

Nurses Week 2002: Tell Your Hospital What Registered Nurses Really Want

Special Poster Inside



ACTIVIST

UAN

UNITED AMERICAN NURSES • WINTER 2002

THE UNION FOR NURSES BY NURSES

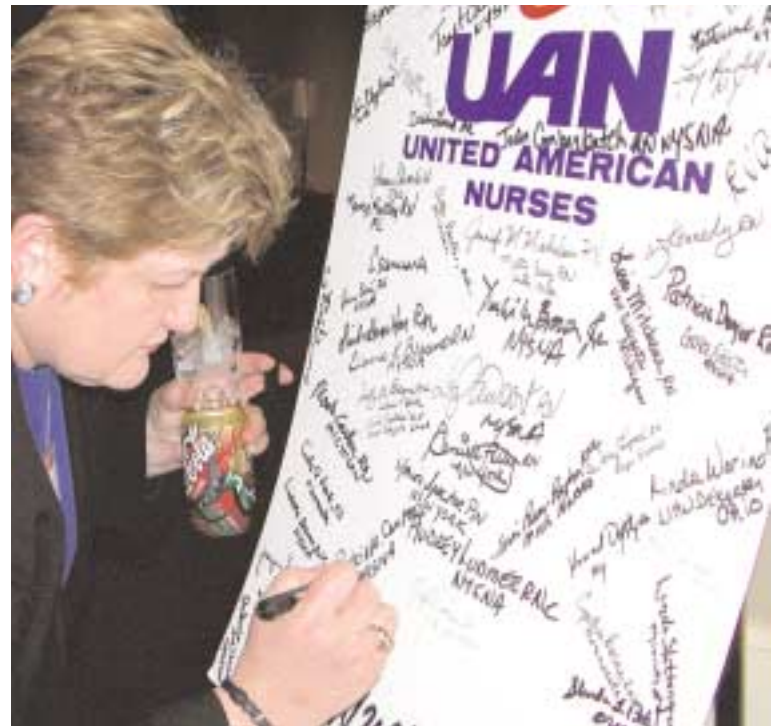
Autonomy 'YES' at Special NLA

Taking another historic step toward the continued growth and independence of the only nationwide union for nurses, by nurses, 89 delegates to a special convening of the UAN National Labor Assembly voted overwhelmingly – 83-5 – to approve the negotiated agreement on autonomy and affiliation with the ANA.

The agreement, which next goes before the ANA House of Delegates in June for approval as a bylaws change, establishes an independent UAN with its own dues revenue, staff and administrative resources, and positions it as the exclusive union of the ANA.

“Staff nurses have been demanding a change for years,” said UAN President Cheryl Johnson, RN. “The agreement with ANA gives us what we wanted – control over our own destiny and the ability to go out and organize non-union nurses, with the professional clout of the ANA behind us.”

The negotiated agreement, approved by the ANA Board and UAN Executive Council in December, would establish UAN as an associate organizational member (AOM) of the ANA. The proposed bylaws change before the June House of Delegates would create a new “AOM” membership status.



Autonomy Agreement at a Glance

- Requires bylaws change at June ANA HOD to be implemented
- Agreement effective July 1, 2003 – July 1, 2008, and indefinitely thereafter unless terminated by either party
- UAN will receive dues directly from CMAs through bifurcated system (from 54% of collective bargaining CMA dues in 2003 to 60% in 2008)
- UAN will be free-standing autonomous union, with its own staff, policies, bylaws and constitution, and finances
- As an AOM, UAN will be the exclusive union affiliated with ANA
- UAN will be co-located with ANA for duration of agreement

For the full results of the “Nurses’ Solutions to the Nurse Staffing Shortage” poll go to: www.UANNurse.org

UAN delegates mark the historic January NLA with their signatures (above), while the UAN Executive Council (right) toasts a new, autonomous UAN affiliated with the ANA.



UAN - THE UNION ARM OF ANA

UNITED AMERICAN NURSES ACTIVIST



Solidarity Road Show

UAN/ONA nurses from Oregon Health & Sciences University, pictured above, used their feet and their voices to help some brothers and sisters in need during last year's dockworkers lockout on the West Coast. OHSU nurses have actively supported Portland-area labor struggles by visiting local picketing sites – especially since a 2001 nurses strike at OHSU, during which striking RNs were offered jobs by Longshoremen.

VA NEWS

UANVAC nurses Jill Stokley, Barbara Bollenberg, Peggy Cotter and Susan Pahl, along with other VA union reps, will testify at hearings to be held in April by the National Commission on VA Nursing. Hearings, covering quality standards and other nursing issues, are scheduled for New Orleans (April 3), Philadelphia (April 16), Chicago (April 24) and Los Angeles (April 30).

WINNERS

Seventy nurses at Clove Lakes Health Care and Rehabilitation Center and 180 nurses at Brunswick Hospital Center chose NYSNA as their union voice since the beginning of the year. Together, we are stronger!

Nurses in Michigan now have the "immunity and protection from civil or criminal liability" when they report unsafe practices or conditions in their workplace, thanks to a new whistleblower law, PL 571, signed in January.

Smallpox Update

The Washington Post reports that only 21,698 health care workers have been vaccinated against smallpox – far short of the 500,000 front-line volunteers called for in President Bush's smallpox plan. Questions continue about the Bush plan, particularly concerning lost wages and compensation caps. A bill sponsored by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) would offer those vaccinated medical screening and education, plus medical care and compensation for anyone harmed.

Ratio Push by AFL-CIO and UAN Registered Nurses

UAN nurses, along with RNs from eight other AFL-CIO affiliates, are gearing up to fight for national nurse-patient staffing ratio legislation over the next two years through the AFL-CIO's Nurse Coordinating Committee (NCC). Staffing ratio bills are slated to be introduced in Pa., Fla. and Wisc.; NJSNA is partnering with AFT-Healthcare to introduce staffing ratio language in that state. UAN's representative to the NCC is UAN VP Ann Converso, RN.

DATES

E&GW Training	May 5-7
Washington, DC	
National Labor Assembly	June 23-24
Washington, DC	
Labor Leader Institute	Sept. 21-25
Chicago	
Program Directors Meeting	Dec. 7-9
Chicago	

EDITORIAL

UAN ACTIVIST

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NATIONAL NURSES WEEK 2003

WHAT
Do
STAFF NURSES
REALLY WANT
FOR NATIONAL
NURSES WEEK?*

MORE PAY
LOWER NURSE/PATIENT RATIOS
SAFER WORKPLACES

* Source: *Nurses' Solutions to the Nurse Staffing Shortage* • November 2002 • UAN national sample poll of hospital staff nurses • Full survey results at www.UANNurse.org



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NURSES, AFL-CIO**

THE UNION ARM OF ANA