



OPSEU 143 NEWSLETTER

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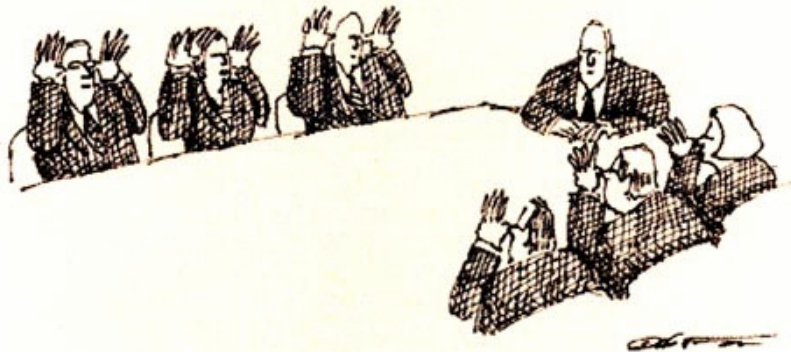
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General Membership Meeting

We will be holding a General Membership Meeting on Monday April 20th at the OPSEU Office at 7:15 P.M. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Contract Update



The mediator sensed that the negotiations were in trouble.

After several months of negotiations, we have met an impasse. We met with the Conciliator on March 30, 2009 but the Employer was not prepared to bargain. As a result, a No Board Report will be filed and we will be awaiting an Arbitration date.

Recently on Ask the President about ZBB, Gary Van Nest posed the question

“As previously stated the Minister of Finance has identified that Windsor Regional Hospital is one of the best operated, managed and staffed hospitals in the Province of Ontario. Was the Minister aware that only one Collective Agreement is current at WRH, and that is ONA which is bargained centrally?”

Windsor Regional President and CEO replied to the question with this response.

“The fact a collective agreement is open is not a sign of poor or good management. It is a sign of expectations and reality not being on par. I do not want to negotiate over the internet. However, through the various answers to the other questions and the comments made by me at the various Town Halls I would hope that I am providing enough information to allow people to understand we are not immune to the financial crisis facing the world. In addition, our community who pays our salaries expects all of us to be accountable, transparent and fiscally responsible. “

Given the response of the President and CEO, it does not appear that settling Collective Agreements are a priority.



For further contract updates please visit <http://www.opseu143.org/wrhbargaining.htm>

Thank You Cheryl Allen

We regret to inform the Membership of the resignation of Cheryl Allen as our Secretary and Steward. Cheryl has served as our Secretary for many years and has done an admirable job. She has gone above and beyond in serving the Membership in her diligence for Local 143. On behalf of the Membership we would like to thank Cheryl for all of her hard work and dedication. Please feel free to individually thank her as well. We will sorely miss her contributions.

New Secretary

At our last Local Executive Meeting the role of Secretary was offered to the Unit Stewards and Karl Peterson graciously accepted the position. We would like to thank Karl for taking the position. Please welcome him to the OPSEU 143 Executive.

Benefits Arbitration

We went to Arbitration for the Benefits Grievance on March 24, 2009. At issue was the decrease in benefits since switching to Green Shield. Our Grievance Officer did a great deal of research into our situation. With the research that was completed by

her, several things came to light. A number of the benefits that were covered by our previous carrier, Manulife, were done so in error. Medications are divided into different schedules. Those being Schedule 1, 2, 3 and Unscheduled medications. Unscheduled medications are those that are “de-listed” and are not covered. Most of the other scheduled medications are covered; however it is always best to check with Green Shield prior to paying for the medication. We did come to an agreement that claims that have been supported by a prescription for Allegra and from May 1, 2007 until March 23, 2009 will be reimbursed. This medication however is no longer covered as it has since become an “Unscheduled” medication. For more information about Scheduled and Unscheduled medications please visit the following link:

<http://www.napra.ca/pages/home/default.aspx>

The Union withdrew its claim with respect to Physiotherapy without prejudice. If any members have any further issues with Physiotherapy coverage, please contact us.

ZBB

The implementation process of ZBB continues. We are working hard to minimize the impact on members. We recognize that this has been very disruptive and tedious and we appreciate the support that we have received from some members.



Premier McGuinty Stop the Cuts!!!!

Also please email Premier Dalton McGuinty to please stop the cuts to Hospitals. You can include the following message:

We are extremely concerned about the inadequate funding by your government that is causing cuts to hospital services in our community. We are disturbed that your government is not listening to public concerns about loss of local hospital services here and across Ontario. Please fund our hospitals adequately to resolve their deficits and stop the cuts.

You can email the Premier @
dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Recognized Professional Weeks

It has recently come to our attention that in order for specific professions to be recognized by Windsor Regional Hospital during their Professional week, that each profession must approach the Employer with a proposal for recognition by contacting Gisele Sullens Public Relations Windsor Regional Hospital. We encouraged our members to take this opportunity to promote their professions. The Employer will be happy to provide support and prizes for this endeavor.

Regional Meeting

Delegates and Alternates attended the Regional Meeting on Saturday March 28, 2009. The Executive Board remains the same with Gino Franche as our Regional Vice President. Ron Elliot and Laurie NanceKivell are our other Board members. For further election results please click on the following link:

<http://www.opseu.org/notices/2009-board-election-results.htm>

Member Promotion



Speaking of promoting our own Members, we would like to do so on our Local Website. We are asking that members submit photos with the following information:

Name
Profession
Department
Years worked at WRH

We would like to feature one member per week on our Website. If interested please forward information by email to rcosta@wrh.on.ca

In Solidarity,

Gary Van Nest President OPSEU Local 143

