



JNESO

DISTRICT COUNCIL 1, IUOE / AFL-CIO
the professional health care union

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LEADING HEALTHCARE UNION AT POCONO MEDICAL CENTER POISED TO STRIKE

Union cites PMC's continued refusal to address critical safety and care issues

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East Stroudsburg – On Tuesday, January 20, 2015, JNESO District Council 1 – the leading union representing approximately 500 nurses at Pocono Medical Center - announced that it was poised to go on strike after more than eight weeks of bargaining with the hospital. Talks broke down after PMC refused to address dangerous staffing levels and critical patient safety concerns raised by the union.

“After months of negotiating, Pocono Medical Center has been steadfast in its refusal to respond to the chronic understaffing of our nurses,” said Mona Hartle, Pocono Medical Center’s Local President. “Our members have documented more than 500 instances in the last two years during which they did not have the staff or resources necessary to adequately care for their patients. We cannot in good conscience accept working conditions that will put our patients’ lives at risk.”

The hospital’s proposals will require nurses to take on heavy patient loads and in many cases will force them to leave a patient’s bedside in order to perform non-nursing tasks due to the unnecessary lack of support services. The hospital has also refused to address the union’s proposal to ensure that nurses are properly trained before assignment to another area of the hospital. Without guaranteeing that training, nurses may be forced to work in areas in which they may not be qualified.

“PMC’s proposals put lives at risk. It is our hope that we can come to an agreement, but we will not sacrifice the safety of our patients, our nurses, or the general public to do it,” Hartle said.

The union served PMC with a 10 Day Strike Notice on January 20, 2015, but has offered to bargain every day until their contract expires on January 31, 2015. The hospital has agreed to meet on Thursday, January 22, 2015.

JNESO District Council 1 is a professional healthcare union representing over 5,000 healthcare professionals in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and is an affiliate of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE).

Learn more at: www.jneso.org.

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