



NETWORK

A PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN FEDERATION OF NURSES & HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, LOCAL 5000, AFT, AFL-CIO

OUR UNION NEEDS YOU!



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President's Podium

by Candice Owley, R.N.

Patients Before Profits— Needed Now More Than Ever

As we go to press, it was just announced that **Amazon** plans to join with two of the largest financial institutions in the world to take on the high costs of the healthcare industry. This announcement is on the heels of other mega mergers of health systems and health insurance companies. Never before have we seen such corporate consolidation in healthcare. The main reason for these activities is the failure of government to do its job to create a health system that is affordable and accessible for all.

In our own state, we have now seen the **Aurora** system announce a merger with the Illinois-based **Advocate** system, plus the **Ascension** system announce adding the **Providence** system, which makes the largest non-profit health system even larger.

Never before has the campaign to put **Patients Before Profits** been needed more. As these corporate giants come together to protect their own interests, who is there to be the champions of the workers or the community? I believe this is our union's role. Our union has always stood for the right of healthcare workers to have quality working conditions, which includes the right to a fair wage. We have also believed that healthcare is a right for all—not a privilege for some—which is a belief shared with the state's largest consumer organization, Citizen Action of Wisconsin. That is why we have formed the 'Healthcare for All Co-op,' in order to join forces to fight for quality healthcare.

There is no question that healthcare is going through massive changes, and the speed of these changes is increasing constantly. This is why our job, to give a voice to both healthcare workers and our patients, has never been more important.

Chapter Elections— the Leaders of the Future

In this environment of change, we too are changing. Two years ago, we consolidated into one state-wide local union, WFNHP Local 5000, with each worksite defined as chapters. This March we will be holding our first chapter elections since our consolidation.

In this newsletter you will find information on the election of officers that will take place for your chapter. You will have the opportunity to nominate individuals from your chapter for key leadership positions. While all positions are critical, the Chapter

President has an extra responsibility, which is to serve on our state-wide leadership board. If you have ever wanted to make a difference in your workplace, now is the time. You have the right and responsibility to nominate people who you believe would be the best officers for your chapter. We are a democratic organization, and the only requirement is that the individual be a member of their chapter, and that they agree to serve. You may even nominate yourself. Those elected will serve for a two-year term.

There are challenging days ahead, as we struggle to be the voice of the workers and our communities; but, it is also true that the work we do as a healthcare union has never been more important. It's time to get involved—nominate wisely, and mark down the time and place when your chapter will hold its election of officers.



A Year of Political Change An Invitation to Get Involved

This year we have an opportunity to elect both a Governor and the majority of state politicians. We have a real chance of electing a majority of legislators that support collective bargaining rights for all workers, including our former public employee members. Just imagine if candidates that support restoration of bargaining rights for our County nurses get elected. It would mean hundreds of public health nurses and therapists from Sheboygan to Wood County, from Milwaukee to Kenosha, would once again have the right to negotiate a contract. We would also have the opportunity to pass legislation to end mandatory overtime and enact safe nurse-to-patient ratios for the first time in our state.

Over the next few months, our local will re-establish our political and legislative program, and it will be open to any and all members who want to help bring our voice to these critical issues. If you have any interest in leading this effort and sitting on our oversight committee; or, just being on our activist email list, please email me at cowley@wfnhp.org or leave a message on my cell phone at 414-899-7070. I believe the wind is at our back for the first time in many years, so please consider being part of this movement for change.



Local 5000 Nomination & Election of All Chapter Officers

It's time to nominate and elect your chapter union officers. These are the people who will run your union on a daily basis through March 2020. The role of the union officer is critical to the democracy and quality of your union.

If you have been a member in good standing for at least three months, you can run for office yourself or nominate other members who will assure that your workplace has the very best team to fight for quality working conditions and quality healthcare services. Perhaps you have thought of being more active in your union, or that your co-worker would make a perfect union leader. Now is the time to act on those thoughts. All union leaders receive training and support, so lack of knowledge shouldn't be a barrier. The most important criteria is a willingness to step forward and be trained. All current and former leaders began just like that.

Nominations:

Nominations for all chapters must be turned in to the union office no later than 5pm on Friday, February 23rd. You may fax your nomination form to 414-475-5722; or, drop off or mail it to: WFNHP, Local 5000, 9620 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI 53214. Follow the directions carefully: Circle the name of your chapter at the top of the form. You can nominate yourself or someone else, as long as you have their permission. You must sign and date the nomination form at the bottom. Forms without signatures will not be accepted.

Election Information:

All chapter elections will take place in March. Please refer to the specifics for your chapter's election of officers on page 4. (*The chapters are listed in alphabetical order.*)

- ♥ Only full dues paying members in good standing are eligible to vote.
- ♥ You must vote in person on the specified date, time and place for your chapter—no absentee ballots.
- ♥ Candidates receiving a majority of votes shall be considered elected and shall assume their duties as soon as the results are verified.
- ♥ The ballots will be counted at the end of the election and the results will be announced after verification. Those not present will be notified by phone or email.

Chapters Must Elect the Following Officers:

President (*Every Chapter*) – The President is the most important union role because it is the leader of your union. The President oversees all activities of the chapter. They run meetings, participate on the negotiating team, attend formal meetings with management, and attend the union leadership meetings. In addition, they are members of the Local 5000 Executive Board which meets at least four times a year, and makes decisions regarding union policies and financial expenses for all chapters of the Local.

Chief Steward (*Every Chapter*) – The Chief Steward is the second most critical role in your union because they are responsible for making sure the contract is enforced, including making sure grievances and disciplines are handled correctly. The Chief Steward is also a member of the negotiating team, attends formal meetings with management, and leadership meetings. Their job includes coordinating and training stewards, and assisting the worksite reps.

Secretary (*Every Chapter*) – The Secretary is the record keeper of your union. They record minutes of all meetings and are responsible to assist the President with any formal correspondence of the chapter.

Vice-President (*Applies only to the VA & Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories Chapters*) – The Vice President assists the President with the work of their office and, in the absence of the President, steps in to perform all the duties that would otherwise be done by the President.

Chief Steward/Vice President (*Applies only to the Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington Chapter*).

Vice President of Membership (*Applies only to the Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington Chapter*).

Treasurer (*Applies only to the VA Chapter*) – is responsible for overseeing the finances of the chapter.

Stewards – Are appointed, except in the *Cumberland Care & Rehab and Cumberland Healthcare Tech/Service Chapters*. Stewards are responsible for working with members to ensure the contract is followed and to develop strategies to take on worksite problems.

Please turn to page 4 for the specifics regarding the date, time(s) and place for your chapter's election.

Information for All Chapter Elections

Please see below for the information on the date, time(s) and place for your chapter's election of officers. The chapters are listed in alphabetical order.

Ascension St. Francis Hospital RNs

The election for the President, Chief Steward and Secretary will take place on Wednesday, March 14th from 8am to 8pm in the 8th floor conference room at the hospital.

Ascension St. Francis Hospital Tech/Service

The election for the President, Chief Steward and Secretary will take place on Wednesday, March 14th from 8am to 8pm in the 8th floor conference room at the hospital.

Aspirus Langlade Hospital

The election for the President, Chief Steward and Secretary will take place on Tuesday, March 6th from 6:30-8am and 2-4pm in conference room 1022 (adjacent to the chapel), and 6:45-8pm in conference room 1024 (medium) at the hospital.

Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington

The election for the President, Chief Steward/Vice President, Secretary and Vice President of Membership will take place on Wednesday, March 21st from 11:30am to 8:30pm in Room 106 at the hospital.

Cumberland Care & Rehab

The election for the President, Chief Steward, Secretary and 3 Stewards will take place on Tuesday, March 6th from Noon to 8pm in the conference room at the nursing home.

Cumberland Healthcare RNs

The election for the President, Chief Steward and Secretary (note: the Secretary is for both the RN and Tech/Service units and can be elected out of either unit) will take place on Wednesday, March 21st from 0630 to 1945 in the Computer Lab in the lower level of the hospital.



Cumberland Healthcare Tech/Service

The election for the President, Chief Steward, Secretary and 1 Steward (note: the Secretary is for both the RN and Tech/Service units and can be elected out of either unit) will take place on Wednesday, March 21st from 0630 to 1945 in the Computer Lab in the lower level of the hospital.

Milwaukee County

The election for the President, Chief Steward and Secretary will take place on Wednesday, March 21st from 7:30am to 6pm at the union office, 9620 W. Greenfield Avenue in West Allis, (second floor).

TouchPoint

The election for the President, Chief Steward and Secretary will take place on Wednesday, March 14th from 8am to 8pm in the 8th floor conference room at St. Francis Hospital.

VA Staff Nurses Council

The election for the President, Chief Steward, Secretary, Vice President and Treasurer will take place on Tuesday, March 20th from 8am to 5pm in the union office (Room 6231) at the hospital.

Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories

The election for the President, Chief Steward, Secretary and Vice President will take place on Tuesday, March 20th from 6:30-8am and 2:30-4pm on the 1st Floor of the Lab Building, in HR Hallway Room 112.

Official Nomination Form

Circle Your Chapter:

Ascension St. Francis Hospital RN

Ascension St. Francis Tech/Service

Aspirus Langlade Hospital

Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington

Cumberland Healthcare RNs

Cumberland Healthcare Tech/Service

Cumberland Care & Rehab

Milwaukee County

TouchPoint

VA Staff Nurses Council

Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories

(I checked with each person I have nominated, and they have agreed to run for office.)

I nominate the following as Chapter officers:

President: _____

Chief Steward: _____

Secretary: _____

Vice President: *(Applies only to the VA & Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories Chapters)*

Chief Steward/Vice President: *(Applies only to the Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington Chapter)*

Vice President of Membership: *(Applies only to the Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington Chapter)*

Treasurer: *(Applies only to the VA Chapter)*

Stewards: *(Applies only to the Cumberland Care & Rehab and Cumberland Healthcare Tech/Service Chapters)*

Signature _____ **Date** _____

(Only nominations on the official Nomination Form will be accepted. You may fax your forms to 414-475-5722; or, drop off or mail in your forms to WFNHP Local 5000, 9620 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI 53214. Nominations by phone will not be accepted.)

Nominations are due by 5pm on Friday, February 23, 2018.



Wisconsin Federation
of Nurses & Health
Professionals AFT,
AFL-CIO

A Union of Professionals

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414-475-6065 or 1-800-828-2256
www.wfnhp.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Milwaukee, WI

Return Service Requested

**Important Nomination/Election
Information is Enclosed**

You're invited!



WFNHP-Local 5000's
Spring Annual Dinner/Membership Meeting

Friday, May 4th, 2018

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Klemmer's Banquet Center
10401 W. Oklahoma Ave., West Allis

❖ *Family Style Dinner* ❖ *Cash Bar/Cocktail Hour* ❖ *Guest Speakers & Door Prizes*

R.S.V.P. no later than Wednesday, April 25th, 2018

Please RSVP to your Union Steward/Rep or call the Union Office 414-475-6065 x10