

The 2005 National Labor Ass

Mobilizing Nurses, Building for the Future



Delegates strongly endorsed a measure expanding UAN's mobilizing resources, recognizing that, with nearly 2 million unorganized RNs and many unions competing for them, UAN must look to the next five years and beyond with a solid strategy for growth. Not only do UAN and state affiliates face the challenge of organizing the unorganized, but UAN wants to continue to raise the standard of service and representation for existing members, noted UAN President Cheryl Johnson, RN.

"Stronger and larger membership translates to more clout at the bargaining tables and in the legislatures," added Johnson. "That, in turn, puts us closer to our goal of improved patient safety."

The new resolution endorses the concept of a modest supplemental assessment that would raise a targeted \$8 million over three years to organize the unorganized, provide supplemental regional trainings and defend against raids, and calls on UAN leaders to educate and discuss with members the need for a mobilization fund. UAN's Executive Council will report back on discussions and the fund's status to the 2006 NLA, which will vote on the measure with the goal of implementing a supplemental assessment by July 1, 2006.

"Organizing the unorganized can really turn the tide in this nation, and we need to buy into it and educate our members about it," added New York's Judy Sheridan-Gonzalez, RN.

Resolution Roundup



UAN delegates passed resolutions:

- creating a National Labor Cabinet
- supporting cooperative activities between UAN and other unions representing nurses
- establishing the UAN Mobilization Fund to boost organizing efforts
- establishing a program to improve patient safety through respectful workplace communications in health care facilities

Full text of resolutions is available online at:

www.UANNurse.org

Lobbying for Safe RN Ratios



UAN nurses wearing red UAN scrubs fanned out across Capitol Hill March 15 to bring the message to Congressional leaders that safe nurse-patient ratios should be the law of the land. Ensuring a safe number of RNs are on staff protects patients and will help attract more RNs to bedside nursing. Activists visited more than 50 Congressional delegations in support of the Safe Nurse Staffing for Patient Safety and Quality Care Act of 2005 (H.R. 1222) introduced by Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL).