



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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STATE NURSES RATIFY CONTRACT

NURSES CELEBRATE OVERTIME AND COMP TIME BENEFITS

ILLINOIS- “We made headway in the battle on mandatory overtime. It’s just a first step, but it is in the right direction,” said Lee Goehl, Chair RC-23 Board of Directors. RC-23 is part of the Illinois Nurses Association’s collective bargaining units. The RC-23 Unit represents 58, 24 hour facilities and includes ancillary state agencies. Mandatory overtime has been a key issue with state nurses for several years.

“What was important to all of us because of the new Nurse Practice Act, was having a commitment in writing requiring continuing education. The contract assures us that the state will provide educational opportunities to us. We are the only union at this time that has this right,” said Goehl. The Nurse Practice Act will require registered nurses to have 20 hours of continuing education per renewal period starting in 2010.

Negotiators stated the five months in negotiations were some of the most difficult in the history of RC-23. State fiscal issues further complicated the needs of the nurses being met. “I am proud of the work the nurses and our staff specialists put forth to make this contract serve the nurses of Illinois,” said Elwood R. Thompson, INA Program Director.

Monetary increases included shift differential, contract increases and compensatory time language that had not existed before this contract. “Creating the compensatory time language and addressing the overtime issue were great achievements. The final result demonstrates how far we have come, and how far we are willing to go to do what is right for our nurses,” Thompson said.

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The Illinois Nurses Association (INA), a constituent member of the American Nurses Association, and is the largest professional nursing organization in Illinois. INA is dedicated to advancing the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the economic and general welfare of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the legislature and regulatory agencies on healthcare issues affecting nurses and the public.