

DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

August 2023



DCNA/CSS Fight for Nursing and Patient Care

DCNA vows to fight implementation of a new work model requiring nurses to float between schools within a newly established cluster model. This decision not only blunts the union's efforts to place a nurse in every school, but also puts student health at risk by replacing trained nurses with health technicians who are not adequately prepared for such responsibilities.

The proposed cluster model undermines this commitment by forcing nurses to divide their attention among multiple schools, compromising their ability to provide comprehensive care. This approach is detrimental to student health as it increases response times during emergencies, limits continuity of care for chronic conditions, and reduces overall access to healthcare services.

Moreover, CSS and DOH's plan includes hiring health technicians who lack proper training and qualifications necessary for performing nursing duties. By expecting nurses to review and monitor the work of these technicians, our professional licenses are put at risk due to potential errors or negligence on their part. This compromises not only our own professional integrity but also jeopardizes student safety.

It is disheartening that CSS and DOH prioritize profits over student health by implementing downsizing measures that compromise quality healthcare services in schools. Instead of investing in qualified nursing staff for each school as we have advocated for years, they choose an ill-conceived solution that places financial considerations above the well-being of our children.

DCNA/CSS urges you to sign a petition to join us in protecting student health and preserving the professionalism of nurses in Washington D.C. Let us stand together against this detrimental cluster model that puts profits before the well-being of our children. Click the link to sign the petition, <https://chng.it/wDGxdbS8Mc>.

DCNA Elections and Annual Meeting

On August 25th, DCNA mailed the Notice of Nomination and Election for 2023. Members have until October 20th to nominate individuals for offices on the DCNA Board of Directors, DCNA Economic & General Welfare Cabinet and Metropolitan Washington AFL-CIO Delegates. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for December 14th, at Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Registration for the Annual Meeting is due on November 28th. This year's continuing education course is titled Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care.

DCNA/CNH Agreement on Shepherd Nurses

On August 29th, DCNA and Children's National Hospital reached tentative agreement bringing nurses who are assigned to the Shepherd Park facility into the union. The agreement, which requires ratification by the Shepherd Park nurses, provides all the benefits and protections of the recently negotiated collective bargaining agreement, including the right to file grievances, the requirement of management to have "just cause" to take any disciplinary action and fully implements pay raises for the nurses, retroactive to July 2023.

DCNA/GWUH Nurses Continue Fight for Recognition & First Collective Bargaining Agreement

Nurses at The George Washington University Hospital continue to organize and discuss ways in which they can effectuate change at the Hospital for the betterment of care for all patients. More and more nurses are becoming active in DCNA/GWUH's fight for a first contract. DCNA continues to wait for the National Labor Relations Board to rule on numerous unfair labor practice charges and on the employer's election objections filed last month. Union organizers and nurses created a beautiful chalk art mural on the sidewalk in front of the Hospital (photos on next page).



DCNA/NUU and Labor March on Washington



On August 26th, DCNA President LaKisha Little-Small attended the March on Washington. Ms. Little-Small joined thousands of people to voice a commitment to fighting for the rights of all. (Photo at left – Ms. Little-Small demanding decent housing; photo at right – Ms. Little-Small and AFL-CIO President, Liz Shuler.)

Membership

All membership applications should be faxed to the DCNA office at 202-362-8285, mailed, or emailed to Veronica Burnett at vburnett@dcna.org. Please include your personal email address and cell phone number. Likewise, if you move, be sure to email Ms. Burnett with your updated mailing address. If you are not receiving emails or physical mail from us, you may email that information to Ms. Burnett so that your profile is update and accurate. Thank you!

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? Since the early 2000s, 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.



DCNA members join NoVA Labor leaders at the Labor Picnic in Alexandria, VA, on September 3d.