

# DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

July 2022



## Negotiations Update

### District of Columbia Government

The DC Council has agreed on a resolution to implement the DCNA compensation agreements with the Department of Behavioral Health and Compensation Unit 13 (all other District agencies). The agreements will go into effect on August 11. DCNA will make sure that the District Government implements the raises and bonuses in both agreements in a timely manner.

As previously reported, the District of Columbia and DCNA have agreed to raises for the nurses under the Department of Behavioral Health and Compensation Unit 13, with 9% pay increases plus a 3.5% bonus and additional retention bonuses for each year of the contracts.

## Wala Blegay Wins Election for Prince George’s County Council, District 6



In a first, a DCNA employee has won an election and will serve as an elected public official. In a highly contested 5-way race, Wala Blegay won with over 7,000 votes. DCNA congratulates Wala for her victory and election as Prince George’s County Councilmember, District 6. “We know Wala will continue her advocacy for union rights and health care for all, just in a different role now. DCNA will miss her day-to-day relentless support of nurses as a union representative, but we also know nurses and health care professionals will always have her support,” said Edward J. Smith, Executive Director, DCNA.

## Don’t Forget our Members Who Need Help

Did you know that DCNA has a fund specifically set up to help members in need of financial assistance? For well over a decade, DCNA has provided assistance to nurses and licensed health care workers who have struggled financially. We ask that you help keep this fund maintained. To donate, please contact Ms. Veronica Burnett at [yburnett@dcna.org](mailto:yburnett@dcna.org).

## Why File an Assignment Despite Objection

Filing an Assignment Despite Objection form seems like a waste of time for many of our members. But there are very valid and important reasons to file. First and foremost, if you are given an assignment which jeopardizes your ability to provide competent care for patients, by filing an ADO, you help protect your license to practice should something go awry during your shift. The document creates a record of practice issues. Filing an ADO also protects your patients and co-workers.

As you may know, DCNA expects to have safe staffing and workplace violence legislation introduced in the DC Council in 2023. We need documented evidence of staffing shortages and incidents compromising your safety and patient safety to combat employer claims that everything is all good and there exists no need for changes. ADOs also supports us in pushing contract proposals, in staffing committee and labor management meetings.

Deborah Thomas, DCNA Nurse Consultant, has prepared several ADO reports for each of our bargaining units and she continues to do so on a regular basis. Go to [www.dcna.org](http://www.dcna.org) and open the menu bar, scroll down to resources and you will see an ADO form link. You can fill it out and submit it on-line.

## DCNA Nurse Staffing Survey

So ... we all complain about nurse staffing shortages in hospitals and facilities. And many of our nurses say “what is the union doing about it?” Right?

Well, we have a survey up on our website, [www.dcna.org](http://www.dcna.org). If this is our #1 issue, then why has not every nurse filled out the survey? We cannot move the needle on staffing if we do not take the lead and get the message out to the community: increasing nurse staffing save lives. We know management will never do the right thing. It is up to us and it starts with engaging our members. We all share the responsibility of leading the fight on safe staffing. Take five minutes to fill out and submit the survey.

## The Value of a Union

Did you know that in 2021 health care practitioners and technical workers who were union members earned 11.4% more in average weekly pay than non-union workers? Bureau of Labor Statistics (Median weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by union affiliation, occupation, and industry). Don't believe me? Look it up at [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov).

Do you know any nurses or other licensed health care professionals in the DMV that are not represented by a union? If so, give them a shout and see if they are interested in joining DCNA.

*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).*

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Every Child Deserves a School Nurse