

DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

July 2014



RNs at Children's National Medical Center Vote to Accept Agreement for 3 year Contract.

On May 27th, a dedicated group of RNs from the District of Columbia Nursing Association's (DCNA) Children's National Medical Center's bargaining unit successfully

negotiated a tentative 3 year collective bargaining agreement for its RNs. The agreement provides additional benefits for members without any losses from the previous agreement.

Ms. Sandra Falwell, Chief Negotiator and Chairperson of the DCNA/Children's bargaining unit, is a registered nurse who has worked for the hospital for nearly 40 years. Ms. Falwell stated that "DCNA worked hard to ensure a fair contract with management, including job protections and competitive salaries."

She looks forward to continuing to provide the great care for patients that DCNA nurses have always provided.



Edward J. Smith, DCNA Acting Executive Director, praised the work of the union bargaining team: "our leadership at Children's Hospital remains committed to safe patient care, good working conditions and a fair and honest contract. These leaders worked hard in achieving a contract and displayed professionalism throughout the process."

On June 16th, RNs of Children's bargaining unit voted to accept the tentative agreement for a 3 year contract.

District Government Highlights

District Agencies

In May 2014, the DC Council passed legislation approving the arbitration award involving compensation negotiations between DCNA and the District of Columbia. The legislation approved pay increases of 2% retroactive to October 1, 2012 and 3%, retroactive to October 1, 2013. 3. The contract also provides for a \$ 25 monthly Metro card subsidy; maintenance of Weekend premium pay of 25%; maintenance of annual educational allowance of \$ 750.00; and re-establishment of 3.5% salary increase for attainment of an advanced degree in nursing (BSN or MSN). Implementation of the pay increases is expected to occur in late July. Local unit elections will be held this summer.

Department of Behavioral Health

DCNA is currently in discussions with the District of Columbia to commence contract negotiations for Fiscal Year 2015 and beyond. DCNA anticipates negotiating an agreement that will cover both the DBH and Compensation unit 13 bargaining units. The District has refused, thus far, to agree upon a date to commence the negotiations.

DCNA has filed a class grievance on behalf of DBH registered nurses who did not receive automatic grade and step increases as a result of the compensation agreement passed by the DC Council in July 2013.

Childrens' School Services – Open letter from the Chairperson

I would like to thank all that attended the School Nurses' Day Celebration. I hope to see more of you in the future at local meetings and celebrations.

Soon we will begin proceedings to negotiate a new contract.

CSS's current contract with DOH expires at the end of July.

It is important that we let management know when we are given an assignment that is not safe, disrupts continuity of care and challenges the integrity of our roles as nurse champions and leaders for the students and the communities that we serve. This can be documented by giving the nurse manager an Assignment Despite Objection form and forwarding a copy to DCNA.

If you are threatened at work by management, students, parents or DCPS staff, notify your Union Representative ASAP. Do not delay. We can advise you of your rights. We also have representatives that meet with management on an ongoing basis with the DCNA staff attorney to address nursing concerns of safety, policy and contract practices. Your information is discreetly managed.

I'd like to give a Thank You!! Filled with gratitude to our nurses that are retiring and those that have left us this year. Your students, peers, DCNA will miss you!! Enjoy your loved ones more, sleep in later and turn off your alarms. Pass on the Torch of Excellence that you have so bravely carried. Finally to Our members , You are DCNA STRONG!! Thank you for your support.

Robin Burns, RN, BSN
Chairperson, DCNA-CSS

*For Assignment Despite Objection and Grievance forms, visit www.dena.org.
This newsletter is also on-line at www.dena.org.*

Events

Labor Night at the Nationals – July 19th – DCNA members purchased 118 tickets for Labor Night at the Nationals. Be sure to watch for DCNA's name on the billboard during the game and don't forget to wear your DCNA shirts.

Tour de Cure – September 26th – DCNA is looking for RN volunteers to provide care in case of any medical emergencies. Please contact Ms. Vickie Spence (vspence@dcna.org) for further information.

