



COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA
LOCAL 1168, AFL-CIO



DATE: March 11, 2010
TO: All Members of CWA Local 1168 at Buffalo General Hospital
FROM: Dana McCarthy, Health & Safety Director
CWA Local 1168
RE: UPDATE

Dear Friends,

Starting as a Steward working with Diane Moats RN in 2000 and carrying on as Director of Safety and Health for the Local after Diane's retirement in 2004, I have sought to engage our employer in a collaborative effort that has your safety at work as its goal. Together with our Brothers and Sisters in Labor from SEIU and IUOE we have worked with Kaleida to the satisfaction of all parties. **In fact, Paula Pless of Kaleida, Pat McCarthy RN from SEIU and I were recently recognized by the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety and Health (WNYCOSH) for the achievements of Kaleida's Safe Patient Handling program that has remarkably reduced worker injuries.**

It is, therefore, very disturbing to me that one of the Site Presidents, Larry Zielinski, of BGH, has recently formed a separate group to discuss worker safety that is only management. Perhaps it is because Mr. Zielinski doesn't think we know anything about workplace safety "the business", which is odd to me as I feel we the workers know more about what's going on around our employer's business than anyone else. Perhaps, as one manager suggested to me, Mr. Zielinski wanted to discuss "business" solutions to the problems of worker safety. This is worrisome to me, as I have attended seminars where business solutions were discussed and they often leave the injured workers out in the cold. Nevertheless, I remain deeply disturbed by this sudden shift in a joint health and safety program that has been so successful over the years.

For these reasons I am writing to all our members at the Buffalo General Hospital asking you to do the right thing for your safety. If you are injured at work:

- File an incident report with your manager.
- Ask for a copy of the incident report.
- Use our Union's attorney to file a claim for Workers' Compensation.
Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria - 716-849-1333

Please do not delay in any of these actions. **You may not lose time from work or need to have treatment covered by Workers' Compensation in order to have a legitimate claim.** But, failure to do these three things in a timely manner may cause you to lose your right to compensation and lead to financial hardship to you and your family.

Please call us at 816-1168 with any concerns you have or questions.

P.S. Please register to vote and please join CWA COPE.