



# HPAE

## LOCAL 5138 Newsletter

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS  
OF HPAE LOCAL 5138 AT  
SOUTHERN OCEAN MEDICAL  
CENTER

HPAE LOCAL 5138 NEWS

March 2018

## Message from the Vice President

Another contract year is upon us and as your E-Board we are gearing up for negotiations. As Sally had stated numerous times before, this is also the time for ALL nurses to become active in standing up for yourselves, and your patients. Silence is perceived as weakness; it doesn't prevent losses in a contract nor does it create gains. At the end of the day, regardless of our beliefs, we All want to be treated as professionals and we ALL want our patients to be safe. Sometimes it appears HMH forgets that we are all educated professionals and are capable of making decisions that affect the workplace and our patients safety. They encourage advanced degrees to obtain Magnet but still seem to forget that when it's contract time. Make it a point to attend the General Membership Meeting on April 3rd .Be the educated professionals you are and get involved so WE can show strength at the bargaining table. Without it we will be silent.

Barbara Bosch  
Local 5138

### E-Portfolio Hackensack Meridian Health Healthstream NOT MANDATORY

Each nurse is being asked to complete an e-portfolio as part of your healthstream education. **This is not a mandatory continuing education program.** Nurses are being requested by their managers to bring in their diplomas from high school, nursing school and university, as well as, certification documentation. It is illegal for them to make a copy of your license. Human resources has all of this information and duplicates are not necessary. Management claim that this portfolio is a convenience for you, so you have all of your information in one place. According to management : "Only you, management and educators will have access". Most of the nurses have their diplomas in a safe place and resume saved on your computers, and continuing education records in a file. Please be reassured that it is your choice to put this information in healthstream.

### Closing of medical surgical units

Looks like the closing of the medical surgical units is a reality of working at Hackensack Meridian Health Southern Ocean Medical Centers. Our contract page 39, Article 12. Seniority, section H. Reduction of hours has clearly defined language. Please be sure that all nurses, who are involved, share the burden of lost work hours. It is your responsibility to know the contract language and hold management accountable. Bring any concerns to your unit representative, so it can be addressed.

### CALENDAR

April 3, 2018 General Membership meeting  
April 9, 2018 Contract Action Team  
April 26, 2018 SAFE Staffing March in Washington, DC  
May 2, 2018 Representative meetings  
June 7, 2018 Representative meetings  
July TBA Representative meetings  
July 31, 2018 Contract expires  
August 2, 2018 Representative meetings  
September 5, 2018 Representative meetings  
October 4 & 5, 2018 HPAE Convention  
November 7, 2018 Representative meetings  
December 6, 2018 Representative meetings

Address Service Requested



## General Membership Meeting & Contract Campaign kickoff

April 3, 2018  
8am, 4pm & 8pm  
Stafford Township Community Center  
Bay Avenue — Manahawkin, NJ

## Informed and active union nurses protect our patients and our rights

## Contract Action Team Meeting

April 9, 2018  
5:30pm & 7:30 pm  
128 Bartlett Ave  
West Creek, NJ

Member activists are the key to winning improvements in negotiations.

## Nurses Take DC for Nurse: Patient Ratios Now

Thursday, April 26 -

Save the date more details to follow

What an awesome opportunity to take our staffing concerns to our legislators in Washington, DC and see our government work. Right now, HP AE will be providing a bus from New Jersey drive down from Emerson and another pickup on 195. Early morning and coming home by 10pm. If we get enough nurses, maybe they will provide a bus for South Jersey Locals. Please if you can try to attend, what a way to kick off our negotiations.

## FREE COLLEGE

Yes, that's what I said—free college. Eastern Gateway Community College in Ohio is a fully accredited, nonprofit public institution that is part of the University System of Ohio. Students can enroll in the online distance-learning program with no costs for tuition, fees or e-texts. Credits earned can be transferred to a four-year college; to date, credits have transferred to 320 educational institutions in 39 states. The program offers seven associate degrees, including business administration, early childhood education, accounting, paralegal, criminal justice and two certificate programs.

Eligibility—This is open to all AFT members, including retirees, as well as their spouses/ domestic partners, children, grandchildren, step - children, step-grandchildren, and legal dependents.

How does it work? —Under an academic partnership with Eastern Gateway Community College, the Union Plus Free College Benefit offers grants—known as “last dollar scholarships”—that fill the gap between any federal, state and employer education grants for tuition, fees and e-books for certain online programs at Eastern Gateway.

Is it too good to be true?—The AFT did a thorough review of this program and the institution. Faculty and staff are represented by our colleagues at the NEA. Ohio state law doesn't allow adjuncts to be unionized, but the college president has made a commitment to meeting the AFT's standards for employment of adjunct faculty. So it is true. And it is good.

Education is core to our mission, so we can't think of a better program to offer as one of our newest benefits.

For more information visit:  
[www.unionplusfreecollege.org](http://www.unionplusfreecollege.org)