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THE COUNCIL

GEORGE K. ARTHUR

February 1, 1988

Honorable David A. Collins Masten District Council Member Room 1414 City Hall Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Dave:

Enclosed please find a letter from the New York State Nurses Association to David Beecham, General Manager, Hyatt Regency of Buffalo. I would appreciate it if you would put this on the agenda for your next Convention and Tourist meeting. There must be some way that we can resolve this issue.

Sincerely,

GEORGE K. ARTHUR
PRESIDENT
BUFFALO COMMON COUNCIL

cc: Juanita Hunter

Enclosure

Martha L. Orr, MN, RN Executive Director



Constituent of The American Nurses Association

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

January 16, 1988

David Beecham General Manager Hyatt Regency Buffalo Two Fountain Plaza Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Mr. Beecham:

Thank you for your letter of January 4th. Needless to say, your description of the details of our experience at the Hyatt Regency varies significantly from that reported to me by numerous members of the Association. I also disagree with your conclusion that there should be no adverse effect on attendance at our future conventions.

It does not appear that further correspondence with the leadership of the Hyatt Corporation or of the Hyatt Regency Buffalo will result in a satisfactory resolution of the issues. I will report this conclusion to the Board of Directors at its next meeting January 21st.

You are certainly correct that there can be no consideration of boycotting the Hyatt chain for meetings of the Association held in Albany. That was my error. However, I will recommend to the Board that the Association's 80 member delegation and other staff and members attending the American Nurses Association convention in Louisville, KY next June utilize a hotel other than the Hyatt. It is also my considered opinion that the Association will not plan another convention in Buffalo.



David Beecham January 16, 1988 Page 2

I am extremely disappointed that I have been unable to convince you that a gesture of some form of compensation would not only be fair, but would be a sound business practice.

Sincerely yours,

Marcha L. Or

Martha L. Orr Executive Director

CC: Juanita K. Hunter, President NYSNA

Darryl Hartley-Leonard, President, Hyatt Hotels Corp.
Paul Astleford, Vice-President - Salez, Hyatt Regency
James Griffin, Mayor, City of Buffalo
George K. Arthur, President, Buffalo Common Council
Richard Slisz, Erie County Legislature
William P. Hart, President, Hart Hotels
Roger Schutt, Buffalo Chamber of Commerce

MLO/ker

# No room at Buffalo inns for nursing delegates

By MARY PATTERSON
There was no room at the inn for some participants of the rocest New York State
Nurses Association convention held in
Buffato inst month. The nurses' group reported that many of its members arrived

reported that many of as instituted activities as which they had made reservations were filled up.

"The hotels overheaked," and Anne Schott, director of commenciation and publications for the nurses' group. "That created a lot of 18 will. There was some table that many transfer a lot of the nurses' group. crusted a rit of the will. I have was some talk about pensing a resolution about never coming to Buffsio again."

The convention, held Oct. 22-25,

attracted 1,400 delegates to the city

attracted 1,400 delegates to the city. Particularly troubling, Schott said, was that association officials arrived at 10,30 p.m. on the first night of the conference to find that there were so rooms saved for them at the Hystt Regency Buffalo, even though the hotel had a master list of the officials and had been informed they would be getting in later than the usual 6 p.m. check-in deadline. p.m. check-in deadline.

Members of that group raised a fuss, which resulted in the hotel finding rooms for them, she said. The general manager of the Hyatt Regency Buffalo, David Berchara, refused to comment.

chara, refused to comment.

"The manager said it is his policy not to talk about groups that have been here or are going to be here," raid a Hyett employee. She confirmed, however, that the botel "walked" five people one night and 23 the next day. In the hotel industry, walking means a hotel finds rooms for recorder to other times to the comment.

waiting means a hotel finds rooms for people at other inns, pays for the rooms and provides transportation to and from the alternate hotel.

The actual number of nurses bumped from the hotel was 47, said convention organizer Karen Manne, director of organizer karen Manne, director of organizer state nurses. ional services for the state nurses

Many more were initially denied rooms Many more were initially denice rooms for which they had guaranteed reservations, she said, but sysne who complained eventually were given rooms. Some convention exhibitors also were bumped from rooms at the Hyatt, she said.

The Buffalo Hilton also ran short of

rooms for nurses attending the conven-

"There were three rooms that we had to relocate one night," Hilton general manager Rodi Rainer said. "That doesn't happen often, and we pay for those peo-

pac's accommodations."

That number also was low, Manne said.

She said the plant to send a questionnaire to attendees to determine the extent of the problems encountered at Buffalo hotels.

The hotel was short on rooms because some previously registered guests had not checked out, Rainer said. Under state law, it is illegal to exict a hotel energy who

it is illegal to evict a hotel guest who chooses to extend his stay.

chooses to extend his stay.

Reports that another downtown hotel provided only 10 of 50 promised rooms could not be confirmed.

"Some of those rooms were booked in June and July," said a local member of the burses' group, "It was a fasco." The newly elected president of the state association, Jaunita Hunter, is a clinical

assistant professor at the state University at Buffalo. After the convention, she and two other members of the state nurses' two other members of the state narres' group met with representatives of the Greater Buffalo Chamber of Commerce Convention and Tourism Division to discuss the problems.

The meeting with William Hart, vice

chairman of conventions and tourism and Roger Schutt, vice president of the division, produced a promise to meet with representatives of the hotels.
"We will be meeting with the individual

hotel proporties to follow up," Schutt said. "It's unfectiouse schemous & hap-pens, but particularly to a consenting group."

Some overhooding is markakle, Hori said, because "butiness still goes on within the area," regardless of conventieses.

There was some talk about passing a resolution about never coming to Buffalo again.

"One thing builds on mother, but I had the sense the tadies felt butter after we talked." Hart said "What we need is bes-ter communication between the hours and

Fart of the problem with on First of the process with consequence-tion will be excel with the addition of ferry employers at the Convention and Visitors Baresu, Harr and. The bureau recently bugan receiving additional fund-ing through the increased lestel had tax

recently segan recurving magnatures temperage through the increased feated bad an instituted in Eric County earlier this year.

"We're now on track," Hast said.

The convention and visitors bareau staff was extremely helpful throughout the conventions, said blassne of the state group. The problems was wish the hotels, she said.

Strong attendance at the convention Strong Strandards at the convenient was due to a scheduled vote on whether the state association would windraw from the American Nurses. Association over a bylaw change to allow a new class of the state of the sta

a consistent national requirement that only students who have completed four years of nursing education be cligible to take the registered muran examinations.

But they would also create an intermediate changing however registered mures and ticrased grantical nurses for nurses who don't nave four-year degrees.

The New York group protested that such a change in the national bylaws was premature and could result in a dilution of the group's professional goals.

After a series of forums held around the state, the state nurses' board of directors

state, the state aurses' board of directors state, the state surses' board of directors drapped the proposal to withdraw from the national organization. Instead, delegates to the convention in Buffalo passed a resolution to reaffirm their "professional mission," association public relations official Anne Schott said.

## And on playing the host

This kind of thing happens all the time. You arrive at your destination at midnight. Even though you called shead to say you'd be late, the hotel gave away your room or has no record that you ever even

But when it happened in Buffalo recently to more than a handful of delegates at the convention of the New York State Nurses Association, what resulted was more than a little inconvenience and irritation.

The nurses considered voting never to hold their convention again in Buffalo. In the end, they didn't take that vote. They didn't need to. The convention business is a competitive one, and next time they look for a location to meet, they'll already have a reason not to do it here.

We are not surprised that a number of delegates

arrived to find that their reservations had been fouled up. There just aren't very many hotel rooms in downtown Buffalo when it comes to a weekend of a home football game, a couple hockey games and a 1,400-delegate convention

and a 1,400-delegate convention.

From everything we've heard, the hotels involved handled the problem as gracefully and graciously as possible. But what disturbs us is that these problems arise at a time when Buffalo is trying to increase the size and number of conventions it draws. That won't happen if the city gets a reputation for being unable to host what, in the business, are considered fairly moderate-sized meetings.

Perhaps we just aren't ready yet to play host to 1,400 or more people. If not, we ought to bone up fast. Larger conventions are coming soon.

And if we're not ready when those conventions arrive, that will be worse than never having the conventions at all. Because in this hustness, the only thing worse than no reputation is a bad reputation.

# Nurse Image Needs a Boost

The public has recently been given much information about AIDS and health care providers. Unfortunately, some reports have been as misleading and facts have been misinterpreted.

Of particular concern to organized nursing is the impression that nursing schools statewide are experiencing an enrollment decline due largely to fear of AIDS. There is another side to the issue which the public should be aware of.

While enrollment in all programs of nursing education nationally and at the state level have declined approximately 8 percent over the last four years, nurse leaders and others cite the following reasons for this decline: (1) the envolving role of women in our society; (2) the decline of the young adult population; (3) the availability and accessibility of other careers for women, such as medicine, law or dentistry; (4) the decline of federal support for nursing education and (5) the current public image of nursing.

To state, as some have reportedly done in your newspaper, that AIDS is the singular cause of the enrollment problem in nursing education is misleading, and the implications therefore could be harmful to the public and to the nursing profession.

While fear of AIDS may in the future become an additional factor in this complex interrelated situation, that situation has not been documented, nor is the situation a widely accepted and substantiated factor like those previously identified.

Additionally, if it were true that fear of AIDS has caused a drop in nursing school enrollments, then the corresponding rise of

women in medical schools would not ? occurring.

Nursing care is an important componer of the health care services, which are provided to clients in multiple settings. The care of AIDS patients represents only or of the major challenges today that confrontures who provide those services. AIDS one example of the challenge to providing quality nursing care to patients with communicable diseases.

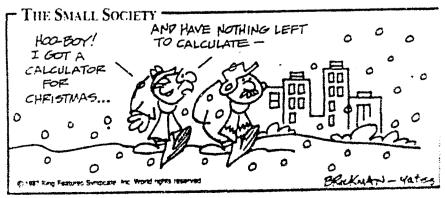
The public, nurses and potential nurse need timely, accurate and objective information to assist them in related profession at and personal decision-making related the AIDS crisis. Clearly, the media has a important role to play in that process.

A concern about recruitment and reter tion in schools of nursing prompted th New York State Nurses Association to hole a two-day workshop in May of this year. The outgrowth of that conference was development of a comprehensive plan designed to aggressively address recruitmen and retention of nurses. Nurses, consumer and other health professionals have bee invited to participate in the implementatio of this action plan.

A major component of this recruitmen effort will be the use of the media to positively portray the profession of nursing to prospective students as a career option with a lifetime of opportunity.

We invite your participation and assis tance in this endeavor.

JUANITA K. HUNTER
President
New York State Nurses Association
Buffalo



#159 LEHERS
HJUH HOFE!

Dear me Buchon

On you are aware the new york blate names Conventions was held in Buffalo, New York Oct 23-25, 1987 and many of our makes were dissatisfied with the review they received at the April Regimes in Buffalo. Outrequently, numerous consepondence has been sent to you

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words from the state of the sta

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Martha L. Orr, MN, RN Evecutive Director



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Constituent of The American Hurses Association

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

December 5, 1987

Darryl Hartley-Leonard President Hyatt Hotels Corporation 5616 North Western Chicago, Illinois 60659

Dear Mr. Hartley-Leonard:

I have reviewed the enclosed correspondence related to the recent convention of the New York State Nurses Association and wish to inform you that neither I nor the Board of Directors is satisfied with the lack of resolution of our complaints.

The annual convention of our Association is a major source of revenue. If our members and guests are dissatisfied with a particular convention, our experience has been that the subsequent year's convention registration reflects that dissatisfaction. At this time, I am greatly concerned that the Association may indeed experience reduced attendance at our 1988 convention because of the members' extreme dissatisfaction with the Buffalo Hyatt's treatment of them.

I would also like to call to your attention the fact that the Association's conventions for 1989, 1990, and 1991 are tentatively scheduled for the Hyatt Hotel inn Albany, New York. Given the recent experience with the Hyatt, it is not unlikely that the Board of Directors will ask for a review of those plans.

Finally, you should also know that the Hyatt Hotel in Kansas City is the beneficiary of a major corporate account with the American Nurses Association, of which NYSNA is a constituent member.

Darryl Hartley-Leonard December 5, 1987 Page Two

I realize that it is not possible to correct a situation which is past. However, I suggest that Hyatt Corporation consider some form of compensation to the Association and/or the many members who were so inconvenienced. I would be pleased to discuss this request with a representative of the Hyatt Corporation or the Hyatt Regency in Buffalo as you suggest.

I look forward to a prompt response to this request. It will be necessary for me to report the outcomes of this correspondence to the Board of Directors at its meeting on January 21, 1988. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Watthe L Dany

Martha L. Orr

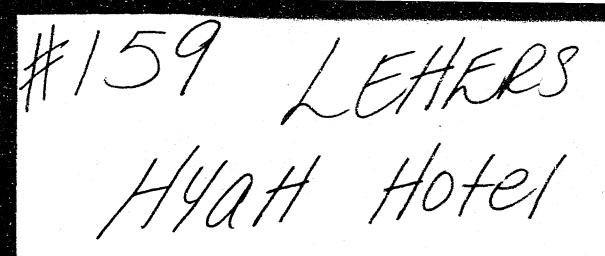
Executive Director

cc: David Beechum General Manager Hyatt Regency Buffalo

> Paul Astleford Vice President - Sales Hyatt Regency

Juanita K. Hunter President, NYSNA





Martha L. Orr, MN, RN Executive Director



Constituent of The American Nurses Association

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

November 9, 1987

Darryl Hartley-Leonard President Hyatt Hotels Corporation 5616 North Western Chicago, Illinois 60659

Dear Mr. Hartley-Leonard:

Our Association recently held its annual meeting at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. My job was that of organizer.

In all my experience I have never seen a hotel treat convention attendees with such extreme disregard. Although I have yet to gather all the evidence against the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. I can firmly state that no fewer than 47 people were relocated the first night. Many others were inconvenienced for hours before receiving a room. It's probably easy for you to imagine the ill will and chaos which prevailed.

I am curious to know the corporate standards the Hyatt places on its franchisees. Please forward this information at your earliest convenience.

It's truly unfortunate that the Hyatt Regency Buffalo seriously damaged your otherwise respectable corporate image.

Sincerely. .

Karan Marue

Karen Maune Director Organization Services

cc: David Beechum General Manager Hyatt Regency Buffalo



HVATT HOTELS CORPORATION S424 NORTH POTH STREET OMANA NEBRASKA 6813J USA

402 572 7878 TELEX 484393

TIMALE TRANSPORTED AND CITED AND A CONTRACT

DARRYL HARTLEY-LEONARD

November 23, 1987

Ms. Karen Maune
Director
Organization Services
New York State Nurses Assn.
2113 Western Avenue
Guilderland, N.Y. 12084

Dear Ms. Maune:

Thank you for your letter regarding your reservation at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo.

I was concerned to learn of the difficulties you encountered with your reservations. While the staff at the hotel does everything they possibly can to avoid overbooking situations, occasionally incidents such as the one you experienced occur. Please accept our sincere apologies for any inconvenience you suffered.

I am forwarding your correspondence to Mr. David Beecham, General Manager of the property, to ensure he is in receipt of your letter and has had the opportunity to review your concerns and respond to you personally.

Thank you for taking the time to inform me of this matter. I only hope this incident will not prevent you from joining us in the future.

Sincerely

Darryl Hartley-Leonard

resident

DH-L:bb

cc: Mr. David Beecham, General Manager Hyatt Regency Buffalo

HYATT HOTELS CORPORATION MADISON PLAZA 200 WEST MADISON CHRCAGO, ILLINOIS 60606 USA

31Z 750 1234 TELEX 6571520

THE HALL HERE CONTINUES.

November 12, 1987

Ms. Karen Maunc New York State Nurses Assn. 2113 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12084

Dear Ms. Maune:

Thank you for selecting Hyatt Hotels and Resorts for your 1987 Annual Convention this past month. I was sorry to learn from Mr. Joe Donahue, Sales Manager at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo, however, that you felt the success of your program was compromised by difficulties at our hotel.

Our objective at Hyatt is to contribute to the success of your function. I sincerely regret if we have disappointed you in this respect.

As a valued customer of Hyatt Hotels and Resorts, you will hopefully recognize that this occasion does not typify the high quality service and product that the name Hyatt has come to represent. Therefore, it is very important to me to get your feedback. This will enable us to pinpoint areas of concern so as to avoid problems like this in the future.

Ms. Maune, thank you, in advance, for your evaluation. We do appreciate your business, and look forward to regaining your confidence.

Sincerely,

Paul Astleford Vice President-sales

PA:bb

Enclosure

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HARDER SILBER AND GILLEN ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELDES ATTUM ETSU LAGE STEEF ALBANY, NEW YORK 12210

518-462-3868

PICHARO J. BILBER JEFFREY DANA GILLEN

November 24, 1987

Karen Maune Director Organization Services New York State Nurses Association The Center for Nursing 2113 Western Avenue Guilderland, New York, 12084

Dear Karen:

This responds to your November 4 letter concerning the problems encountered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel during your Association's Convention.

We have researched the applicable law in New York and I regret to inform you that, in this State, the courts do not recognize any action to collect damages against an "innkeeper" for the types of problems encountered by Association members at the Hyatt. To collect anything, your Association would have to establish that the Hyatt's actions were wanton, malicious or precipitated by wrongful motives.

For your information, I enclose copies of (1) a portion of a Syracuse Law Review article concerning "Hotel Overbooking" and (2) a court decision in Pollock v. Holsa Corp. concerning damages against an "innkeeper".

I do suggest, however, that your Association, either you or Martha Orr, communicate directly with the chief executive officer of the Hyatt Hotel chain to alert him or her to what happened at the Convention. It very well may be that you will receive some type of satisfaction through that route.

Please call me if you have a question about any of this.

Richard J. Silber

s:6

enclosures: 2.

RECEIVED

Constituent of The American

Sortha L. Orr, MN, RN Executive Directo



**NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION** 

2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, N.Y. 12084, (518) 456-5371

November 12, 1987

Roger Schutt Greater Buffaio Chamber of Commerce 107 Delaware Avenue Buffalc. NY 14202-2801

Dear Roger:

Several weeks have passed since our "Buffalo Experience" and I'm now somewhat ready to write the last chapter of Convention 1987.

Below is a first of vendors used in conjunction with our meeting. I've categorized them as "acceptable" or "unacceptable". A brief description accompanies each vendor in the "unacceptable" category.

Please know that "acceptable" means much more than the word implies - providers in that category were exemplary. Kathleen Hartman. Tony Kozek (Buffalo Chamber), Met Florezak, Lynn Evans, Larry Gibbs, Mario Muscarceil, Joe Puzzella (Convention Center), Chris Back (Hyatt, Audio Visual Manager), Michael (in charge of the Foundation Luncheon and Awards Banquet), and representatives from Silent Partners and Balloons-Over-Buffa were professional, reliable, accessible and a pleasure to do business with. Their efforts to produce a quality convention matched my own expectations.

### Acceptable

- 1. Buffalo Convention Center
- 2. Silent Partners (Tour Company)
- 3. Balloofis-Over-Buffalo (Awards Banquet Decorations)

### Unacceptable

I. Hystt Regency Buffalo

Apparent lack of organization and central contact. Unreturned phone calls from Jos Donahue and Walter Mezzanti leading to confused messages and late receipt of spec sheets.

Disregard of Master Hotel List. Five out of 15 rooms on VIP list blocked for Regency Club Level bumped two to three times before settling on Club Level. Substantial.



NOV 16 1987 beyond industry standards, overbooking resulting in no less than 47 people being relocated on October 22.

> Reports of no record thereby no credit on final bill although room guarantees had been confirmed, late processing of confirmation (begun on October 2, 1987). 3 credit cards lost, breech of agreement for Awards Banquet, confusion in billing-some VIP's allowed to charge for incidentals, others not, errors on bills. Moved the October 25 Board of Directors meeting without advanced notice.

### Lenex Hotel

Released room block in early August without consulting me thereby creating a potential room shortage (Reservation cut off was September 27). Tony Kozak on the Chamber creatively and quickly established alternative arrangements.

### Mark Custom Recordings

Audiotape company for continuing education programs. Reduced the schedule for the audiotage sales desk but still did not send a representative during agreed upon hours. Would not release one copy of tapes until convention attendes labels were

### Aerobic Instructor

25 minutes late first day of class. Reported to have been in automobile accident the second day. A Convention attendee instructed both classes.

### The Floristry

Sent a bouquet of flowers with carnations when specifically instructed on the bill not to include carnations.

### Ad Art

Used for sign needs. Delivered rather overpriced, unsophisticated signs a day late.

### Peacock Productions

Talen scout Sarah Jo Barth breached contract for planist Al Timmey on October 24. 1987. Sent alternate who arrived late.

The above touches on some of the frustrations. I believe most of the problems can be corrected but I leave the methodology up to you and yours. Good luck Roger.

Sincerely,

Director

Organization Services



# Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center

HOME HEALTH AGENCY

4 PHYLLIS DRIVE, PATCHOGUE, NEW YORK 11772 / 516-758-3600

Jerold S. Cohen, R.N., C.N.A.A.

Near Juanta,
Thought you might be interested in these
response from the Hyatt regarding our
stay in Buffalo.
Have a klappy New Year!

Jeny

HVAIT HOTELS CORPORATION 3424 NORTH POTH STREET OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68134 USA

402 572 7878 TELEX 484393

DARRYL HARTLEY-LEONARD
PRESIDENT

November 17, 1987

Mr. Jerold S. Cohen, R.N.
Director of Patient Services
Brookhaven Memorial Hospital
Medical Center
101 Hospital Road
East Patchogue, N.Y. 11772

Dear Mr. Cohen:

Thank you for your letter of November 2 concerning your recent visit to the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Please accept my apologies for the difficulties you described as experiencing during your stay.

I am asking Mr. David Beecham, General Manager of the property, to look into these matters and respond to you directly. You will be hearing from him shortly.

It is unbefitting to our reputation that your stay was not perfect. I am sorry if you feel you were inconvenienced in any way. We look forward to regaining your confidence in Hyatt Hotels and the opportunity to serve you again.

Sincerely,

Darnyl Hartley-Leonard President

DH-L:bb

cc: Mr. David Beecham, General Manager Hyatt Regency Buffalo

MATERIGENCY BUFFALO ON FOUNTAIN MAZA AT CONVENTION CENTER TWO FOUNTAIN MAZA BUFFALO, NY 14202 USA

716 856 1234

December 15, 1987

Mr. Jerold S. Cohen, R.N.
Director of Patient Services
BROOKHAVEN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
MEDICAL CENTER
101 Hospital Road
East Patchogue, NY 11772

Dear Mr. Cohen:

I am in receipt of your letter to our President and his response to you concerning your recent stay with us while attending the New York State Nurses Association Convention.

Please accept my sincerest apologies for our many shortcomings. I know we fell short of your expectations and have taken steps to correct the problems you experienced.

I want to thank you for taking your time to write and bring these specific areas of concern to our attention. I have held a meeting with the managers of all the areas you mentioned, as well as others, to recap in detail what went wrong and why so that we may prevent this type of occurrence in the future.

Once again, please accept my sincerest apologies. I hope this entire matter has not left you with an irreversible impression of the Hyatt Regency Buffalo or Hyatt Hotels and that we will have the opportunity of serving you again in the future. I would like to ask that on your next visit to the Buffalo area you call my office so I may personally handle your reservation needs.

Sincerely,

David Beecham

David Beecham General Manager

DB/j