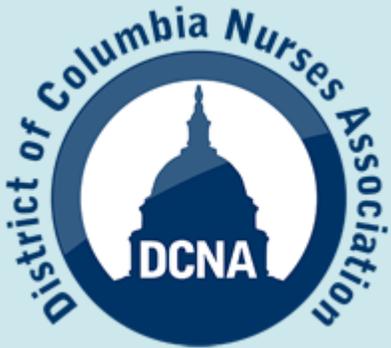


DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

June 2015

DCNA Members Show in Force for Nurse Staffing



On June 11th, over 75 nurses came out to support the passage of the Safe Working Conditions for Health Workers Amendment Act of 2015, Bill No. B21-0132, (Safe Staffing Bill) before the Committee on Business, Consumer, and Regulatory Affairs at the John A. Wilson Building. The Safe Staffing Bill would require the Department of Health to implement safe staffing ratios for hospitals and health care organizations. Nurses came from most of the hospitals in the District of Columbia, including Howard, Children's, Providence, Washington Hospital Center, St. Elizabeth's, United Medical Center, Veterans Affairs Hospitals and District of Columbia Government Nurses. The following individuals testified on behalf of DCNA:

1. Edward J. Smith, Esq., Executive Director, DCNA
2. Sandy Falwell, Chairperson, DCNA/Children's Hospital
3. Robin Burns, Chairperson, DCNA/Children's School Services
4. Faye White, Shop Steward, DCNA/Howard University Hospital
5. Jimmy Bello, Shop Steward, DCNA/Department of Behavioral Health
6. Katrina Levy, Shop Steward, DCNA/United Medical Center
7. Jane Link, Shop Steward, DCNA/United Medical Center

They testified about the burden that high patient ratios have on nurses' working conditions. They stressed that safe staffing is essential to quality patient care, and when RN staffing levels are decreased, sickness and mortality rates rise. The Safe Staffing Bill must also pass through the Committee of Health before it is introduced before the entire DC Council. The text of the Bill can be found at <http://lims.dccouncil.us/Download/33548/B21-0132-Introduction.pdf>.

Negotiation Updates

United Medical Center (Not for Profit Hosp. Corp.)

Management continues to propose cuts in differential and on-call pay, the elimination of retention pay bonuses and meager pay raises linked to the hospital's performance goals. DCNA is currently in the process of determining the cost of our wage proposal. Once completed and provided to management, the parties will head back to the bargaining table.

Children's School Services

On June 23d, DCNA-CSS members voted to approve the contract negotiated with management. The contract provides for a 3% raise, retroactive to January 1, 2015 and for a \$ 500 bonus. In addition, DCNA and CSS will go back to the bargaining table later this year to negotiate wage increases for 2016. New contract provisions also include forums to discuss the development of a pay scale based on nursing experience and education and to discuss shared nursing leadership ideas. The contract also includes increases in the education and uniform allowances.

Labor Law Corner:

Unilateral Changes to Working Conditions

Labor law prohibits management from changing your working conditions without informing and negotiating with the Union on the changes. Working conditions include your wages, working hours, policies and procedures, duties and responsibilities, benefits and much more. Therefore, if one day your manager changes the policies, your wages or benefits or even requires you to change your duties, please contact Staff Attorney Walakewon Blegay at wblegay@dcna.org immediately to determine if this is a change in your working conditions.

Upcoming Events:

Labor Relations Seminar, DCNA, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 306, Washington, DC 20016, July 15th, 10:00 am – 2:30 pm. If you are interested in becoming a representative for your local unit or desire additional training as an existing representative or official, please contact Walakewon Blegay, Esq. at wblegay@dcna.org to register.

AFL-CIO Labor Night at the Nationals, Friday, July 17th, 7:05 pm. Tickets are still just \$10 with proceeds going to the Community Services Agency. If you registered, now is the time to pay for your tickets. Contact Vickie Spence at vspence@dcna.org.

African American Male Wellness Walk, Saturday, August 1st. The National Center for Urban Solutions has requested that DCNA provide volunteer nurses to do free health screenings for the walk. The location of the event is the Sylvan Theater (northwest corner of 15th Street & Independence Avenue, about 450 feet southeast of the Washington Monument). Volunteers are needed from 6:30 am – 11:00 am to complete blood pressure and blood glucose screenings. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ms. Vickie Spence, vspence@dcna.org.

Federal Lobby Day, Thursday, July 30, 2015. National Nurses United (NNU) will hold a federal lobby day in DC to focus on protecting, improving and expanding Medicare. A briefing and dinner will be held on **Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the Hyatt Regency** (400 New Jersey Avenue, NW; Washington, DC) on Capitol Hill. NNU is recruiting local RNs who live in the districts of the following members of Congress: Hoyer, Van Hollen, Connolly and Beyer. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ms. Vickie Spence, vspence@dcna.org, as soon as possible.



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