NNOC-FLORIDA TO ISSUE ONE-YEAR REPORT CARD ON STAFFING

At a spirited statewide meeting held at the Painters’ Union in Orlando, nurses welcomed two new contracts with Tenet and decided on several important actions. Nurse leaders decided to mark the one-year anniversary of the NNOC contracts with HCA-affiliated hospitals by preparing a comprehensive report that will cover both improvements agreed to by the hospitals and areas that need improvement. The state meeting set out a list of preparatory steps to be taken by all PPCs, with the help of the national staff. The two NNOC Tenet hospitals will also be included in the report as those contracts contain strong provisions on the rights of the PPC to affect staffing levels.

In other state action, nurses decided to make a round of visits to all state reps and senators, by area. The first set of visits will be made during Nurses Week (May 6-11) by nurses in Pinellas, Pasco, and Hernando counties. Plans for Nurses Week also include several actions in support of the group grievances filed at all HCA locations protesting the proposed decrease in earned income benefits. On another front, NNOC efforts to convince HCA-affiliated hospitals to replace the current IV catheters with ones of better quality will be continued by requesting meetings with each CNO. The next NNOC-Florida state meeting will be in October.

NO GRAND BARGAIN; ELDERLY WOMEN HIT HARDEST

The largest U.S. organization of registered nurses, National Nurses United (NNU), issued its strongest warning today: Cuts in Social Security and Medicare would do harm to America's elderly and disabled, vulnerable populations whose resources already place them in the margins. NNU called upon lawmakers to withdraw from all considerations of these cuts. Although Social Security contributes nothing to the federal deficit, Congress could increase revenue for the Social Security trust fund by raising the payroll tax income limit.
TWO NEW CONTRACTS NOW IN EFFECT AT SOUTH FLORIDA TENETS

UPCOMING MEETING NOTICES

Blake MC: May 14 • Leadership Council and PPC
Central Regional: May 11 • Leadership Council and PPC
Doctors Hospital: May 15 • Leadership Council and PPC
Fawcett Memorial: May 1 • Leadership Council and PPC
Florida Medical Center: To be set by new officers
Largo MC: May 7 • PPC | May 16 • Leadership Council
North Side Hospital: May 3 • Leadership Council and PPC
Oak Hill Hospital: May 1 • Leadership Council and PPC
Osceola Regional: May 18 • Leadership Council and PPC
Palmetto General: To be set by new officers
St. Pete General: May 14 • Leadership Council and PPC
MC at Trinity: May 14 • Leadership Council and PPC

GROUP GRIEVANCES FILED AT ALL LOCATIONS
Union Objects to Decreases in New HCA Short Term Disability/Time Away from Work Plan

In this continuing dispute with corporate management, NNOC nurses in Florida, Texas, and Missouri/Kansas have now filed group grievances at each affected location. The union’s position is that the contract has been violated by the company’s implementation of this new plan that reduces benefits for some nurses. More news to come as the grievance meetings are held in all states.

ATTENTION TENET RNS
Do NOT neglect to check that your years of service as recorded by the hospital is correct.
This may affect your next year’s raise. Every member should have her/his own personal wage/service worksheet provided by NNOC during and after ratification of the contracts.

MESSAGE TO BOSTON FROM FLORIDA NURSES

The following was sent by the attendees of the state meeting in Orlando: To our NNU colleagues in Boston, members of the Massachusetts Nurses Association: We NNOC-Florida/NNU nurses meeting today, April 16, in Orlando, Florida offer our solidarity and support to each of you as you care for the victims of yesterday’s cowardly terrorist attack on the Boston Marathon.

SOME U.S. HISTORY TO KNOW
WHO WAS MARY HARRIS (MOTHER) JONES AND WHAT IS HER IMPORTANCE TODAY FOR BOTH LABOR AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS?