

August 31, 2022

Dear NYSNA Convention Delegate,

Greetings from your NYSNA Board of Directors! We want to remind you that the 2022 Convention is being held on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at the Resorts World Catskills Casino in Monticello, NY. NYSNA has sent letters to all employers requesting your release to attend this conference. Unfortunately, we are faced with some of the same challenges as last year due to COVID-19, and you will receive health and safety guidance from our Meeting and Convention Planning Team soon.

The next step is to register for the Convention! You can use the registration form, or you can register here- <https://www.tfaforms.com/4997475> . You must complete either form and return it to be officially registered to attend the conference. The registration form also contains the general agenda for the Convention as well as hotel information. Learn more here: [www.nysna.org/Convention2022](http://www.nysna.org/Convention2022) .

The biggest agenda item will be voting on NYSNA's affiliation with National Nurses United (NNU). We believe that this affiliation will increase our power to advocate for our patients, make our union stronger, and help us organize thousands more NY RNs. *That is why we voted unanimously to endorse this affiliation.* While we think it is the right move for our Union, ultimately the decision on whether NYSNA affiliates with the NNU is not up to us. As a democratic, member driven union, this decision can only be made by you, the Convention Delegates.

Affiliation isn't a decision that we take lightly. NYSNA is the preeminent union of registered nurses and healthcare professionals in New York State. We have an outstanding reputation in our tireless fight for patient-centered care and making nurses' voices heard and respected. *Our top priorities in this affiliation are safeguarding that heritage and furthering that mission by increasing our power.*

In NNU we've found a partner that respects our autonomy, shares our goals, and appreciates the achievements, diversity, and energy of our NYSNA members. With more than 175,000 members nationwide, NNU is the largest union of registered nurses in U.S. history. NNU Affiliates collectively represent Registered Nurses in 22 states and the District of Columbia.

As a union of nurses, NNU shares the high professional standards that we hold ourselves to. NNU has a strong history of organizing RNs, championing strong contracts, fighting for safe staffing and quality health care - just like us. With this partnership, we will enhance our organizing, bargaining, and patient advocacy.

Under the affiliation agreement, the NNU will add ongoing resources in vital areas including, but not limited to: collective bargaining, organizing, policy and professional issues, research, communications, occupational safety and health, professional development, and political and legislative mobilization. Through partnering with NNU, we offer much and we gain much: resources, respect, autonomy, and a strong voice in the national arena.

You may be asking: What will change for us with this affiliation? The only changes we foresee will be for the better. We'll have *more* resources, *more* reach, and *more* opportunity to build the national movement of RNs we envision. *But we will stay who we are, free to make our own decisions and operate as we wish.* What's more, if we are ever dissatisfied with the affiliation, we can end it without any further obligation.

We know there are questions about dues that we want to address. For starters, NYSNA pays NNU dues not the members individually and NNU will pay dues to the national AFL-CIO on our behalf. Secondly, there *will be no increase in NYSNA membership dues or reduction in services or staff if we affiliate.* Any changes to our dues structure must be presented to and approved by our convention delegates and then voted on by the entire membership. There are no plans to do that.

The health care landscape in our country is changing rapidly. Our union could keep on "going it alone" and achieving great things. But we—and our patients—have so much to gain from joining forces with the NNU. Together, we can advocate even more powerfully for high professional and contractual standards, quality patient care, and safe working conditions. Together, we can bring so many more nurses into our movement and strengthen our voice at every level, from the bedside to the halls of Congress.

**Affiliation comes down to one simple belief: Both unions will be stronger together, and our profession and the communities we serve will be better for it.**

We are launching educational meetings and town halls across the state to educate every convention delegate and member on this vote. Please join us at our next meeting! Here is a landing page with all dates, times, and locations: <https://bit.ly/one-united-union> .

Thank you for all you do to make NYSNA the strong union it is, and for the endless dedication you bring to our profession. We believe that this affiliation will be a wonderful partnership. We can stand shoulder to shoulder with our fellow RNs and healthcare professionals in the NNU, ready for the challenges and opportunities the coming years will bring. Our unity is our strength.

Join us at the Convention as we vote on our future together!

In Solidarity,  
President Nancy Hagans and the NYSNA Board of Directors