

UMPNC NEWSBRIEF

May 22, 2011

Negotiations Update

Last week, the bargaining team continued negotiating over variable staffing, focusing on work assignment, floating, assigned time off and the use of temporary employees. We will continue working on variable staffing on Tuesday.

June 1 Membership Meeting Canceled

The June 1 membership meeting has been canceled due to the size of the room in the morning. We are looking at alternate dates in June where rooms are available to accommodate the membership. Thank you for attending the membership meeting on May 17. The bargaining team appreciates your feedback and support.

Legislative Update

Lawmakers in Lansing were hard at work, this week, limiting collective bargaining rights for public employees. SB 7, sponsored by Sen. Mark Jansen – R, passed the Senate on Wednesday, May 18, and will now go to the House for approval. SB 7 limits the amount of money an employer can put toward the coverage of employee health care to 80 percent of the total cost. Employees would then have to cover the remaining 20 percent of the total cost. Currently, public employers must negotiate the cost of health insurance with unions, but this legislation would strip unions' of the right to bargain health insurance costs less than 20 percent. Please take a minute to send a letter to your state representative asking them not to support this legislation. It is critical to get the word out now so that we can do our part to stop this legislation before it moves any farther in the legislative process.