

RPN Voice



3RD RPN CONVENTION CALL FOR DELEGATES

SEIU's Nursing Division is hosting its 3rd Nursing Division Convention, Sep. 23-24, 2010 in Orillia. The convention will host 150 SEIU RPNs from across Ontario. The list of RPN delegates will be determined on a first come first served basis, while ensuring adequate representation from each of SEIU's seven regions. SEIU will pay for all associated costs, such as travel, accommodation, meals and educational, but will not be covering lost wages. A nominal registration fee will be required for selected delegates. If you are interested in attending, prepare to book time off now, and contact the Member Resource Centre to put your name forward: 1-877-MRC-SEIU or 1-877-672-7348.

EXECUTIVE BOARD WARNING: Don't be fooled

SEIU's Executive Board has recommended that members be cautious about individuals or groups representing themselves as alternative unions. Individuals posing as union organizers have been attempting to 'raid' SEIU workplaces, causing disruption and frustration. If you know of any intrusions call the Member Resource Centre at 1-877-MRC-SEIU (672-7348).



Winter 2010
Published by:
SEIU Local 1 Canada,
RPN Division

Make Sure to Celebrate
Nursing Week - May 10 - 16



SARNIA: RPN Division V-P Carol McDowell at hospital contract action rally in Jan.

RPN Division takes bargaining message to hospital CEOs

SEIU's RPN Division began negotiations with the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) in Aug. 2009. In a short time, negotiating teams on both sides made swift work of the Division's proposals. Agreeing quickly to most of our RPN priorities, it appeared that the critical issues for SEIU's RPNs were addressed and signed off by the OHA.

The core issues were contained in "Article 28" relating to RPN professional practice. The comprehensive package of provisions will help address the critical issues of quality care and patient safety. It also presents a win-win-win scenario for all stakeholders.

Yet the OHA pulled its support for Article 28, stunning SEIU's bargaining team, and has been since using it as a bargaining chip.

“RPNs had reached a win-win-win deal with the OHA. But then they withdrew it, to use it as a bargaining chip.”

- Carol McDowell,
RPN Vice-President

Article 28 is groundbreaking, and it will help address nursing shortages. There are provisions relating to mentoring which can assist with recruitment and retention. A workload review process can also help reduce the time taken to address professional practice issues.

The OHA called the idea "revolutionary" and "pioneering".

Both sides agreed the Article's provisions will help control health care costs.

RPN Post Card Campaign

SEIU's RPNs launched a post card protest to hospital CEOs. The result has been the OHA and SEIU President Sharleen Stewart have renewed the exchange of proposals in an effort to settle on a negotiated settlement, rather than rely on the costly and unnecessary arbitration process. Talks continue.

2010 marks year of 3rd RPN Convention

SEIU Local 1 Canada will be holding its RPN Convention on September 23-24 at the Fern Resort in Orillia. www.fernresort.com

Located on Lake Couchiching, the multi-functional resort is where

the RPN Division will address issues of current concern to RPNs, establish Division priorities, as well as offer specially created educational programs for SEIU's nurses. See above left for "Call for Delegates."

www.seiulocal1.org • 1-877-MRC-SEIU

Nursing Homes Central Bargaining begins soon

SEIU 'central contract bargaining' for nursing homes will commence March 8, 2010. Preparations for bargaining have been underway since the fall of 2009.

Ninety nursing homes were members of the central bargaining table in 2007, and more are expected to join in this round.

RPN Surveys

Contract Bargaining Surveys were circulated to all SEIU nursing home members before the holidays. (If you have not received one, go to www.seiulocal1.org to download a copy.) There was a Nursing Team page that allowed for SEIU's nurses to identify the issues that they want addressed during this round of negotiations.

The results received from the member surveys, as well as input from SEIU Union Reps who specialize in our Nursing Home sector, will contribute to the bargaining proposals. The goal is to ensure that our members' needs are met and are ultimately reflected as

closely as possible in the new collective agreement.

Next steps

The next steps are to convene a Nursing Home Bargaining Conference (dates: Feb 22-23, 2010 in Markham) to present the bargaining priorities, and elect an Ontario Nursing Homes Contract Bargaining Committee.

Your Contract Bargaining Committee will be made up of member representatives from SEIU nursing homes across Ontario.

The Bargaining Committee's duties are to represent all nursing home bargaining units and to speak on behalf of all their members represented in the central bargaining group during negotiations.

Proposals Exchange

Once the bargaining priorities are confirmed, your Bargaining Committee will present SEIU's proposals to the nursing home employers' bargaining committee. After which, both bargaining committees will begin talks.

Nursing: You Can't Live Without Us!

Nursing: You Can't Live Without Us!

That's the theme for Nursing Week on May 10-16, 2010.

You can celebrate Nursing Week by organizing a nursing week event in your workplace.

Your RPN Contact has been provided with a Nursing Week Toolkit to help plan an event.

SEIU can help you.

If you would like to apply for an SEIU grant, consult your workplace RPN Contact. If you do not know who your RPN Contact is, call the Member Resources Centre on 1-877-MRC-SEIU or 1-877-672-7348.

Get ready for
Nursing Week
May 10-16

SEIU RPN featured in documentary



Sheila Groombridge RPN

Sheila Groombridge, an RPN who works at Bluewater Health in Sarnia, was recently featured in a documentary called *Ganesh Boy Wonder*.

The film, which played at Toronto's Hot Docs Film Festival in the spring of 2009, profiled her role in helping perform reconstructive surgery for an Indian boy who suffered from a major facial deformity.

In April 2007 Sheila, along with a Canadian medical team, travelled to India to help Ganesh Yadev, a victim of a rare condition called nasofrontal meningocele. SEIU con-

tributed to Groombridge's mission by paying for her flights.

"The show was reviewed by high-profile newspapers including the Globe and Mail and the National Post," said Carol McDowell, SEIU's RPN Division Vice-President. "This documentary highlights the skills and giving nature of RPNs."

The documentary will be shown in other film festivals across the world including Montreal, Berlin, Cannes and others. Groombridge is just one example of RPNs making a difference not only where they work but across the world.

RPN Committee Members - SEIU Local 1 Canada RPN Division

Carol McDowell Divison V-P

Cathy Bishop
Recording Secretary

Region 1

Saverio Artale
Jean Snowdon

Region 2

Heather Hammond
Nicole Kershaw

Region 3

Pauline Gilbert
Tammy Zimmer

Region 4

Peggy LaPointe
Debbie Parris
Alethia Smith
Ann Popat
Meena Channan

Yvonne Richards

Region 5
Stanislawa (Tania) Kuzniar
Region 6
Wanda White
Christine Peacock

Region 7

Claudette Drapeau
Wilma Duckworth
Ad Hoc
Susan Hughes
Lisa Caldwell

MISSION: To enhance, promote and protect the role of the Registered Practical Nurse in all practice settings.

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



Member Resource Centre - 1-877-MRC-SEIU (672-7348)

SEIU Local 1 Canada - RPN Division, 2180 Steeles Avenue West, Suite 200, Concord, ON L4K 2Z5