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Executive Director since July 1979, Dr. Welch joined the NYSNA staff in 1969 as Director of Planning and Research. In 1973 she was named Deputy Director for Program, the post she held until her appointments as Executive Director. Prior to NYSNA employment, Dr. Welch held various nursing education and practice positions.

During Dr. Welch's tenure as Executive Director, NYSNA has grown numerically and professionally. The Association represents over 30,000 registered professional nurses throughout New York State and its leadership is felt throughout the country. Under her direction, NYSNA has articulated and extended nursing's legitimate role as an independent health profession and protected the legal scope of nursing practice against restrictive interpretation. Also during her tenure, NYSNA has maintained its position as the nation's largest collective bargaining agent for registered nurses.

Dr. Welch is one of the authors and implementors of the recent restructuring of the American Nurses' Association to a federation of state nurses associations.

A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Welch graduated from the Robert Packer Hospital School of Nursing in Sayre, Pennsylvania and earned bachelor's, master;s and doctoral degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Dr. Welch will continue as Executive Director of The Foundation of the New York State Nurses Association, Inc. The Foundation is a separate, not-for-profit corporation established for charitable, educational, literary and scientific purposes.

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New yelease



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CONTACT: Anne Schott, Director of Communications

Contact: Debra R. Lamb (518) 456-5371

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DRL/pcb



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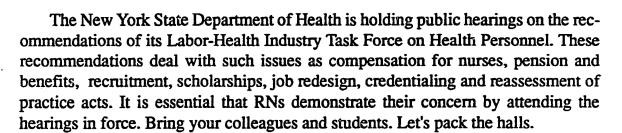
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Auditorium, Lafayette Square
Note: Entrance to auditorium is on Clinton St., at the corner of Clinton and Ellicott.



The New York State Nurses Association

2113 Western Avenue Guilderland, New York 12084





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The hospital has misled the public about its latest offer and the status of negotiations. This will be the nurses' opportunity to show the hospital that they are united.

During the rally, nurses will be asking the community to call the hospital's executive director, Joseph Stiles, and demand that the layoffs be rescinded in the name of quality health care.

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The 25 RNs are anxious to negotiate a new contract that will help recruit and retain nurses because there has been a 20% turnover rate in the last year. Unfortunately, the county has deployed stalling tactics and made inadequate salary offers that would leave nurses' pay in Madison County behind that of RNs in surrounding counties. NYSNA represents county nurses in Chenango, Onondaga, Seneca, and Cayuga, all of whom have higher hourly pay rates than their counterparts in Madison.

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The District contends that NYSNA lied when it promised to recommend a tentative settlement to the six nurses. It has no basis for the charge. Despite the inadequacy of the tentative agreement, NYSNA <u>did</u> recommend its passage as the best the school district would offer. The nurses exercised their right to reject the offer, citing pay as much as \$4,000 higher in neighboring school districts.

The District specifically blames one nurse on the negotiating committee with undermining the vote. In fact, that nurse voted to accept the agreement.

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The county has presented dozens of demands to the nurses, many of them for givebacks. It has even demanded the right to fire nurses for smoking cigarettes at home! That this demand violates state and federal laws, as well as common sense, seems to be irrelevant to the county.

"Their way of negotiating is strange," said Joyce Leonard, a nurse at the Infirmary. "It's been very frustrating trying to talk to them."

The RNs are taxpayers in the county and have not made unreasonable salary requests that would be a burden on their neighbors. They hope the mediator can jar the county loose from its intractable positions, so the nurses can get on with their jobs and the county can recruit and retain nurses.

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"The ILP charge is another indication of the ignorance and arrogance of school district negotiators who presume the nurses don't have minds of their own," said NYSNA chief negotiator Lenore Boris.

Horseheads nurses endure not only an intolerable pay scale, but are provided with the poorest health plan of any district employees, and must pay half the premium out of their own pockets.

The nurses, who are taxpayers themselves, are asking for reasonable salaries ranging from \$10,200-\$15,430, still less than those of surrounding districts. The difference in cost between the nurses' salary proposal and the district's offer is less than the amount the school district spends in two days on supplies like pencils and paper clips.

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. Used Books for Sale

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#15 New release

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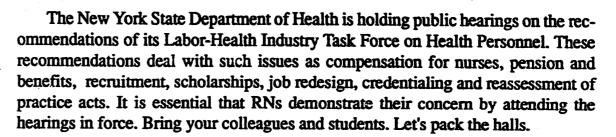
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