



Deborah Burger, RN

Member, Council of Presidents
California Nurses Association/
National Nurses Organizing Committee
National Nurses United

Deborah Burger is a registered nurse and member of the California Nurses Association/ National Nurses Organizing Committee's Council of Presidents. She is also Co-President of National Nurses United, the largest union and professional organization of registered nurses in United States history, with over 185,000 members nationwide.

Burger grew up in Sacramento, California, in a time when career options for young women were limited to teacher, secretary, or nurse. She chose nursing, and was soon a graduate of City College of San Francisco's ADN program. Since then, her career as an RN has spanned over forty years and covered such units and fields as Medical-Surgical, post-partum, labor, and delivery, neonatal intensive care, pediatric, otolaryngology head and neck surgery, and diabetes care management. Today she works in gastroenterology center at Kaiser Permanente Medical Group in Santa Rosa, California.

In 2001 she was elected as Chair of CNA/NNOC's Joint Area Bargaining Council, Kaiser Division.

Under her leadership the last round of negotiations with Kaiser Permanente led to the best wages, benefits, and working conditions for registered nurses in the entire United States.

Burger was crucial in pursuing the passage and implementation of California's Safe Staffing bill, which provided the country's first mandated RN-to-patient ratios. Her participation has aided CNA/NNOC's Government Relations program in successfully advocating for landmark nursing legislation, including whistle-blower protections, nurse title protection, and medical advice standards.

As President from 2003 to 2007, and a member of the Council of Presidents with three other outstanding nurse leaders since 2007, Burger has helped CNA usher in a new era of national nurse solidarity. She was instrumental in the creation of CNA's national organizing arm, the National Nurses Organizing Committee, and its fusion with the Massachusetts Nurses Association and United American Nurses to form National Nurses United in 2009 .

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www.NationalNursesUnited.org