

UPdate

UAN Election Center 2006

Visit www.UANNurse.org and click on Election Center 2006 to volunteer for a campaign, register to vote, find your polling site and learn more about the candidates and issues in your state and local elections. As the November election season approaches, take a minute to find out more about which candidates and ballot measures in your area will help staff nurses and other working Americans.



Governor Vetoes “Physically Taxing” Measure for NYC RNs

Despite evidence that the proposed bill was cost-neutral and endorsement by both state houses, New York’s Gov. Pataki vetoed a state bill that would have designated city nursing jobs in New York City as physically taxing. This designation would have recognized the high level of physical injury and risk nurses face on the job and would have enabled city nurses to retire early, along with their counterparts in other male-dominated professions like carpentry and construction, both of which have lower risk of injury than nursing. The 6,500 RNs in city hospitals, clinics, long term care facilities, and mayoral agencies are represented by the New York State Nurses Association/UAN.

UAN President Among Top 100 Healthcare Leaders

An annual survey by Modern Healthcare magazine ranking the 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare ranked UAN President Cheryl Johnson at #70. Johnson was the only staff nurse—and one of only three nurses overall (other nurses are executives) to make the list. The most powerful person in healthcare, according to this survey, is Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates.



Kentucky River Watch: Kaiser Contract Protects Union Rights

New contract language negotiated by southern California nurses represented by AFSCME/UNAC at Kaiser Permanente will honor their rights to union representation regardless of the outcome of a pending decision by the National Labor Relations Board. The NLRB is expected to rule soon on three cases known as the “Kentucky River” cases as to whether nurses who from time to time direct the actions of others are “supervisory” and therefore ineligible for union protections. UAN has worked with other AFL-CIO unions to fight for contracts that protect nurses’ union rights, lobby Congress to urge the NLRB to hold oral arguments on the cases and educate the public on nurses’ roles in providing patient care.

Contact UAN: the national union for RNs
800-924-8283 • UANinfo@uannurse.org • www.UANNurse.org

Union Women Fight Cervical Cancer

The Coalition of Labor Union Women is taking on cervical cancer, which will affect an estimated 10,000 women this year, to make sure union women know about the risks of the disease and how to prevent and diagnose it. Cervical cancer, which is highly preventable, can be screened using a Pap test if you’re younger than 30 or a Pap and HPV test if you’re 30 or older. September is Gynecological Cancer Awareness Month. For materials to help raise this issue with other union women, please go to www.cluw.org/cervcancer.html.



FAST FACT: More Americans Lack Health Insurance

About 15.9 percent of Americans (roughly 46.6 million people) did not have health insurance in 2005, up from 15.6 percent in 2004, according to new data released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

On the Web: Resources on Pandemic Flu

New tools—including a petition submitted by UAN and other unions to OSHA, links to the VA’s flu plan and guidelines from the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control—are available on the AFL-CIO’s website: www.aflcio.org/issues/safety/pandemic_influenza.cfm