

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nearly 320 Nurses and Technical Professionals at ACMH in Kittanning Reach a Critical Contract Deal That Further Protects Patients and Healthcare Professionals

Nurses and technical staff at ACMH win new three-year contracts with significant staffing improvements, ensuring safer conditions for both their patients and themselves.

Kittanning, PA - Yesterday, 317 nurses and technical professionals at ACMH, representing two different unions at ACMH, overwhelmingly ratified agreements they forged with the hospital that further respect the frontline healthcare professionals who are the face of care in their community.

“Two and a half years into the worst pandemic of our lifetimes, the system that’s supposed to support healthcare professionals, and therefore patients, is in crisis,” says PASNAP President Maureen May, R.N., a longtime Temple University Hospital nurse. “Hospital staff numbers have dwindled nationwide due to burnout and short-sighted, bottom-line decisions. This contract, with its emphasis on measures to improve retention, acknowledges the contributions of frontline caregivers and by prioritizing their well-being, also prioritizes patient care. We are thrilled.”

Per the caregiver’s new contract:

- **Nurses and Techs will see their wages increase between 15-23% over the next two years, including new additional compensation for experience.**
- **The hospital will dedicate almost a half million dollars in additional nurse staffing to help with patient care and minimize nurse reassignment.**
- **For the first time, Techs and LPNs have enforceable staffing language to ensure successful recruitment and retention.**

“When we negotiated this contract, we put our patients first, and at the end of the day, management did the right thing – for them, for us, for the technicians, and for our community,” says Cassie Wood, R.N., president of ACMH Nurses United. “I’m really looking forward to the changes the new contract puts into place and to retaining our experienced staff, attracting new nurses and technicians, and to providing the best possible patient care.”

ACMH’s 220 nurses went on a five-day strike in March to highlight crippling staffing issues at the hospital that were affecting morale, nurse retention, and quality of care – their focus not only in their strike but in bargaining for a new contract. But it wasn’t until ACMH’s 97 technicians, with staffing concerns of their own, began to bargain their contract this spring that the negotiations moved forward, together.

“Bringing our unions together on behalf of our professions, our patients, and quality of care at ACMH really helped us to change the dynamic at the bargaining table,” says Wood. “We were able to speak with a larger voice, and management was committed to listening. One of the things I really look forward to is continuing to work hand in hand with the hospital on behalf of patient care in Kittanning.”

“Our new contract includes staffing language that holds management accountable to maintaining current staffing guidelines, which was unheard of for us in the past,” says Cris Scott, MLT(ASCP), president of ACMH Techs United. “It’s a major win for techs and for our patients, and I believe it will help the hospital recruit more techs going forward. It’s win-win-win!”

ACMH Nurses United and ACMH Techs United are affiliates of the Pennsylvania Association of Nurses and Allied Health Professionals (PASNAP), which represents more than 9,000 nurses and healthcare professionals across the commonwealth and was founded on the belief that patients receive the best care when clinical-care staff have a strong voice to advocate for both patients and themselves.