More Progress at the Table

Your bargaining team worked hard this week to resolve some key issues at the table that advanced our negotiations and put us closer to reaching an agreement. We maintain an abundance of caution, but we also see that the Hospital is working more collaboratively with our bargaining team and that bodes well for our ability to move forward.

We reached key agreements on issues including on call, relief charge nurse positions, and a grievance procedure. Additionally, on Tuesday, Aug. 24, we addressed the staffing and critical need plan being considered within the hospital and explored some options on how best to address the situation with the chief nursing officer (CNO). Management paid attention and yesterday we worked together to reach a tentative agreement (TA) that provided incentives for nurses to pick up extra shifts and earn $250 in addition to the other incentives that you currently enjoy.

The bargaining teams will meet again on Wednesday, Sept. 1 and we hope to continue the momentum of this week. Again, none of us should let our guard down, but let’s also acknowledge the work that the parties have done together. Yes, we have difficult issues ahead of us that we know are important to you. We clearly articulated the importance of health insurance, the need for personal time off (PTO), and greater access to the extended illness bank (EIB) as key issues. We have made it clear that agency nurses cannot continue to work when our nurses are sent home for low census. We also need to ensure that our wages remain competitive and we remain interested in enhancing the wages in the second and third year of the contract so that WVMC doesn’t fall further behind.

Thank you again for all of your work and support and we will continue to make our work representing you our number one priority. If you have any questions never hesitate to reach out to your bargaining team or CAT member.

Save the Date! Spread the Word!

On Sept. 9 we will host a community town hall. Our goal is to update everyone on negotiations and show the hospital that it’s more than just nurses pushing for a fair contract.

More details are available on the flyer. You can also share the Facebook event we created