



JNESO
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the professional health care union

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LVHN-POCONO ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL LAYOFFS, HEALTHCARE UNION CONDEMNS!

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EAST STROUDSBURG, PA – Today, JNESO District Council 1 Executive Director Doug Placa and PMC Local President Mona Hartle issued the following statements following a second round of layoffs at LVHN-Pocono.

“Back in December Pocono Medical Center initially announced that 61 (sixty-one) nurses would be laid off.” said Doug Placa, Executive Director for the union. “JNESO impressed upon them that it was ill advised, and that staffing remains paramount at the hospital. Although the finally tally may have been 13 (thirteen), over 100 (one hundred) nurses were affected by the actions of the employer”, he said. “Whenever you take nurses away from the bedside, the effect is detrimental to direct patient care.”

“Now just 4 weeks after their first announcement, Lehigh Valley Health Network Pocono (formerly Pocono Medical Center), has decided to layoff an additional 55 (fifty-five) nurses in various departments throughout the hospital.” “This is beyond ill advised, this is downright reckless. The hospital saw an uptick in patient census over the last several weeks, so the response to that is to take more nurses away from patient care.” Placa said.

JNESO has repeatedly brought concerns to management regarding nurse-to-patient staffing ratios and cites the spike in Short Staffing forms submitted from the nurses.

“It’s sad to see our colleagues, who have dedicated their lives to the nursing profession let alone their patients, just disregarded,” said Mona Hartle, President of the PMC Local Chapter of JNESO. “Our members stood by their patients during the first round of layoffs in the hopes that the merger would bring additional resources to the hospital, I guess it wasn’t to be.”

“Once again we call on management to reverse this ill-advised strategy of eliminating nurses from the bedside and instead employ measures that responsibly seek cost-savings without jeopardizing patient care,” said Placa. “The union steadfastly opposes any measure that compromises safe quality patient care.”

JNESO District Council 1 is a healthcare union representing more than 5,000 nurses and other healthcare workers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. For more information, visit www.JNESO.org.

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