

DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

September 2019



DCNA Leaders and Members at the Global Nurses Assembly in San Francisco, CA

From September 12-15th, DCNA leaders and members attended the 2019 Global Nurses Assembly. DCNA met with over 1000 nurses from across the globe to discuss health issues affecting people all across the world, including climate change, nurse/patient ratios, workers' right to organize, health care access for all and racial and gender justice. DCNA sent a delegation of over 10 nurses and nurses from 25 countries also attended. Katrina Clark, DCNA President (photo at right), exclaimed that "this was one of the best experiences" she has had as a nurse and labor leader. For more on the event, go to <https://www.nationalnursesunited.org/blog/nurses-25-countries-unite-demand-people-and-planet-over-profits>.



DCNA Demands Access to Health Care East of the River



Residents from Wards 7 and 8 attended a DC Health Justice Coalition meeting on September 26, at United Medical Center (UMC) to discuss their concerns about a lack of various critical services being provided at the hospital. Residents expressed outrage that the hospital does not have a trauma center to treat individuals severely injured in violent crimes. "The community wants to know why DC Government has decided that a trauma center is not needed when the majority of the District's serious gunshot wound victims are injured in Ward 8," said Edward J. Smith, Executive Director, DCNA. ANC representatives, community leaders, and members of the general public have also voiced

their dismay, stating that the lives of pregnant women and their babies are also in constant jeopardy since the OB-GYN unit closed at UMC. Drs. Marilyn Corder, Deborah Wilder and Stephen Proctor all discussed the need and ability to bring OB-Gyn services back to the hospital (photo at left, from left to right; also pictured

Ambrose Lane, Health Alliance Network and Christopher Hawthorne, Ward 8 ANC Commissioner). The event was lived streamed on facebook by We Act Radio and can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/WeActRadio>.





DCNA has also produced a short video describing the failure of the District to provide full health care services to people East of the River. It can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/DCNursesAssociation> and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aznbnFF4m9I>. Christopher Hawthorne, Ward 8 ANC Commissioner, stated that “this is the last hospital that we have to help our residents who can’t make it across west of the town. UMC is the only health option that we have and we’re not going to just let it crumble up.” (See photo at left; Mr. Hawthorne is the one with the baseball cap.)

The DC Council has scheduled an oversight hearing on United Medical Center on Friday, October 25th. DCNA will be there along with other labor unions, activists and residents to fight for full health care, including a trauma center, at United Medical Center.

DCNA Contract Negotiations

DCNA is currently in the beginning stages of negotiations at Department of Behavioral Health, Compensation Unit 13 (all other DC Government agencies) and United Medical Center. DCNA is also gearing up for the 2020 negotiations with Children’s National Health System. DCNA will be sending a contract survey to our members in the very near future. We are also preparing for a contract reopener on wage increases for our LPN bargaining unit at Children’s School Services.

DCNA Needy Nurses Fund

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. Vickie Spence, at vspence@dcna.org.

Upcoming Events

Committee on Health Oversight Hearing (United Medical Center), Friday, October 25th, 11:00am, DC Council, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. If you wish to attend or testify about the need to have full health care for residents East of the River, please contact Walakewon Blegay, Esq., at wblegay@dcna.org.

SAVE the Date – DCNA Annual Meeting, December 12th. DCNA will be sending a registration package to you in the near future. This is always a wonderful event; hope you can attend.

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