



September 8, 2017

A Special Report from President Candice Owley

United and Strong

This October, our union celebrates the two year mark since uniting all of our separate bargaining units under the banner of WFNHP Local 5000. The last step in our unification was March 2017, when the VA RN unit voted to join Local 5000.

In these challenging times, we often wonder what will happen next to our country, our health system, and our unions. But, as is so often true, challenging times bring out the best in people and organizations. Our union has done an excellent job in meeting the challenges of the last two years by winning good contracts with job protection and guaranteed raises, and greatly expanding our connection with the larger community.



Winning Good Contracts

In spite of being taken over by Ascension (the largest non-profit health system in the U.S.), St. Francis negotiated a very successful first contract with Ascension. Part of that agreement included hiring guarantees and union recognition for the dietary and housekeeping members, when their work was subcontracted to Touchpoint, a division of a global company called Compass. A similar success happened in the Cumberland Hospital chapter when the nursing home was turned over to a Minnesota based company. The company agreed to hire everyone, and also recognize the union; and, by December 2016, the first contract with the new corporation was signed and in effect.

We are also proud that our Milwaukee County unit of RNs and Therapists once again voted in spring of 2017 to recertify their union. (This is a yearly requirement in effect because of the anti-union legislation passed early in Walker's term of office). With this election victory, the County unit has been

continuously certified for 52 years! One of the oldest, certified unions in Wisconsin.

Our Joint 'Healthcare-for-All' Co-op

One of our greatest achievements is the establishment of a new organization: 'Healthcare-for-All.' This organization was co-founded by our union and Citizen Action of Wisconsin, the largest consumer advocacy group in the state. It is based on a new and novel approach of bringing together healthcare workers and the community to hire a full time organizer to help us protect and improve our health system in Wisconsin. To be successful with this new approach, 280 individuals had to care enough about these issues to commit to contributing at least \$20/month to hire a full time individual to organize the members around activities to protect and improve our health system in the state. It is called a 'Co-op,' or Cooperative, because the folks that contribute the money will be part of the activist group choosing the activities and actions that the staff person will assist with. The 'Healthcare-for-All' Co-op will be truly member driven. The project has been extremely successful, and we have nearly 300 members now in our Co-op. A leadership team has been established, and the meeting of the full Co-op membership will take place in the next few weeks. I want to invite each of you to join the 'Healthcare-for-All' Co-op and be part of this exciting new adventure.



Join WFNHP and our partnership with Citizen Action of Wisconsin and become a member of the 'Healthcare-for-All' Organizing Cooperative.

Go to: https://citizenactionwi.nationbuilder.com/healthcare_for_all OR <http://bit.ly/2tQG6yC>

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President's Report... *from page 1*

Success of Full Time Executive Director

In addition to changing our structure to create a greater solidarity and strength, we changed how our union is managed. Beginning January 2017, we now have a full time Executive Director, Jamie Lucas. The Local Board and chapter leaders could not be more pleased with the work Jamie is doing. He has done an excellent job bargaining contracts and handling labor issues, plus has done much to bring our units together as we move into the future. With the success of the new role of the Executive Director, our union is moving forward with the plan to make the role of President a voluntary position, focused on setting policy and creating vision and direction for our union.



WFNHP President Position to be Unpaid

With the election in October of the WFNHP leadership, all of the officers, including President, will be unpaid, voluntary positions; and, those running for the offices will know that when they agree to run. I am confident that this new structure will be very successful and will open up the position of President to a much wider range of individuals; because, they can keep their current bargaining unit job and still run for President, as opposed to the past when the Local President was a paid position, which required the person taking the position to resign from their bargaining unit job.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, it is exciting to see so many members in our local communities and around the country standing up for justice and equality. Our union will continue to focus on the fight for healthcare based on community needs and not corporate greed. We will join with our partners in labor and in the community in the fight to make healthcare a human right—which means taking on the high costs of care, including the cost of prescription drugs. We will also stand up for the rights of workers providing care and services in the healthcare industry; and, finally, we will join with those that believe it is the right for everyone to live in a country based on freedom, equality, justice and dignity.

WFNHP Welcomes Nate Gilliam

A few months ago, WFNHP began the search for a new organizer. We're proud to introduce you to Nate Gilliam, our newest staff member. Nate is excited to join the WFNHP family and said, "I've enjoyed my experience at WFNHP so far. I'm new to union organizing, but I can see the similarities to organizing I've done in the past. One of the many ways I appreciate our work is connecting the role of our nurses and healthcare professionals to their impact in the community. Our job is to make sure our workers are safe, because their work directly serves the community. The well-being of our health professionals and patients is inextricably linked. I'm looking forward to the success our work will have and am truly excited to be part of the team!"



Please give Nate a warm WFNHP welcome when you see him! You can contact Nate at ngilliam@wfnhp.org or by calling our office 414-475-6065, Ext. 13.



Nomination & Election of Officers & Delegates

Nomination & Election Process

It's time to nominate and elect the officers who will lead our union for the next two years; and, the delegates who will represent our union at the 2018 American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Conventions; and, also the delegates who will represent our union at the monthly meetings of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council.

Nomination Procedure

If you have been a member in good standing of Local 5000 for at least three months, you can run for office yourself or nominate other members you believe will be the best team to lead our union for the next two years. To nominate individuals, you must first get their permission and then submit their name(s) on the official nomination form on page 3.

Nominations must be received by the union office no later than 5pm on October 17th.

(Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting on October 20th.)

Election Information

The **election will take place** at the Annual Membership Meeting on **Friday, October 20th from 5:30-6:30pm at Klemmer’s Banquet Center, 10401 W. Oklahoma Avenue in West Allis.** Only full dues paying members in good standing are eligible to vote. You must be present to vote—no absentee ballots. The Elections Committee will count the ballots and announce the results of the election at the end of the meeting. Those not in attendance will be notified by phone or email.

Officers to be Elected

The **President**, is the most important union role because it is the leader and official spokesperson of the organization. The President is focused on setting policy, and creating vision and direction for our union. The President also runs meetings and is in close consultation with the Executive Director, to make sure members’ needs are being met.

The **Executive Vice President’s** role is to assist the President.

The **Treasurer** is responsible for overseeing the finances.

The **Secretary** is responsible for handling minutes and correspondence.

Additionally, **three At-Large Vice Presidents** will be elected.

Delegates to be Elected

Our local is entitled to **twelve (12) delegates to the 2018 American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Convention.** The President is an automatic delegate, therefore, eleven (11) additional delegates are to be elected. The AFT Convention will be held on July 13-16, 2018 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Only three (3) delegates will have their expenses fully paid, but they will have to attend on their own time.

Nominations are also in order for **six (6) delegates to the 2018 Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Convention.** The President is an automatic delegate, therefore, five (5) additional delegates are to be elected. The Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Convention will be held September 24-26, 2018

at the Hyatt Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Six (6) delegates’ expenses will be fully paid, but they will have to attend on their own time.

Nominations are also in order for six (6) delegates to the Milwaukee Area Labor Council. The Labor Council meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm at 633 S. Hawley Road, Milwaukee.

Official Nomination Form

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

I nominate the following as Local 5000 officers:

President: _____

Exec. Vice President: _____

Treasurer: _____

Secretary: _____

At-Large Vice Presidents: _____

I nominate the following as Local 5000 delegates to the 2018 AFT Convention:

I nominate the following as Local 5000 delegates to the 2018 State AFL-CIO Convention:

I nominate the following as Local 5000 delegates to the Milwaukee Area Labor Council:

Signature _____ **Date** _____

(Only nominations on the official Nomination Form will be accepted. You may drop off, fax, or mail in your forms. Nominations by phone will not be accepted.)

Nominations are due by 5pm on Tuesday, October 17th, 2017.



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

A Union of Professionals

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Annual Meeting Notice

On Friday, October 20th, from 5-9pm we will be holding our Annual Membership/Dinner Meeting at Klemmer's Banquet Center.

For a \$5 registration fee, members will enjoy a delicious family style dinner including beef pot roast, baked chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, a garden salad, rolls, coffee, tea or milk, and ice cream for dessert. *(A cash bar will also be available.)* **Pre-registration is required by 5pm on Friday, October 13th.**

As has become our tradition, there will also be dozens and dozens of door prizes donated by our chapter leaders, which will be awarded at the end of the evening.

This year, in addition to the door prizes, there will be a **'Special Grand Prize Drawing'** for those who register early and pay their \$5 registration fee by 5pm on Friday, October 6th. All members who register early will be given one ticket for the Grand Prize Drawing, which includes:

- 1st Prize—An Apple i-Pad
- 2nd & 3rd Prize—A one-night stay at the Iron Horse Hotel in Milwaukee

*You must be present to win.
This event is for members only*



SAVE *the* DATE

WFNHP—LOCAL 5000
Fall Membership/Dinner Meeting

DATE: Friday, October 20th, 2017

TIME: 5:00—9:00 PM

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

R.S.V.P.: Call Amy at 414-475-6065

