

# DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

September 2017



## DCNA Elects New Leaders Representing DC Dept. of Behavioral Health

On July 19, 2017, DCNA members elected new leaders to represent them at the D.C. Department of Behavioral (DBH) Health. Tinoula Shokumbi has been elected as the President of the DBH unit. She looks forward to



further the collaboration with labor partners

The new officers are: Ijeoma Onwukwe, Tinoula Shokumbi, Nancy Pearsall, Deborah Anderson and Susan Nelson. (photo left to right). The new leaders will be in negotiations with management to continue bargaining for the successor compensation agreement. Bargaining is expected to resume in early October. DCNA has convinced management to provide a premium pay for charge nurse duties but have yet to reach agreement on the amount of the hourly premium. DCNA is also close to an agreement with management on mental health days for employees. The parties remain far apart in the amount of annual wage increases, the requirements necessary to receive a step increase and educational benefits.

## Negotiations Updates

### Children's School Services – LPNs



As reported in the July DCNA Newsletter, DCNA and CSS reached agreement on the initial collective bargaining agreement. The LPNs voted on August 7<sup>th</sup> to ratify the new agreement. The agreement will provide for annual leave, up to 9 weeks of severance pay in case of a lay-off, grievance and arbitration rights, internal transfers options, development of a labor-management committee, access to personnel files, LPN to RN transition and more. The parties also reached agreement on a \$600 signing bonus, 3% wage increases for 2018 (with wage reopeners for 2019 and 2020) and \$500 annually for educational benefits.

## Closure of the UMC Labor and Delivery Unit

On August 7, 2017, the Department of Health issued a restricted license of UMC to treat and admit new obstetric patients. Accordingly, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Labor and Delivery/Nursery, has been temporarily closed until the deficiencies have been addressed. The restricted license will be in place for 3 months but UMC officials stated that it will take them more than 3 months to reconcile the deficiencies. This closure has led to the reduction in force of 30 nurses. Most of the nurses have been working at UMC for over 10 years. At the oversight hearing before the Committee on Health on September 21st, UMC stated that were working with the Department of Health to address the concerns that led to the closure of the unit and hope to open the unit within six months.

## Give Support Now for Passage of 40 Hour School Nurse Legislation

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, the DC Committee on Health will review and mark-up the Public School Health Services Amendment Act of 2017 (B22-0027). Please call the council members below **TODAY** and tell them we want their vote for the bill (B22-0027) which requires 40 hours of licensed school nursing coverage per week with no exceptions. Even if you do not live in DC, your voice matters as a nurse working in the District of Columbia. Contact numbers are: Vincent Gray - [vgray@dccouncil.us](mailto:vgray@dccouncil.us); (202) 724-8068; Brianne Nadeau – [bnadeau@dccouncil.us](mailto:bnadeau@dccouncil.us); (202) 724-8181; Brandon Todd – [btodd@dccouncil.us](mailto:btodd@dccouncil.us); (202) 724-8052; David Grosso –

[dgrosso@dccouncil.us](mailto:dgrosso@dccouncil.us); (202) 724-8105; and Mary Cheh – [mcheh@dccouncil.us](mailto:mcheh@dccouncil.us); (202) 724-8062. DCNA has also scheduled a town hall meeting to focus on the budget for school nursing. We invite all leaders, nurses, school administrators, parents and concerned citizens to join us at this meeting. If you are interested in saving the lives of the children in the District.....Join us! Please RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40-hour-nursing-coverage-in-every-school-townhall-tickets-37879704215>.

## DCNA By-Laws Add Position of Archivist

On May 17, 2017, the DCNA membership voted to adopt changes in the DCNA By-Laws including the addition of an Archivist and an Archival Committee with the goal of preserving and recording the history of DCNA to be available within the DCNA offices. Our



office now includes a variety of new photos, including (among others) Board of Directors and Economic & General Welfare Cabinets members from 2015 to the present and Capitol Nursing magazine covers from 1989 and 1990. We have recently received photos documenting the 1999 Howard University Strike (photo at far left) and some from prior American Nurses Association events (photo, near left).

DCNA continues to seek photos depicting our members and leaders. **If you have any photos to contribute, please send them to Edward J. Smith, Executive Director, DCNA, at [esmith@dcna.org](mailto:esmith@dcna.org). If you are interested in serving DCNA as the Archivist or on the Archival Committee, please also notify Ed Smith.**

DCNA commenced operation in 1903, then known as the Graduate Nurses' Association and was chartered a year later with 137 members. The GNA was renamed in 1965 to the District of Columbia Nurses Association and in 1968 DCNA became actively involved in collective bargaining for professional nurses.

## Upcoming Events:

**RN CSS Union Meeting, Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 6:30pm, Denny's, 1250 Bladensburg Rd. NE, Washington DC 20002.** Please RSVP with Robin Burns at [rb1delta@gmail.com](mailto:rb1delta@gmail.com).

**LPN CSS Union Meeting, Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 6:30pm, Denny's, 1250 Bladensburg Rd. NE, Washington DC 20002.** Please RSVP with Najala Ward at [NWard@childrensnational.org](mailto:NWard@childrensnational.org).

**40-Hour School Nursing Town Hall Meeting, Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 6pm to 8pm, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 5301 North Capitol St. NE, Washington DC 20011.** Please RSVP with Staff Attorney Wala Blegay at [wblegay@dcna.org](mailto:wblegay@dcna.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*