

SHY HEIGHTS CHAIR UPDATE JUNE 2008

Hello to everyone in the SHY Heights Region. I am happy to announce to all of you that your executive has just completed a planning session that has outlined our goals and activities for the next 6 months. In April at our AGM we welcomed new executive members Theresa Richardson and Gina Ramsay to our team for the secretary and communication/education portfolios. We will be celebrating our outgoing executive member Susan at the September regional meeting and we thank her for all her hard work. We have finalized our exec plans this year aligned with the three strategic directions of the union and I welcome any member to contact me via our web or my cell if they are interested in becoming involved in any union activities. Council had meetings at the end of June where we completed a mid-year budget review and we will be having our week planning session in September. Patsy and Theresa were awarded the steward office position in April and have been working very hard on your behalf. The office hours are now Mon-Fri and the local is 2355 if you have any questions or concerns.

Dilshad, Neil and I have completed a spring roadshow and Dilshad and I are in the middle of our summer roadshow. It has been a great experience going to all the worksites in our region and meeting with stewards and members. The brown bag lunches have been very well received and we have had successful outreach to many. Feedback from surveys has shown that members liked the education topics, massages, BCNU handouts and getting to meet their executive. Comments also included appreciation for the team coming to meet with them on the weekends. The next brown bag is planned for August the 10th. Walkabouts have occurred throughout the spring and this continues to be a priority so we can hear from nurses working in all different settings. During our steward planning day stewards were given the opportunity to have an info session from mental health works and our region received a big thank you for sponsoring the bottom line conference which looked at depression in the workplace. We were also able to address health and safety issues, communication tips from Susan who had attended a communication toolkit workshop and we reviewed our standing committees, acute action plans and long term care recruitment initiatives.

Currently the union leave language has been addressed through Bill 29 and meetings with human resources and health authorities are being planned. I attended my first PHSA board meeting which was very informative and I plan to go to the next one August 21st. Neil and I recently compiled our Repair the Care surveys and will be attending a train the trainer workshop on Sept 5th. The NBA PHSA committee meets July the 8th which will review the front-line leader positions, violence prevention update, workload issues, and how responsive scheduling is going.

The next regional meeting will be held September 25th where we will be giving a report for the nursing conference that was held in May, come out and bring a friend! The fall educationals are scheduled for October 7th and 8th. Please also register online for the BUS course if you are interested.

I wish you all a happy and healthy summer!!

Respectfully submitted by Suzie Ford