

MNA LOCAL #17
SUMMER NEWSLETTER

UNIT REPS

Happy summer! I know that everyone is extremely busy during the summer, both at work, with our increased census and at home, trying to enjoy these beautiful days. I do not have any meetings scheduled for the summer months due to these reasons, but, as always, if you feel that for any reason our local should meet, please do let me know.

I am pleased to say that we do now have unit reps on every floor with the exception of neuro (5S). Their job descriptions are still evolving, and we hope that their roles will grow to satisfy everyone's needs. Essentially, the unit reps are there for you, to be your advocate and to be the "contract specialist" in your department and to ensure that you receive the representation that you require if you are involved in a disciplinary meeting or a grievance. Their role is NOT to be with you during a disciplinary action, but to ensure that a MNA rep with the proper experience will be with you. We have very few grievances and very few disciplinary meetings at SPH, therefore we have few people who have been mentored and have the experience necessary to be competent in their roles as MNA representatives. The only MNA reps who currently have the experience necessary to represent a nurse during a disciplinary process are Kate Steenburg (life flight), Amy Hauschild (endoscopy), Dawn Streett (ICU) and Edi Martin (DSU-endoscopy).

My goal is to have photos and contact info for each unit rep on the MNA bulletin boards. I haven't yet been able to get photos of every rep, but hopefully this will be completed soon.

Our unit reps are as follows:

5N- Lori Grimes, Jill Swenson
TCU- Deb Furtney
4S-Lynn Soll
4N-Kristin Toney
ICU-Dawn Streett
MICU-Kelley Ryan, Tina Bontrager
CVL- Kathy Inman Miller
ED- Peg Long
Radiology- Natalie Simmons
OR- Peg Goodsell
PACU- Michelle Leiby
DSU- Cindy Bergeson, Sara Lahey
Endoscopy- Amy Hauschild
Rehab- Susan Johnson
NBM- Kate Gemar
Life flight- Dianne Carlson
Dialysis- Mercy Clevenger

Please contact these people with your issues and talk to them about the contract! If you work on neuro and would like to be involved, please contact me, Edi 239-1412

ENVIRONEMENT OF CARE

Jill Swenson 5N, has agreed to participate on the Environment of Care Committee as MNA rep. Please talk to her about concerns you have regarding safety concerns at work.

MNA CONVENTION

The MNA convention will be held in Helena, October 4-6, 2007. the convention will be at the Great Northern Hotel. Please mark your calendars with this date and request the time off, so you can attend the convention. If you attend as a delegate some of your fees and room will be paid. This is a great opportunity to obtain CEU's. Check the MNA website (mtnurses.org) for agenda. This will also be a great time to become more involved with YOUR organization, as there are many open positions at the state level. It is very rewarding to work with other nurses as we continue to develop our great profession!

ELECTIONS

Nominations are being accepted at this time for local officers. Be looking for your ballot in the mail – probably in the middle of July and please vote- your vote does count!

COMMUNICATION

I do try to use as many forms of communication as possible to keep you all informed. The bulletin boards are in a state of disrepair, and I would hope that with the position of secretary being filled we will be able to more effectively use the designated bulletin boards.

As I stated before, there are no meetings scheduled during the summer months, but, if there is a perceived need for a meeting, let me know and I can certainly schedule one.

Remember to check the link on our SPH intranet for current MNA local #17 news. You can find this link by logging on to your unit's communication board and click on MNA link. There is also a link from the MNA website- (mtnurses.org) to local #17.

Another form of ongoing communication is PCC (Professional Conference Council), a forum for labor and management to meet and discuss issues as they occur. This meeting is regularly scheduled on the 4th Tuesday of the month, at 0800, typically in one of the conference rooms off the cafeteria. I have issued an invitation to each of the unit reps to attend this meeting, but if any nurse is interested in attending, please let me know.

SURVEY

Please complete the following survey and route to Edi Martin –DSU

1. What do you most enjoy about working at SPH?
2. What do you least enjoy about working at SPH?
3. If you could change one thing in your working environment to improve your ability to provide excellent pt. care, what would it be?
4. If MNA could do one thing to improve your working environment, what would that be?