‘Fat Cat CEO’ Mascot a Success!
MNA charges ahead with May 21 Rally as Second Round of Signature Gathering Gets Underway
Welcome to your inaugural, sample edition of the MassNurse e-pub!

This issue, which is presented in a very abbreviated form in order to get you important details on the MNA’s most time sensitive events, offers a sneak-peak into what our forthcoming e-pub editions will have to offer. It’s our hope that you will find it user friendly and informative, and that you will be inspired to take part in the important events outlined within as a result.

Enjoy!
MNA/NNU Launches Final Signature Drive for Safe Patient Limits and Hospital Transparency

We need your help gathering signatures, rallying at the Statehouse

Six months down, six more to go until the November elections … and what a ride it has been so far!

To date, our efforts to improve the commonwealth’s health care landscape by passing our two breakthrough ballot initiatives — the Patient Safety Act (PSA) and the Hospital Profit Transparency and Fairness Act (HPTFA) — have made headlines around the globe, brought nurses together en masse, and cultivated a widespread community of activists that is now a force to be reckoned with.

But there is still much work to be done if we are to win in November.

What follows is an overview of where the MNA most needs support in our fight to improve patient safety in Massachusetts hospitals (via the PSA) and to ensure that taxpayer health care dollars are dedicated exclusively for patient care and needed services for all communities (via the HPTFA).

Needed: 20,000 More Signatures for Each Question

In a matter of a few short weeks last fall, the MNA collected and had certified by the secretary of state more than 200,000 signatures of Massachusetts registered voters who support our ballot questions. Those efforts represented the bulk of the work required to get the questions on the ballot in November, but “round two” of that process is now underway.

Specifically, between now and early June we need to gather an additional 20,000 different signatures for each question.

Petitions are available at MNA headquarters in Canton, at all Regional offices, and through your bargaining unit’s elected leadership. Petitions for both ballot questions, as well as all related supporting materials (backgrounders, instructions, etc.) are also available online:

- To download and copy your own Patient Safety Act Petition click here.
- To download and copy your own Hospital Profit Transparency & Fairness Act Petition click here.
- To download a helpful instruction booklet on how to gather signatures click here.
- To obtain petitions in paper form, call the MNA at 781-821-4625 and ask to speak with the membership department. Petitions must be returned to the MNA by June 6.

Please note: Petitions that are downloaded and/or copied MUST be printed on 8 ½ x 11 paper, and both sides of the petitions must be copied back-to-back (i.e., one sheet of paper, both sides). You cannot print out the two sides and then staple them together. No color paper or perforated paper with notebook holes will be accepted.

The MNA has also created a list of locations/events that allow for easy and successful signature gathering. Click here to find locations/events in your area.
On May 21, hundreds of MNA members and activists will flood the Statehouse to rally and lobby for the Patient Safety Act and the Hospital Profit Transparency & Fairness Act. And there is no question: We need YOU to be part of the crowd that day.

But why a rally and lobby day if we are headed directly to the voters with these questions at the November elections? The answer is simple: As part of the official process of getting these questions on the November ballot, the Legislature must consider them as bills as well. That process is happening RIGHT NOW, and we have to show our legislators — 33 percent of whom are newly elected and have zero history with the MNA — that, no matter what the vehicle, we are unequivocally dedicated to seeing these initiatives become law.

We are aiming to bring 1,000 MNA members to the Statehouse on May 21. Buses to Boston will be leaving that day from multiple locations across Massachusetts, so getting to and from this event will be easy. Simply contact Eileen Norton at 781-830-5777 or at enorton@mnarn.org; explain that you are RSVPing for bus transportation and be sure to clearly state where you live so that the appropriate bus service information can be provided.
**MNA Nurses, Supporters Shine at Statehouse Hearing on Ballot Questions**

It was standing room only on March 24 at a Statehouse hearing where RNs, health care advocates, former patients and academic researchers came to testify on two critically important issues affecting the health care of all Massachusetts residents: patient safety, and hospital profit transparency and fairness. The Committee on Health Care Financing held the hearing on the MNA’s two related ballot initiatives as part of the official legislative process that all potential ballot questions are subject to. Testimony highlights included:

“My recent longitudinal analysis of registered nurse staffing in Massachusetts hospitals has reinforced my strong and unequivocal support of the Patient Safety Act.”

“When I looked down, my arm was swollen, red, and itchy, and I was in the most excruciating pain I had ever felt …”

“According to Medicare cost reports, there is no evidence that hospital profitability suffers as a result of RN/patient load limits.”

**What Would Make RNs Really “Happy?”**

Registered nurses in Massachusetts hospitals have been struggling to provide safe patient care in the face of:

- Unsafe patient assignments
- A lack of basic supplies such as food, blankets and johnnies for patients
- A hoard of high-priced consultants hired to implement manufacturing strategies to boost hospital profits

And then came an innovative proposal from management at one hospital: Improving patient satisfaction scores by offering a pizza party to the nursing unit that creates the best video to the tune of Pharrell Williams’ song “Happy!”

The nurses responded with a great video that ties management’s request to what would really make nurses happy.

**Ballot Question Specifics: The Actual Language**

**The Patient Safety Act (House Bill 3843)** will set a safe maximum limit on the number of patients assigned to a nurse at one time, while also providing maximum flexibility to hospitals to adjust nurses’ patient assignments based on the specific needs of the patients.

**The Hospital Profit Transparency and Fairness Act (House Bill 3844)** will require hospitals to be transparent about their financial holdings and will limit and claw back excessive profits and exorbitant CEO compensation to ensure taxpayer dollars are dedicated exclusively to safe patient care and necessary services for all communities in the commonwealth. The rally is a crucial step in the progress toward ensuring the ultimate success of these initiatives and to protecting patients and providing access to health services.
At a State House press conference on April 29, advocates presented lists of over 40 Massachusetts hospitals with money stored in offshore accounts and urged legislators to demand greater transparency in hospital finances by passing The Hospital Profit Transparency & Fairness Act (H3844). The initiative will require hospitals to report all investments, including the unreported millions stashed in the Cayman Islands.

Following the press conference, a Hospital CEO mascot dressed in a ‘Fat Cat’ costume delivered Cayman Island beach towels to legislators to highlight the millions hospitals are hiding in the Cayman Islands.

“Hospitals in Massachusetts receive half their revenues from tax dollars including Medicare, Medicaid, public employee and retiree health insurance, taxpayer funded grants, loans, subsidies and waivers on local, state and federal taxes,” said Karen Higgins, RN, past MNA president, and NNU co-president. “This week legislators debate the state budget and decide how much of our tax dollars they will provide to hospital administrators. Yet legislators have NO idea how much money hospitals store in offshore accounts or why hospitals don’t keep their excess reserves in Massachusetts’ banks.”

“The data we’re hearing today is new and also disturbing,” said Rep. Jay Kaufman (D-Lexington) Chair of the Committee on Revenue. “We’ve been struggling mightily — and investing millions of taxpayer dollars — to keep health care costs in check. Why are our hospitals keeping accounts in the Caymans where they’re hidden from our oversight? Why are these funds not in Massachusetts banks? How much is there? We — taxpayers and legislators — have a right to know about what our hospitals are doing with our tax dollars. More than that, we have a responsibility to know, and the hospitals have a responsibility to tell.”

For the complete story, including a list of hospitals with offshore accounts, visit http://www.massnurses.org/files/file/News/2014/mna-press-release-4-29-2014.pdf
Early Summer Continuing Education Programs

Anticoagulation: A Nursing Perspective
Description: This session will enable the nurse to enhance clinical practice through updated knowledge of anticoagulation therapy, treatment decisions and nursing strategies for assessment and patient education.
Presenter: Barbara G. Rosato, RN/NP, ANP, CDE
Date: May 29, 2014
Time: 5 – 6 p.m., Registration/Dinner
6 – 8:15 p.m., Program
Location: Danversport Yacht Club, 161 Elliot St., Danvers; 978-774-8620, www.danversport.com
Fee (by check only): Member/Associate Member,*free; Non-members, $95. *Requires $25 placeholder fee which will be returned upon attendance.
Contact hours: Will be provided.

Addictions: Comprehensive Approach for Nurses
Description: This program will provide nurses with a comprehensive overview of Addictive Disorders. Presentations encompass current research on the etiology, pharmacological treatments and lifestyle changes required to affect recovery. Evidence-based interventions will be described.
Presenters: Donna White, PhD, RN, CS, CADAC; Deidre Houtmeyers, RN, MS, CAS, LADC-1; Hilary Jacobs, LICSW, LADC-1; Jake Nichols, PharmD, MBA, BCPS
Date: May 28, 2014
Time: 8 – 8:30 a.m., Registration (light lunch provided)
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Program
Location: MNA Headquarters
Fee (by check only): Member/Associate Member,*free; Non-members, $195. *Requires $50 placeholder fee which will be returned upon attendance.
Contact hours: Will be provided.
MNA Contact: Phyllis Kleingardner, 781-830-5794

Forensics in Daily Practice
Description: This purpose of this seminar is to provide concepts of forensic assessment in everyday practice. It will cover a wide range of forensic content to include human trafficking, 51A reporting, mechanism of injury, court testimony and fetal abduction.
Presenters: Multiple presenters (TBA)
Date: June 12, 2014
Time: 8:30 – 9 a.m., Registration (light lunch provided)
9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Program
Location: MNA Headquarters
Fee (by check only): Member/Associate Member,*free; Non-members, $195. *Requires $50 placeholder fee which will be returned upon attendance.
Contact hours: Will be provided.
MNA Contact: Liz Chmielinski, 781-830-5719

www.massnurses.org/nursing-resources/continuing-education

Regional Council 5

Everyone loves a parade...

Join us Dorchester Day Parade
Sunday, June 1, 2014 @ 1 PM
Route: Dorchester Ave. @ Lower Mills
to Dorchester Ave. @ Columbia Rd.

Contact MNA Region 5 by May 20 if you would like to march with us.
region5@mnarn.org
781-821-8255

Final details (meeting place, etc.) will be shared with participants.

Helicopter Balldr p fundraiser

An exciting new fundraising event to benefit Massachusetts Nurses Foundation’s scholarship & research programs for nursing & healthcare professionals

Closest to the Pin wins a potential $5,000

Monday, July 7, 2014

Join the Fun and help MNF! $25 Donation per Ball

Prize award based on a maximum 1,000 balls purchased and $25,000 funds raised (award actual 20% of balls purchased). Proceeds benefit the MNF Scholarship Program.

www.massnurses.org/nursing-resources/continuing-education

MNF Rosemary Smith RN Memorial Golf Tournament

New Location: Indian Pond Country Club
Kingston, MA

2014

www.massnurses.org/nursing-resources/continuing-education
IT'S TIME
TO STAND WITH PATIENTS

Massachusetts Nurses Association MNA
National Nurses United

STATE HOUSE RALLY & LOBBY DAY ON
MAY 21
FOR THE PATIENT SAFETY ACT & THE HOSPITAL PROFIT TRANSPARENCY & FAIRNESS ACT