



District 1199 NM Newsletter – August 2018

What's Inside: Chapter Updates

CHRISTUS St. Vincent Hospital
Alta Vista Regional Hospital
Los Alamos Medical Center
Holy Cross Hospital
UNM Hospital

Join Us at the Annual Delegate Assembly
September 28th and 29th

New Interim President's Message
– See page 2.

Hospitals Facing Severe Funding Shortfalls Across the Country and in New Mexico.

Hospitals are about to face a serious funding crisis across America – especially hospitals serving rural populations.

Due to the tearing apart of the Affordable Care Act and the drastic tax cuts Congress passed to benefit the wealthiest Americans, funds for Medicare and Medicaid will see severe shrinkage.

Rural hospitals are already feeling the hurt. The opening sentence of a research paper published in March of 2018 by the North Carolina Rural Health Research Program, regarding the profitability of urban and rural hospitals issued a serious warning:

“Rural hospital closures remain a worrisome issue for policy makers and communities: between 2010 and 2017, 83 rural hospitals closed. The NC Rural Health Research Program tracks these closures and studies potential predictors. Profitability is not the only predictor, but it is one of the main predictors of hospital closure.”

The state legislature needs to step up to assist our community and university hospitals. Both Alta Vista and Holy Cross hospitals have seen services reduced for their rural patients and families.

District 1199 NM represents healthcare employees at three distinctly rural hospitals – including Alta

Vista and Holy Cross - and two more urban hospitals each serving their neighboring rural populations.

You likely have read that the state of New Mexico, after years of revenue drought, is about to benefit from about a \$1.2 billion increase which would be available for the 2019 legislature, and a new

governor, to allocate for sorely needed services to state residents.

Education programs and a strong rainy-day fund are on the short list of many legislators for this funding.

District 1199 NM believes that hospital stability and providing for patients and healthcare employees needs to be at the top of that list as well.

On Thursday, August 23, 2018,

Sharon Argenbright, the new interim president of District 199 NM, was in Taos at a meeting of the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee – the committee that will be making recommendations to all legislators on how to spend that \$1.2 billion.

At the Delegate Assembly in September, she will be presenting a plan calling on all union members to participate in getting support for their hospitals and for the patients we all care for – that plan will also encourage community organizations and residents to demand lawmakers adequately fund hospitals.



NM Secretary of Human Services Brent Earnest reported to Legislators about Centennial Care – Which includes Hospital Spending.

Letter from Your New Interim President



Hello Fellow Healthcare Employees,

I'm Sharon Argenbright, and I was recently appointed the interim president of District 1199 NM, your Union.

Here is a little background information for those who haven't gotten to know me yet.

This is my 40th year as a full-time practicing, Registered Nurse, I believe I know what you all are going through every day in almost every department of a hospital.

I started at St Francis School of Nursing (Diploma program) in Jersey City, NJ.

I graduated from California State University in Long Beach with my BSN; and The University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas with my MSN.

I've travelled the world as a nurse, but I've also been here in New Mexico for a long time, working

at several hospitals.

I was an Air Force Nurse for 20 years, retiring as a Major. I taught nursing for 22 years in northern New Mexico

I've been a member of our union since 1993, and have held various leadership positions, including executive vice-president

In those positions I have assisted healthcare employees in grievances, been a team member for collective bargaining and walked picket lines to fight for our rights and for fairer contracts

For several years I have testified before the state legislature and before the Department of Health relating to patient safe staffing.

I'm ready to work as your president, but I cannot do this alone. Will you help me?

Sharon Argenbright, MSN, RN
President, District 1199 NM
(505) 690-6932
sharon@district1199nm.org

News From Our Hospital Chapters

AVRH Negotiations Begin for New Complete Contract

The District 1199 NM Chapter of Alta Vista Regional Hospital (AVRH) employees are negotiating a new contract.

The union's bargaining team has been meeting with local and national representatives of the AVRH's parent company Quorum Health Corporation for the first two sessions and is pushing to wrap matters up before the expiration of the existing contract at the end of August. Please call Yolanda Ulmer at (505) 690-6871 or email her at yolanda@district1199nm.org for updates.



LAMC – District 1199 NM President Meets Employees

New union interim-president Sharon Argenbright is meeting with Los Alamos Medical Center employees seeking input about matters impacting them. At their first meeting, some members stressed the importance of involving the Los Alamos community and the employees of LAMC in discussions about the hospital's future planning. Call Yolanda Ulmer at (505) 690-6871 for more information about the next meeting.

And recently the union won a grievance for an LAMC employee who had been harassed about her involvement with the union. In addition, the hospital is now required to post a notice acknowledging it cannot have managers harassing employees for sticking up for their rights.



... More News From Our Hospital Chapters.

UNMH – Preparing for November Negotiations

District 1199 NM is preparing for negotiations with UNMH in November.

The new president of District 1199 NM has begun reaching out to members of the bargaining units by visiting with members in the hospital and at clinics.

Her goal is to encourage more participation from members in the negotiating process as well as collect ideas for items to be on the table.

Staff will also be asking members to send in their concerns and matters they would like to have considered by the bargaining team for negotiations.



HCMC Chapter VP Margie Cisneros meets with District 1199 NM President Sharon Argenbright.

Holy Cross Medical Center - Negotiations Completed.

PPCC & PPC just finished negotiating a new contract removing onerous contract language that put restrictions on compensation for extra work done by employees who were eligible for shift differentials.

More employees will be getting full time benefits; hospital is required to give 14-days' notice of any layoffs or reduction in force; additional relatives added to bereavement leave policy; additional modest compensation improvements.

A copy of the contract is being prepared for members, and a summary of key points will be available to members in early September.

New Bargaining Unit Added.

District 1199 NM now represents the Advanced Practice Nurses and Physician Assistants at Holy Cross Medical Center and negotiations with management for their first contract are underway.

CHRISTUS St. Vincent Service and Maintenance Employees Finish Successful Negotiations

CSV Service & Maintenance Contract employees recently scored the following in negotiations:

- Wage equity up to 15 years,
- Anti-bullying language added,
- Moved over 20 job positions into better pay grades,
- Created two new positions for career enhancement in Food & Nutrition and Environmental Services,
- Bonus for all individuals who received only a 2% wage increase. Education reimbursement for nurses & techs equaling \$2,000 per year, and \$800 per year for Service & Maintenance members.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE: The New Mexico Patient Safe Staffing Coalition – District 1199 NM Nurses have been at the forefront in the battle for creating safe staffing in New Mexico, and we support the newly formed **Coalition for the Patient Safe Staffing Act** to increase visibility for this important issue. Here is a link to the Patient Safe Staffing Website: <http://patientsafestaffing.org/>

Staff Representatives and Office Support for District 1199 Bargaining Units



Mauricio de Segovia is a District 1199 NM Organizer & Staff Representative. He is bi-lingual, is experienced at organizing and comes to the Union from El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos. He is working with UNMH and can be reached at (505) 639-6423 Email: Mauricio@district1199nm.org



Lori Gonzales, a former and long-time District 1199 Vice President for Technicians at St. Vincent Hospital, is a Staff Representative and assists in the Santa Fe office. She can be reached at (505) 780-8272 Email: loretta@district1199nm.org



Yolanda Ulmer is a long time District 1199 Organizer and has been working as Staff Representative at Alta Vista, Los Alamos Medical Center and St. Vincent Hospitals. She can be reached at (505) 690-6871 Email: yolanda@district1199nm.org

Susan De Leon has been involved as a Union Organizer and Staff Representative for many years working for other unions besides District 1199 NM. She has also assisted unions in their presentations to legislative bodies. She can be reached at (505) 884-7713 or Email: susan@district1199nm.org

Ivan Peña is one of the Office Assistants for District 1199 NM. He's Bilingual and has years of customer service experience. He worked for the U.S Census Bureau in 2010, working closely with the Hispanic community. He can be reached at (505) 884-7713 or Email: admin@district1199nm.org

District 1199 NM Main Office

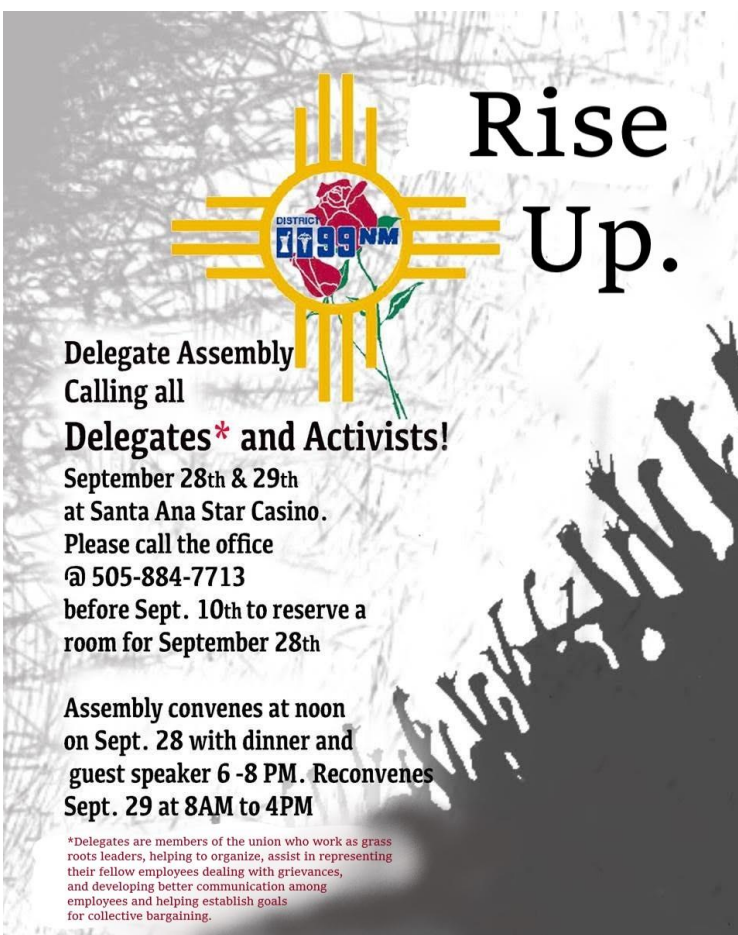
130 Alvarado Suite 100
Albuquerque, NM 87108
Phone: (505) 884-7713
Fax: (505) 884-7667

Santa Fe Office

1404 Taos St
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Phone: (505) 780-8272
Fax: (505) 780-8273

While the main office is for all of District 1199NM, it also focuses on issues affecting UNMH employees.

The Santa Fe Office mainly focuses on matters affecting members from CHRISTUS St. Vincent, Holy Cross Hospital, Los Alamos Medical Center and Alta Vista Regional Hospital. You may call either office with new organizing tips and ideas.



Rise Up.

Delegate Assembly
Calling all
Delegates* and Activists!
September 28th & 29th
at Santa Ana Star Casino.
Please call the office
@ 505-884-7713
before Sept. 10th to reserve a
room for September 28th

Assembly convenes at noon
on Sept. 28 with dinner and
guest speaker 6 -8 PM. Reconvenes
Sept. 29 at 8AM to 4PM

*Delegates are members of the union who work as grass roots leaders, helping to organize, assist in representing their fellow employees dealing with grievances, and developing better communication among employees and helping establish goals for collective bargaining.

Call for Interim Vice – President

1199 NM is seeking to fill the
position of Interim VP, open
until September 2019.

Accepting nominations through
September 21, 2018.

Call 1-800-640-2495 with
Nominations.