

UMPNC INDEPENDENT

Dear UMPNC Members,

I know that you are being bombarded with information, so I will keep this simple. I am Barbara Van Kainen, the Chief Rep for APRNs and a long-standing member of UMPNC. I want to connect with you and share my reason to disaffiliate with the MNA.

The MNA is clearly an organization in decline and is quickly losing membership.

- Just in the past year, non-paying members almost doubled from 1016 to 1919.
- This summer, they **lost** one of their oldest units when Hackley Hospital in Muskegon decided to vote to affiliate with **another** union.
- They have abandoned the nurses organizing at Beaumont.
- They failed nurses at Ascension Borgess in Kalamazoo who lost many key benefits and staffing language when they negotiated a new contract this year.

Look at us on the other hand. UMPNC retains membership at nearly 98%. Our membership makes up half of the MNA's total membership. Our dues (\$4.3 million) account for nearly 60% of their annual revenue.

I say it is time to stop being the meal ticket for MNA. UMPNC shouldn't be a charitable organization for the failing MNA. Why are we paying them all this money to squander while they continue to undermine our existing leadership structure and fail to provide the resources we request? Let us keep our money and make our own decisions. It will make us that much stronger.

If we are an independent union, we wouldn't have to beg MNA for access to our own money like we did this last year for contract negotiations. They kept denying us our own money back. Being in charge of our own dues means we could hire our own staff nurse organizers, our own lawyers, and the best people out there to negotiate our contract.

I urge you to attend the meetings on Jan 2nd and vote to disaffiliate from the MNA.

We are stronger just as UMPNC; independent and self-governing. **Check your email for details on how to join the online meeting and vote.**

Sincerely,

Barbara Van Kainen DNP
CNM-CHIEF REP, APRNs