



News Release

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NEWS RELEASE

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Altoona and Bon Secours Nurses Win a Voice for Patient Care

“Now we have a stronger voice to advocate for our patients!”

(ALTOONA, PA) – On Thursday May 24th, registered nurses at Bon Secours and Altoona Hospitals voted decisively to form a union with Pennsylvania’s Health Care Union, SEIU District 1199P. There are approximately 800 nurses at the two hospitals that make up the Altoona Regional Health System.

“This is a historic day for nurses at Bon Secours and Altoona Hospitals. Now we have a seat at the table, and a stronger voice to advocate for our patients,” said Paula Stellabotte, an intensive care unit nurse at Altoona Hospital. “We can work together to improve care for our patients and hold our administration accountable. We are excited about the opportunity to make our hospitals better places to work and to receive care for our whole community.”

Issues cited as of primary concern to the nurses related to adequate nurse staffing for the highest quality of care, and invest in nursing care by making nurse recruitment and retention a higher budgetary priority for the health system.

Janet Brungo, a nurse in the emergency department, spoke to a crowd of nurses assembled to hear the results of the vote, “We are ready to move forward and work together with our hospital administration to achieve real improvements for patients and nurses.”

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Pennsylvania’s Health Care Union, SEIU 1199P, is the state’s largest and fastest-growing union of nurses and other health care workers, representing over 20,000 employees, including 8,000 RNs in hospitals, nursing homes, home care, and state health facilities.