

# DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

November 2022



## DCNA Says “Goodbye (for now)” to Wala

Eight years ago I interviewed an energetic, bright, young advocate for workers and unions for an open staff position at DCNA. She was my first interview out of seven, and I knew by the end of the interview she would be my choice as DCNA Staff Attorney. My instincts proved right – Walakewon Blegay has negotiated contracts, fought for legislation important to nurses, rallied with our nurses and litigated several cases in arbitration. All of this done with enthusiasm and, as she coined, a “fierce advocacy.” Wala is moving on to represent Prince Georges’ County residents. She will bring the same energy and passion to her new job and will continue to fight on behalf of nurses, health care professionals and all workers. Good luck, Wala, we will miss you until we see you again! *Edward J. Smith*



(left to right): Richard Trumpka, Pres. AFL-CIO, Wala Blegay, Ed Smith

## 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 [vburnett@dcna.org](mailto:vburnett@dcna.org).

Further if you wish to **donate items (gift cards, new or slightly used items, etc.) to the Needy Nurses Fund Silent Auction**, please contact **Vickie Spence via email at [Vspence@dcna.org](mailto:Vspence@dcna.org)**.

## DCNA Adopts Two Families for the Holidays

DCNA has adopted **two (2)** families for the holidays. One family is through the **Community Services Agency (CSA)** of the **Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO** and the other family is through DCNA.

### 1. Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO Adopt-A-Family

The family of three includes a father (ATU 689 Member), mother and son (16 years old) who recently experienced a house fire. **Gift cards** are greatly appreciated. **NOTE:** Donations are tax-deductible through CSA. To receive a tax receipt, you must provide your name and the dollar value of your gift when dropping off. Tax receipts will be mailed after the Annual Meeting.

### 2. DCNA Adopt-A-Family

The family of 8 includes a father, mother (former DCNA member), two (2) daughters, grandson (18 years old), two great grandsons (Kaden & Hendrix: Size 4T), and 10-year-old granddaughter (Madison: Clothes Size – 16 girls or XS in juniors). Gift card are greatly appreciated. **NOTE:** Donations are **not** tax-deductible.

You can bring your donations to the **DCNA Annual Meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>** (if confirmed) or to the DCNA office.

Feel free to call at 202-244-2705 or email [Vspence@dcna.org](mailto:Vspence@dcna.org) with questions or to arrange for gift drop-off (if not confirmed for the Annual Meeting).

Thanks for your willingness to help those who are in need!

## DCNA Hires Staff Attorney



Kenneth Page, Esq. has accepted DCNA's offer to join our union as Staff Attorney, beginning on January 2, 2023. Kenneth served as Executive Director of the Anne Arundel Teachers' Association and was responsible for securing a landmark collective bargaining agreement. He previously served as counsel for several unions and is a committed organizer and fighter for workers' rights. Kenneth is also a graduate of Howard University and received his law degree at the University of Wisconsin. He is an accomplished labor leader, critical thinker, litigator, organizer, negotiator and trainer, committed to excellence in synergizing the operational components of labor and social justice organizations. We are very excited to have him join us to advocate for our members and the community we serve.

## DCNA/HUH Continues to Meet on Nurse Staffing

On November 29<sup>th</sup> DCNA and Howard University Hospital met for their second Staffing Committee meeting, pursuant to the negotiated collective bargaining unit. DCNA's committee members discussed the members' dissatisfaction with supervisory support and the need to fully staff all units. Management has committed to scheduling meetings on the last Wednesday of every month. DCNA has requested and management agreed to provide the staffing matrix, number of agency, staff and per diem RNs on each unit. Ultimately, the Staffing Committee's mission is to examine staffing and to determine the appropriate staffing on each unit. DCNA remains committed to improving patient care by ensuring that there are enough nurses working on every unit in the hospital. The union chairperson, Eileen Shaw, is the co-chair of this Committee

## Upcoming Events

**DCNA Annual Meeting – December 8, 2022** - Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Dr, Greenbelt, MD 20770, commencing at 5:30pm. DCNA will provide a year end report and a CE class (The Strategies for Nurse Retention and Resiliency) with food and music, provided by DJ Chuck B.

**DCNA Board and Cabinet Meetings, Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 5:30pm, via Zoom and in person.** These meetings are open to all members. Should you wish to join the meeting, please contact Ms. Vickie Spence ([vspence@dcna.org](mailto:vspence@dcna.org)), no later than January 10<sup>th</sup> to confirm attendance.

*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 1220 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SE, Suite G10, Washington, DC 20003. Telephone – (202) 244-2705*