

UPDATE 47

AFT Nurses' and Healthcare Professionals, AFTCT AFL-CIO

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

Volume 17, Number 3

Protection for All

Healthcare in the U.S. is at the proverbial tipping point. The AHCA (The American Healthcare Act of 2017) has brought us to the brink, and **the pendulum will never shift back to the surplus side because the new climate is what we are against rather than what we what we are for.** And how does this affect us as healthcare workers? This is indeed what myself, Janice Stauffer, Roger Woods, and Stacey Kinsley learned on our trip to Washington, DC in May. It was a time of networking with fellow AFT members across the United States and a lot of education on healthcare reform and how it impacts us not only as union workers, but as healthcare partners. The first question asked in the opening remarks of the convention was "What is politics?". In a room comprised of 800 healthcare workers, there were multiple different answers. But the most poignant answer came from a nurse representing the Ohio Nurses Association: "Politics is comprised of the things that we value in society and how they get distributed." So, what do you value in society? Better yet, what are WE lacking in healthcare which is affecting our local communities?

The 2018 local elections will have a bigger impact on improving lives more so than the 2016 national election. It is a time to get back to our values: protection of healthcare workers, affordable high-quality care for everyone, economic opportunity for all (which is more than just creating jobs), creating affordable access to public higher education, defending democracy/pluralism/voting rights, and to continue work against discrimination so we can create a more fair and just society. So how do we achieve this? We STAND TOGETHER. Unions are the integral way to address social issues while protecting workers rights. As an AFT member, this is your call to talk about **local issues** rather than candidates. This is your call to join an action plan and demand nursing representation on the Danbury Hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment, a requirement for every nonprofit hospital across the United States. This is your opportunity to ensure that safe staffing is the expectation, not an afterthought. Get educated, get on board, and let's connect our needs to our values. Together, we are AFT Strong!

Megan O'Toole RN, ICU

LPAC: LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2017 regular legislative session adjourned at midnight on June 7th without adopting a state budget. What they did pass was a bill to allow phlebotomists to flush a peripheral IV line. HB 7174 was introduced to the Public Health Committee by a State Rep. of Griffin Hospital. Griffin Hospital trialed a new PIVO device to help with blood drawing. However, they could not use this on the floors because of the current State law. House Bill 7174 was needed to change the current law which states, only a licensed personnel could flush an IV line. Griffin Hospital could use this device in their ICU and ED because RNs drew the blood. Griffin Hospital got full backing from their State Representatives and Senators who used every I.O.U. from their colleagues to get this Bill passed. The Governor signed the Bill into law on July 11, 2017, it goes into effect October 1, 2017.

How did this happen? The unions and nursing groups who opposed this Bill, did not mount a strong enough grass root effort to kill the Bill. We did not send enough testimony to the Public Health Committee Hearing, not reach out to our representatives and our outreach to the Senators was too little too late. In the future, we cannot let bills like this be signed in to law. WE HAVE TO TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY WHEN ASKED. It does not take much, just one email by each member to their legislator.

What's next? We need to amend this law. We, each one of us, need to take action. When the call goes out, just make that call and send an email to your representative. The legislative process gives us the opportunity to be proactive. However, we need to take the action. To protect our license and nursing practice.

The ask: We need at least one member in each town to volunteer to be a legislative contact. All you will do is call, email or write to your Representative and Senator when we ask for this action.

Please say yes by sending an email to aft5047unit47@gmail.com. On the subject line put—legislative contact. In the body of the email write, “Yes, count on me”.

Thank you,
Mary Consoli,
Unit #47 Legislative Liaison

DAISY is Popping up in Danbury

The DAISY award is arriving here at Danbury Hospital, with rollout and education starting in September. The award recognizes extraordinary nurses and their teams. It was created in 1999 by the family of Patrick Barnes to honor his short 33 year old life, dying from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura. Patrick's family developed the foundation as a means to provide testament and recognition to compassionate care that is being delivered across the United States. To date, over 2,600 healthcare facilities in all 50 states and 15 countries have committed to honoring nurses with the DAISY award, and now Danbury Hospital has become part of this endeavor. What does that mean to us employees? Each month, patients and fellow staff members will have the ability to nominate nurses for the awards--signage will be posted around the hospital. We are looking for a narrative that speaks to that nurse's delivery of compassionate care. The DAISY committee will then review all nominations--the process is blind so none of the committee members that read the narratives will know the name of the employee. The committee then selects a recipient and the nurse is then surprised with a celebration on that unit. Their narrative gets posted to the national website. The award can be considered just as prestigious as a Nightingale Award, so tell us your stories! Look for an upcoming Healthstream on this topic and watch for the informational treat carts rolling through your units. We wish good luck to all as we begin this process to showcase the exceptional care that is delivered each day on this campus by each of you.

Megan O'Toole RN, ICU

Letter From the President

Dear Nurses,

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. This has been a very busy year and it is amazing what we have already accomplished. I have traveled to the nursing units and it seems that the biggest concern is inadequate staffing. Please use the staffing committee and the unit based councils to the maximum for our advantage. Senior hospital leadership has requested this and we want to cooperate with the structure the hospital is encouraging. Keep in mind, use occurrence reports for occurrences only and unsafe staffing sheets for all unsafe staffing concerns. Please plan to have solutions for these issues and hopefully that will cut down on the never ending red tape.

On August 15th, I had three separate meetings with the Unit 47 liaisons. We discussed many things and are striving for a safe, fun, and productive year. The new contracts, hopefully, will be ready for distribution by October. We are still working on a signing date with the hospital. Email the union office if you would like to have a "Picking Up Your Red Contract Books" party.

Save the Dates:

- September 9th/10th, 2017 --- Taste of Danbury --- Call the Union office to volunteer doing blood pressure screenings. This will count towards your clinical ladders.
- September 19, 2017 --- General Membership Meeting --- Come anytime for treats and conversation between 10am and 4pm. Liaison meetings at 8am and 6pm will still occur as well as the e-board meeting at 4pm.
- September 21, 2017 --- AFT General Delegate Meeting --- Come share experiences with AFT nurses across CT and learn what's happening from AFT. Taking place at Rocky Hill Office, 5pm.
- September 30th, 2017 --- Mandatory Competencies Due
- December 1st, 2017 --- Holiday Party at Amber Room --- Details to follow.

There are many obstacles we come across. My desire is for nurses to stay positive through these struggles and with integrity, provide exceptional care for our patients as well as ourselves.

Sincerely,
Janice Stauffer
President, Unit 47

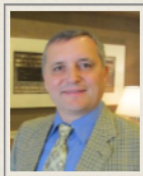
A Message of Condolence

It is with our deepest condolences we remark on the passing of George Najam, husband of Linda Najam, multi-specialist and active member of Unit 47. He passed Wednesday August 16, 2017 unexpectedly. We support Linda and her family during this time of mourning. A collection has been organized to help Linda with financial burden during this time. If you would like to donate please see Kim Schaniel (eves UC 10W), Jesus Parada (eves RN 8 Tower), Caitlin Liner (eves RN 11 East), or Brian Colan (eves RN UWW). Also, contributions in George's memory may be made to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), POB 310909, Newington, CT 06131 or to St. Anthony Maronite Church, 17 Granville Ave., Danbury, CT 06810.

Danielle Paravati BSN, RN
VP Communications & Technology
Unit 47

Instructors:

Roger Woods is a National Guild of Hypnotists Board Certified Consulting Hypnotist, NGH Certified Instructor of Hypnosis, NLP Practitioner, a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department of a Level II Trauma Center, a FEMA/Homeland Security Instructor and one of the founders of The Patient Whisperers in the Greater Danbury, CT area.



Marc Sacco is a National Guild of Hypnotists Board Certified Consulting Hypnotist, Certified Instructor, NLP Practitioner, a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department of a Level II Trauma Center, a Board Certified Emergency Nurse, a FEMA/Homeland Security Instructor, and is one of the founders of The Patient Whisperers in the Greater Danbury, CT area.



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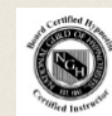
Lessons

1. What is hypnosis?
2. Suggestibility and your clients
3. Influences of hypnosis
4. Cautions of hypnosis
5. History of hypnosis
6. How to hypnotize
7. Trance depth
8. Suggestion management
9. The conscious/unconscious mind
10. Mechanical aids
11. Additional inductions
12. Deepening techniques
13. Miscellany
14. Anesthesia management
15. Smoking cessation
16. Weight management
17. Stress management
18. Ethics
19. Session structure
20. Behavioral assessment
21. Goal setting
22. Imagery psychology and hypnosis
23. Additional scripts and techniques
24. How to run a six hour self hypnosis course
25. Age regression (uncovering techniques)
26. Your hypnosis practice



The Patient Whisperers

was founded by a group of experienced Licensed Healthcare Providers who believe that Complementary Medicine should be an integral part of providing comprehensive care to all. We are dedicated to helping everyday ordinary people with everyday ordinary problems using hypnotic techniques. Our Mission is to enlighten both the medical world and their clients about the phenomenal advantages of integrating complementary medicine into the current practice of "modern" medicine.



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Working Together: A Nursing Commitment

As registered nurses at Danbury Hospital it is our commitment to deliver quality patient care to the community to which we serve. We are dedicated, compassionate professionals who are loyal to the organization. Many of us have been employed at Danbury Hospital for years. There have been many changes to the hospital as well as healthcare over the years- some coming at the expense of its valuable nurses.

The goal of our organization is to provide High Quality care in an efficient manner and to be acknowledged as a “good choice” for consumers. Managers place an emphasis on HCAP and Press Ganey scores while expecting the staff not to miss meals or accrue overtime. We are presented with Quality indicators at staff meetings and shown the dashboards for falls, hospital acquired pressure ulcers, restraint use. We are reminded that there is room for improvement. Yes- WE ALL want to deliver the best quality care that we can. However, there are constraints on our ability to deliver healthcare when we continue to have staffing issues and barriers placed by the organization.

Nurses must not tolerate or adapt to a system that puts the interests of the economic bottom line ahead of patient needs. We must resist hospital restructuring moves and schemes that put business decisions ahead of Caregiving ones. Corporate greed is squeezing Humanity out of the Health care system. We are doing more with less staff. How can we provide the very best safe care to challenging, complicated patients with less manpower available to deliver safe care? If the organization wants positive outcomes, safe quality care, then lets work together to eliminate the barriers that we now face. After all— It’s what the nurses at Danbury Hospital want to.

Jeannette Schreiber, RN
12 Tower

Upcoming Events

Taste of Danbury - September 9th and 10th
Labor Day Parade - Monday September 4th
Unit 47 Holiday Party - December 1st

A View of the ICU

So much is new in the ICU! 1,323 patients were cared for in the ICU during 2016 and we are projected to surpass this number in 2017 as our Cardiothoracic and Interventional Cardiology programs continue to grow here at Danbury Hospital. We now offer procedures such as TAVR, Transaortic Valve Replacement, wherein a patient can undergo a percutaneous aortic valve replacement and be home in as little as 2 days. Our robotic cardiac surgery program continues to grow too, allowing patients to have significant surgical cardiac procedures with limited invasive incisions. No wonder our team continues to be ranked in the top 5% nationally! As much as we continue to grow our Cardiothoracic program, we continue to grow as an ICU. This year, Critical Care has been clustered as PCU-SDU-ICU. We continue to have SDU nurses cross-train to the ICU which has allowed us flex our staffing as unit census and acuity skyrockets. No longer is a job in the ICU out of anyone’s reach. Want more information? Look for opportunities to join us under the lights by the cacophony of the beep, beep, beep!

Megan O’Toole RN, ICU

Danbury Nurses’ Union Unit #47

Update 47 is the official publication of Unit #47

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