

DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

February 2018



Negotiations Updates

Children School Services – RN

CSS RNs have a contract! They received an increase in almost everything from 9.5% raises, option for a 10-month schedule, \$1250 in educational benefits, increases in severance pay, reimbursement for parking fees and increase in uniform allowance. The unit voted to ratify the agreement on February 15th. “I am proud that we were able to address the concerns of our membership including more flexibility in scheduling and obtaining fair pay raises,” stated by CSS RN Unit President and DCNA Treasurer Robin Burns. Ward 5 school nurse Karen

Richardson was on the negotiating team for the first time and stated “working on negotiating this contract was a positive experience for me and brought forth great results for our members. I look forward to continuing my advocacy for my colleagues.” Congrats to our CSS RN nurses!

DBH and Comp 13

The District has refused to apply the same agreement that was recently given to the Comp 1 and 2 employees which included the following raises: 3% in 2018, 2% in 2019, 3% in 2020, 3.5% in 2021. As a result, the District will commence mediation with DCNA over the DBH contract on March 8, 2018 and with Comp 13 on March 26, 2018. For DBH, DCNA’s current wage proposal is 4% each year for three years, \$3000 for annual education benefits and 24 hours for Mental Health days leave. DCNA and DBH have agreed to an additional \$2 per hour for Grade 7 and 9 nurses. DBH’s proposals are the following: 2% annual raises, \$750 for annual education benefits and 16 hours for Mental Health days leave. For Comp 13, DCNA current wage proposal is 4% each year for three years, \$5000 for tuition reimbursement, \$2000 for training benefits, \$255 in transit subsidy, float pay for DYRS nurses and preceptor and mileage pay. Comp 13’s proposals are the following: 2% annual raises and \$750 for annual education benefits.

UMC Contract

On February 21st, Executive Director Edward J. Smith testified before the Committee on Health on the failure of UMC and the Mayor to abide by the law and approve the DCNA/UMC Collective Bargaining Agreement after DCNA won the arbitration in June 2017 and pay the nurses the over \$3 million in back pay. On February 28th, Staff Attorney Wala Blegay addressed the UMC Board regarding their failure to provide DCNA with information regarding the list of employees eligible for back pay and even the status of the DCNA/UMC contract. Later that day, Mayor Muriel Bowser’s Chief of Staff, John Falcicchio, and the City Administrator, Rashad Young, committed to releasing funds for the DCNA/UMC contract and to have the DC Chief Financial Officer issue a favorable fiscal impact statement within the next two weeks. Executive Director Smith remarked that “after nearly nine months of pressure, DCNA has finally received the commitment from the Mayor to implement our contract with the United Medical Center. We won this battle due to efforts of DCNA staff, DCNA/UMC leadership, DCNA members and support from the labor community. We must now make sure the Mayor honors this commitment to ensure that our nurses receive benefits of a hard fought contract.”

St. Elizabeths Nurses Testify to Dangerous Ratios

On February 26, 2018, St. Elizabeths Hospital nurses Gregory Wilson, Jimmy Bello, Ijeoma Onwukwe, supported by Unit President Tinoula Shokunbi, testified before the Committee on Health at the Department of Behavioral Health oversight hearing at the DC Council regarding the dangerous patient ratios and lack of adequate support from management. Nurses Wilson and Onwukwe requested that the DC Council take a serious look at the nurse patient ratios at St. Elizabeths Hospital which should be 1 nurse to 6 patients. Most St. Elizabeths nurses have up to 13 patients during their shifts which can lead to a very precarious situation for the nurses and patients. Nurse Wilson stated “we ask this committee to protect the nurses as we work hard to protect the patients of St. Elizabeths.”



School Nurse Coverage Legislation & Funding

We have scored a victory! On December 27, 2017, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser signed the Public School Health Services Amendment Act of 2017, which provides nursing services at every school in the District for forty hours per week. The Act is, however, subject to appropriations, thus endangering enforcement if the program does not receive full funding in the Department of Health's budget. The Mayor is developing her budget and DCNA and community advocates must fight to ensure that 40-hour school nursing coverage in every school is fully funded in the budget. The program will cost approximately \$30 million.

DCNA will testify at the Department of Health budget hearing on April 9th, demanding full funding for 40-hours nursing in every school.

DCNA Provides First Aid Support at Working People's Rally



On February 24th, DCNA leaders attended the Working People's Rally on Freedom Plaza and provided first aid support to people attending the event. DCNA partnered with NUHHCE, AFSCME, Local 1199E to provide first aid at a tent on site. The rally was well attended by all of labor and featured speakers, including Eleanor Holmes Norton,



Reverend Graylon Hagler, Oregon Governor Kate Brown and Washington Metro Council, AFL-CIO, President Jackie Jeter. DCNA, along with many other unions, sponsored the rally to fight for the freedom to come together in strong unions and fight and to demand an end to a system that's rigged against working people. Corporate elites, extremists, and corrupt politicians who do their bidding have rigged the rules of our economy and our democracy against us. The rally occurred in cities nation-wide (including Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Miami, NYC, Philadelphia, San Diego).

Upcoming Events

DCNA Board of Directors & E&GW Cabinet Meeting, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 306, Washington, DC 20016, Tuesday, March 20th, 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.

Labor Relations Training, DCNA, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 306, Washington, DC 20016, April 10 2018, 10am to 2pm. DCNA will be conducting training on investigating and processing grievances and other representational matters. Please contact Ms. Vickie Spence at vspence@dcna.org or Walakewon Blegay, Esq. at wblegay@dcna.org to register.

DCNA Nurse Week Event – Paint Night, Location TBD, May 8, 2017. Save the date. Be on the lookout for an email from DCNA in the near future which will provide registration information.

Executive Director Edward Smith hosts “Your Rights at Work,” Every Thursday from 1-2pm on WPFW, FM89.3 or www.wpfwfm.org. If you miss the live show – or want to hear a past show – Your Rights At Work is now available as a podcast! Just search for Your Rights At Work on iTunes or wherever you get your podcasts; subscribe and you'll get our shows right on your phone.

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.

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