

REGION ONE NURSE

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Patty Healy introducing Bernie Sanders at a rally at the Fine Arts Center in Amherst on January 2.
Photo credit: Joe Oliverio

Letter from the Chair

Patty Healey

“Why is National Nurses United supporting Bernie Sanders for President?”

Unions rely on elected representatives to uphold and strengthen the rights of working people guaranteed under the state and federal laws, and by the National Labor Relations Board. Unfortunately, there has been a backlash against workers and unions led by Republican Administrations, while the Democrats have looked the other way. It is increasingly difficult for nurses to organize a union in their facility, while many states have stripped public employees of their right to bargain. Senator Bernie Sanders supports workers’ rights to organize, increasing the minimum wage, and speaks to the profound income inequality that exists in America today.

Bernie Sanders’ agenda is Labor’s agenda. Sanders believes in healthcare for all, jobs at living wages, fighting income inequality, educational opportunity, civil rights, voting rights, action on the climate crisis, and ending the systemic racism in policing and the criminal justice system in America.

You may ask, “How can we pay for all of this?” Bernie Sanders has demanded that Wall Street pay its fair share of taxes and has introduced the NNU-backed Robin Hood Tax bill, S. 1371. This bill would put a 0.5 percent tax on stock market speculation, which could raise hundreds of billions of dollars to pay for healthcare for all, free college tuition, and more living wage jobs for rebuilding the infrastructure of our country.

Yes, there is a plan. Additionally, this method of fair taxation exists in other countries—many of which have free college tuition and health care for all.

Most importantly, Sanders is sharing a vision of what ‘could be’ if we, the people, are able to believe in a healthy equitable future for all Americans. I like to say, “he’s thinking outside the box” and we can too. We should not believe in what cannot be, but rather what CAN be in our future and the future of our children.

Meet the Nurses: Who's Who in Region One

Region One is very proud to highlight the following four nurses who continue to make a difference in their union and in their community.



Sally Surgen, pictured above

Sally Surgen, retired

- Where did you go to school and where have you worked?**
Sally: Holyoke Hospital, School of Nursing, graduated in 1969. Then from 1969-1971 I was an Army Nurse working in the surgical ICU recovery room. After that I moved to Cooley Dickinson Hospital.
- What was your specialty at Cooley?**
Sally: ICU for 33 years and Endoscopy for 13.
- What MNA positions have you held?**
Sally: Staff nurse and bargaining unit (co-chair).
- What are your special interests/hobbies?**
Sally: Quilting and playing with my cat, Izzy.

Gail Bean, retired

- Where did you go to school and where have you worked?**
Gail: I graduated from UMass Amherst in 1974 and worked at Western Mass Hospital for 39 years.
- What was your specialty at Western Mass Hospital?**
Gail: Wound Care, also I was the “go-to” if people had questions— I helped solve problems.
- What MNA positions have you held?**
Gail: I was on the Unit 7 Board, chair of Western Mass Hospital’s group and served on the Regional Council as both secretary and vice chair for many years.
- What are your special interests/hobbies?**
Gail: Spending time with my grandchildren, parents and in-laws and volunteering on environmental issues in my community.



Gail Bean, pictured above

Diane Sampson, retired



Bill Whitman (top left), Cady Spencer (top right), Cindy Chaplin (bottom left) and Diane Sampson (bottom right) all of Providence Hospital.

1. Where did you go to school and where have you worked?

Diane: St. Vincent School of Nursing for two years in Worcester and I flunked out! Then I started working in the Air Force and everyone thought I was a nurse and they eventually convinced me to attend school again. I graduated from Prince George Community College in Maryland. I've worked as a Flight Nurse in West-over Air Force Base (Now, Air Reserve Base) and at Providence Hospital.

2. What was your specialty?

Diane: Maternity ward for 16 years at Providence Hospital until it closed and turned into a Behavior Health Hospital in 1996, I worked there for 35 years and retired on August 16, my 60th birthday.

3. What MNA positions have you held?

Diane: I was on the Bargaining Unit committee at Providence Hospital for years, serving as the treasurer for some of the time and co-chair.

4. What are your special interests/hobbies?

Diane: Spending time with my daughters, Alyssa, who I adopted from China when she was 15 months old and Sabrina, who I adopted from India when she was 1 year old, and with my granddaughter, Alivia.

1. Where did you go to school and where have you worked?

Barbara: I graduated from the University of Rhode Island College of Nursing. When I went to nursing school, there was a glut of nursing students. I started with 250 in my class and graduated with 94. It was an excellent program in that they could provide specialized clinical experiences all over the state. My first job was at Rhode Island Hospital - night shift on a medical floor! Then I moved to Massachusetts and took a job at (the former) Hillcrest Hospital. I was there for 20 years until the doors closed (it merged with Berkshire Medical Center).

2. What was your specialty?

Barbara: I held a few different positions- starting on the medical floor then CCU and eventually PACU. When I moved over to BMC, I took a position in the Endoscopy department, where I still work.

3. What MNA positions have you held?

Barbara: For two years during the 1980's, I held a position as a rep on our bargaining unit at Hillcrest. I was voted in as the vice chair of the Region One Council in November 2015.

4. What are your special interests/hobbies?

Barbara: My interests include cooking, classic Ford Mustangs, photography and genealogy

Barbara Connor



Barbara Connor (pictured above) at the Region One Annual Retreat last August, aboard the Lady Bea.

MNA Day at Berkshire Medical Center

MNA held an **MNA Day** in September 2015 at Berkshire Medical Center. Regional Council One presented Jody Stefanik with the Annual Rookie of the Year Award for her outstanding leadership within the union and her hard work on the job.



The MNA set up a table all day at Berkshire Medical Center. Nurses were able to stop by at their convenience and meet the MNA staff from Boston and Western Massachusetts and get their questions answered. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know the union better!

Pictured left: (from left to right) Gail Bean former Region One vice chair, Jody Stefanik "Rookie of the Year," Patty Healey Region One chair, Julie Pinkham Executive Director, and Harley Keisch member of the MNA Board of Directors.

Contact the Region One office if you are interested in having an MNA Day at your hospital too!
region1@mnarn.org



Pictured right: Amber Vanbramer, an RN who recently joined the BMC bargaining committee and Jody Stefanik.



REGIONAL COUNCIL ONE

Bargaining Unit Updates

OFFICERS

- Chair, Patty Healey**, Brigham & Woman’s Hospital
- Vice Chair, Barbara Connor**, Berkshire Medical Center
- Secretary, Irene Patch**, UNIT 7- Holyoke Soldier’s Home
- Treasurer, Chris Folsom**, UNIT 7–DMR Community Services West

BARGAINING UNIT SEATS

- Chris Clark**, Baystate VNA
- Alexander Neary**, Berkshire Medical Center
- Gerri Jakacky**, Berkshire Medical Center
- Kim O’Conner**, Cooley Dickinson Hospital
- Marie Etkin**, Cooley Dickinson Hospital
- Jillian Sicard**, Baystate Franklin Medical Center
- Donna Stern**, Baystate Franklin Medical Center
- Stephen Mikelis**, Mercy Hospital
- Paul Dubin**, Baystate Noble Hospital
- Pam Fournier**, Baystate Noble Hospital
- Cindy Chaplin**, Providence Hospital
- Leslie Campbell**, VNA & Hospice at Cooley Dickinson Hospital
- Sheryl Moriarty**, VNA & Hospice at Cooley Dickinson Hospital
- Laurie Scripter**, West Springfield School Nurses
- Elizabeth Bonafilia**, West Springfield School Nurses
- Avon Maxwell**, Vibra Springfield

UNIT 7

- Chris Folsom**, UNIT 7– DMR Community Services West
- George Merkeel**, UNIT 7-Holyoke Soldiers Home
- Mary Turner**, UNIT 7-Pittsfield Public Health

Vibra Hospital RNs Prevail in Grievance over Cancelled Shifts

Registered nurses at Vibra Hospital of Western Massachusetts, Springfield recently declared victory after forcing the hospital to follow contract language about cancellations. Using the grievance process, Vibra nurses successfully stopped management from violating a provision of the contract that limits cancelled shifts to four per year for each RN. The hospital began violating that provision last year by cancelling RNs more than four times, and when nurses brought it to the hospital’s attention, they continued to violate the contract.

In response, the MNA filed a grievance and in October the hospital agreed to stop. The settlement involves 22 RNs and 42 shifts. The remedy was for any RN cancelled more than four times in a year to receive pay for all hours they were cancelled, or restoration of their PTO in cases where it was used. Nearly \$10,000 was paid to RNs on November 27.

Smith College

The nurses at Smith College ratified their new contract last September. There were no takeaways. There were improvements to their holiday language, funeral leave language, increase in education money, and the addition of some basic health and safety language. Wages include: Effective 9/1 /2015 – 2.25% across-the-board, eliminate steps one and two, add step 11 at 3.65% increment for RN and 3.35% increment for nurse practitioner. \$850 sign-on bonus. Effective 9/1/2016 -1.75% across-the-board. Effective 9/1/2017- 1.75% across the board. Add step 12 at 3.65% increment for RN and 3.35 increment for nurse practitioner. All nurses were present during most bargaining sessions.

OSHA recognizes the hard work of the violence task forces at Providence, Mercy

A round of applause is due for the nurses at Providence and Mercy! Years of dedication to violence task forces and hard-fought success in negotiating contract language around workplace violence were recently recognized by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration. These efforts were highlighted in reports that were published Dec. 1, 2015 and were included in a new OSHA webpage called, “Worker Safety in Hospitals: Caring for Our Caregivers.”

More than a decade ago, violence was at an all-time high in the methadone clinic and children’s unit at Providence, prompting nurses to intervene to promote a safer work environment. For years, nurses endeavored to improve how the hospital handled violence, including negotiating strong language into their contract. These improvements were detailed by OSHA in its report, “Preventing Workplace Violence: A Road Map for Healthcare Facilities,” which includes case studies from around the country. In the report, OSHA also describes a full-scale active shooter exercise conducted at Mercy last year. OSHA celebrated the cohesiveness of the exercise, including participants’ situational awareness, emergency operations, treatment and triage. OSHA calls MNA nurses leadership on workplace violence a successful model for health care facilities nationwide. Congratulations on the recognition of this important work!

Caring for Our Caregivers

A caregiver in scrubs stands with his hand held up to stop someone in a hospital hallway.

**Preventing Workplace Violence:
A Road Map for Healthcare Facilities**

December 2015

OSHA
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
www.osha-slc.gov • (800) 333-OSHA (6742)
OSHA-303

Region One Continuing Education courses

Morning Session: Ostomy Surgeries: Surgeries of the GI Tract: Intestines Inside and Out

Description: Discuss the anatomy and physiology of the GI tract along with surgical interventions for revision and repair. Common surgical interventions will be discussed, along with newer surgical modalities.

Presenter: Vivian Sternweiler, RN, MS

Date: March 22, 2016

Time: 9-9:30 a.m., Registration/Continental Breakfast
9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Program
12-1 p.m., Lunch

Afternoon Session: Stoma Care: The Tricks of the Trade

Description: Describe the pouching approaches for colostomy, ileostomy and urostomy fistulas. Specific interventions for difficult containment issues will be discussed. Content will be based on current evidence and best practices.

Presenter: Vivian Sternweiler, RN, MS

Time: 1-3:30 p.m., Program

Location: Cranwell Resort, 55 Lee Rd, Lenox; 413-637-1364; www.cranwell.com

Fee (by check only): Member/Associate Member, free*; **Non-Members, \$195.**

***Requires a \$50 placeholder fee which will be returned upon attendance at program.**

Contact hours: Will be provided.

Anti-Coagulation: A Nurse’s Perspective

Description: This session will enable the nurse to enhance his/her clinical practice through updated knowledge of anticoagulation therapy, treatment decisions, and nursing strategies for assessment and patient education purposes.

New Presenter: Ann Pinko, MS, RN

Date: April 7, 2016

Time: 5 - 5:30 p.m., Registration/Dinner
5:30 - 7:45 p.m., Program

Location: Log Cabin, 500 Easthampton Road, Holyoke; 413-535-5077; logcabin-delaney.com

Fee (by check only): Member/Associate Member, free*; **Non-members, \$95.**

***Requires a \$25 placeholder fee which will be returned upon attendance.**

Contact hours: Will be provided.

Ethical Implications of Nursing: In the Gray Mist, What Does Ethics Look Like at the Bedside?

Description: This program will provide nurses with the knowledge to differentiate between ethical issues and ethical dilemmas and provide methods that can be utilized to increase awareness of each. Resolution of ethical dilemmas and sentinel events will be discussed.

Presenter: Anne B. Baker, RN, MTS

Date: April 26, 2016

Time: 5 - 5:30 p.m., Registration/Dinner
5:30 - 7:45 p.m., Program

Location: Log Cabin, 500 Easthampton Road, Holyoke; 413-535-5077, www.logcabin-delaney.com

Fee (by check only): Member/Associate Member, free*; **Non-members, \$95.**

***Requires a \$25 placeholder fee which will be returned upon attendance.**

Contact hours: Will be provided.



Please bring a non-perishable food item to any CE Program. Your contribution will be donated to the Northampton Survival Center

To register: complete the Regional Registration Form located below and submit (along with placeholder fee) to the MNA Region 1 Office , 241 King St., Suite 226 Northampton, MA 01060. For questions, please contact Region 1 at 413-584-4607 or email: region1@mnarn.org.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Place of Employment _____

_____ RN _____ LPN _____ APN _____ Other (specify) _____

Ostomy Surgeries: Surgeries of the GI Tract: Intestines Inside and Out and Stoma Care: The Tricks of the Trade Non-member: \$195; Member/Associate Member: \$50 placeholder fee.

Anti-Coagulation: A Nurse’s Perspective Non-member: \$95; Member/Associate Member: \$25 placeholder fee.

Ethical Implications of Nursing: In the Gray Mist, What Does Ethics Look Like at the Bedside? Non-member: \$95; Member/Associate Member: \$25 placeholder fee.

Region 1 Make check payable to: MNA Region 1 and mail to MNA Region 1 Office, 241 King Street, Suite 226, Northampton, MA 01060.



Get an "MNA Labor School" Jacket when you complete any two Labor School Tracks.

REGISTER NOW!

Free to all Members!

Health Care: The Industry - What We Need to Know



Week 1 – Monday, February 29, 2016

Building a just healthcare system. Scope and development of the healthcare industry.

Week 2 – Monday, March 7, 2016

How did things get so bad? Ideological trends played out in practice and legislation.

Week 3 – Monday, March 21, 2016

Our practice impacted and our response: mandatory overtime; safe staffing; cutbacks and closures.

Week 4 – Monday, March 28, 2016

Solutions: state; national; global. Labor's role in the fight, our role in labor. Rein them in or take them over.

All classes will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with a light meal provided at 5:00 p.m. Classes will be held at the Region 1 Office at 241 King St, Suite 226, (directly across from Stop & Shop) Northampton, MA 01060.

Please register by calling Allyson Garcia, Region 1 Office Manager at 413-584-4607 or on-line at region1@mnarn.org

See You There!

Massachusetts
Nurses
Association



National
Nurses
United





241 King Street, Suite 226
Northampton, MA 01060

Phone: 413-584-4607
Fax: 413-584-8171
E-mail: Region1@mnarn.org

Regional Council One is a unit of the MNA/NNU. The Regional Council supports the MNA bargaining units, the Massachusetts Nurses Foundation and the MNA PAC in promoting the primary functions of education, political organizing, democratic member involvement and support for collective bargaining. The Regional Council also promotes education for professional activities, regional coalitions of MNA bargaining units and general members interested in advocacy. The Regional Council is accountable to the regional membership and the MNA Board of Directors and acts in accordance with general MNA policies and bylaws.

The Regional Council meets every second Monday of the month in the Region One office. Region One has several committees that we encourage you to join. Call the Region One office for more information: 413-584-4607.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.MASSNURSES.ORG/REGION1

REGION ONE NURSE is published three times a year by Regional Council One. It is a publication made available to MNA Region One members to inform and meet member needs by providing information on nursing, health care, and labor issues. We invite our members to submit items to the newsletter, especially through the editorial voice. A strong democratic union requires an informed membership. All submissions are subject to editing and none will be returned. For more information contact the Region One office at 413-584-4607 or email: region1@mnarn.org

Bernie Sanders Rally at Umass Amherst

January 2, 2016. Photo credit: Joe Oliverio

