This year Region One members worked hard, played hard and stood up for our patients, our profession and each other. If you’re feeling a bit frazzled there's a good reason—it’s been a year of contentious political elections, damaging storms and horrifying tragedy. We saw some awesome victories and some tough fights and we now look forward to a happy and healthy new year.

During 2012, Region One hosted the MNA Convention, walked the picket line in support of the Baystate nurses in Springfield and Greenfield, and honed our nursing skills at excellent MNA nursing education programs. We hosted a successful retreat for our bargaining unit leaders and strategized ways to work better together. Next year is shaping up to be just as dynamic!

We have a new series of Labor School Tracks beginning at the end of January and three continuing education programs scheduled for the spring. Please be on the look out for information on how to sign up for both. Our MNA programming is one of the great benefits of being a member of the union and if you haven’t been involved in labor school or taken a CEU program, I highly recommend it. For more information visit our website or call the Region One office at 413.584.4607

I hope you had a great holiday and a chance to relax and catch your breath. As nurses our first concern is always our patients, but let’s also take time this season for ourselves, to celebrate our victories and re-charge our batteries for the year ahead. I look forward to seeing you on the line, in a program, or at a Region One event.

Happy New Year!
Chris Folsom, Unit 7
2012 CONVENTION

In October, Region 1 hosted a very successful state wide MNA 2012 Convention. Convention began with a labor program on Wednesday which featured fair pay activist Lilly Ledbetter, pictured below with Region 1 Chair, Chris Folsom, as well as an action at Baystate Hospital in Springfield with hundreds of nurses and community allies picketing in support of Baystate VNA and Hospice and BFMC nurses. Thursday featured CEU programs, vendor displays, the Unit 7 Annual Meeting, and the Business Meeting. The day closed with a Nurses Night Out event with karaoke, a craft fair, and fun activities. Convention closed on Friday with an Irish Luncheon hosted by Region 1. We hope to see you next year in Region 3!

Photo top: Nurses picketing in front of Baystate hospital. Photo above: Activist Lilly Ledbetter with Region 1 Chair Chris Folsom. Photo below: “Nurses Night Out” craft fair.

Photo above: Baystate VNA and Hospice chair Chris Clark picketing on Wednesday. Photo below: MNA members voting at the Business Meeting on Thursday.
Baystate Franklin Medical Center
October 5, 2012
24-Hour Strike

Dozens of nurses and community members greeted the Baystate Franklin night nurses as their shift ended and they joined the picket line.

Congressman John Olver on the strike line with Baystate Franklin nurses.

Region One Council members Patty Healy, Sandra Hottin, and Chris Folsom on the picket line.

Hundreds of people joined the strike line during the day and through the night.

In the early hours of Friday October 5, 2012 the nurses of Baystate Franklin Medical Center kicked off a 24-hour strike. They were greeted by members of their bargaining unit, community members, and MNA members from across the region and the state. It was the first strike in BFMC history.

Over 500 people walked the line. Local elected officials, state legislators, and a sitting US Congressman showed up to support the 209 BFMC RNs. Local residents and others spontaneously joined the picket line and drivers honked their horns in support of the nurses. The MNA mobile unit was set up all day next to a strike tent which had snacks and supplies.

The BFMC nurses are still fighting for their contract and standing up for patients. They are taking their concerns to the community at a forum scheduled for March 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Greenfield High School and all community members and Region One nurses are invited to participate. The Greenfield community continues to show solidarity and support for the BFMC nurses, an encouraging sign for a unit which has been in negotiations now for over a year. For more information on the forum and ongoing community meetings contact Diane Scherrer at 781.363.3817 or email her at dscherrer@mnarn.org.
**Legislative Division Update**

**Electoral Victories Across Region One**

Thanks to the hard work of members across the region and the state, the MNA/NNU had many electoral victories on Tuesday, November 6, including the re-election of President Barack Obama and the election of Elizabeth Warren. The MNA/NNU was the first union to endorse Elizabeth Warren and played a pivotal role in her campaign for United States Senate. Below, find the winning MNA/NNU endorsed candidates from Region 1. For a complete listing of endorsed candidates statewide see the September/October 2012 edition of the Mass Nurse.

**Candidates seeking re-election:**
- President Barack Obama
- Congressman Jim McGovern, 2nd Congressional District
- State Sen. Jim Welch, Hampden
- State Rep. Denise Andrews, 2nd Franklin

**Candidates seeking open seats:**
- State Rep. Brian Ashe, 2nd Hampden
- State Rep. Sean Curran, 9th Hampden
- State Rep. Mike Finn, 6th Hampden
- State Rep. Paul Mark, 2nd Berkshire
- State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr, 12th Hampden
- Elizabeth Warren, US Senate
- Aaron Vega, 5th Hampden

**Mandatory Overtime for Nurses Now Illegal**

On August 6, 2012 Governor Deval Patrick signed into law a health care payment reform bill that includes a ban on mandatory overtime proposed by the MNA/NNU. The law went into effect on Monday, Nov. 5 and now all hospitals are required to comply with the measure. To assist nurses in understanding this new law and its implications, the MNA has created a web page to provide background on the issue, as well as a mechanism for nurses to report violations of the law. Log on to www.massnurses.org to view the exact language of the bill and learn how to respond if a manager mandates you to stay beyond your scheduled shift.

This is a major legislative victory for the MNA/NNU and our patients! Thank you to the members who made this victory possible by visits to the State House and meetings and calls to members of the legislature in support of the ban.

**MNA/NNU endorsed candidate US Representative Jim McGovern pictured in Greenfield on Primary Day with MNA Labor AD Willi Ryan and Baystate Franklin nurses Charlotte Gordon and Mary Blazejewski.**

**Nurses Needed!**

Are you interested in helping to pass MNA/NNU legislation concerning safe staffing, workplace violence prevention, and other MNA/NNU bills? Contact our Region One Community Organizer Leo Maley at 781.520.1483 or email him at lmaley@mnarn.org.
**Regional Council One**

**Officers**
- Chair, Christine Folsom, UNIT 7-DMR Community Services West
- Vice Chair, Gail Bean, West. Mass. Hospital
- Secretary, Irene Patch, Holyoke Soldier’s Home
- Treasurer, Diane Michael, Providence Hospital

**Directors at Large**
- Gail Bean, Western Mass Hospital
- Irene Patch, Unit 7: Holyoke Soldier’s Home
- Patty Healy, Brigham and Women’s

**Bargaining Unit Seats**
- Christine Clark, Baystate VNA
- Alexander Neary, Berkshire Medical Center
- Sally Surgen, Cooley Dickinson Hospital
- Linda Judd, Baystate Franklin Medical Center
- Avon Maxwell, Kindred Parkview Springfield
- Stephen Mikelis, Mercy Hospital
- Paul Dubin, Noble Hospital
- Sharon Cygan, Noble Hospital
- Ruth O’Hearn, North Adams Regional Hospital
- Leslie Campbell, VNA & Hospice at Cooley Dickinson Hospital
- Sheryl Moriarty, VNA & Hospice at Cooley Dickinson Hospital
- Diane Michael, Providence Hospital
- Laurie Scripter, West Springfield School Nurses

**Unit 7**
- Chris Folsom, UNIT 7-DMR Com. Services West
- Carol Konrad, UNIT 7-Holyoke Soldiers Home
- Nancy Haberstroh-Knaus, UNIT 7-Monson Developmental Center
- Mary Turner, UNIT 7-Pittsfield Public Health
- Sherry Ferrier, UNIT 7-Western Mass. Hospital DPH

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**Welcome**

The Region 1 office is now home to a new MNA staff person. Nykole Roche is a Strategic Researcher in the Labor Division and started in October. Welcome to the MNA, Nykole!

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**Thank you**

Thanks to Joe Oliverio for the Baystate picket photos which appear on pages 2 and 7. Joe is a Springfield resident and is active in labor and social justice movements in the area. He is often there with his camera and we appreciate his support and talent.

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**Reduced Dues Application Now Available**

Applications for reduced dues are now available on the MNA website at www.massnurses.org. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2013.

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**The MNA is Going Green!**

In an effort to reduce our foot print and control costs, the MNA will be going green! Starting in the spring of 2013 you will see a reduction in the number of paper mailings you receive.

One of the biggest changes is that you will not receive separate mailings of the Mass Nurse and the CEU brochure. Those two publications have been combined, so look out for the next issue of the Mass Nurse to find the enrollment form for Region 1 programs. Enrollment forms will also be available at the Region 1 office.

We will also soon be launching e-publications of the Mass Nurse which will be sent to your MNA email account. Make sure to activate your account to receive all the latest MNA updates and news! See the box to the left for information on your MNA email account.

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**Activate your MNA email account today!**

The MNA has invested in a member email system which provides free email services to every member. These email accounts are an important way for your bargaining unit committee, MNA staff, and board to communicate actions, information, and meetings. They are for and by the MNA only and if your account is not activated, you will not receive updates.

Please email techsupport@massnurses.org today to get set up. You can activate you account and set-up automatic forwarding to your current home email system (Yahoo, Comcast, Verizon, Hotmail, etc) today.

This is a benefit for you and we will assist however we can to get you set up!
BARGAINING UNIT UPDATES

Mercy Medical Center: After discussions, the hospital has rescinded the RIF temporarily, but has stated it intends to proceed again in the spring. The grievance process is still ongoing. The new MNA contracts are being distributed.

Kindred Parkview: We had a lively open member meeting where pizza and snacks were served. All in attendance were given an MNA Region 1 water bottle, pens etc. The new contracts were also ready and are being distributed.

Providence Hospital: We have had in depth discussions with management regarding inconsistent ways they have handled investigations, opting to utilize administrative leave (for an unknown amount of time) rather than reassigning RNs to other areas as the investigation proceeds. MNA has emphasized the importance of consistency and properly trained staff who perform investigations in a professional manner. The new MNA contract is available and are being distributed.

Noble Hospital: A recent grievance involving a member that had been terminated has been settled to the satisfaction of the parties. A number of years ago decreasing volume in the OR resulted in the OR being open four- rather than five-days a week. Recently, the volume in the OR has picked up to the point where the hospital has decided, as of the New Year, to reopen the OR on a five-day-a-week schedule. The MNA met with management and the hospital posted new hours. Several of the surgical staff have increased their hours as a result.

Cooley-Dickinson Hospital: The nurses of CDH had two big wins this past fall. The first was a change in the attendance policy. After changes forced nurses to work sick or risk being disciplined, nurses banded together and shared their stories of working sick and having to leave sick children or family members. Management reconsidered their policy when it became clear that nurses were working sick. The second win came after a RIF in the Childbirth Center when the hospital decided to change all 8-hour shifts to 12-hour shifts. Nurses again spoke up and shared their stories and the hospital reconsidered. All of the 8-hour shifts were preserved—a big win for CDH RNs.

LABOR SCHOOL

Register Now for Track 1!

Week One: Wednesday, January 20, 2013
Overview of the MNA and the NNU, by laws, board of directors and committees, divisions and associate directors, central labor councils and the sate AFL-CIO.

Week Two: Wednesday, February 13, 2013
Labor history and the core values of the union, labor and community coalitions.

Week Three: Wednesday February 27, 2013
Member participation and internal organizing/mapping the workplace, union building tools-internal communications, contract language, unit newsletters and bulletin boards.

Week Four: Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Running union membership meetings, leadership development and office elections, dealing with apathy, organizing around grievances.

Classes will be offered twice each day: 10:00 a.m.—12 noon and 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
A light meal will be served at 5:00 p.m. prior to the evening class.

To register please call the Region 1 Office Manager at 413.584.4607 or email Region1@mnarn.org
NURSES IN ACTION

Unit 7 nurses Diane Pollier and Doug Koziol picketing at Baystate Hospital in Springfield.

Cady Spencer, an RN at Providence Hospital, and Judy Sroka, an RN at Western Mass Hospital, showing their support for the MNA’s two Baystate bargaining units.

Sherri Ferrier one the line in Springfield.

Nurses tearin’ it up on the dance floor at “Nurses Night Out” during convention!

MNA endorsed candidate Aaron Vega supporting nurses in Springfield.

BFMC Co-Chairs Donna Stern and Linda Judd with Congressman John Olver.
Regional Council One is a unit of the MNA/NNU. The Regional Council supports the MNA bargaining units, the Massachusetts Nurses Foundation and the MNA PAC in promoting the primary functions of education, political organizing, democratic member involvement and support for collective bargaining. The Regional Council also promotes education for professional activities, regional coalitions of MNA bargaining units and general members interested in advocacy. The Regional Council is accountable to the regional membership and the MNA Board of Directors and acts in accordance with general MNA policies and bylaws.

The Regional Council meets every fourth Monday of the month in the Region One office. Region One has several committees that we invite members to join: Education, Finance, Health and Safety, History, Legislative, Newsletter, and Scholarship Committees. Let your voice be heard, join us!

Call the Region One office for more information: 413-584-4607.