hpae.org

HPAE. Putting care first.

SAVE THE DATE
HPAE 2019 PROFESSIONAL ISSUES CONFERENCE
“Bringing Our Professional Values into the Transformation of Health Care”

INVITED SPEAKER: First Lady Tammy Murphy

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019
 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Hilton East Brunswick
 3 Tower Center Blvd., East Brunswick, NJ 08816