

# DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

March 2017



## Negotiations Updates

### Children's National Health System

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, DCNA and Children's

Hospital met and exchanged initial proposals in negotiating the successor collective bargaining agreement. The contract expires on June 30, 2017. DCNA presented proposals on wage increases, a decrease in the percentage paid for health care insurance premium contributions, creation of a staffing committee to ensure safe and adequate staffing in all units throughout the hospital and proposals that re-establish DCNA's right to picket and negotiate over changes contemplated by management during the term of the contract. The parties will continue bargaining on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Children's School Services – LPNs

CSS and DCNA exchanged proposals on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. DCNA's proposals included an increase in educational benefits, automatic transition from LPN to RN, a 5% wage increase and an implementation of wage scale. CSS did not bring a wage proposal to the table. Parties come back to the table on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

### DBH

DCNA and DBH commenced bargaining on March 21<sup>st</sup>. DCNA proposals included 4.5% wage increases, Charge Nurse/Preceptor pay, performance evaluation bonuses, increase to education benefits and more. Management proposed a 1% increase. Parties will come back to the table on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

## DCNA Mourns Passing of Two Leaders



**Evelyn Curtis – Howard University Hospital RN and DCNA/HUH officer.** Evelyn Curtis was a devoted, caring and dedicated Registered Nurse for more than 26 years. She was a member of DCNA and a 20 year employee on 5 West at Howard University Hospital. She served as Vice Chairperson for DCNA/HUH and was active in DCNA's picketing during contract negotiations. Evelyn was also employed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC and Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, MD. She was the epitome of a model nurse. Never missing a day during her cancer treatment, she shared her passion for her profession every opportunity possible, including during the support group meetings while speaking about her cancer journey. Evelyn also possessed a positive attitude and a strong and abiding faith that enabled her to cope with the many challenges she was experiencing. She was an active member of Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church Friends and Supporters in Hyattsville, MD where she served as the Metropolitan Health Secretary.

**Ms. Beverly Freeman-Owen: Mary Jones Bryant speaks on behalf of DCNA at Ms. Owen's funeral service.**

In 1977, when I joined the District of Columbia Nurses Association, I met many nurses from all over the city, but Beverly stood out. In our many Board and Economic and General Welfare meetings, Beverly was very vocal, clearly a nurse's nurse. Beverly would shoot straight from the hip, calling a spade a spade. Her passion for nursing was evident at the bedside and away from it. Whether advocating locally at council meetings, or nationally at American Nursing Association conventions, she was a true advocate for nurses and the patients. She mentored the young delegates, kept us in line with her wisdom and promoted unity among the DCNA membership. She would gently give out orders, with her smile, to the younger nurse delegates and ensured we understood all the proceedings at the conventions, current issues affecting nursing practice, etc. She was a role model and gave it her all. Beverly's philosophy was *"each one, teach one."*

Beverly was the Chairperson of the DCNA Fundraising Committee. She gave this duty her all. DCNA has a Needy Nurse Fund, which assists nurses financially when a crisis occurs in their lives. To this end, DCNA held "Silent Auctions" to raise money for this

fund. Beverly took on this project personally and put a lot of work into making each Silent Auction successful. She solicited help and donations, from all of us. It was her baby for many years. When she was no longer active at DCNA, we begged her to return and run the auction for us one more time. The last one I remember her participating in was at People's Congregational Church on 13<sup>th</sup> Street NW. Needless to say, it was very successful with Beverly at the helm.

Beverly did not "talk the talk, she walked the walk!" Her mentoring, knowledge and genuine caring personality put many young nurses at ease. You learned from Beverly. Beverly's memory will live on through the nurses and healthcare professionals she taught. *Mary Jones Bryant, At-Large member, DCNA Board of Directors. Beverly Janet Freeman-Owen died on March 20, 2017. She retired from DC General Hospital after thirty years as a registered nurse.*

## CSS Nurses Testify in Support of 40 Hour Coverage in Schools

CSS RNs Robin C. Burns and Myra Taylor continued the push for full-time nursing in DC schools as they both testified in support of Bill 22-0027, which will require forty hours of nursing coverage in each school each week. DCNA has pursued this goal since last October, when the District sought to cut funding for the school nurse program. See DCNA Newsletters, October & November 2016. Walakewon Blegay, Staff Attorney, DCNA, also testified. While it appears likely the bill will be passed by the DC Council, DCNA must still fight to ensure that there is sufficient funding for the program. Accordingly, DCNA expects to be out in full force when the DC Council holds budget hearing for the Department of Health. (See Upcoming Events.)



from left - W. Blegay, Garnett Freeman, CM Robert White, R. Burns, Aona Jefferson (President, Council of School Officers), Edward Smith and Mary Kletter, (parent of DC student)

## Upcoming Events:

**United Medical Center Budget Hearing, John A Wilson Building, 1350**

**Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC, Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am in Room 412.** If you are interested in participating in the hearing, please contact Staff Attorney Wala Blegay at [wblegay@dcna.org](mailto:wblegay@dcna.org).

**Department of Health Oversight Hearing, John A Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW,**

**Washington, DC. Friday, May 5th at 10am in Room 500.** If you are interested in participating in the hearing to advocate for funding for the school nurse program, please contact Staff Attorney Wala Blegay at [wblegay@dcna.org](mailto:wblegay@dcna.org).

**DCNA Nurse Week Lunch Cruise, Odyssey, location, May 6, 2017, Boarding at 12:15 pm, Cruise from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.** Save the date. Be on the lookout for an email from DCNA in the near future which will provide registration information.

**DCNA Board of Director's & E&GW Cabinet, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 306, Washington, DC 20016, Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 5:30 pm.** These meetings are open to all DCNA members. If you plan on attending, please contact Ms. Vickie Spence at [vspence@dcna.org](mailto:vspence@dcna.org).

**Training Session on Understanding and Enforcing Regulations to Improve Your Health and Safety at Work, Thursday, June 22, 2017 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Tommy Douglas Conference Center, 10000 New Hampshire Avenue; Silver Spring, MD.** The training session is free to DCNA members. If you would like to attend, please contact Vickie Spence at [vspence@dcna.org](mailto:vspence@dcna.org) by Friday, June 9, 2017.

**Foundations Course for the Aspiring Faith Community Nurse, Children's National Tech Hill Campus; 1211 Plum Orchard Drive; Silver Spring, MD, Various dates in June, July and August, 2017.** This 5-day course provides the foundational curriculum that prepares the Registered Nurse (RN) to practice as a FCN. Registration ends on June 9, 2017. Nursing Contact hours are provided. For more information, contact Ebony Henley, Clinical Instructor/FCN Faculty Lead via phone at 202-476-4329 or via email at [ehenley@childrensnational.org](mailto:ehenley@childrensnational.org).

Please visit DCNA on our website at [www.dcna.org](http://www.dcna.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/DCNursesAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/DCNursesAssociation).

For Assignment Despite Objection and Grievance forms, visit [www.dcna.org](http://www.dcna.org).

DCNA is located at 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 306, Washington, DC 20016. Telephone – (202) 244-2705