Dear Labor Leaders and Union Members,

Thank you for all you did during this difficult year. In a time of unprecedented challenge, our unions stepped up to serve our citizens and to protect our members. Nurses, transit operators, farm workers, mail carriers, UPS drivers, grocery clerks, and so many other union members have worked tirelessly to serve and provide for people during this pandemic. And our unions have fought for and continue to fight for safeguards to keep workers healthy during this crisis. While many union members are working harder than ever, others remain unemployed. Union leaders have worked diligently to help members file unemployment claims, and we continue to fight for expanded benefits and COVID relief to help get people back to work.

Amid it all, we mobilized for a critical election. We moved our political training series online, we organized virtual candidate town halls, and thanks to your help, we engaged more union members than ever with our calls and texts. Because of our efforts, we were able to re-elect Governor Roy Cooper and elect two more pro-worker candidates to Congress. And nationally, we will have the most pro-union president ever in Joe Biden.

We also celebrated a huge organizing victory—over 1800 nurses in Asheville voted to join National Nurses United. That is the largest union victory in the South in over a decade!

Together we will get through these challenging times. I look forward to 2021, seeing your smiling faces in-person again, and working together to grow our movement.

In Solidarity,

MaryBe McMillan
President

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

LABOR 2020

★ Re-elected Governor Roy Cooper, Attorney General Josh Stein, Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, and State Auditor Beth Wood.

★ Increased the number of pro-worker members of our congressional delegation from 3 to 5 with the election of Deborah Ross and Kathy Manning.

★ Held 11 virtual town halls in 2 months for over 500 union members to meet our endorsed candidates.

★ Ran our largest union member-to-member electoral campaign ever despite the pandemic, including nearly 250 thousand calls and over 153 thousand texts by 69 released staff and 337 volunteers across nearly 3000 voter contact shifts.

POLICY PROGRESS

★ Secured $15 an hour living wage for school bus drivers and school support staff in Durham County.

★ Helped win fully-paid parental and family leave for Buncombe County employees.

AFFILIATE SUPPORT

★ Compiled and published COVID-19 resources for working people and legal guidance for unions.

★ Held ongoing, bi-weekly COVID-19 update calls with affiliates and lobbied state and federal elected officials and agencies around unemployment insurance and other relief efforts.

★ Organized virtual press events about racial justice and COVID-19 relief.

★ Honored members of UAW Local 2404 with our 2020 P.R. Latta Rank-and-File Award.

★ Supported UNITE HERE airport workers’ campaign.
BUILDING POWER

★ Helped 1,800 nurses at Mission Health in Asheville win their organizing drive with National Nurses United, the largest union victory in the South in over a decade.

★ Organized a successful, entirely online 63rd Annual Convention with over 200 attendees and featuring CWA Secretary-Treasurer Sara Steffens and USW Vice President Fred Redmond.

★ Conducted a racial justice training for our Executive Board members.

★ Passed a comprehensive resolution on racial justice at our 63rd Annual Convention to guide our work going forward.

★ Held a 2-day virtual planning retreat with board members to come up with a new strategic plan to build power for working people.

★ Expanded our coalition work around paid leave and raising the minimum wage to include coronavirus relief and election defense.

★ Developed an online training series to empower Local Union Coordinators to move our work.

★ Secured appointments of union members to state boards and commissions.

2021 DATES TO WATCH

April 28: Workers’ Memorial Day

May 1: May Day

May 8: Stamp Out Hunger / NALC Food Drive

Sept. 6: Labor Day


Nov. 2: Municipal elections