

BRN License Renewal



RNPA has become aware that some nurses have experienced license renewal delays. Remember, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Nursing Standards Policy dictates that if you cannot present proof of a valid, current license by the date of licensure expiration, you will not be permitted to work, you will be placed on Leave Without Pay, and you will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

We believe that the delay may be due to employees working less hours as a result of the Governor's Executive Order. The BRN office is now closed the first, second, and third Friday of each month until July 1, 2010. Below, please find information we have outlined from the BRN to help insure your licenses are received.

Notices are mailed out approximately three months prior to the expiration date of the license. If you have not received your notice two months before the expiration date, please contact the Board. To insure receipt of renewal notices, always keep the Board informed of any address change. Registered nurses are responsi-

ble for renewing their licenses even if they do not receive a renewal notice.

Section 121 of the Business and Professions Code provides that a nurse may work pending receipt of his/her renewed license providing the renewal fee has been submitted timely and all renewal requirements have been met. NOTE: The employer may have more stringent requirements. Effective with licenses expiring after January 31, 2004, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) has increased its RN Education Fund fee that is collected from RNs at the time of renewal from \$5 to \$10. The Board's renewal fee itself remains at \$75. With the new OSHPD fee, RNs will pay a total of \$85 at renewal time, and delinquent renewals will be \$122. Allow up to 4 to 6 weeks for processing and 48 hours for the records to be transferred from the online licensing system into the Board's database. For security reasons it is not instantaneous, the user is not directly accessing the Department of Consumer Affairs database. The plastic card license should arrive within 2 weeks. The transaction may take longer if there is an address change or other unique issues. For licensing information you may contact the Board of Registered Nursing at (916) 322-3350.

National Certification Reimbursement



Per the RNPA MOU, Section 8.22—National Certification Pay, eligible coded nurses may receive a payment of \$250 once each year for attainment and maintenance of one nationally recognized certification in the nurse's area of clinical specialty. Certification that is required by the California Board of Registered Nurse (BRN) to meet certification, recertification or credentialing requirements as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), a Nurse Practitioner (NP) or CNS (Clinical Nurse Specialist) does not qualify for National Certification Pay. The window for submitting the completed payment request form is April 1st to April 30th, 2010. Requests received prior to April 1st or after 5pm, April 30th will not be considered. A copy of the current certification including name of the nurse, title of certification, certifying agency and effective dates (start and expiration) must be attached to the payment request form.

Request forms may be hand-carried to SCVHHS-Human Resources Office located at 2325 Enborg Lane, Room 105, or faxed to (408)885-6459. If the request is hand carried ensure that you receive a date/time stamped receipt. If the request is faxed, you are responsible for maintaining a copy of the printed fax verification sheet. If you have a national certification in a specialty that is not listed, but believe it is comparable to those listed then submit your request for consideration. It will be researched and you will be informed as to whether it was deemed to meet eligibility requirements. If approved the National Certification Pay will be paid on the paycheck you receive June 4, 2010.

Comp Time

Remember that all compensatory time (Comp Time) must be taken within 12 months of the date the overtime was worked. It is your responsibility to be aware when your comp time is going to expire. If you have questions regarding your comp time expiration date contact your timekeeper at 885-5732.



In Appreciation of Rosemary Knox...



For the past 10 years Rosemary Knox has worked to build RNPA into an organization that puts patients first, protects the rights

tude for all the time and effort she has dedicated toward improving the profession of nursing in general and for strengthening RNPA and its ability to fight for our members in particular.

On March 25th, the RNPA Board of Directors invited the membership as well as representatives from the VMC and Ambulatory Administrations, Labor Relations, and members from the Board of Supervisors to thank Rosemary for her years of service and meet our 2010

Board of Directors.

Supervisor George Shirakawa presented Rosemary with a Resolution from the Board of Supervisors recognizing her contribution to nursing in the County.

Thank you to all the nurses who attended.

of our members and an organization that has fought to ensure our wages, working conditions, and benefits are comparable with our work. We all owe Rosemary a debt of grati-

Possible Budget Reductions for FY 2011



We are all aware of the County budget crisis and are all wondering first how is this shortfall going to be resolved and second how will it impact you personally.

division regarding the probability of layoffs within their units, effective July 2011. As a result, rumors were flying around the hospital and RNPA's phone was ringing non-stop.

It is important to remember that these are recommended cuts. First, RNPA wants to assure you that together, we will be lobbying the Board of Supervisors to preserve as many positions as possible within your division. To do so, we need your assistance in documenting noncompliance with ratios, no break and lunch relief, as well as overtime and staffing with floats and Per Diem/Extra Help usage.

RNPA has not yet received the specifics of which codes on which shifts will be deleted. Seniority lists are being created by Labor Relations and will be submitted to us at the beginning of May. At that time, RNPA leadership will be working closely with Labor Relations to ensure the layoff process is followed correctly as outlined in Article 5 of the MOU.

RNPA has been conducting meetings for areas that may be impacted.

Nursing Administration assures us there will be positions for everyone within the hospital.

On April 6th, RNPA met with Trudy Johnson, Chief Nursing Officer, and asked her if there were going to be any lay-offs of nursing positions. Ms. Johnson explained that they have not finalized their recommended budget, but she anticipated cuts as well as augmentations.

Please fax all documentation to the RNPA office (292-4729). Please make sure you are not faxing specific patient information.

If you have any questions, please contact the RNPA office.

On April 12th, announcements were made by Nursing Administration to the staff of the MCH

PAC Interviews



The June 2010 Primary Election is approaching quickly. There are two Board of Supervisors' seats up for election, District 1, and District 4. District 1

includes the City of Gilroy, the City of Morgan Hill, portions of south San Jose, the Town of Los Gatos, as well as unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County. District 4 includes cities of Campbell and Santa Clara as well as west San Jose and the Burbank and Cambrian neighborhoods.

Currently Ken Yeager represents District 4 and he is running unopposed. District 1 is currently represented by Don Gage and he is being termed out. There are 5 candidates running for this seat and four participated in the RNPA Political Action Committee interview process. The candidates interviewed were Mike Wasserman, Forrest Williams, Theresa Alvarado, and Peter Arellano.

PAC members asked questions pertaining to experience, top priorities, retire-

ment, enforcement of nurse to patient ratios, Valley Medical Center, the County budget, etc.

PAC members enjoyed meeting all four candidates. The group believed that all the interviewed candidates have varied experience which would be essential to being an effective leader. The group was mixed regarding making an official endorsement and as a result made the decision not to make an official endorsement in the primary election.

The PAC will make an official endorsement in the General Election.
