

KNA/WVNA NEWSLETTER

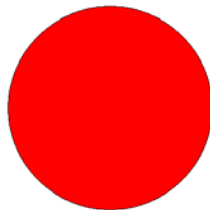
Thursday, September 20, 2007

- **KNA/WVNA member surveys always drive the priorities of negotiations**
- While we are trying to be consistent on the issues that provide safe quality patient care and a better working environment for our nurses, ARH is concentrating on issues that weaken the union and do nothing but improve their bottom line
- While nurses ask for basic working equipment on each unit to provide quality basic care to patients, ARH chooses to spend money on high priced attorneys to fight battles that they have lost multiple times
- As you are being assaulted at your workplace with the threatening leaflets, ask yourself one question. Does ARH have safe quality patient care and your interests at heart or would they rather destroy the KNA/WVNA so that no one stands between them and their desire to turn nurses into voiceless robots?

Forget the Alamo! **REMEMBER 36/40!**

- The oral hearing for the 36/40 issue was held in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals on September 18th. It went **verrrry, verrrry, verrry** well according to **our** attorney. When asked by one of the three judges - if ARH won would they go after previous back wages from the nurses. The **ARH** attorney said, **“Yes.”**
- Safe quality patient care with appropriate staffing was, is, and will always be the primary focus of Registered Nurses
- The KNA/WVNA seeks a fair and equitable master contract with ARH although there are still many outstanding issues
- For **any** questions, please contact your elected officers for **the whole truth**

NURSE ALERT SYSTEM



This week's alert is

Pat, Dewey, Dale and your Negotiation Committee

Status Report on Appalachian Regional Healthcare (APH) RN Strike

Our 800 RNs in Kentucky/West Virginia have been on strike now for 5 days. The hospital has 9 facilities across the two states (most facilities are in Kentucky). The facilities are mostly far from a main city and in the communities and towns of eastern Kentucky. The strike issues center on patient care: staffing and mandatory overtime. Additionally, the nurses are standing up for no concession in pension and healthcare. In support of the nurses, the following activities and recommendations are underway:

PICKET LINE:

The nurses are strong and are being joined by fellow union members from the MineWorkers, Steelworkers, and other labor groups in the states.

UAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SPECIFIC SUPPORT: Sandy Falwell, spent two days on multiple picket lines meeting with nurses and bringing the message of solidarity across the UAN to the strikers. We sent a \$5000 check to assist in the strike efforts for all the members on strike in both states. Additionally, we will place ads of support in the appropriate newspapers to let the nurses and their community leaders know that the nurses in UAN are fully behind our sisters and brothers.

STRIKE FUND DONATIONS:

Strike support can be sent, with checks made payable to the state nurses associations and designated for the strike fund (please note that nurses in the hospital system are represented by 2 Affiliates across 2 states), to:

Kentucky Nurses Association
ATTN: Labor Program Director Dewey Parker
1400 South First St
Louisville, KY 40208

West Virginia Nurses Association
ATTN: E&GW Chair Rue Hairston, RN
PO Box 1946
Charleston, WV 25327.

ASSIGNMENT OF UAN STAFF TO ASSIST IN STRIKE COORDINATION

ACTIVITIES: We have assigned Terry Hogel, UAN organizing consultant, to work with both of our affiliates to coordinate strike activity.

POLITICAL SUPPORT:

The Kentucky Nurses Association has good relations with current gubernatorial candidates and we are coordinating with the Kentucky and West Virginia AFL CIO state representatives to bring more pressure to bear on the CEO of APH.

UNITED STEELWORKERS:

In the spring, there was a 4 week strike at the same hospital. We have received good support from the international in sharing information; also our nurses and staff in Kentucky and West VA have good relationships with the USW.

ADVERTISING:

Paid media is being considered as we are advised that there was an impact from this in the Steelworkers strike.

E-ACTIVIST:

We will have the AFL CIO union members in selected counties in Kentucky and West VA send emails to trustees and CEO of APH.

UMWA SUPPORT:

President Cheryl Johnson has been in touch with the President of the Mine Workers to seek support. This hospital was built in the early part of the 20th century by the Mine Workers; later sold. There is a strong culture of mine worker "unionism" in the region. We hope to get the President of the Mine Workers out on the picket line.

RELIGIOUS SUPPORT:

There are 3 religious/social justice groups that are on the list for contact. The AFL CIO has connections which we will utilize.

SEIU

The SEIU has forwarded information on the union busting firm - Yessin Associates - that is working this strike and advising the employer. Additionally SEIU is prepared to donate to the strike fund and assist in other activity.