

D6 Council Looks to the Future

With hard work and cooperation between locals, the health care sector in District 6 has great potential for advancement and growth.

That was the take away from this month's meeting of the D6 Health Care Council, which convened in Toronto on May 10.

The group of some 15 representatives from health care locals across Ontario and the Atlantic provinces discussed sector-specific challenges and opportunities, including how to increase the number of health care units, as well as how to improve the lives of members working in the health care industry.

The council meeting opened with a conversation about the conference that took place in Lexington, Ky., in April, including ways to get more members from the district to the next health care conference.

"The conference touched on a lot of topics that are important to locals in our district," said Audra Nixon, president of the D6 Health Care Council. "Staff shortages are a crisis on both sides of the border, and we need to make sure we share information as widely as possible so that we can minimize safety risks and improve work-life balance."

Engaging Next Gen

Briana Broderick from the district's the Next Generation program spoke to the group about the importance of engaging workers of all ages, employing a variety of techniques to communicate with workers with different perspectives.

"There are sometimes problems in translation that come up between generations, and it's important to understand where miscommunication can happen," said Broderick.

"Mentorship is extremely important to Next Gen. That's the way you build solidarity and expand the movement, through leadership establishing personal relationships with millennials."

Organizing push

The group also explored ideas for organizing.

"Organizing new units helps everyone," said Nixon. "More health care workers get the benefit of a union contract, and we gain strength in numbers."

"So now we're trying to gather information on health care units that haven't yet been organized so we can get to work growing our council and our union."

The D6 Health Care Council meets twice a year and will hold their next session in the fall. Representatives from health care units across the district are welcome. Please direct any questions about the council to: healthcare@usw.ca.

Tell Us Your Stories!

Has your local done something outstanding? Have you had a great solidarity action? Done something huge to help your community? Made significant connections with other labor groups? Is your Women of Steel or Next Gen committee making waves?

Tell us about it!

Contact Jess Kamm Broomell at
jkamm@usw.org
or at 412-562-2446.

Spread the Word: Text Alerts Now Available

Canadian members who'd like to get up-to-date information on the USW's health care sector can now text HCWC to 32323 to enroll in the union's text alert system. The program is in its early stages, but it is still a great way to stay connected with all the latest news from across the industry.

American members should text HCWC to 47486 to sign up.



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