Correspondence in Question; Series I; File 44

Juanita Hunter
Dear Ms. James:

July 7, 1988

I just wanted to let you know that I got your message and am delighted that the resolution on homelessness was passed on to the Clinical Practice and Functional Units for consideration for adoption at next year's conference. Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Peggy Buffart

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August 17, 1988

Ginerva James, RN, BS
Evening Administrator
Erie County Medical Center
c/o Nursing Office
462 Gruder Street
Buffalo, NY 14215

Dear Ms. James:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as nursing administrator at the Erie County Medical Center. Your achievements which were detailed in the Buffalo News certainly indicate that you are well qualified for your new position.

Although I do not personally know you, I do feel a kinship toward you, as I too graduated from the Edward J. Meyer Memorial Hospital, although some years before you did. Given my personal history and experiences with the political environment within health care institutions, I know that upward mobility for minority nurses to administrative and other positions has continued to require unusual individual ability, talent and lots of hard work.

As you develop in your new role, I invite you to become active in the New York State Nurses Association. We are currently very involved in activities related to the nursing shortage and the Registered Care Technologist, a new health care provider proposed by the American Medical Association to address the nursing shortage.

Again, congratulations and please call me if I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

Juanita K. Hunter, EdD, RN
President

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NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, N.Y. 12084, (518) 455-5371
Assemblyman Arthur O. Eve
Deputy Speaker
The State Assembly
State of New York
Room 736, Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Art:

Thank you for your letter of July 2 in which you state that the action taken by the Senate, Assembly and Governor in relation to A.11447 represented your collective need to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all citizens of New York State.

It is most amazing that in 1988 within a climate of a nursing shortage of epidemic proportions, when almost everyone has accepted the fact that nursing care is the essential component of hospital care, nurses in New York State are not yet recognized as independent, responsible professional by legislators. That in part was the message given to us by the passage of this misguided legislation. And we do indeed believe that the expertise, knowledge and opinion of 30,000 registered nurses within New York State represented by the New York State Nurses Association were ignored.

NYSNA is firm in its belief that Chapter 257 is overly restrictive and will have little impact on the health care of rural residents and the urban poor. We are aware that this is contradictory to the statements you made on the Assembly floor when the bill was debated. This belief of NYSNA will be particularly evident if it is determined that Article 28 facilities are not included under the law.

I realize that the politics of legislation often denies reality and the merits of a particular bill. Unfortunately in this instance, our energies which could be better utilized in addressing the more critical health issues will now be dispersed to monitor the development of the regulations which will implement this law.
We must: (1) evaluate the effect of this law on the practice of nurse practitioners as well as the practice of all other nurses in New York State, (2) assess any increase in the cost of health care provided by nurse practitioners, (3) assess the effect of this law on client access to nurse practitioner services and (4) work with insurance carriers and monitor changes in liability insurance for nurse practitioners. In addition, our staff must respond to numerous inquiries from our members who question in disbelief why this bill was passed and to members' inquiries about their own practice under the new law.

While you can move forward to addressing other issues, our responsibilities to the nursing community and the public have increased as a result of Chapter 297 of the laws of 1988. We have yet to experience the long range effects.

And finally, let me remind you that in October 1986 you and several of your staff met with a group of minority nurses from NYSNA to discuss issues related to the health care of minorities and education of minorities in nursing. At that meeting you challenged our group to discern the commitment of NYSNA to those issues. Our group did respond to your challenge and at the October NYSNA convention, two related resolutions were adopted by our voting body. The minority nurses subsequently scheduled a meeting with you in February 1987 in Albany. Although our group was present at the appointed time, you were unable to meet with the group. The group continues to look forward to positive collaborative efforts with you on mutually agreed-upon issues and is willing to meet with you to resume those deliberations.

Your staff may follow up by contacting me in my office in Buffalo or at NYSNA in Albany. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely yours,

Juanita K. Hunter, EdD, RN
President

Assemblyman Arthur O. Eve
August 12, 1988
Page Two

NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, N.Y. 12084, (518) 456-5371

August 15, 1988

Assemblyman J. Nadler
Legislative Office Bldg., Room 845
Albany, NY 12240

Dear Assemblyman Nadler:

I wish to express my deep disappointment that you voted for A.11447, the nurse practitioner bill. This fact was particularly distressing considering your long record of support of our efforts to standardize nursing education in New York State. A.11447 was a bad bill and, at the least, was misguided legislation. You commented on the defects of this bill on the Assembly floor. In spite of this and your statement that the bill was overly restrictive, you voted for the bill. Would you agree with me that your action appears inconsistent with your pronouncements?

As you are certainly aware, NYSNA has experienced prolonged opposition to the Entry Bill1. It is highly probable that Chapter 297 of the Laws of 1988 will create additional barriers to achievement of this goal. Specifically, this bill legitimizes specialty practice in law and does so with no specific educational requirements attached. Other specialty nurse groups could conceivably seek to gain status and recognition via the same vehicle. These efforts would not address but bypass the basic problem of multiple entry points into nursing, a root cause of the nursing shortage.

The Council on Legislation is currently evaluating the association's past strategies to increase support for the Entry Bill. Since you are the prime sponsor of that legislation, I would be particularly interested in hearing your views on the status of this legislation in light of this evaluative process.

I would suggest that we schedule a meeting early in September, if possible, to discuss these issues. Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Juanita K. Hunter, EdD, RN
President
August 15, 1988

Senator Anthony Masiello
Legislative Office Building
Room 306
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Tony:

Thank you for your letter of July 12 in which you informed me that S.8477 had passed the Senate by a vote of 45 to 12 votes. By that date, Governor Cuomo had approved the bill and signed Chapter 257 into the law of 1988.

We were aware that we had an uphill battle this year to defeat this legislation. However, the fact that no amendments were made to perfect this very bad bill was almost unbelievable. Sponsors of this bill were content to allow the regulators to "fix" the problems. For example, we do not yet know if Article 28 facilities are included or excluded.

NYSNA will be a party to the discussions currently underway to develop the regulations for implementation. One thing is clear: NYSNA has a major challenge to assist New York legislators in understanding what nursing should be in order to improve health care in New York State.

Thank you for tracking progress of the bill, keeping me informed and supporting our position. Please feel free to call me if I can be of assistance to you in your future activities and programs.

Sincerely yours,

Juanita K. Hunter, EdD, RN
President

NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, N.Y. 12084, (518) 456-5371

Betty Morrison-Willard, RN
C/O Nursing Office
Children's Hospital of Buffalo
219 Bryant Street
Buffalo, New York 14222

Dear Ms. Morrison-Willard:

A belated congratulations on winning the American Hospital Association's American Organization of Nurse Executives "Nurses Make A Difference" contest. It was indeed a pleasure and a proud experience for nursing to have your story told in the Buffalo News.

It was noted in the article that you are uncomfortable with public praise of your work. However, your accomplishments and successful intervention with families living with chronic illnesses tells the world what is involved in professional nursing care. And the key to that care is caring, which is an element that is so obviously intertwined in your nursing role.

I trust that this experience of public recognition has resulted in positive benefits for you. Certainly, it has been positive for the nursing profession. Finally, your career challenges the accusations of some who say that baccalaureate graduates do not practice nursing. Congratulations again and best wishes for the future.

Sincerely yours,

Juanita K. Hunter, EdD, RN
President
August 18, 1988

L. Yarusinsky
248 Fiske Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10314

Dear Mr. Yarusinsky:

Please add the New York State Nurses Association to the list of those individuals and groups who find your "Nurse Abuse" materials offensive to the profession of nursing. Our nation is currently in the midst of a critical nursing shortage which is exacerbated by the decreasing numbers of young people who choose to enter the profession.

Your promotional materials will definitely not improve the image of nursing. The emphasis on positive image is one strategy utilized to increase the attractiveness of nursing to prospective students. I trust by now that you have been sensitized to the untimeliness of your bad joke and you have taken appropriate action to discontinue use of the "Nurse Abuse" items.

I look forward to a positive response from you.

Sincerely yours,

Juanita K. Hunter
Juanita K. Hunter, EdD, RN
President

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August 15, 1988

Milene A. Megel, PhD, RN
Executive Secretary
State Board for Nursing
New York State Education Department
Cultural Education Center
Albany, NY 12230

Dear Dr. Megel: Milene

This will confirm a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 24, 1988 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the American Medical Association's proposal for registered care technologists. The meeting will be held at the Center for Nursing and will include a luncheon.

We look forward to seeing you and Ms. Rossette. If there are any changes, please call Kim Roberts.

Sincerely yours,

Wendy H. Burbank
Associate to the Executive Director

cc: J. Hunter, President
M. Orr, Executive Director
August 10, 1988

Denise Hanlon
Clinical Instructor Graduate Nurse Education
State University of New York at Buffalo
3435 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14215

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

In December 1987 it was announced in the Reporter that Governor Cuomo had appointed you to the New York State Task Force on Life and Law. All of your colleagues were proud of your accomplishment and pleased that a highly qualified nurse would contribute to the critical decision-making involved in the life and death issues addressed by the task force.

Now that you have had more than six months experience on this task force, I would be interested in hearing your comments about your experiences. Also, NYSHA has been actively involved in this area and periodic dialogue between us seems appropriate.

If you are available for a meeting, please call my office at 831-3842. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Juanita K. Hunter, EdD, RN
President

Sincerely,

Martha L. Orr
Executive Director
NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, N.Y. 12084, (518) 456-5371

April 26, 1988

Lucille Joel
264 Gettysburg Way
Lincoln Park, NJ 07035

Dear Dr. Joel:

Thank you for sending your position statement and biographical sketch to the New York State Nurses Association in connection with your candidacy for the position of President of the American Nurses Association.

At its most recent meeting, the NYNNA Board of Directors determined that official endorsements of any candidates would not be made this year. However, candidates will be interviewed by representatives of our delegation to ascertain the candidates’ positions on membership and other issues of importance to the profession and the organization.

Dr. Juanita Hunter will be making interview assignments among our delegates in the near future. At this point, I am unable to suggest preferred meeting times; however, our designated representative will be in touch with you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Martha L. Orr
Executive Director

NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, N.Y. 12084, (518) 456-5371

April 4, 1988

Denise Deppoliti
602 Valley Drive East
Chittenango, NY 13037

Dear Ms. Deppoliti:

First, I want to extend my sincere congratulations for the powerful and touching paper you wrote for the ANA “Proud to Care” essay contest. I have many times experienced the feelings that you wrote about so well; reading your paper reminded me of the pain and frustration being experienced by so many of our colleagues in practice.

I would like your permission to use your essay in some of the communications the Association is currently producing in relation to the nursing shortage. I would particularly like to send the paper to Dr. Axelrod and Lorna McBarnette, both of whom are responsible for the Labor-Health Industry Task Force on Health Personnel. Please let me know if this will be acceptable to you.

Also, I would appreciate your sending me a brief biographical statement about yourself.

Thank you again for writing such a beautiful expression about our profession.

Sincerely,

Martha L. Orr
Executive Director
Dear Ms. Gallagher:

I have read with great interest the announcement of the Governor's Citation Award given to you for your work with the Bronx Prenatal Consortium. Congratulations for this outstanding accomplishment!

It is particularly gratifying to see a professional nurse being recognized for achievements in health education. Acknowledgment of this fundamental aspect of nursing practice will undoubtedly improve the public's image of the nurse. Thank you most especially for this contribution to our profession.

I don't want to miss this opportunity to invite you to reinstate your membership in the New York State Nurses Association. We, your colleagues, need you to assist us in the vital work which we must do to advance the profession of nursing. Please consider not only rejoining NYSNA but becoming active at the State level.

Sincerely,

Martha L. Orr
Executive Director

March 31, 1981

Holly Shaw
255-35 74th Ave.
Glen Oaks, NY 11044

Dear Ms. Shaw:

I read with great interest the announcement of the 1987 Nursing Media Award given to you by the American Academy of Nursing for your work bereaved young people. Congratulations for this outstanding accomplishment!

For the past several years, NYSNA has featured excellent video productions of interest to nurses at our annual convention. I understand that you produced a video, "When a Teenager Dies...Adolescent Bereavement," which we would very much like to preview for possible showing at convention. Would you please provide us with details of this video and where it may be obtained?

I also do not want to miss this opportunity to invite you to reinstate your membership in the New York State Nurses Association. This is a time of great challenge to the practice of professional nursing in New York State. The Association needs you and other accomplished nurses to become and remain active in the affairs of the profession as a whole.

Again, please accept my heartfelt congratulations for your recent award from the American Academy of Nursing.

Sincerely,

Martha L. Orr
Executive Director
March 31, 1988

Mark Malone
167 S. Broadway
White Plains, NY 10605

Dear Mr. Malone:

I read with great interest the announcement of the Certificate of Merit awarded to you by State Health Commissioner Dr. David Axelrod for your efforts in providing education concerning services needed by clients with AIDS. It is particularly gratifying and a source of much pride for all of us at NYSNA that a member of our Association has been recognized in this way. Congratulations!

This is an era of unprecedented challenges to the profession of nursing. The public's image of nursing is a vital component of our struggle not only to sustain these challenges but to advance the profession. This recognition of your work is a positive and welcome contribution to our efforts.

Sincerely,

Martha L. Orr
Executive Director