

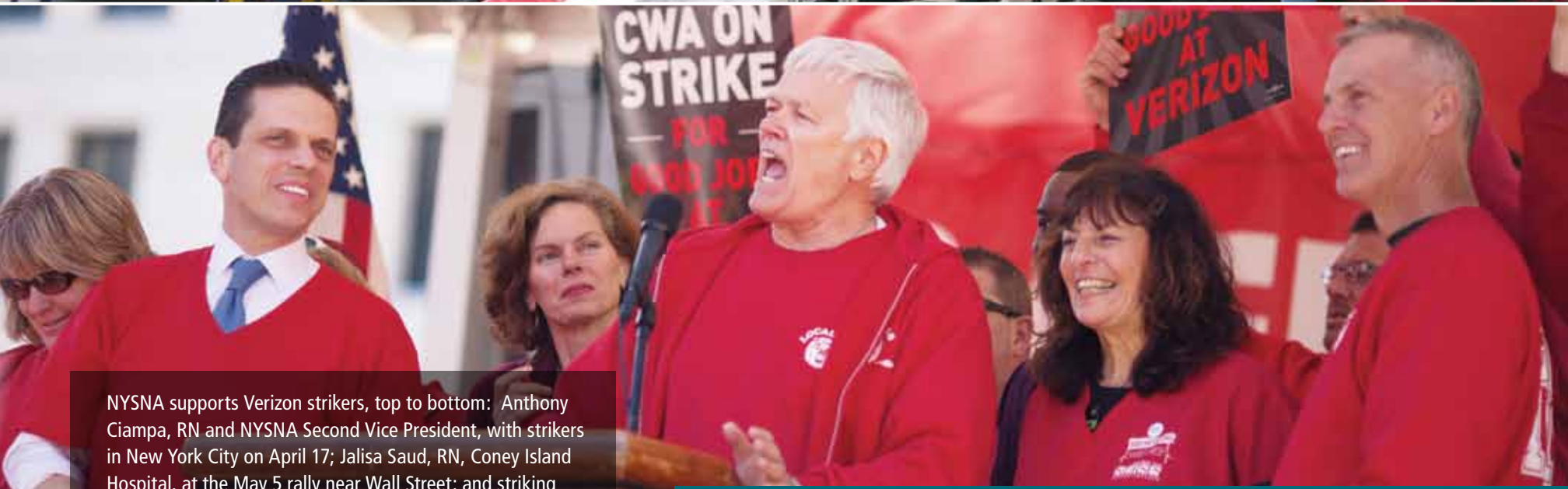
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## Nurses stand with Verizon workers!, p.4,7



NYSNA supports Verizon strikers, top to bottom: Anthony Ciampa, RN and NYSNA Second Vice President, with strikers in New York City on April 17; Jalisa Saud, RN, Coney Island Hospital, at the May 5 rally near Wall Street; and striking Verizon workers address the April 13 NYSNA Lobby Day rally.

May 6 statewide action for safe staffing, p. 5



By Judy Sheridan-Gonzalez, RN  
NYSNA President



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# Nurses week: What's at stake?

**A**s I write this column, our priority bill, the "Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act" (S.782/A.8580-A) – the bill that will set a maximum number of patients a nurse can care for at any one time – is being hotly debated and seriously scrutinized by key legislators. Why is that?

This year, our comprehensive campaign for passage has intensified:

- involving members through Staffing Captain and POA initiatives, phone calls, legislative visits, community speak-outs, regional teach-ins, conferences, lobby days and high level meetings with elected leaders;
- utilizing a sophisticated, targeted, effective media campaign to educate the public and point the spotlight on politicians;
- focusing on municipal, county and regional bodies to pass initiatives that place significant pressure on reluctant state officials; and
- building a coalition of community and labor groups that challenge resistant legislators.

What better gift for us than to have enough nurses to care for our patients?

We have more sponsors and supporters than ever before; we are more visible and powerful in the State Legislature and in local structures than in the past. Nurses are eloquently expressing their views on the deleterious effects of short staffing, putting people on high alert.

And the public is listening.

#### Who is blocking us?

The Hospital Association of New York State (HANYS), and a variety of fraternal organizations and sympathizers, particularly among big hospital chains, are spending big piles on lobbying efforts to defeat our bill. Their arguments are flawed but their pockets are deep. Our strength is

*Nurses are eloquently expressing their views on the deleterious effects of short staffing, putting people on high alert.*

in our numbers and in the logic of the initiative.

Why do our successful health systems plead poverty when it comes to increasing caregiver staff, even while they show net profits?

Why are some of our facilities claiming that they are losing money? Where is the money going?

- Our hospitals are spending hundreds of millions – even billions – of dollars on super-expensive non-user friendly Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems, giving us even less time to spend with our patients.
- They pay exorbitant consultant fees to organizations with no actual direct healthcare experience that are restructuring the workforce to achieve "efficiencies" at the expense of patients.
- They have elevated their mar-

keting and advertising expenses into the stratosphere.

- They have geometrically increased their well-paid administrative staff to better "manage" the hands on caregivers on whom our patients depend.
- They pay exorbitant executive salaries to too many administrators who do not deliver hands-on care to patients and are removed from the reality of patients' acute conditions.
- They pay outrageous executive salaries and perks to attract and keep "talent" in the organization.
- Non-union employers hire expensive lawyers and firms to crush union organizing drives and waste public resources meant for direct care of patients.
- They pay millions to professional lobbyists to defeat our legislative initiatives.

Safe staffing is our highest priority – the foundation of safe, quality care for all patients.



NYSNA members and nursing students flooded the State Capitol on our April 13 Lobby Day.

## MAKING HISTORY

# First nurse and abolitionist icon to grace \$20 bill

**H**arriet Tubman, an African American woman, nurse, former slave, and famed conductor of the underground railroad will replace Andrew Jackson, a slaveholder, on the front of the 20-dollar bill.

Harriet Tubman is most known for her heroic acts to free slaves. She herself was born into slavery and escaped to the north. She then returned to free those she had been forced to leave behind, dedicating her life to ending the inhumane bondage of human beings owned as property in the south.

### Revolutionary icon

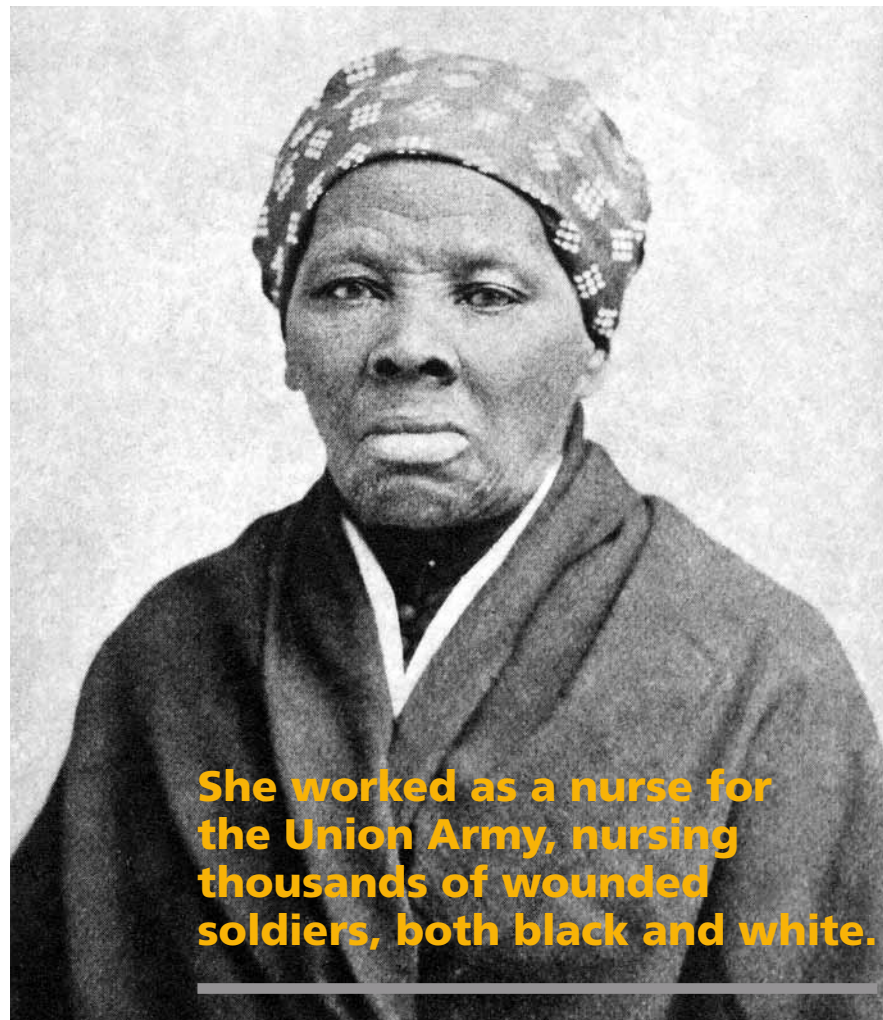
Over the course of a decade, Tubman led at least 13 raids to free black women and men in the south. She served in the U.S. Army during the war, and in 1863 made history when she led an armed raid by three Union gunboats that freed nearly 800 enslaved people in South Carolina.

But she did not wait for her actions to be sanctioned by the Union Army – even before the Civil War, Tubman worked tirelessly to free slaves from bondage when doing so was still illegal. Southern slaveholders were so irate that they went so far as to offer \$40,000 for her capture, an astronomical figure at that time. As Portside reported, “Tubman wasn’t working within the system; she saw clearly that the system couldn’t be reformed or repaired, only broken and replaced.”

In that sense Tubman is truly a revolutionary icon who fought for freedom, putting what was right and moral before the system of chattel slavery which was legal and brutally enforced.

### Union Army nurse

Few people know that Harriet Tubman was also a nurse. She cared for the people she rescued on the underground railroad as she led them to freedom. And later she worked as a nurse for the Union Army, nursing thousands of wound-



ed soldiers, both black and white. She was expert in herbal medicine and was so well known for her ability to cure men of dysentery that she was asked by Army surgeons to use her nursing skills to support troops at a military base in Florida.

Later, on a parcel of land she bought in Auburn, NY, she established the Harriet Tubman Home for Aged and Infirm Negroes.

### Recognizing our heroes

Sadly, Harriet Tubman was not fully recognized for her important work during her lifetime. The U.S. Government denied her claim for a Civil War pension despite her work as a nurse, spy, and cook for the Army.

Putting Tubman on the 20-dollar bill is a historical commemoration of a black woman freedom fighter and a nurse, and it is a step in the right direction toward cementing her importance in the consciousness of the American people.

Images of women will be also added on the back of both the \$10 and the \$5 bills. On the back of the \$10 bill, the image of the Treasury building will be replaced with one of a 1913 women’s suffrage march along with portraits of five leaders in the movement to win the right to vote for women: Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Alice Paul (see sidebar).

On the back of the \$5 bill will be an image from the 1939 performance in front of the Lincoln Memorial by the African-American singer Marian Anderson, after she was prohibited from singing at the segregated Constitution Hall. Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will also be depicted on the \$5 bill.

The currency changes will not be implemented until 2020, the centennial of the 19th Amendment establishing women’s voting rights.



Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Sojourner Truth



Lucretia Mott



Alice Paul

# Verizon strikers are fighting for all of us



By Jill Furillo, RN,  
NYSNA Executive  
Director

**NYSNA** nurses stand with the nearly 40,000 women and men on strike since April 13 to save middle class jobs. The strikers are employees of Verizon and members of the Communications Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. At the time of publication, the strike had passed its 30-day mark. On May 1, Verizon executives took the unconscionable move of cutting off healthcare benefits for the striking workers and their children.

This is the biggest North American work stoppage since 2011, the last time Verizon employees were forced to strike because their greedy employer wanted to take away the gains that unionized workers had made.

Verizon executives want to move unionized call center jobs offshore

upper-income households, which now hold a larger share of the nation's income than ever before.

If Verizon is allowed to move more good middle class jobs offshore, and force cut backs on the workers here, there would be even fewer opportunities available for U.S. workers to earn a decent living with job security and healthcare benefits. Increasingly, the squeeze on the middle class is forcing workers into low-wage jobs in industries like fast food.

## Shrinking unions, shrinking middle class

Verizon's attempt to destroy its unionized workforce is one more case of the corporate attack on labor unions that is killing the middle class. The labor movement built the middle class that exists in America today by fighting for decent working conditions, with good benefits, job security, and livable wages.

As the labor movement in this country declined in the face of corporate attacks, so, too, in tandem did the middle class. According to FiveThirtyEight, in the regions where unions have been weakened the most, the middle class is shrinking the fastest. Meanwhile, unions continue to face attacks from all sides with the nefarious so-called "right to work" campaigns funded by the rightwing billionaire Koch brothers and corporate interests aimed to curb our rights to form unions that protect middle class jobs. Without the labor protections that unions provide, corporations have more power to extract profits for the 1 percent by cutting back on wages and benefits and by moving good jobs to places where CEOs can pay poverty wages.

Verizon's greed doesn't stop at cutting benefits and job security for its workers. The company has also failed to invest in America's future. In *The New York Times*, Paul Krugman called Verizon the "modern-day robber barons" for refusing to roll out FiOS services and refusing to invest in its own business.

Verizon is under investigation in several states, including New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, for failing to meet its FiOS

rollout agreements. In New York City, Verizon committed to bring high-speed broadband to every neighborhood, but low-income communities of color like East Flatbush still lack access to FiOS. Instead of providing services to our communities, Verizon has funneled money into executive compensation, paying its CEO Lowell McAdam \$18 million dollars last year alone. Recent studies have shown that most low-income people across the nation still don't have access to broadband services.

Meanwhile, Verizon has slashed its workforce by nearly 40 percent in the past 10 years, leaving fewer workers to do the job of installing much-needed FiOS.

The workers on strike at Verizon aren't just fighting for their jobs, they're also fighting to hold the company accountable for its broken promises to the American public.

## We can only win by uniting together

NYSNA nurses know firsthand that we can win campaigns when we unite together with our fellow unions. We know it from the Fight for \$15 and Paid Family Leave bills we achieved this year. Unions stood together with the community and we were unstoppable. And we've seen the power we have when we unite with our fellow unionized nurses from PEF, CWA, and NYSUT in our fight to win safe staffing. It truly takes solidarity to achieve breakthrough legislation.

Likewise, it will take a united labor movement to fight back against corporate attacks on workers like the one that Verizon is waging right now. We need to stand together with the women and men on strike – the future of the middle class in America depends on it.

Please do not cross the Verizon picket lines, whether at the wireless retail stores in your town or online. We are asking NYSNA nurses to encourage everyone in your community not to buy any Verizon products or sign up for any new Verizon services for the duration of the strike.

And go show our solidarity on the picket line. You can visit [StandUpToVerizon.com](http://StandUpToVerizon.com) to find a picket line near you.



Nurses in Albany for the May 10 Multi-Union Lobby Day cheered on Verizon strikers outside the Capitol.

to places like Mexico and the Philippines, where they can pay workers as little as \$1.78 per hour. They have already offshored 5,000 call center jobs – and if they get their way, they'll destroy even more jobs here in the U.S. All this at a time when the company is raking in \$1.5 billion in profits every month.

## Corporate attack on the middle class

Recent Pew research shows that the middle class is shrinking. The middle class is no longer the economic majority in the U.S.A. – more people have been pushed into poverty and the middle class that remains has fallen farther behind

# ALL WE WANT FOR NURSES DAY? Safe Staffing for Our Patients!

**NYSNA** RNs spearheaded a statewide day of action for safe staffing in honor of National Nurses Day on May 6. Elected leaders and patient advocates joined nurses at rallies and press conferences throughout the state calling on the New York State legislature to pass the *Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act*.

From east to west, north to south, in Buffalo, Long Island, Schenectady, Westchester, the Bronx, and Brooklyn, the message was the same: safe staffing saves lives!

## Widespread public support

A November 2015 statewide poll found 85% of New Yorkers support capping the number of patients a nurse can take on at one time. In recent weeks, the City of Utica, Rockland County and the Village of Kenmore (Erie County) have added their names to the growing list of municipalities that have passed resolutions urging the State Legislature to pass the safe staffing bill.

Newly-elected State Senator Todd Kaminsky (D, 9) spoke at the Long Island action, stating, "I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of the *Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act* because New Yorkers deserve a law that establishes a limit on the number of patients a nurse can be assigned, and nurses deserve the assurance of knowing that they have the capacity to provide quality care."

"I hear from healthcare workers, patients and family alike that we need more nurses at the bedside. Experience and research agree that



**BUFFALO:** From left, Senator Tim Kennedy; Assemblyman John Ceretto; Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown (speaking); Erie County Legislature members Peter Savage, David Rivera, and Barbara Miller-Williams; and Rev. Kirk Laubenstein, Director of Coalition for Economic Justice.

safe staffing really does save lives," Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes (D, 141) said from the podium at the Buffalo rally.

At Brooklyn Borough Hall, Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon (D, 52) went straight to the heart of the matter when she said, "If you've ever been a patient, you know how important it is to have the attention of your nurse." She added, "Safe staffing makes sense, and it makes dollars and cents. In the long run, it will save the industry money," through reduced readmissions, improved outcomes, higher reimbursement, lower staff injury rates and better nurse retention.

"As a trained occupational therapist, I have seen firsthand the importance of safe staffing levels in our hospitals," Senator Tim Kennedy (D, 63) told the Buffalo gathering. "Safe staffing will fur-

ther improve patient care, while providing nurses and other health-care workers with the support they need to perform their physically demanding duties."

## Staffing bill benefits everyone

Sijjad Khan, an RN in Brooklyn Hospital's Emergency Department, spoke passionately about the need for safe staffing legislation. "There are days when each ER nurse has 20 patients. How can one nurse take care of 20 patients? It forces nurses to make choices no one should ever have to make." He reiterated the importance of the legislation in the fight to protect patients and to improve patient care outcomes. "Only with legislated ratios can nurses give the care that we want to be able to give. Passing this act will benefit everyone: not just you, not just me, but everyone."



**BROOKLYN:** Sijjad Khan, RN, Brooklyn Hospital Center, with his son Ibrahim at Borough Hall.



**BRONX:** Assembly members Jose Rivera and Jeffrey Dinowitz joined NYSNA members at Borough Hall.



**LONG ISLAND:** Senator Todd Kaminsky addressed the press. With him are NYSNA member Yasmine Beausejour, RN at LIJ Valley Stream, and Assemblyman David McDonough.

# 1199SEIU and NYSNA mobilize for safe staffing at VBMC

Political and community leaders joined NYSNA nurses and 1199SEIU caregivers for a march and rally on May 11 to raise awareness about short staffing and patient care concerns at Vassar Brothers Medical Center (VBMC) in Poughkeepsie.

VBMC has expanded services and seen significant growth in patient volume in recent years, but the hospital has not increased staffing levels. Nurses and caregivers are being forced to take on more patients at once increasing concerns about patient safety and high staff turnover.

“Our Emergency Department is seeing four-times the volume it did in the past. We are stuffed to the brim,” said Thea Gallagher, an RN in VBMC’s Oncology Care Unit.

“When nurses settled our new contract back in December, we were optimistic that management would follow through on promises to increase staffing,” Ms. Gallagher said. “Six months later, staffing is not better, and possibly worse. The number of POAs we’re filing has not abated.”

Compounding the problem is that VBMC’s caregivers (nurses as



Members arranged for the Mid-Hudson Bridge to shine red and purple on May 11.

well as others) are being punished for speaking out or taking a needed sick day. “The work environment at Vassar has become more and more challenging. We’re concerned for the safety of patients and staff. And we’re seeing mandatory overtime, which we thought was behind us, rear its ugly head.”

In the contract ratified last December, nurses won the right to picket and take staffing concerns direct to the community if unable to resolve disputes through labor-management channels. “We exercised this right on April 6 with a

candlelight vigil, and again on May 11, and vow to continue to take our message to the public until the hospital does right by its patients and staff,” said Ms. Gallagher.

One positive that has come out of an otherwise negative experience is increased cooperation between NYSNA nurses and 1199SEIU caregivers. “We have the same goal: excellent patient care. The shortages are affecting everyone, so we’re working together to get the hospital back on the right track,” Ms. Gallagher reported.



VBMC employees and supporters stand up for quality care at the May 11 march.

## Ensuring quality public healthcare with *One New York*

In late April, Mayor de Blasio released a comprehensive report titled “One New York: Health Care for Our Neighborhoods.” In it, the City commits \$2 billion to transition New York City’s Health + Hospitals public healthcare system to one that is centered on community healthcare.

A week before the report’s release, Anne Bové, RN and President of NYSNA’s NYC H+H Executive Council spoke out with Save Our Safety Net Coalition (SOS-C) partners Public Advocate Letitia James, AFSCME DC 37, and Doctors Council, SEIU. “We will be watching to ensure transparency and community input into the process, and the primacy of our patients’ interests in any system restructuring,” said Ms. Bové.

The plan picks up on many of the initiatives included in the *Vision 2020* plan released last year by NYC H+H President and CEO



Nurses from Coney Island, Kings County and Woodhull hospitals speak out in support of fair funding for public hospitals and safe staffing.

Dr. Ram Raju, including aiming to double the enrollment in MetroPlus from half a million to one million people. It identifies four primary goals for the public system’s long-term success: stabilize funding to the system, expand community-based healthcare, improve efficiency and remodel outdated systems.

“By providing significant new investments to support our essential public healthcare system, the mayor’s *One New York* plan will

ensure we don’t have the tale of two cities when it comes to quality healthcare,” said Dr. Raju.

The City held public meetings on the *One New York* plan May 11 and May 18, where NYSNA members told officials that for the public healthcare system to thrive, it must secure fairer funding from the state and federal governments and that NYC H+H must do a better job of spreading the word on its excellent patient safety record.



Anne Bové, RN, speaks out in advance of the release of the Mayor’s report.

# Long Island RNs picket for patient care

**ON APRIL 21**, NYSNA nurses at St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center in Smithtown held an informational picket to shine the spotlight on staffing concerns at their hospital.

For the past year, NYSNA nurses have been at the bargaining table negotiating a new contract, but management has been unwilling to address short staffing issues that put patient care at risk.

## Staffing is top concern

According to Dawn Bailie, RN and member of her hospital's NYSNA Executive Committee, "This was the first time during a long year of bargaining that we've held a picket. We did it because we want the community to understand the critical link between staffing and quality of care."

St. Catherine nurses' top concern is improving the environment for patients. Ms. Bailie reported, "We have serious understaffing, particularly in the Emergency Room." Some of this she attributes to a lack of resources for patients with men-



A proud display of NYSNA red at the St. Catherine of Siena informational picket.

tal health issues who end up in the ER because they have no place else to go.

The nurses were pleased with the community response to the April 21 action. "The community got

the message, and its support was overwhelming," Ms. Bailie added. "If management were only half as responsive, we'd be making great progress in our negotiations."

**"We want the community to understand the critical link between staffing and quality of care."**  
Dawn Bailie, RN

## NYSNA RNs march & rally with Verizon strikers

**O**n May 5 in New York City, NYSNA nurses joined more than 2,000 strikers from CWA and IBEW and their supporters for a massive march and rally.

Jalisa Saud, RN at Coney Island Hospital, addressed the crowd on behalf of NYSNA nurses.

"I am here on behalf of the 39,000 nurses of NYSNA to tell you that the nurses are with you," said Ms. Saud. "Take it from a nurse: Verizon's greed makes us sick."

In addition to our NYSNA contingent, other unionized workers from across New York City joined the rally to show solidarity, including members of the Hotel Trades Council, SEIU Local 32BJ, 1199SEIU, District Council 37, RWDSU Local 338, the Teamsters, the Transport Workers Union, and the American Postal Workers Association.

CWA President Chris Shelton spoke at the rally about the need for workers to unite together to fight



Jalisa Saud, RN at Coney Island Hospital, spoke on behalf of NYSNA in solidarity with striking Verizon workers at the May 5 rally in New York City.

back against corporate greed. "This is not just a strike against Verizon," said Shelton. "This is a strike because this country's lords and corporations have decided they want to get rid of unions. It's about every person with a union card. It's about every person who works for a living."

The march and rally in Lower Manhattan was part of a nation-

wide day of action with pickets and rallies in cities across the country in support of the nearly 40,000 Verizon workers on strike to save middle class jobs. It was the same day that Verizon executives held a shareholder meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where 15 strikers and supporters were arrested for civil disobedience.

# Thousands lobby for s



Staffing bill sponsor Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, RN, helped carry the NYSNA banner to the rally.

**O**n May 10, NYSNA nurses joined our Campaign for Patient Safety allies from the Public Employees Federation, the Communication Workers of America, the New York State Union of Teachers, and the New York StateWide Senior Action Council to lobby for the *Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act* in Albany.

Nearly 2,000 nurses and healthcare activists held an energetic rally and lobbied elected leaders to demand that the legislature bring the safe staffing bill to a “Floor Vote Now!”

The bill has 120 sponsors and strong bi-partisan support in the NYS Assembly and Senate, yet some legislators have held up the bill in committees rather than bring it to a floor vote.

Supportive legislators addressed the crowd and reiterated their commitment to seeing the bill become law. Senator Leroy Comrie (D, 14) said that our campaign is having an impact and he encouraged us to keep up the pressure on legislators: “The Democratic Senate State Caucus supports the bill. Go tell every Senate Republican that you want them to pass this bill. We need Republicans to get on board and stop listening to the myths they hear from the hospital industry.”

## The facts are clear

Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, RN, the bill’s sponsor, said of the hospital industry’s hollow cries to block the safe staffing legislation: “They cried, ‘the sky is falling,’ when we pushed the bill on mandatory

overtime. It did not fall. It won’t fall with safe staffing either. We have the evidence from California that shows that both patient outcomes and hospitals’ bottom lines improved following passage of the law.”

## Time to make some noise!

Before our rally for safe staffing we took time to show our support for another important fight. Our two-thousand strong contingent joined a protest by Verizon workers on strike to save middle class jobs, chanting, ‘Your Fight! Our Fight!’ ‘Our Fight! Your Fight!’ (See pages 4 and 7 for more about our support for the Verizon strike.)

As we made our way to rally for safe staffing, chants of ‘Floor Vote

Now!’ and ‘What’s It’s About? Patient Care!’ rang out.

“I could hear you all the way on the other side of Albany,” Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara (D, 111) reported when he arrived to the rally. He pointed to the senate offices as he said, “It’s time that those who are not yet supporting this bill hear you, too!”

“Nurses are the backbone of the healthcare system, and without a backbone, the system cannot stand,” said Assemblywoman Addie Russell (D, 116) as she urged legislators to get on board. “We all say we are grateful to nurses for their selfless work. Don’t just say thank you. Make it meaningful in the form of a floor vote *this* year!”

Legislators and patients spoke out about the care they had received from nurses and the need for more RNs at the bedside to keep patients safe. Assemblywoman Latrice Walker (D, 55) said, “When I was in the hospital, a nurse literally saved my life.”

“I am the brother of a nurse,” said Senator Neil Breslin (D, 44) vowing to do whatever he can to get the bill enacted.

Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman (D, 29) said her RN



New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli addressed the crowd inside the Convention Center: “There is no issue currently before the legislature that is more important than securing passage of the *Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act*. At the heart of the issue is dignity. For patients **and** caregivers.”



Buffalo members (from left): Amanda Fiori, RN, ECMC; Elizabeth McRae, RN, Terrace View; Heather Scott, RN, ECMC; Karen Green, RN, Terrace View; and Katrina Reynolds, RN, ECMC.

# of RNs & patient advocates safe staffing



Members did their part to make sure the message of "Floor Vote Now!" was heard by legislators in Albany.

mother always put her patients first. "I know from watching her that you give your life, often risking your own health and safety, to care for your patients, and I stand with you."

Assemblyman Richard Gottfried praised our coalition for its commitment to do whatever it takes to pass safe staffing. "When this bill becomes law, it will not be because of what I did, or what Aileen Gunther did," said Gottfried. "It will be because of what all of you did to make this happen."

Following the afternoon rally, NYSNA members fanned out to visit legislators' offices.

## Nurses share our stories

On a lobby visit to an undecided State Senator whose legislative coordinator said, "the senator is waiting to hear from the hospital," NYSNA nurses urged the legislator to listen to his constituents rather than hospital executives. Emily Mulenga, an RN at Brooklyn's Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, said, "Every day

a nurse works short-staffed, she has to make an impossible choice between which patient to race to next, when each and every one of our patients needs and deserves attention."

NYSNA nurses also visited supporters of the bill to thank them, encourage them to put pressure on their less supportive colleagues, and to discuss hurdles to the bill's passage.

"Hospitals are being penny wise and pound foolish to not support this bill," Marion Parkins, a nurse at Harlem Hospital, told the staff of Senator Adriano Espaillat, after expressing gratitude for his support of the bill. "Outcomes are proven to be better with more staffing. With better outcomes, there are fewer readmissions and better reimbursement."

Before leaving the senator's office, Julia Symborski, an RN at New York Presbyterian Hospital, likened the hospital industry's insistence that there is no need for legislated ratios to "letting the fox guard the henhouse."

The current legislative session ends in late June. Call your state assembly member and senator and demand a "Floor Vote NOW!"



Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, reunited with the SUNY Downstate Medical Center nurse and PEF member who she credits with saving her life.



(L to R): Anthony Ciampa, RN, New York Presbyterian; Rita Igwe, RN, Lincoln Medical Center; Marion Parkins, RN, Harlem Hospital; Joshua Michael Jones, director of Albany operations for Senator Adriano Espaillat; and Julia Symborski, RN, New York Presbyterian.



The Fort McMurray wildfire, near Alberta, Canada, is one of the most devastating disasters in that nation’s history, destroying thousands of homes, forcing major evacuations, consuming forests, and threatening the Alberta oil fields. Ironically, wildfires like this are made much more frequent because of the global warming accelerated by tar sands oil like that extracted near Alberta.



Ethel Mathis, RN, St. Elizabeth Medical Center; NYSNA President Judy Sheridan-Gonzalez, RN; and Melissa Coin, RN, VNS, carry the NYSNA banner on May 14.

# Stop the bomb trains

**NYSNA members** and President Judy Sheridan-Gonzalez, RN, took part in the May 14 *Break Free* action, which brought together 1,500 people from 100 organizations in Albany’s Lincoln Park

to call for an end to the “bomb trains” used to transport gas and oil and that seriously endanger community health and safety. The volume of oil transported by train has skyrocketed in recent

decades with the boom in shale oil extraction in North Dakota. Nearly 400,000 barrels a day head to the East Coast, and the Port of Albany is a major hub for oil exports. President Gonzalez told those gathered, “Crude from Bakken shale is far more volatile and dangerous than regular crude, yet it is transported in tank cars built to hold orange juice or vegetable oil on tracks that run through residential communities. When you put a substance with the volatility of dynamite in these tankers, you create moving bombs.”

## NYSNA’S Dues Formula

NYSNA dues are computed according to a formula approved by the members at the 2001 Voting Body. The formula uses a Regional Base Salary (RBS) to determine the dues for members in six different regions in New York state and in New Jersey.

The RBS is the *average of the starting salary paid to staff nurses* at all NYSNA-represented facilities in each region as of Jan. 1, 2016. A calculation of 1.6 percent of this average determines the dues rate for members in that region who are represented for collective bargaining and work full time; and 1.2 percent for members who are represented for collective bargaining and work less than full time. Due are *not* a percentage of each member’s individual salary.

### Dangerous proximity

Following the rally, a group of 500 marched to an affordable housing community which sits adjacent to train tracks, highlighting the environmental racism of oil train transport. The majority of train tracks run in dangerous proximity to low-income communities of color, where residents face constant danger of derailment, explosion, and environmental disaster. A larger group of 1,000 marched to the Port of Albany to stage a blockade of the rail tracks.

Both actions were part of *Break Free*, a global movement that coordinated a series of 23 mass actions across the globe demanding that fossil fuels be kept in the ground. Protesters vowed to continue to work to protect the health and safety of Albany residents.

NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION DUES RATES		
EFFECTIVE 7/1/16		
Region	1.60% Full time	1.20% PT/Per Diems
Central	\$ 870	\$ 657
Eastern	935	706
Southern	1,243	936
Western	896	677
Southeastern	1,197	902
New Jersey–South	1,045	788
Lower Hudson	1,106	834

- The dues rates listed above are for members represented in collective bargaining.
- For the dues rates of other membership categories, please contact NYSNA’s Membership Department at 800.724.6976 ext. 285.

# Candidates in the 2016 NYSNA Officer Election

The following candidate statements are being published on these pages of New York Nurse in connection with the 2016 NYSNA officer election. Candidate statements are also available in the Member Services Online area of the NYSNA website (members.nysna.org). Ballots will be mailed on May 31. If you have any questions about election materials or about the voting process (or if you do not receive your ballot by June 6), please contact Global Election Services at 1-800-864-1263. The information below has been provided by the individual candidates. NYSNA is not responsible for the accuracy of the content.

## NY Nurses S-3 Slate: Safe Staffing, Solidarity, and Social Justice

### PRESIDENT

#### Judy Sheridan-González, RN

##### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Staff Nurse  
– Adult  
Emergency  
Dept.,  
Montefiore  
Medical  
Center (Moses  
Division)



##### Former Employment Position and Facility:

- Staff Nurse in: Pediatrics; ICUs; Med-Surg; Oncology; Neurology
- Facilities: Montefiore; North Central; Jacobi; Lincoln; Metropolitan; Hospital for Joint Diseases

##### Education:

- MSN/FNP College of Mt. St. Vincent
- BS SUNY Empire State
- AAS Borough of Manhattan Community College
- Diploma Helene Fuld School of Nursing

##### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- President
- Vice President
- Director at Large NYSNA BOD
- President Delegate Assembly NYSNA
- LBU Chair & Organizer Montefiore Moses
- Staff Nurse Delegate Metropolitan Hospital (HHC)

##### Statement of Views:

Four years ago, “S-3 Slate” staff nurses were elected to transform NYSNA into a union that would fight attacks against nurses: at work, in the legislature and the broader health care system.

NYSNA’s since become a household name: respected by labor, health policy analysts, communities, legislators – even employers!

We’ve trained 1,000 new leaders! Our legislative initiatives have progressed far beyond pundits’ predictions. Contracts have broken ground and many assaults against labor and communities have been stalled.

But there is much more to be done! Nurses are still exploited. Hospital mergers have raised the stakes. Anti-labor politicians are on a rampage. Your vote confirms that we need to keep building from the ground up, and never give up.

### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

#### Marva Wade

##### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Retired

##### Former Employment Position and Facility:

Mt. Sinai  
Medical Center



##### Education:

Associate Degree – Nsg BMCC

##### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- 1st VP – appointed
- 2nd VP – elected
- Retired Nurses Action Network – member
- NYSNA PAC – chairperson
- Labor Campaign for Single Payer – National Steering Committee

##### Statement of Views:

Nursing is the most trusted profession and uniquely positioned on the front lines of delivering healthcare. The ones that see hear and help patients navigate a system whose concern is profit. We have taken on the challenge to fight for ourselves and our patients by having a plan of attack – a strategic plan of core organizational priorities for: safe staffing, winning strong contracts, advancing

single payer in New York and the privatization of healthcare. The list of challenges is long and growing but so is our commitment to the battle. Vote for me so I can stay in the fight!

### TREASURER

#### Patricia Kane, RN, CNOR

##### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Staff Nurse,  
Cardiothoracic  
Operating  
Room,  
Staten Island  
University  
Hospital –  
North



##### Former Employment Position and Facility:

Staff Nurse, Postanesthesia Care  
Unit, Staten Island University  
Hospital – North

##### Education:

AAS in Nursing, College of Staten  
Island

##### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- Current:
- Treasurer, NYSNA Board of Directors
  - LBU Membership Chairperson, Staten Island University Hospital

##### Past:

- Director at Large, NYSNA Board of Directors
- LBU President, Staten Island University Hospital
- Vice President, NYSNA Delegate Assembly
- Chairperson, NYSNA Council on Legislation
- Chairperson, NYCRNA District 13, PAC

##### Statement of Views:

NYSNA nurses are on the move and having an impact like never before – in their workplaces,

legislatures and communities – fighting against the corporatization of healthcare that threatens working conditions, nursing practice and patients’ access to care. Transforming our union into a major force in healthcare, nursing and labor in today’s environment is only possible through the engagement, support and development of the rank and file in every facility NYSNA represents.

My commitment is to stand with you, working collaboratively to establish our goals and achieve more victories, with transparency, accountability, vigilance and continuous reassessment in stewardship of our resources.

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE (5 POSITIONS)

#### Virginia Stewart

##### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Staff Nurse,  
Metropolitan  
Hospital Center



##### Former Employment Position and Facility:

Head Nurse,  
Staff Nurse, Metropolitan Hospital  
Center

##### Education:

Registered Nurse Diploma

##### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- Vice Chair, LBU Metropolitan Hospital Center
- Vice President, NYSNA Executive Committee, NYC HHC
- Director at Large, Board Member NYSNA
- Member NYSNA Political Action Committee
- Member NYSNA Secor Scholarship Committee
- Delegate to ANA
- Delegate to the UAN

## NY Nurses S-3 Slate: Safe Staffing, Solidarity, and Social Justice

### Statement of Views:

As vital gate keepers in promoting quality care we must continue to educate our legislators on nursing issues. Nurses must be heard. Nurses must stay involved and we must meet the many challenges despite our differences. If elected I will serve NYSNA nurses with confidence and experience. Thank you for your vote.

### Nancy Hagans

#### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Maimonides Medical Center  
Staff Nurse in PACU

#### Former Employment Position and Facility:

#### Education:

- BSN
- CCRN

#### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- NYSNA member
- AACN member
- Chairperson/Executive Committee
- NYSNA Health Benefit Trustee
- Chair of Nurse Practice Committee
- Chair of Staff Development Fund

### Statement of Views:

I am Nancy Hagans, chairperson of Maimonides Medical Center, Local Bargaining Unit (LBU) for the past two years. However, I have been a member of the executive committee for over 20 years.

I have fought passionately for our nurses and for our patients. I believe every patient is a VIP, and every patient deserves the human touch.

I pledge to empower the nurses to join the fight for safe staffing because it is the only way we can deliver quality care to our patients.

### Jacqueline B. Gilbert

#### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Supervisor of Nurses, Harlem Hospital Center

#### Former Employment Position and Facility:

- Staff Nurse (NICU)



- Head Nurse (Pediatric Unit) at Harlem Hospital Center

#### Education:

RNC, BSN

#### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- Delegate-at-Large LBU (Harlem Hospital Center)
- Vice President, NYSNA HHC Executive Council & NYC Health and Hospitals
- President of the Congress of Bargaining Unit Leaders
- Board member New York State Education Department's Office of the Professions (OP)
- Serves as a Trustee on NYSNA's Education and Child Welfare Fund
- Serves as a member on NYSNA – Political Action Committee

### Statement of Views:

The key issues for nursing include single payer health care, safe staffing, violence against nurses and the ever increasing threat of replacing registered nurses with less qualified personnel. We (NYSNA) have become so much more politically active and is making an impact on all of these issues. I believe I can work to assist my colleagues work toward these efforts on a national level. I would be honored to continue the serve, if elected.

### Lilia V. Marquez, RN-BC, CCRN, HN, RMT, IARP, CH, HC, AADP

#### Current Employment Position and Facility:

- NYC Health + Hospitals formerly NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation, 1983-present (33 years)

- Staff RN, CCU, Bellevue Hospital Center, 1986-present

#### Former Employment Position and Facility:

Worked in public and private sectors:

- Assistant Head Nurse, CCU Bellevue Hospital Center
- Staff RN, Medical-Surgical Unit, Bellevue Hospital Center 1983-1986
- Other areas worked as Agency RN, Bellevue Hospital Center: MICU; Surgical ICU; Neuro ICU; PACU; Microsurgery; EENT; Psychiatry (Medical-Surgical;



- Adult; Adolescent; Prison Psych); Prison Ward
- Staff RN: New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center CCU
- Float RN: Visiting Nurse Service of New York, Manhattan
- Agency RN: Mary Manning Walsh Nursing Home

#### Education:

- Registered Professional Nurse, New York, 1984-present
- Registered Professional Nurse, California, 1989-present
- CCRN Acute and Critical Care Adult (American Association of Critical Care Nurses), 1988-present
- RN-BC Board Certified Medical-Surgical Nursing (American Nurses Credentialing Center) 05/22/2013-05/21/2018
- BCLS/ACLS Certified
- Certified in Mental Health First Aid USA (National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare) 01/27/2016-01/26/2019
- Certificate of Holistic Nursing (New York College of Health Professions) 12/11/ 2006
- Clinic Awards for Outstanding Clinical Performance and Honors in Academic Excellence: New York College of Health Professions 12/11/2006
- Registered Reiki Practitioner/Teacher- International Association of Reiki Professionals 03/09/2007-03/09/2017
- Certified Consulting Hypnotist-National Guild of Hypnotists, Inc., 2008-present
- Health Counselor/Coach-Institute for Integrative Nutrition 2009
- Board Certified Holistic Health Practitioner 2009

#### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- NYSNA Member since 1983
- 2016: NYSNA Child Care and Elder Care Fund Trustee
- 2015-present: Vice President, NYSNA Executive Council Committee, Local Bargaining Unit, Bellevue Hospital Center
- 2015-present: NYCH+H/ Mayoral Labor and Management Committee
- 2014-2015: Delegate-At-Large, NYSNA Executive Council Committee, Local Bargaining Unit, Bellevue Hospital Center
- 2014-2015 NYSNA Mayor's Task Force on Immigrant Healthcare Access
- 2013-2015: NYSNA Member-At-Large, Council on Nursing Practice, Adult Patient Focus Group

- NYSNA Steward 2014-Present (Attended Public and Private Sector Training)
- NYSNA Campaigns Joined/ Attended: Safe Staffing; Healthcare for All; Depend Public Hospitals; Keep Hospital Open for Care; Climate Change, etc.
- 2014-present: AACN (American Association of Critical Care Nurses) Ambassador – New York
- 2010-present: Medical Reserve Corp Volunteer
- Professional Memberships: American Association of Critical Care Nurses 1988-present; American Holistic Nurses Association 2006-present; International Association of Reiki Professionals 2007-present; National Guild of Hypnotist. Inc. 2008-present, AACN New York City Chapter
- Causes Lilia cares about: Animal Welfare; Arts and Culture; Children; Civil Rights and Social Action; Economic Empowerment; Education; Environment; Health; Human Rights; Disaster and Humanitarian Relief, & Science and Technology.

### Statement of Views:

*"Be strong enough to stand alone, be yourself enough to stand apart, but be wise enough to stand together when the time comes."*

There's a time for everything. It is time to think in terms of WE instead of US and THEM. There is POWER in numbers. Bullying, harassment, and intimidation must not be tolerated. It is time to believe in ourselves. It is time to be grateful that as nurses, we have the opportunity to advocate for patients and families at their most vulnerable. It is time to reconnect to the Inner Fire within, the attributes of great nurses to transcend and go beyond for Patients Safety. The time has come for a growing revolution to work together in solidarity for a stronger union advocating for Patients Safety and our nursing profession.

### Mary Ellen Warden

#### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Staff Nurse – Labor & Delivery, Mt. Sinai West

#### Former Employment Position and Facility:



## NY Nurses S-3 Slate: Safe Staffing, Solidarity, and Social Justice

- Staff Nurse – Postpartum – St. Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital
- Per diem – Hudson Valley Hospital, Westchester County Medical Center

### Education:

- BSN – Kent State University
- “Inpatient OB” certification NCC

### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- Current President and former Grievance Co-Chair of LBU Executive Committee Mount Sinai West/Mt. Sinai St. Lukes
- Association Trustee on NYSNA Benefits Fund

### **Statement of Views:**

I believe in nurses...our dedication, our sense of responsibility, and our sense of humor in the face of adversity. Together, we are strongest and most effective when we are working together in our workplaces, and as part of this growing Union. In a time when negative and divisive politics threaten our communities, the power of our diverse and increasingly involved membership will continue to effect positive change...for our patients, ourselves, and our families.

## REGIONAL DIRECTORS

### EASTERN REGION DIRECTOR

#### **Martha M. Wilcox**

#### Current Employment Position and Facility:

- Community Health Nurse, Sullivan County Public Health, 2003-present
- RN – SCPH, 2000-2003



#### Former Employment Position and Facility:

- SCPH, 2000-present
- Roscoe Community Nursing Home, Supervisor of night shift – 84 patients in house, 1999-2000

### Education:

- A.S. SUNY 1999-graduated
- Paralegal, Marist College
- AAS SUNY Business Administration
- St. John's University – St. Vincent's College
- Additional CEs that have been completed yearly: Assessment,

Documentation, Steward Training, Train the Trainer

### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- Eastern Regional Director, 2012-present
- PAC: Trustee of Political Action Committee, 2012-present
- DSRIP – NYSNA member, 2014-present
- Finance Committee Member, 2015-present
- Congress NYSNA, 2008-2012
- Chairperson of LBU Sullivan County, 2005-2012
- Co-Chairperson of LBU Sullivan County, 2001-2005
- Arbitration Appeals Panel – present

### **Statement of Views:**

In this climate of attacks on healthcare, we need to have continuing proper education and the willingness to be pro-active for our patients, community, and ourselves. As a member of the Board of Directors for the past four years, I have worked to educate my members and always be accessible to them. We have been successful in implementing “safe patient handling” in NYS but we still need to get “safe staffing” passed in Albany to protect our RNs and our patients, as well. I am committed to continuing to fight for “safe staffing” in our contracts, and in Albany, to become a state that values our RNs and respects them. With the insurance companies regulating our practice, we must stand together and fight to protect our patients and our practice. Please allow me the privilege to serve you and our patients as your Eastern Regional Director for another term to accomplish our objectives.

### CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR

#### **Ethel Mathis, RN**

#### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Recent retirement from St. Elizabeth Medical Center, worked on special care unit for 6 years of my 10 year career.



#### Former Employment Position and Facility:

- Case Planner/Worker – Cosmopolitan Center, Deputy Director

- Drug Treatment Program – Marcy Correctional Facility, Executive Director – New Horizon

### Education:

- Certificate Program – Paralegal
- MS – Bus. & Public Management
- AAS Nursing

### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- Utica Labor Council
- Syracuse Labor Council
- Subscriber to Labor Notes
- Former Delegate at STEMC
- Union activist

### **Statement of Views:**

As a very young person I have always tried to protect the “underdog”, defend the weak and take a stand for what is right. I learned how to pick my battles and strategize for the best outcome. My most important attribute is I learned how to Listen. I will use these traits to work with the Union for safe staffing, stand with all in solidarity and fight against all social injustice.

### WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR

#### **Sarah Annabelle Chmura, RN**

#### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Full time RN at Erie County Medical Center (ECMC)



#### Former Employment Position and Facility:

Previously a full time teacher for the Buffalo Public School System

### Education:

#### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- Union Delegate
- Safe Staffing Captain
- Civic Action Team

### **Statement of Views:**

Being part of a strong union is a passion of mine. I was raised in a hard working, blue collar family that firmly believed in the power of their unions. The goals and ideas of unions is a function that I have supported from a young age and forward into my career as a former teacher for the Buffalo Public Schools, and now, a RN at the Erie County Medical Center (ECMC).

I have taken on leadership roles on my working unit, such as charge nurse and a preceptor for new

orientating RNs. After attending the NYSNA office grand opening in Buffalo, I have become increasingly involved in union activities – getting elected in the LBU leadership at ECMC, joining the Civic Action Team, and becoming a Safe Staffing Captain.

NYSNA is a force to be reckoned with, and I want to be a part of that force. As a minority woman, of the Mohawk's of the Six Nations, and a woman in her 30's, I strive to make our union more diverse. There are fellow RNs of minority status and RNs of the younger generation who can make an incredible impact on NYSNA, and can be instrumental in the fight towards our goals. As the Western Regional Director, I will educate and advocate for patients and the Nursing profession, especially in the public sector. I will work with the leadership of the Western Region to move members to take action and to fight for safe staffing and patient access to quality care.

I would like the opportunity to join the good work that Judy Sheridan-Gonzalez has achieved in her term. I would feel honored to run for the Board of Elections on the slate with her.

### SOUTHEASTERN REGION DIRECTOR

#### **Yasmine Beausejour, RN**

#### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Long Island Jewish Valley Stream



### **Statement of Views:**

First, I am honored to be a part of the S3 Slate. We need to continue to show our presence and let our strength be felt. I come to you as a night nurse working in a Med/Surg Tele Unit. As such, I know all too well how inadequate staffing can affect our everyday struggle to provide quality care to our patients and their families.

My vision is for all nurses on Long Island to be a part of the great NYSNA organization. Because together we can only get stronger.

## The Staff Nurse Voice Slate

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE (5 POSITIONS)

#### Mary P. Salsbery-Stoller

##### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Westchester Medical Center – Staff Nurse Labor & Delivery



##### Former Employment Position and Facility:

Eastmoreland Hospital, Portland, Oregon, Med/Surg

##### Education:

Portland Community College, Portland, Oregon

##### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- Certification Inpatient Obstetric Nursing
- Unit Steward in Labor & Delivery
- Member of AWHONN

##### Statement of Views:

NYSNA is a member driven organization, whose focus is on

providing both safe and quality care for patients. The ability to effectively provide this care is greatly influenced by adequate staffing, access to significant resources, and a safe non-punitive work environment. There is a need for unity amongst members in order to obtain our goal of safe patient care, as well as improve work conditions.

#### Grace J. Otto, RN, BSN

##### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Release Time Nurse Representative/Gouverneur Health Services & Mayors, 2016 to present



##### Former Employment Position and Facility:

- Release Time Nurse Representative/Bellevue Hospital Ctr & Gouverneur Health Services, 2008-2016
- Head Nurse, Bellevue Hospital

Ctr., Out-Patient Psychiatry, 1990-2008

- Staff Nurse, Bellevue Hospital Ctr., Out-Patient Psychiatry, 1986-1990
- Staff Nurse, Bellevue Hospital Ctr., In-Patient Psychiatry, 1984-1986

##### Education:

BSN – College of New Rochelle, NY.

##### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- NYSNA Board of Directors, Director at Large, 2010 to present
- Grievance Chairperson, Bellevue Hosp. Ctr., 2000-2008
- Grievance Representative, Bellevue Hosp. Ctr., 1988-2000
- NYSNA Welfare Plan Trustee/Chairperson, 1994-2003
- Delegate, Delegate Assembly, 2010-2012
- Congress of Bargaining Unit Leaders Taskforce, 2004
- NAMI Member/Advocate, 1998-present
- BHC Community Advisory Board Member, 2012-2016
- American Cancer – Cancer Action Network, 2000-present

- South Orange/Essex County District 13 Leader, 2008-present

##### Statement of Views:

Much of my life has been dedicated to caring & advocating for people. As such, public hospitals must remain competitive and an integral part of our healthcare system. Single payer and safe staffing legislation are necessary to pass. We can accomplish these goals by continuing to make our voices heard and our collective actions noticed. I want to thank all of you who dedicate your lives to saving lives and making a difference every day. Together, with NYSNA's resources & support, we can promote change for the good and welfare of all. Re-elect me as your Director at Large.

### REGIONAL DIRECTORS

#### WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR

#### Kris Powell

##### Current Employment Position and Facility:

- Olean General Hospital RN ED
- Willcare Inc – Instructor for PCA & HHA



##### Former

##### Employment Position and Facility:

- Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY
- First Care, Newburgh, NY
- Dr. Paul Gaffori, Albany, NY

##### Education:

Albany Medical Center – Diploma RN

##### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- All offices at Olean General since organizing in 1995, current Chair
- Current Western Regional Director
- NYSNA Grievance Appeal Committee
- ALF Cattaraugus County
- ENA New York State

##### Statement of Views:

The problems in Western NY are very different from those faced in the NYC area. Our facilities are far apart. Unified activities require advanced coordination and constant communication. I have tried to be available to the facilities in WNY by phone and onsite and would appreciate continuing to advocate for Western New York.

## Independent Candidates

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE (5 POSITIONS)

#### Diane Groneman

##### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Peconic Bay Medical Center, Respiratory Therapist



##### Former Employment Position and Facility:

##### Education:

##### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- Present President – PBMC
- NYSNA Delegate Assembly Professional Zone Rep.
- Member Long Island Leaders
- Membership Chairperson – PBMC

##### Statement of Views:

I am a strong believer in the unionization of working people. Unions provide protection and speak for working rights.

For example, the safe staffing for quality care act, which protects our nurses from dangerous staffing levels as hospital administrators continue to want profits over patient safety.

Secondly, a health care plan for retirees, as our nurses age and retire into an ever changing world of healthcare it needs to be implemented.

#### SOUTHEASTERN REGION DIRECTOR

#### Bruce Lavalley, RN

##### Current Employment Position and Facility:

Peconic Bay Medical Center (25 yrs) Position – varied shifts PACU, Intensive Care Unit, and Emergency Department



##### Former Employment Position and Facility:

Med-Surg, ICU – St. Charles Hospital – Port Jefferson (6 yrs)

##### Education:

- AD – Nursing – SCCC
- BS – Biology – Manhattan College
- MS – Education – Hofstra University
- MS – Cellular Bio & Genetics – Adelphi University
- CCRN (25 yrs)

##### Professional Activities and Union Offices Held:

- BLS Instructor
- Union Officer – 12 yrs, Grievance Chair, President, Vice President

##### Statement of Views:

My platform consists of safe staffing ratios and retiree health care.

I have attended many Lobby Days in Albany encouraging and showing senators and congressmen why safe staffing ratios must be a reality – provides safe patient care and is cost effective.

NYSNA members tirelessly work to care for our patients after years of service I believe they should be entitled to Retiree Health Benefits.

I hope you will support my views and vote for me. Thank you, Bruce Lavalley, RN

## Safe staffing momentum growing!

Nearly 30 NYSNA members who live and/or work in Rockland County were on hand April 26 and again on May 3 to champion a safe staffing resolution through the Rockland County Legislature. Retired NYSNA member from Nyack Hospital and current Rockland County Legislator Aney Paul, RN, introduced the resolution to the County's Multi-Service Committee, which gave a unanimous endorsement following passionate testimony by Carol Massaro, RN and Nyack NYSNA Executive Committee member. A week later, the full legislature approved the resolution, calling on the state legislature to pass the *Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act*.

The next day, on May 4, similar resolutions passed in the both Utica and the Village of Kenmore in Western New York, where NYSNA and CWA nurses worked together to urge passage. Once again, we saw that when nurses talk, people listen – both measures passed with unanimous votes!



ROCKLAND: NYSNA members from Nyack Hospital, St. John's Riverside, Montefiore, Mount Sinai Medical Center, Mount Sinai St. Luke's Hospital, New York Presbyterian, Harlem Hospital, and Jacobi Medical Center on May 3 following the Rockland County vote.



KENMORE: NYSNA member Michelle Mooney, RN, Erie County Medical Center (back row, second from right), with the Village of Kenmore Trustees, CWA RNs and Rev. Kirk Laubenstein, Director of Buffalo's Coalition for Economic Justice.



## Students for safe staffing

NYSNA's Campaign for Patient Safety got a boost in early May when the Filipino-American Youth and Students' "Kapit Bisig Kabataan Network" signed a petition addressed to Speaker Heastie and Majority Leader Flanagan urging them to pass the *Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act*.



## 2016 Irene Youtz Nursing Award

The Nursing Practice Committee at NYC H+H Bellevue presented the 2016 Irene Youtz Award to NYSNA member Pushpa Jalal, RN, on May 13. The award recognizes nurses who have made significant contributions to nursing practice at the hospital. Irene Youtz graduated from Bellevue School of Nursing in 1930 and served a distinguished career teaching new nurses and caring for patients.

The Committee recognized Ms. Jalal's tireless advocacy to improve staffing and create a safe environment for both patients and nursing staff in her role as supervisor of ambulatory care nurses.

In addition, the Committee gave "in appreciation" recognition to RNs Christine DeGaray, Marion Machado, Marion Spector, and Rosana Tambis-Te.



## Celebrating Medical Laboratory Technician Week in Dunkirk

Members at Brooks Memorial Hospital in Dunkirk, where both nurses and other professionals are members of NYSNA, celebrated Medical Laboratory Technician week at an April 28 lunch recognizing their contributions to quality patient care.

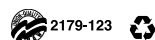


## Queensland makes safe staffing the law

At our April 13 Lobby Day we heard from Beth Mohle, the director of Australia's Queensland Nurses' Union, about their campaign to achieve legislated nurse to patient ratios. On May 12, the deal was signed, and Queensland became the fourth governmental body in the world to enact a law governing staffing ratios. Congratulations to our sisters and brothers in the Land Down Under!

# New York State NURSES ASSOCIATION®

131 West 33rd Street, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10001



6 NYC

## INSIDE



Many unions, one safe staffing message.  
Multi-union lobby day, p. 8-9



Solidarity with Verizon workers, p. 4 and 7

## 2016 Endorsements and Voter Guide, pp. 11-14

Public Sector/Private Sector Patient Advocate Conference  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016 | NYC**  
9:30AM-4:30PM - Sheraton Times Square, 811 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New York, NY 10019

Join with RN Patient Advocates to learn to:

- Understand the next wave of Friedrichs-style Court Cases & nurses' right to defend community health
- Document staffing & patient care problems
- Identify the impact of austerity & corporatization on healthcare services and quality patient care in public/private sectors
- Meeting of the Congress of LBU Leaders (before and after)

**REGISTER ONLINE** and find a list of objectives and continuing nursing education contact hours at: [www.nysna.org/june23Conference](http://www.nysna.org/june23Conference)

