

President's Report

by Wendy Despins, President

Bargaining, What do you Want?

A vitally important part of collective bargaining is the discussions with you, the membership.

Executive Director Lee Manning and I are once again about to embark on a province-wide tour of meetings. We want to touch base with you on many of the plans underway as well as discussing central table bargaining. Meetings will be held in Burntwood, NorMan, South



Eastman, Brandon and Winnipeg. Meeting dates have been selected and meeting rooms are in the process of being booked. We will begin the tour in early April and conclude by mid-June. It is my hope that you will find a convenient time and a location to enable you to attend. Your feedback and participation are very important. Notices with the agenda will be out once all the meeting rooms are confirmed. I look forward to seeing you and encourage all of you to attend.

One of the Executive Council initiatives this past fall was to strike an ad hoc committee to review our collective bargaining process from A – Z. The committee was comprised of the President, Executive Director, Labour Relations Officers (LRO's) and board members who had participated both at local and central table bargaining. The flow chart that is included on pages 8 and 9 and the MAHCP Proposals for

Collective Bargaining form (page 9) are a result of just some of the work that was completed by the committee. Terms of Reference for MAHCP Collective Bargaining Committees were developed. Revisions made to the bargaining committee member position description and policies and motions supporting the complete process were written. With some minor tweaking, the entire body of work was presented and adopted at council in mid-January. This undertaking has provided us with a formalized framework for collective bargaining, and being mindful of succession planning leaves a legacy for those following behind.

I want to also reinforce the information from the article on pages 8 and 9 about the collective bargaining survey that will be in the June Newsletter.



A strong response from membership is crucial towards achieving our collective goals at the bargaining table. Please make some time to complete the survey, fill out proposal forms, and attend a meeting with Lee and me.



Wendy Despins
President

EKG - A Dangerous Precedent

You may have seen my interview with Nelly Gonzalez from CityTV on February 20. Her request for the interview followed on the heels of an article in the Winnipeg Free Press on January 26 and two subsequent letters to the editor (please see page 15). Nelly wanted our discussion to cover some key points:

1. What is an EKG
2. What is the importance of an EKG
3. What risks would there be if EKG's were not performed properly
4. What concerns are being raised by health care professionals required to perform these tests in the absence of a Cardiology Technologist
5. Is there any impact on wait times?

In order to perform EKG's it is a condition of employment that qualified

Cardiology Technologists, upon completion of their training, pass a national exam. It is important to note that there have been several people let go for their inability to pass the national exams.

President's Report

Currently there is a delivery of service issue where there is a double standard and the delivery of service is inconsistently applied. In some facilities EKG's are being performed on nights by health care professionals trained in other professions. These are health care professionals who have not taken the national cardiology exams. Not recognizing a problem or error due to lack of sufficient training and experience can have serious ramifications.

We are concerned that where there are skilled worker shortages this will be the tip of the iceberg. There is a concern that testing will be off loaded to workers trained in other fields of expertise.

The issue is patient care, quality care 24/7. The delivery of service needs to meet the same standards regardless of time of day or location. There should be no second class patients in health care.

Strategic Planning

At the strategic planning conference the Executive Council and staff reaffirmed the direction we have undertaken and the many initiatives that are underway. One of those initiatives is the continued commitment to increasing public awareness through our marketing campaign.

So again this winter, beginning in mid-January MAHCP ran the "Depend on Us" series of TV, radio and billboard ads, concluding in late February, early March. We grouped our

occupations into three categories; Therapy/Rehabilitation, Diagnostic, and Community Health encouraging the public to "Depend on Us". The "Depend on Us" imagery is linked to the "Do Well" imagery. "Do Well" is the underpinning of our display booth and handout materials for the Winnipeg Rotary Career Symposium and the Brandon Career Symposium.

Brandon Career Symposium - An Award Winning Success for MAHCP

MAHCP was mentioned on the front page article in the Brandon Sun on Wednesday, March 4th, as a participant at the Brandon Career Symposium. The Article described our desire

to stimulate interest in health care professions as good solid career paths. Out of a field of 119 booths, MAHCP was awarded a spot in the top five, and received an award. The feedback has excellent. Many of you having seen the ads and called or emailed to comment. Thank you for your feedback. You can view the TV ads by going to www.mahcp.ca home page and click on



the slide show photo "Manitobans Depend on us".

"The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found, but made. And the making of them changes both the maker and the destination."

John Schaar, futurist