



ESSENTIA TWIN PORTS CONTRACT NEWS



August 8, 2019

Your MNA Negotiating Team thanks the nurses who showed up at bargaining today and those who wore our “No PTO” buttons. More than 150 nurses packed negotiations.

Susan Helgerson eloquently spoke on behalf of the nurses about the staffing crisis in the Emergency Department. Your continuous participation in our contract campaign has moved management to begin conversations around dropping PTO and adding student loan reimbursement.

We did not reach any tentative agreements today. Management proposed to drop their PTO proposal if we agreed to drop our sick time payout, eliminate double time for 12-hour nurses, and diminish our holiday exemption benefits. We did not agree to these concessions.

We discussed a framework for student loan reimbursement and will continue discussions during our next bargaining session on Friday, August 16.

Management is holding to their proposal to eliminate Plan C.

The time for nurses to get more involved is now so that we can win a strong contract for our patients, profession, and families. At the conclusion of today’s negotiations, we notified the employer of our intent to have an informational picket on Tuesday, August 20, from noon to 6 p.m.

Anything less than an overwhelming turnout at the August 20 informational picket could cause us to lose ground in negotiations. It is important to show Essentia that nurses care and are willing to show up to protect their benefits.

To help prepare for the informational picket, we will hold **joint Essentia-St. Luke’s all member meetings** on August 13 at 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., and 7:45 p.m. at St. Mary’s Star of the Sea Church.

In addition, we will hold a **sign-making party** with the St. Luke’s RNs on Wednesday, August 14, from noon to 5. p.m. at the Karpeles Museum.

Please click the link below to sign up for the sign-making party and/ or the informational picket.

https://mna.formstack.com/forms/duluth_pickets

In solidarity,

Your Essentia negotiating team