

ASEA In Action



API Declared Generally Unsafe Workplace By OSHA

Members employed at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute filed a complaint against API management for failing to provide sufficient safety measures to keep staff members safe from patient assaults. According to OSHA findings, employee recorded 140 instances of attacks by patients against employees between January 1, 2017 and July 15, 2017. API has four times the number of assaults against staff as the national average for mental health institutions.

This was the second OSHA citation of API management for exposing employees to workplace violence injuries such as death, concussions, bites, fractures and psychological trauma as a result of the employer's failure to ensure that employees are adequately trained and protected from workplace violence. At the time of the inspection, API had no "self defense policy" in regards to workplace violence. Currently, API utilizes the standard NAPPI System training program for all staff members. The advanced NAPPI Forensic Psychiatry training is not taught. Supposedly, this advanced NAPPI training would teach self-protection and physical restraint but is not taught to floor staff.

The first OSHA citation against API management for having a generally unsafe workplace was served in December 2014, at that time, API had no written policy and procedure outlining how management intended to deal with and prevent acts of workplace violence. The training program utilized the Mandt System RCT (Relational/Conceptual/Technical) for all staff members. However, a Mandt representative stated that the RCT level was inappropriate in forensic or highly violent situations as the RCT level taught minimal patient restraint techniques and no self-defense techniques.

Apparently, nothing changes as new API management blames old API management but the Workers Comp claims continue to mount and ASEA members are subjected to investigative segregation whenever a violent patient is restrained. If management won't watch your back, ASEA WILL!

Mike Robbins, ASEA Business Agent

Meet ASEA's New Administrative Assistant III



Norma Jones was born and raised in Alaska and has lived most of her life in Anchorage. Norma has worked at Alaska Airlines, the Alaska Court System and recently at NANA Development Corporation as Senior Administrative Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Administrative Assistant to the General Manager at NMS/ANMC food services. Norma wants to thank everyone for your kind welcome and is looking forward to working with everyone.

Important Dates

- *January 19, 2018 - NOON DEADLINE for receipt of Nomination Petition Form & Official Candidate Statement Forms
- February 12 - 13, 2018 - State Executive Board Meeting - Juneau
- *February 20, 2018 - Ballots mailed to members
- March 7 - 11, 2018 - ASEA 17th Biennial Convention - Anchorage
- *March 22, 2018 - ELECTION DATE (Ballots Counted) MUST BE RECEIVED BY 8:30 am on this date. ONLY ballots returned through the U.S. Mail will be counted

* Important Statewide Election Dates

ASEA STRONG



"ASEA is family; We stand strong together."

STEPHANIE MALTEZ
Office Assistant II
North Pole, AK



"While I put 100% into my job, our union is watching my back and securing my pay and benefits so I can support my family—ASEA Strong!"

KAY SMITH
Voc Rehab Counselor I
Juneau, AK



President's Message - The New Year

Sisters and Brothers,
Welcome to the NEW YEAR!

It was sad to say goodbye to Executive Director Jim Duncan, Joyce Winton our Administrative Assistant III and Our Lobbyist Fate Putman. All three will be greatly missed as they have all been strong believers and staunch supporters for ASEA. All have been leaders, mentors, teachers and supportive advisors to many of us over the years.

To the staff in all our offices, THANK YOU!!!! Our staff works with us day in and day out on matters that are of concern to all of us. Business Agents serve all 7500 members throughout the state and are dedicated to protecting our rights. This coming year our staff with the help of AFSCME International staff assigned to Alaska will continue to train, educate and mentor all members about the Union and our negotiated benefits. They will continue the fight and will educate us about the changing times and threats aimed at our union.

Welcome to incoming Executive Director Jake Metcalfe and Norma Jones, his new Administrative Assistant III .

Worksite meetings will start in January and there is much work to be done with the ASEA STRONG program. Chapter elections are being conducted to elect delegates to participate in ASEA's 17th Biennial Convention that will take place in Anchorage at the Captain Cook Hotel from March 7 - 11, 2018. Check our website and watch your email for upcoming information about ASEA's Biennial Convention.

NEVER QUIT and FIND YOUR VOICE!

In Friendship and Solidarity,
Dawn Bundick, ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 President



Happy New Year!



ASEA STRONG