



JNESO

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

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For Immediate Release

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31 DAY STRIKE IS OVER

Nurses & Techs at St. Michael's Medical Center accept contract offer

North Brunswick (June 23, 2022) – After 31 days, the strike by 350 nurses and technologists at St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark is finally over after members of [JNESO District Council 1 IUOE-AFL-CIO](#) voted late last night (6/22/22) to accept the latest contract proposal.

“This was a long, hard fight over really important patient care and employee care, and safety issues,” said Virginia Treacy, RN, JNESO Senior Negotiator. “While we didn't get everything we wanted, our members feel that their voices have been heard and we got enough for them to be comfortable going back to work and getting the hospital back on its feet.”

The new 3-year contract is retroactive to May 4, 2022. JNESO members will be returning to work as soon as this weekend if hospital scheduling allows. The contract includes:

Wages

- A 3% increase each year of the contract for all full and part-time JNESO nurses and techs.
- “Step” increases which are given each year for service were kept intact.
- Differential pay was increased for weekend shifts.
- Pension benefit contributions were maintained and increased slightly.

Health Care Benefits

- A new plan option in the Blue Cross Blue Shield network will be provided
- Members can select the doctor of their choice without referrals.
- All health care premiums will be frozen for three years

Staffing

- Float Blocks have been maintained - nurses will float only to areas for which they have training/practice competence.
- No “Flexing” - members can't be sent home in the middle of a shift.
- Safe staffing ratios will follow the current statute in NJ for hospital licensure standards.

Safety

- All federal or state mandated OSHA, CDC, PPE and other requirement protocols regarding health and safety will be followed.
- Cameras will be installed in the parking lot for improved staff safety.
- Training funds were maintained.

“Our members feel truly empowered by this experience because they feel the hospital underestimated their strength, commitment and dedication and the strike gave them their power back!” said Elfrieda Johnson, RN, President of JNESO. “They really came together as a family and realized that when they stick together, they can achieve almost anything.”

This was only the second time since the union was established in 1979 at St. Michael's that a strike was held. The 1984 strike lasted two weeks. The 2022 strike lasted 31 days.

JNESO would like to thank community leaders, labor organizations, local and state officials and the public for supporting our nurses and techs during the strike. JNESO, the professional health care union represents some 5,000 nurses and technologists across New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

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