

## WFNHP—Local 5000 Special Election Report October 16, 2019

In a few weeks our state-wide union, WFNHP-Local 5000, will be electing a new President. The decision regarding the President of our union is critical to the future of our union. It is the President that provides vision and guides our union, works with staff to carry out that vision, and is the public voice and image of our union. In many ways, it is the most important decision a member will make. Because the election of President is such an important decision, we decided to send out this special mailing so that each member will have information about the two candidates and the voting process.

### Competitive Election for President

Because there is competition for President we will be holding a secret ballot election only for the position of President.

### Absentee Voting

In our Fall 2019 *NETWORK* newsletter, members were told that the in-person voting for our Election of Officers would take place in Milwaukee on November 1, 2019 from 5:30-7:30pm. In the event a member knew they would not be able to vote in-person, they were urged to request an absentee ballot. The deadline for those requests was October 4<sup>th</sup>. It is now too late to get an absentee ballot. The absentee ballots have already been mailed to members that requested by the deadline. These ballots must be completed according to the instructions included with the ballot in order to make sure they are, in fact, a secret ballot. The absentee ballots will be counted on November 1<sup>st</sup> at the same time as all of the in-person ballots.

### In-Person Voting

If you did not request an absentee ballot, in order to vote you must come to Klemmer's Banquet Center, 10401 W. Oklahoma Ave. in West Allis, and cast an in-person ballot between the hours of 5:30pm to 7:30pm on Friday, November 1, 2019. No voting can take place before 5:30pm. Members in line at 7:30pm will be allowed to vote. We are also having our annual Fall Membership/Dinner Meeting that evening, and you are welcome to join us at this dinner for the cost of \$5; but, you must pre-register if you want to attend the dinner. **RSVP to Amy at**

### 414-475-6065 x10 by 5:00pm on October 25th.

You do not have to register or pay if you just plan on voting or if you just want to attend the meeting portion of the Fall Membership/Dinner Meeting. The business meeting will take place from 7:00-8:30pm. At the meeting we will be voting on amendments to our Bylaws, and each Chapter will give a brief report on the critical issues they faced in the last year.

### Why Only President on the Ballot?

In our Fall newsletter, each member was informed of the process for nominating candidates for the seven officer positions, plus delegates to various affiliate bodies. As explained in that mailing, candidates would be considered **“elected” if they had no opposition**. That is what happened in all but the position for President, which had two nominations—Tracey Schwerdtfeger and Jeff Weber. Information on both candidates is provided for you on pages 2-3, but is for informational purposes only and is not an endorsement of either candidate.

The following individuals have been elected as officers for a two-year term of office beginning January 1, 2020:

**Executive Vice President:** Connie Smith (St. Francis Tech Chapter)

**Treasurer:** John Epple (Non-bargaining unit member)

**Secretary:** Rachel Spatz (Aurora-Burlington Chapter)

### (3) Vice Presidents:

Mary Milton (St. Francis RN Chapter)

Luis Borda (Wisconsin Diagnostic Labs Chapter)

Shannon Saffert (Cumberland Care Chapter)

**2020 AFT Convention Delegates:** Mark Cuyler, Mary Milton, Nicole Muschinski, Tracey Schwerdtfeger and Connie Smith

**2020 WI State AFL-CIO Convention Delegates:** Mark Cuyler, Mary Milton, Nicole Muschinski, Tracey Schwerdtfeger and Connie Smith

**Milwaukee Area Labor Council Delegates:** Nicole Muschinski and Tracey Schwerdtfeger

*“Let’s build a stronger union together!”*

# Tracey Schwerdtfeger

*for Union President Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals, Local 5000, AFT, AFL-CIO*



My name is Tracey Schwerdtfeger, I work as a PCA/HUC in the Inpatient Psychiatric unit at St. Francis Hospital on Milwaukee’s south side. I am a Steward and Secretary of the Technical Chapter bargaining unit. I am the Executive Vice President of our Union and an Executive Board member of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council, that represents over 23,000 workers in the Milwaukee area. At my time at the Labor Council, I also helped found and co-chair the Young Workers Committee, a group of workers under 40 that has brought together and represents over 20 Unions.

I am dedicated to providing quality healthcare and fighting for workers rights. I believe in a better future by bringing back the fight into unions that has won us things like the elimination of child labor and a 40 hour work week/overtime benefits. It is with these experiences, vision, dedication and incredible amount of energy that I believe I will be the best next president of our union.

I see a bright future that is built on a stronger and more organized membership, better contracts that include better wages for everyone, better healthcare and increased workplace safety. I see our members having a stronger voice in our workplaces as well as within our union and believe we must increase communication and presence to all of our members.

*I am asking for your vote so I can bring this vision to life.*

Whoever is the next president will have big shoes to fill as Candice is retiring after 40 years in which she put her whole self to building what we know today as our union. I really admire all of the things she has been able to accomplish in our union as well as the broader Milwaukee community, especially being an RN and a single mom of three young ones when she started out.

I am so Proud to be a part of our union and be able to run for this position.

*- Solidarity!*

*Tracey*

 **VOTE**

**Jeff Weber, RN**

**for WFNHP President**



I am running for the office of President of WFNHP Local 5000, and I am asking for your support November 1<sup>st</sup>. I have spent decades fighting for safe staffing and against workplace violence. As an RN working in mental health, these issues are personal. I know firsthand why we need to make safe staffing and violence prevention a cornerstone of our union agenda. I also know the critical role contracts and union rights play in giving all workers the right to stand up and fight back against injustice. I strongly believe I have the experience, passion, and credentials that make me uniquely qualified to be your next President.

#### Decades of Advocacy and Experience

I became a registered nurse in Wisconsin in 1994, and worked for nearly 22 years at the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division. Currently, I work at Whole Health Clinical Group. In 2010, I became an active member of our union and served as Chapter Vice President for Milwaukee County. It was at this time that Scott Walker became the Governor of Wisconsin and passed ACT 10, which diminished the rights of unionized government employees. I traveled many times to the Capitol in Madison to march in protest against the new law with thousands of people from all over our state. I became President of the Milwaukee County Chapter a year later, serving until 2016. I also served as First Vice President for our State-Wide Union from 2011-2016. While President of the County Chapter, I worked with members to organize petitions delivered in a planned protest to the County Executive demanding he address the unsafe staffing issues at the Behavioral Health Division. This action resulted in an increase in staff positions in the next budget. While Chapter President, I assisted many members with their issues and held management accountable to upholding the language of our contract. While President of the County Chapter, I was also active, together with our members, in our highly successful yearly campaign to recertify our union with over 60% vote. I am proud to say the Milwaukee County Chapter has now been a certified union since 1965.

#### Our Strength is Our Members

As President of our Union, I will meet and work with Chapter leaders around the state on issues such as safe staffing to protect our patients, wages that provide dignity and respect, affordable quality health care for ourselves and our communities, and benefits that allow members to retire with dignity. I commit to working with all Chapters to develop plans for increasing membership to strengthen our collective voice in the workplace. The challenges are great, but I believe together we can continue to build a strong union for ourselves and our community. I hope I can count on your support on November 1<sup>st</sup>.



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

*A Union of Professionals*

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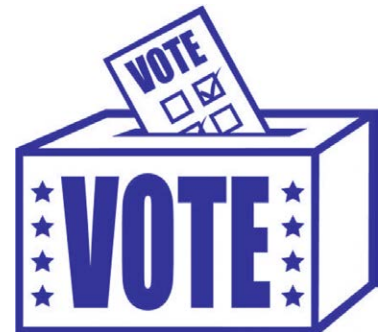
Return Service Requested

***Important Union Election  
Candidate Info Enclosed***

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# It's Your Union

Be sure to VOTE in the upcoming election to decide who will lead WFNHP for the next two years. Candidate information enclosed.



## **WFNHP-Local 5000 Election of Officers**

**Friday, November 1, 2019**

**5:30-7:30 PM**

**Klemmer's Banquet Center (Maryland Room)  
10401 W. Oklahoma Ave. in West Allis**

*You must be a full dues paying member to vote.*

*You can sign up to become a member and vote at the Election.*

*(Please Note: If your employer does not have payroll deduction of union dues you will have to pay two months back dues.)*