

New clerical subcommittee has busy agenda over next few months

Welcome to the latest edition of *PaperWork*.

Following HEU's biennial convention in the fall of 2008, the union's Provincial Executive put out an "expression of interest" call to members-at-large to participate in the P.E. subcommittees. There are 13 subcommittees, each comprised of P.E. representatives, the union's membership, and HEU staff advisors.

The new clerical subcommittee includes: HEU members **Joyce Davison** (Kootenay Lake), **Stuart McCready** (St. Paul's), co-chair **Gregg Steele** (Royal Jubilee), **Erin Grant** (Nanaimo Regional), **Sue Crabbe** (Royal Inland); P.E. members **Bev Trynchy** and **Carol Kenzie** (co-chair), and staff advisors **Máire Kirwan** and **Brenda Whitehall**.

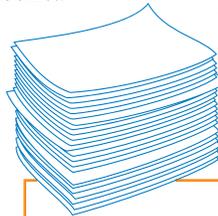
Our first meeting was held on May 15, where we discussed upcoming union events such as the Occupational and Wage and Policy Conferences, and Clerical Team Appreciation Day.

HEU's coordinator of servicing **Bonnie Pearson** updated us on the clerical benchmark review. An arbitration took place in July with mediator **Vince Ready**. A settlement on implementing the process has been agreed to, but the parties still need to determine fund allocation. A three-million dollar clerical benchmark review was negotiated in the 2006-2010 facilities collective agreement. Additional meetings are scheduled in August, and

completion of the review is expected by the Wage Policy Conference in November.

SUPPLY CHAIN CONSOLIDATION PLANS

We also talked about recent developments in the next phase of consolidating health authority supply chains across the province. In recent meetings with the B.C. Health Authority Shared Services Organization (SSO), the union was assured that there were no immediate plans to contract out any work within the supply chain.



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DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- HEU has nearly 10,000 clerical workers, representing about 85 different jobs across the province?
- The clerical team makes up 20 per cent of HEU's membership?
- About six per cent of HEU's clerical team are men?
- Medical transcriptionists need to apply 660,000 medical and surgical terms?
- Nursing unit assistants make critical decisions every day?
- Many CT, ultrasound and nuclear medicine booking clerks have to know more than 320,000 pharmaceutical terms?
- Staffing clerks need to understand and apply multiple collective agreements?
- Finance and timekeeping clerks ensure regular paycheques and continuity of benefits for thousands of employees?

During the transition stage, the SSO doesn't anticipate any reduction in HEU positions. HEU members, at this time, will continue being employed by health authorities and covered by current collective agreements. Their work, however, will be directed by the SSO.

In July, SSO representatives also advised the union that payroll services are no longer under active consideration for consolidation.

Additional meetings will be held to review any potential consolidation plans for IT services.

CLERICAL CONFERENCE

Education director Juli Rees was on hand to discuss the upcoming clerical conference, which is scheduled for **September 17 and 18**. Locals should have selected/elected participants to attend. This is an opportunity for clerical workers to come together as a unified team to exchange thoughts and ideas, and to bring forward bargaining priorities specific to clerical interests.

FINDING OUR VOICE

Clerical workers have found a voice. We are an important part of the health care team. Unity creates strength, and we have an opportunity to discuss our shared issues at the clerical conference. We encourage clerical workers to talk to your conference participants/delegates to ensure your issues are brought forward.

There was also discussion around Clerical Workers Appreciation Day. The subcommittee decided to change the name to "**Clerical Team Appreciation Day**". Brainstorming ideas for a new clerical poster was stimulating and fruitful.

The results will be worth waiting for. So mark **November 18, 2009** on your calendar to recognize and appreciate your fellow clerical workers!

The clerical subcommittee is up for the challenge of the next two years.

We look forward to hearing from you, and to share information.

In solidarity,

HEU clerical subcommittee
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