

# UMPNC INDEPENDENT

Dear UMPNC Sisters and Brothers,

My name is Katie Oppenheim and I am the President of our union, UMPNC. Along, with many others, including our Executive Committee, I was elected in October 2020, receiving 81% of the vote. In a year of much uncertainty, both in the workplace and at home, UMPNC members voted for some certainty, an experienced, time-tested group of UMPNC nurses to lead our local through 2023 and that is exactly what I will do.

As most of you know, on November 1, 2020, one of our members filed multiple complaints against me with the MNA Impartial Committee and the committee made charges against me. Tomorrow, January 21, 2021 MNA will hold a hearing against a former MNA member. As UMPNC is no longer part of MNA, I will not be present, but fully expect that MNA will attempt to remove me from my position as President of your local. Continued evidence of MNA's interference in the internal workings of our local is that 2 of the 3 "witnesses" at this hearing are, in fact, MNA staff members supposedly assigned to work for our local. The third "witness" is the person who ran against me in the October election. MNA was unable to control our local's election in October, so they are continuing to attempt to control us by removing me. Rest assured, I will remain your President as our contract states.

It is important to note that another UMPNC member and members from a few departments in the health system have filed a complaint against the entire Executive Committee, certainly with the intent of removing your entire bargaining team, which is made up of all EC members, with the exception of the Secretary and Treasurer.

I know this is a lot of information, but want to be completely transparent about what is going on. This has been an extremely stressful time for everyone and I do want to say something in a very personal note. I am so grateful for the majority of you who have spoken up for me and our leadership team and for those who disagree with me, but do so respectfully. Unfortunately, there is a small group of people (most if whom don't know me at all) who have publicly berated me, sent threatening (yes) and profanity-laced emails and more. This is the first time I have mentioned this publicly, but felt it necessary to do so. For those that know me, you know that I am always available and respond to email and calls quickly. If I have encouraged you to call me and you have chosen not to, I am still available...any time.

Enough about me. I want to encourage you to complete your membership application and attend a Zoom meeting in your area to ask questions regarding the application and MERC process. We are scheduling many, many small meetings so that everybody who wishes can be seen and speak. Next week we have 7 scheduled covering hundreds of nurses. If your area wants a meeting, please reach out and we will get it scheduled.

I thank you all for what you do every day for the patients, families and each other. We are **#umpncstrong**.

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President, UMPNC

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