



The Power of MNA

Nurses are the cornerstone of the health care system, and nurses desire to provide compassionate and professional care to patients in safe and supportive work environments. To this end, MNA promotes the profession and practice of nursing based upon the following beliefs:

MNA BELIEVES that practice needs protection:

- Pushed for the introduction of Safe Patient Care legislation (Senate Bill 63 and House Bill 4339), which eliminates the use of mandatory overtime as a staffing solution and legislates minimum nurse-to-patient ratios for each area of care in a hospital.
- Negotiated what is believed to be the first hospital contracts in Michigan to incorporate a “no single lift policy” to protect employees from musculoskeletal injuries.
- Successfully campaigned for the Whistleblower Protection Act, which allows nurses to report unsafe working conditions without fear of losing their license.
- Supported a Michigan Board of Nursing resolution and Attorney General opinion that removes the threat of patient abandonment when nurses refuse to work mandatory overtime.
- Assisted in developing and introducing legislation at both the federal (HR 378) and state (SB 377) levels to protect nurses and patients from musculoskeletal injuries through the use of safe patient handling standards, lifting equipment and protection for health care providers who refuse unsafe assignments.
- Negotiated precedent-setting contracts for Hackley Hospital, University of Michigan, Sparrow Hospital, and Borgess Medical Center which combat the use of mandatory overtime by contractually guaranteeing the right to refuse to work extra shifts if the nurse cannot provide safe patient care.
- Negotiated the first contract in Michigan to incorporate mandatory nurse-to-patient staffing ratios.

MNA BELIEVES that nurses should speak for nursing:

- Appointed MNA members or staff to over 40 boards, committees, and task forces, representing nursing interests from public health concerns to disease management to health care administration.
- Became the premier source for reporters seeking information regarding safe patient care, workplace issues, and general nursing news.
- Provides nursing testimony to legislators regarding issues of safe patient care, workplace concerns, and scope of practice issues.
- Have a seat at every table where health care or nursing is the topic.
- Supported the creation of a Chief Nurse Executive position in state government. Governor Granholm appointed MNA member Jeanette Klemczak, MSN, RN, as Michigan’s first Chief Nurse Executive.



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- Uses TV commercials, billboards, guest editorials, articles, and press releases to put the nursing profession before the public.
 - Updates an award winning, informative website regularly at www.minurses.org.

MNA BELIEVES there is strength in numbers:

- Publishes *Michigan Nurse*, a bi-monthly nursing magazine and the only one solely devoted to Michigan's registered nurses. *Michigan Nurse* is distributed to every registered nurse in Michigan three times a year, and to members six times a year; and focuses on news and information that affects all nurses.
- Publishes *NurseLine*, MNA's weekly e-newsletter, which is used for ACTION ALERTS, allowing *NurseLine* subscribers to contact their legislators quickly and easily. To subscribe to *NurseLine*, contact carol.smith@minurses.org or *NurseLine* can also be read on the MNA website at www.minurses.org.
- Hosts the Michigan Nurses Caucus, held annually, as a time when all nurses can gather to discuss issues of the nursing profession and nursing practice.
- Provides staff support and resources to MNA-PAC, the registered nurses' political action committee, which in turn supports elected and appointed officials who support the legislative issues important to the nursing profession.

MNA BELIEVES that together, we can make a difference:

- MNA sponsors Michigan Nurses MARCH! which is nurses' legislative day in Lansing. The 2008 MARCH! included a rally on the Capitol steps for safe patient care. Hundreds of nurses and nursing students attended.
- Provides delegates to the United American Nurses National Labor Assembly to give Michigan nurses a voice in national nursing and labor policy.
- Established the Michigan Nurses Foundation (MNF), which offers educational scholarships and research grants to nurses and nursing students, in order to improve retention and increase recruitment. MNF also provides financial aid to recovering nurses. The MNF web site is www.michigannursesfoundation.org.
- Supports the work of the Michigan Nursing Students Association (MNSA) Board of Officers by providing MNA staff and resources to foster and support the next generation of nurses. More information on MNSA is available at www.minurses.org/mnsa.

Raise your voices with us in unison:

- If you are already part of MNA, Michigan's largest union for nurses, continue to stay involved and informed of MNA's plans, programs and events.
- Join MNA today! MNA offers an associate membership* for an annual fee of \$75. Associate members receive member-only issues of *Michigan Nurse*, discounted rates to MNA activities and continuing education programs and a wide range of member-only programs.

*Associate membership is available to all Michigan RNs not currently represented by MNA for collective bargaining.

The Michigan Nurses Association is the largest, most effective union for RNs in Michigan. As the voice of all registered nurses in Michigan, MNA advocates for nurses and their patients at the State Capitol, in the community and at the bargaining table. MNA is a constituent member of the United American Nurses and an affiliate of the AFL-CIO.