

RPN Voice

CONVENTION 2007

RPNs will be well represented at Local 1.on CONVENTION 2007, Sep. 18-20, in Windsor (for info, go to: www.SEIUlocal1.org/convention). The RPN Division Committee will be in attendance, along with other RPNs from a cross section of Local 1.on units.



Central NH Bargaining Update

A presentation was made on behalf of nursing home RPNs to highlight the unique role RPNs have in the care of the elderly. The employers accepted language for a RPN Council which will discuss, evaluate and make recommendations for nursing issues specific to this sector. Bargaining is at the conciliation stage. Updates will be made once the language has been agreed and bargaining is complete.



Hospital Local Issues Bargaining

Local issues bargaining for hospitals is beginning. Two information gathering tools have been developed: a RPN Skills Utilization Survey; and a Recruitment and Retention Survey. Both will assist the Local in winning a wage adjustment for RPNs. The data will also support the argument of the increased role of RPNs. Notice of future meetings will be posted at all hospitals.



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Sheila Groombridge: SEIU Local 1.on RPN goes on humanitarian mission

Mission India

Sheila Groombridge is a SEIU RPN in Sarnia. She will be among a medical team that is traveling to India Apr. 27 to help a six-year-old boy.

The boy is named Ganesh. He suffers from a rare condition called nasofrontal meningocele, which has caused a severe facial deformity that could be fatal if left untreated.

In Canada, his condition would have been corrected at a younger age.

"You wonder why you are born where you are born," Groombridge says. "And then I thought, how can I help - and this is how."

Groombridge is one of a team of

seven; she will be putting her skill as a scrub nurse to work.

Ganesh's operation will include removing the growth, sealing a hole that has caused fluids to leak, and then facial reconstruction.

Groombridge was invited on the team by Dr. Sanjeev Kaila, director of Bluewater Surgical Centre, where Groombridge also works.

Groombridge and Kaila have worked together for two years.

The medical team, in addition to covering their own travel

costs, will bring with them the necessary medical supplies and equipment for the lengthy operation.

SEIU has made a contribution to Groombridge's mission. To make a donation call - 519-336-1555.



Ganesh

"And then I thought, how can I help."

Nursing Week Challenge!

There can never be too many reminders of the importance of an RPN's work. So, to celebrate Nursing Week, your RPN Division is asking for fresh reminders - in the form of a short essay.

The topic is: "How Enhanced Scope of Practice has led to increased job

satisfaction for RPNs. Discuss."

Submissions should be between 200 - 250 words approximately.

Send your short essay by email (c.mcdowell@seiulocal1.org), fax (905-660-0098) or mail (over) by May 14.

Prizes will be awarded for top essays in the hospital, nursing home and home care sectors.



“Think you know nursing? Take a closer look.”

Dear Colleagues,

The Canadian Nurses Association announced the theme for Nursing Week as “Think you know nursing? Take a closer look.”

I can't think of a more appropriate theme for Registered Practical Nurses - the category of nurse often misunderstood and overlooked by our employers and the public.

Yes. Take a closer look, and you will see a group of dedicated front line professionals who consistently provide quality care despite the lack of recognition.

RPNs are essential to sustaining public health care in Ontario, and, yes, we will be there when called upon to address the critical human resource shortage.

As you celebrate Nursing Week, congratulate yourself for the professional you are and the outstanding job you do!

In Solidarity,
Carol McDowell RPN



SEIU RPN Leads Research

Congratulations go to Yvonne Ramlall RPN, who is leading Pain Management Research at the Holland Orthopaedic & Arthritic Centre of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Ramlall is a recipient of a RPNAO Leadership/Clinical Practice Fellowship. The fellowship was created in 2006 to promote: nursing knowledge and expertise; improve client care outcomes; contribute to the retention of nurses; the value of the expert knowledge of RPNs; and support professional development opportunities. For fellowship info, go to: www.rpnao.org.

Campaign Update: Safe Needles Save Lives Act

The Needlestick coalition initiated a new letter campaign. This time to the five Liberal MPPs who sit on the standing committee that has the power to send the Safe Needles Save Lives Act back to the Legislative Assembly for third and final reading.

With 20,000 letters and emails from SEIU, OPSEU and ONA, members can make the law a reality.

This legislation must be passed by mid June at the latest or it will fail.

To send a message yourself - go to www.SEIUlocal1.org. Click the link: CAMPAIGN: Safety Needles Act. Cut and paste the message to an email or fax and send it to each MPP listed. Be sure to include name and address.

The needlestick coalition's focus now is to influence the policy platforms of

the three political parties prior to the upcoming provincial elections.

SEIU, along with ONA and OPSEU, have recently met with senior representatives of the Liberal, Progressive Conservative and New Democratic parties to demand passage of this critical health and safety act.

Come to a rally for Safe Needles, May 1 at noon, at Queen's Park.

SEIU Local 1.on RPN Division - Committee Members

District 1 - Southwest

Sue Youngblood

Alexander & Marine General Hospital

Claudette Drapeau

Bluewater Health Centre

District 2 - Central/Western

Carol McDowell

Niagara Health System

Janice Souto

Cambridge Memorial Hospital

Darlene Levinski

Niagara Health System

District 3 - Central Eastern

Hannah Kalter

Haliburton Highlands Health Services

Pauline Gilbert

Muskoka-East Perry Sound Health Services

District 4 - Eastern

Ellen James

Extendicare - New Orchard Lodge

Heather Hammond

Lennox & Addington County General Hospital

District 5 - Northeastern

Pam Hilts

MIC Group of Health Services

District 6 - Northwestern

Cathy Bishop

Thunder Bay Regional Hospital

Megan Tremblay - Youth Member

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre

District 7 - Central/Toronto

Debbie Parris

Baycrest Centre

Alethia Smith

Lincoln Place Nursing Home

Peggy LaPointe

Toronto East General Hospital

Ann Popat

Humber River Hospital



MISSION: The SEIU Local 1.on Nursing Committee works to enhance, promote and protect the role of the Registered Practical Nurse in all practice settings.

VISION: We, the committee, envision a workplace free of professional discrimination, where RPNs are fully utilized, valued and adequately compensated for their knowledge, skill, judgment and the vital contribution they make to health care.

SEIU Local 1.on - 1-866-267-SEIU

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