



October 15, 2007

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Program Director
West Virginia Nurses Association
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Dear Dewey and Dale:

On behalf of the collective bargaining members of the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), we extend our hand to offer our support and assistance to the 800 nurses of **Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH)**, who have shown great courage and determination by striking for better staffing and working conditions.

To be willing to do whatever it takes for as long as it takes is a sacrifice that you make for your patients, and there is no better measure of true union leadership than to put oneself on the line, quite literally for the benefit of all nurses and the patients in their care.

We are here to encourage you that your fight is principled and winnable. Our Delegate Assembly President, Barbara Crane joins me in saluting your struggle on behalf of working staff nurses everywhere. As the dynamic leader who led our successful 4 month strike in 2002 to end mandatory overtime and establish safe staffing guidelines, Barbara, and her 475 member bargaining unit at St. Catherine's are living testimony that nurses willing to stand strong against all odds are nurses who WILL win!

You are confronting an employer who has betrayed its own nurses; an employer whose agenda has been to fight the union at any cost, even if it means denying safe and quality patient care to those who rely on their facility; and even if it means committing the unforgivable by hiring Brent Yessin, a union buster who will stop at nothing to attempt to break your spirit and your line. NYSNA knows the tactics of Yessin, all too well. We are prepared to share with you in-depth information about this union buster.

Yessin and his misdirected, unprincipled team of shameless scoundrels are beyond redemption. Yessin's "partner", Sue Rosen, a Registered Nurse and once a union supporter, has sold out her integrity to Yessin,

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earning her 30 pieces of silver by betraying fellow nurses in their fight for better patient care. With your employer's full permission, these immoral thugs exploit the community you serve by stealing your rights, ignoring your values and prolonging your strike.

Just as disturbing as ARH's willingness to disregard its moral and ethical commitment to the community is that your professional concerns have not been taken seriously by management. In an already stressful work environment, the added burdens of mandatory overtime and compromised staffing make nurses' responsibilities beyond intolerable.

NYSNA representing more than 34,000 registered nurses throughout New York and New Jersey supports your fight and we offer our assistance. Please let us know what you need. We are prepared to offer staff assistance and financial support however we are able.

We encourage you to continue the fight, and we join you in urging ARH to return to the mission of providing compassionate, quality care to patients with respect for human dignity: that of their patients as well as their nurses.

In solidarity,



Lorraine Seidel, MA, RN
Program Director
Economic & General Welfare Program



Barbara Crane, RN, ANCC, CCRN
President
Delegate Assembly

cc: Tina Gerardi, MS, RN, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, NYSNA
Nancy Kaleda, Senior Associate Director, NYSNA
Barbara Conklin, MA, RN, Senior Associate Director, NYSNA
Delegate Assembly Members, NYSNA
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Steve McElroy, Executive Director, West Virginia Nurses Association

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