
Nurse to Nurse

April 13, 2006

Welcome to the PSNA newsletter. We're looking to update the way we do some things, including this newsletter. We hope to have it produced quarterly, more often if necessary. Do you like the name "Nurse to Nurse"? We're not sold on it, and because of that we are having a contest to name this newsletter. You can submit your suggestions [here](#). The Grand Prize winner will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate to Outback Restaurant.

PSNA would like to welcome Ann Kaser and Amy Law as officers. Thank you both for volunteering your time and talents!

~~ Co-Chair Columns~~

By Mark Whitehurst

Amazingly, it's time for us to be starting to think about negotiations and our contract. "Our" is the key word in the last sentence. The ONA contract that we function under at AGMC is ours, all of ours!

RN's, who risked and sacrificed, fought for our first contract 29 years ago. It provides an umbrella of protection and rights. Through it we have a say in our work conditions and practice. Just like spam and virus protection on our

By Ann Kaser

I am so happy to be back "on board" with PSNA. I felt I needed to become more involved when I realized how divisive misinformation could be. This brings me to a call for action. We need you to become more involved on your unit level.

We are looking for at least one (preferably one per shift) unit representative to serve as a conduit for a flow of information between PSNA leadership and PSNA members. The Board and Officers will provide guidance and instruction regarding the duties and responsibilities of Unit Reps. You can do this! We need your voice

computers, the contract does most of its work silently and unnoticed. Most of us only think about it when something goes wrong and we need help. I challenge all of you to think about our contract with the Medical Center: what you like about it and what would you like to see added or changed. Please pass along your suggestions and thoughts. Help us build your contract and your future!

and involvement. Remember, you want your unit represented at all levels, especially heading into a contract year. Please contact any officer or board member.
330-374-1935 (PSNA office)
I'm looking forward to working with you!

Barb's Blurbs

A collection of little-known facts
by Barb Probert

~~~Assignment Despite Objection Forms: When filing an ADO, send 1 copy to PSNA via inter-office mail, 1 copy to management, and keep 1 copy for your records. These forms are available on the PSNA website.

~~~PSNA and AGMC recently agreed to initiate an ICU/PACU call system (to be re-evaluated in 6 months), and a flex weekend option 12 program (to be re-evaluated during 2007 negotiations) with a limited number of positions posted.

~~~Are you saving PTO time for something special? Check out Article 22 Section 1, pages 58&59 of your contract. There is a limit to how much you are allowed to accumulate, so..... If you have 1½ times your annual PTO amount saved, **you aren't earning any more PTO time**. Here's how to figure it: take the number of years you've worked and find the formula on page 58. Multiply that by the number of hours worked last year (ex. 1872 hours if you worked 72 hours a pay) and then multiply by 1.5. If you're close to that number in saved PTO time, your options are: take time off using your PTO, or request payment of PTO hours, per Article 22 section 7.

## PTO Support Fund

by Joyce Powell and Kathy Brown

The PSNA PTO support Fund is a nurse-to-nurse support effort to be used in times of health crisis. This fund will be used to provide limited assistance to nurses who have exhausted all available PTO/STD due to long-term/catastrophic illness or injury and are still in need of more time. The fund will be tracked by the Medical Center and administered by the PSNA Support Fund Committee and the PSNA Board.

To be eligible for a withdrawal from the fund, the nurse must be a participant by making a donation to the fund. It is assumed that any nurse not completing a donation form chooses not to participate in the program, and will not seek access to the fund. In addition, donations may be made by a nurse or group of nurses to a specific, designated bargaining unit member. Support Fund forms [are available here.](#)

### “Friends helping Friends”

You may have seen the flyers. This is a fundraiser being held by PACU RN's to support 2 of their co-workers who are battling cancer, Cindy Pileggi and Amy Wilson.

Where: Guy's Party Center

500 E. Waterloo, Akron

When: Thursday May 4, 2006

Info and tickets: contact Kathy Coffman 330-842-2879  
or Genie Chaffe 330-344-6569 (PACU)

Hope to see you all there!

### Nursing..... the Power behind the Trust

*From AARP Magazine, May&June 2006:*

"Last November, Gallup asked more than 1,000 Americans which professionals they trusted the most. The answer, by a huge margin, was nurses - even more

than doctors and police officers, more than journalists by far, and way more than politicians and lawyers. This makes sense, as anybody who has spent more than a day in a hospital knows. Next time you're laid up and can't reach the bathroom, push the call button and hope for the hero of the ward, the nurse."

Never underestimate the **power** behind the **trust**....

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## Lost and Found

We have a collection of items still looking for their homes. These things are left over from the "unfortunate work stoppage" of 2004. They need to be claimed by May 30th, or we will be disposing of them.

3 folding chairs

1 blue/white cooler (Caldwell)

1 blue/white large drink cooler

1 blue/black soft-side cooler

2 fluorescent flashlights

1 Thermos "hot-pot" for coffee assorted Tupperware containers and serving pieces. Please call the office 330-374-1935, or e-mail us [mail@psnaatagmc.org](mailto:mail@psnaatagmc.org)

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## PSNA Dues Deduction

Please consider having your PSNA Dues automatically deducted from your paycheck. It would greatly simplify our bookkeeping. [Forms are available here.](#) Print out two copies, send one to Human Resources and One to PSNA. Thank you!



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