

DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

August 2019



DCNA Leaders Attend Retreat

From August 19-21, DCNA leaders and staff attended a retreat designed to strengthen DCNA by recruiting and mentoring new leaders, organize new members and lead in health care discussions and decisions affecting the community. DCNA leaders heard from respected and experienced labor leaders Donna Edwards, President, Maryland DC AFL-CIO; Elizabeth Davis, President, Washington



Teachers Union, Local 6; Wanda Shelton Martin, Executive Director, NUHHCE; and David Dzidzienyo, formerly with the Metropolitan Labor Council, AFL-CIO. These leaders stressed the importance of activism, sharing personal and professional stories from their careers. In addition, National Nurses United employees, Alice Grubb, RN Response Network, and Amirah Sequeria, NNU Lead Legislative Advocate, provided information on the Medicare for All legislation currently before the US Congress and the RNRN program, which supports communities with disaster relief. DCNA's own Mary Jones Bryant and Edward Smith gave a presentation on the history of DCNA. One of the major highlights of the retreat was a visit to the

Overlook, a senior residence in Southeast DC. We purchased lunch for the residents and served them, as well. We discussed the issues surrounding United Medical Center and enlisted their support in forcing the District of Columbia to provide full and equitable health care services to all DC residents.



DCNA Spearheads Community Meeting on Health Care in Southeast DC



On August 22nd, DCNA leaders and members spoke with DC residents about our concerns over the failure of the District of Columbia to provide adequate health care at United Medical Center. This meeting, held at UMC, was part of an ongoing coalition effort to gain community support for additional funding to UMC to provide more complete health care services. Walakewon Blegay, Staff Attorney, DCNA, remarked that “this meeting was a huge success, with many more residents than we had seen in previous meetings. The word is getting out that nurses, doctors, other health care workers, patients and residents will not stand for second class health care in a world class city.” The Health Justice Coalition, comprised of DCNA, SEIU1199, DC Jobs with Justice, DC Fiscal Policy Institute, DC Health Alliance Network and several Ward 8 ANC Commissioners, is gearing for an oversight hearing before the DC Council in the next month or two.

Upcoming Events

DCNA Board of Directors’ & E&GW Cabinet Meeting, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 306, Washington, DC 20016, September 17th, 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.

Your Rights at Work, WPFW, 89.3FM or wpfwfm.org, every Thursday in September, 1-2pm. Listen to Edward J. Smith, DCNA Executive Director, as he hosts the weekly radio program on workers’ rights. This week’s show will highlight the issues surrounding patient care at United Medical Center. Mr. Smith will take calls from the audience and will have guests who are workers at UMC. You can call the show at (202)588-0893 with comments or questions.

Please visit DCNA on our website at www.dcna.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DCNursesAssociation.

For Assignment Despite Objection and Grievance forms, visit www.dcna.org.

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