

# the Pulse



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December, 2006

## Your opinion counts!

*By Mark Whitehurst*

Over the last few days, I have tossed ideas in my head about what to write in this edition of "The Pulse". These ideas have included wishing all the nurses at Akron General a happy holiday season, reminding members to vote in the upcoming PSNA election (Fri. February 2nd), and asking for members to get involved in PSNA. While these ideas all are worthy of writing about, another idea kept invading. Negotiations, negotiations, negotiations.

As the holiday season is about to over take us, a small group of your colleagues are already meeting and planning for negotiation season. Before you know it the hospital will be buzzing with talk of benefits, pay raises, shift diffs., and even the s-word, yes staffing. As co-chair and negotiating team member, I am asking for your help. I need you to let the negotiating team know what is important to you in the upcoming contract. This allows us to focus our message.

How do you let us know? There are several ways. One is to fill out surveys that we have and will send out to members. These give us hard data that can be broken down into percentages. Another is to utilize the web site. Members can leave ideas and messages on the site and the team will receive these within a day. Lastly, come up to the team members and talk one on one about issues. We love to meet all of our members, and your opinions are so important!

I hope that you will bring your ideas and issues to me and the rest of our

team over the next six to seven months. Our members participation is key to a positive contract. Remember it's our contract, and we need to fight for it.

Happy Holidays, Mark

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## Barb's Blurbs

### A collection of fine points and little known facts

by Barb Probert

- ii **Retirement:** A few of the financial magazines say you will need \$1,000,000 to retire. On a nurse's salary? Who are they kidding? But... You *can* up your matched saving contributions. That will help at retirement time. Oh, and January is when we get our next raise. So take that increase, put it in your matched savings, and watch it grow. You'll never miss the money, and your future will won't include deciding which brand of cat food tastes best.
- ii **Rumors:** People are coming to us saying they are hearing rumors. You know the ones..... Just to set the record straight, PSNA intends to negotiate in good faith and reach an agreement with the Medical Center that is beneficial to all our members. So please join us in squelching negative rumors. In the same vein, be careful what you say and who you're saying it to. Offer no information about how you feel or what you will or won't do if this or that happens. As they said in WW II (no, I'm not that old) "loose lips sink ships." It applies here too.
- ii **Charge pay:** I've heard that some are not signing up for charge pay. Okay, it's only 8 bucks – but when I started nursing that was almost two hours of pay. Please, sign up and get paid for what you do.
- ii **Have a very Happy Holiday Season!**



## Our Magnet Journey

AGMC is scheduled for a site visit on December 11-14. We believe that our nurses have proven their dedication to the highest quality patient care, promoted a "culture of safety" and developed a collaborative improvement in the overall image of nursing. We look forward to sharing our successes with the Magnet examiners.



## PSNA Meetings

We're happy to see so many folks interested in attending our monthly meetings. Everyone is always welcome! We meet in the PSNA office every month on the second Monday at 5:30. We would appreciate a little advance notice so we can have enough chairs and cookies, so please call the office phone and leave your name. 330-374-1935. Thanks!

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**General Election Friday February 2, 2007  
6am to 8pm, Frasche Classroom, ground floor.**

Nominations are being accepted for the following positions:

Co-Chair, 2-yr term  
Secretary, 2-yr term  
3 Board Members, 2 yr terms  
3 Nominating Committee Members

There will also be a by-laws issue related to the PSNA Support Fund.

PSNA needs your help to identify wise and innovative candidates who are

committed to PSNA and willing to lead the association. All PSNA members are vital to this nominating process! Please send us the names of colleagues willing to serve in any one of those capacities.

In helping us identify good candidates, consider qualities and experiences that make these people ideal for the positions. Consider their views about our profession and our association, and how they might represent us. You are also encouraged to nominate yourself as a candidate.

You may submit names to any of the following members, either in person or by leaving a message on the PSNA office phone. The nominee will be contacted by a member of the Nomination Committee. You may submit your own name.

Nominating Committee:

Cathy Brown, ED  
Meg Jones, CTC  
Barb Probert, ICU

PSNA office phone: 330-374-1935

**Position descriptions and nomination forms may be found [here](#) and on our bulletin boards.**

**Nominations are due by January 5, 2007**

Thank you!

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## Getting to know you.....

this month, officers Johanna Edwards and Amy Law



Johanna Edwards has been a familiar face on 5100 for 12 years. Previously she worked on 52B, and was a med-surg float.

Johanna has been PSNA's treasurer for 10 years, and serves on several state level ONA committees.

She has been married for 40 years and has a daughter, a son, and 3 grandchildren.

Amy Law began her career at AGMC 23 years ago, and her practice has included 8100, 7100, IMCA, WSFP, 2400, Nursery, and she is currently working in the Special Care Nursery.

We appreciate the time Amy has put in as our secretary. She has been married for 21 years to husband Rick, and has 3 children.



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