

# DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

November 2014



## DCNA Elections – The campaigns are in full swing.

Nominations have been received and here are your nominees for the major offices at DCNA:

### DCNA President

Ms. Robin Burns  
Ms. LaKisha Little  
Ms. Esther St. Sauveur  
Ms. Mary Thullah

### At-Large EG&W Cabinet

Ms. Lula Curry  
Ms. Sabrathia Draine-Ishakwue  
Ms. Cheryl Freeman  
Ms. LaKisha Little  
Ms. Florence Nwonye  
Ms. Loretta Peterson  
Ms. Laverne Plater  
Ms. Arrie Striggles

### DCNA Board – At-Large Director

Ms. Deborah Anderson  
Ms. Cynthia Brunson  
Ms. Donna Burnett  
Ms. Bridgett Cameron  
Ms. Sandra Falwell  
Ms. Shirley Jackson  
Ms. Loretta Peterson  
Ms. Laverne Plater  
Ms. Margaret Shanks  
Ms. Arrie Striggles  
Mr. Gregory Wilson

For a look at the full slate of candidates, their biographies and all other campaign and election material, please go to [www.dcna.org](http://www.dcna.org).

## Negotiations Update

### Compensation Unit 13/Dept. of Behavioral Health

DCNA and the District are close to reaching a tentative agreement on compensation issues for Fiscal Years 2015-2017. The agreement should maintain all benefits currently enjoyed and provides for wage increases of 3% for each year, beginning retroactive to October 1, 2014. DCNA will be scheduling a membership ratification vote as soon as final agreement is reached.

### United Medical Center

DCNA and UMC last bargained on November 19<sup>th</sup>. To date, the parties have reached agreement on 31 articles for the successor contract. There are, however, major issues that remain to be discussed, including safe staffing, scheduling, wages & benefits. DCNA has proposed wage scales to be structured based on the development and implementation of a clinical ladder. DCNA also proposes to increase UMC's contribution to the retirement fund.

### Children's School Services

The parties exchanged proposals on November 14<sup>th</sup>. In an effort to recruit and retain registered nurses, DCNA presented a variety of proposals, including modest wage increases, a contract duration through 2017, more flexibility on the right for a voluntary transfer to another school, changes in the way overtime is calculated, maintenance of current health care benefits through the life of the contract and more flexibility in scheduling annual leave. The next bargaining session is scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup>.

## DC Healthy Start Funded, But Supporters Say “Fight is not over”

DCNA welcomed the news that the Department of Health and Human Services awarded the DC Department of Health \$7.95 million over four and a half years, but warned that “the fight is not over.” The Healthy Start budget has been cut nearly in half. “This decrease in funding is detrimental to the program and will lead to the abandonment of some mothers and children in the District,” said DCNA Acting Executive Director Ed Smith. “It may also risk the achievement of lowering the District's infant mortality rate, which is slightly over the national average.” DCNA vowed to continue fighting for additional funding from the District to fully fund the DC Healthy Start Program.

Check out DCNA's video of a rally at the DC Council ([www.facebook.com/DCNursesAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/DCNursesAssociation)). Please contact Wala Blegay at [wblegay@dcna.org](mailto:wblegay@dcna.org), if you are interested in participating in these efforts.

## DCNA Supports RN Strike at Providence Hospital

Thanks to all the DCNA members that came out on November 12th to support the nurses at Providence Hospital for their 1 day strike. The strike protested the hospital's refusal to address critical issues of health and safety concerns for patients and nurses, including inadequate Ebola preparedness, unsafe staffing and high staff turnover. The walkout coincided with NNU actions in 14 states to highlight demands that all hospitals institute stronger Ebola safety measures.



## DC Board of Nursing Announces that DC Nurse Magazine will be Sent via Email

DC NURSE will now be emailed to licensees rather than mailed to residences. Printed copies will be mailed to health care facilities.

- If you change your email address, please send your updated email address to [Angela.Braxton2@dc.gov](mailto:Angela.Braxton2@dc.gov).
- Please let other Board of Nursing licensees know that updated email addresses should be sent to [Angela.Braxton2@dc.gov](mailto:Angela.Braxton2@dc.gov).
- If your facility is interested in receiving hard copies of DC NURSE, please contact [gjones@pcipublishing.com](mailto:gjones@pcipublishing.com)

## Opinion – Robin Burns, Children's School Services

As the holidays approach we find ourselves tasked with working harder when the staff numbers drop as our colleagues take off and spend time with friends and family. These are times to work smarter and not harder. Workplace injuries increase and the pressure to complete assignment deadlines rise. Remember to utilize the Assignment Despite Objections forms and submit a copy to your manager and DCNA to report a workload that compromises professional practice. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. For two great articles on Workplace Bullying please go to:

<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ANAMarketplace/ANAPeriodicals/OJIN/TableofContents/vol132008/No3Sept08/ArticlePreviousTopic/NursetoNurseBullying.html> and [www.amsn.org/.../resources/MSNJ\\_Murray\\_18\\_05.pdf](http://www.amsn.org/.../resources/MSNJ_Murray_18_05.pdf).

## Events

**DCNA Annual Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 from 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm.** The Annual Meeting will be held at Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive; Greenbelt, MD. At the meeting, DCNA will conduct the election for officers and hold its annual Silent Auction to benefit the DCNA Needy Nurses Fund. Registration information has been sent via email and mail. **The deadline to register is November 25th.** Dinner and live music will help round out the event.

**Rudolph Red Nose Blood Drive, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 10a-3p.** The location is 1712 Crestwood Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302 and you can schedule an appointment at [www.childrensnational.org/donateblood](http://www.childrensnational.org/donateblood) or (202) 476-6524.

Please visit DCNA on our website at [www.dcna.org](http://www.dcna.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/DCNursesAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/DCNursesAssociation).

For Assignment Despite Objection and Grievance forms, visit [www.dcna.org](http://www.dcna.org).

DCNA is located at 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 306, Washington, DC 20016. Telephone – (202) 244-2705