



# Jean Ross, RN

President  
National Nurses United

Jean Ross is an acute-care registered nurse and member of National Nurses United's Council of Presidents. In that role, Ross ranks among the nation's most prominent RN leaders and often represents and speaks for the organization on a broad range of topics that nurses champion, from establishing a single-payer health care system in the United States by improving and expanding Medicare to all residents, to reshifting our energy industry away from fossil fuels toward renewables in order to reverse climate disruption.

A passionate advocate for social justice, Ross grew up in the suburbs of Minneapolis, Minn. and has worked at the same medical center, Fairview Southdale Hospital, for 35 years. She became active in the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) in the wake of a historic nurses strike in 1984, when 6,000 Twin Cities-area nurses took to the picket line to defend seniority rights.

Ross went on to hold the position of chief steward at her hospital for 20 years. In 2001, she helped lead a strike of Fairview nurses that achieved landmark contract language allowing nurses to close a unit to new patients when it was too understaffed for them to provide safe care.

She used her positions as chair of the MNA's Economic and General Welfare Commission (1997-2001) and director on the United American Nurses (UAN) Executive Council (2002-2006) to build support for organizing nurses around the country. In 2006, Ross became secretary-treasurer of UAN, an office she held through 2009. She played a key role in bringing together UAN nurses with their colleagues in the California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee to form National Nurses United in 2009.

Ross has also served as a board delegate for the Coalition of Labor Union Women. She holds a BSN from the College of Saint Teresa.

*National Nurses United is the country's largest union and professional organization of registered nurses, with more than 150,000 members nationwide.*



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