



Local 7 Registered Nurses, Advanced Practice Nurses, and Certified Nurse Midwives,

It is our honor to recognize our professional nurses today May 6th.

The 2023 Nurses Day Theme is "Nurses Make a Difference; Anytime, Anywhere – Always". We have always known this as nurses; it is in the fabric of who we are. Our dedication to our patients and our communities is unwavering. Over the past 3 years we have reminded the country of who we are, starting in 2020 "the year of the Nurse" and the beginning of a historic pandemic. UFCW Local 7 is dedicated to improving lives. Being UFCW union nurses, we are very aligned. We not only advocate for our patients but we stand together to advocate for our profession.

As we continued to show up day after day and care for our patients we also continued to advocate to take care of each other. The past 3 years have been very difficult and though COVID highlighted the difficulties, it was not the sole reason for these difficulties. We know nurses are struggling and exhausted. We continue to use our union advocacy to help care for our nurses and health care workers. We are very proud of our UFCW Local 7 work to support our nurses, which includes in part:

- Advocating at the Colorado legislation for Whistleblower Protections, this protected not just union nurses but many workers who spoke up for safety during the pandemic
- Leading in advocacy for the Healthy Families and Workplaces Act, which protected nurses during and after Covid
- Our key role in passing the FMLI law that will provide benefits to our members in 2024
- Bargaining a National agreement which includes new language on having a Just Culture, Psychological Safety and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion language
- Defeating a two-tier wage system and securing step wage increases and an annual across-the-board wage increase
- Maintaining and securing funding for our Ben Hudnall educational opportunities
- Developing a CWON certification training opportunity
- Maintaining and proudly continuing our Nursing Career Ladder – this is our 20th year since we first implemented our bargained 2000 Career Ladder language
- Raising our health care crisis concerns with local Colorado legislators
- Addressing staffing issues via our contractual language
- Continuing the fight for work life balance for nurses

We know there is still much to do as nurses and as a union, but it is worth reflecting on all that we have done. We worked tirelessly to keep our patients and communities cared for, while caring for each other, our families, ourselves, and as a union improve working conditions for our union nurses and influence change for our non-union nursing colleagues.

Make an intention to recognize a nurse who inspires you and take time to reflect on the work you do, the ripples of kindness and caring are worth celebrating.

Nurses continue to lead as the most trusted profession in the gallop poll, what an honor.

YOU make a difference, WE make a difference together!

With Gratitude and Solidarity on behalf of the UFCW Local 7 Leadership Team,  
Becky Sassaman RN BSN HNB-BC  
UFCW Local 7 Lead RN Union Steward