

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Megan Othersen Gorman / mgorman@pasnap.com / (215) 817-5781

December 16, 2021

27 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists at Temple North/Jeanes Hospital and Fox Chase Cancer Center Vote Overwhelmingly to Form a Union with PASNAP

The election, which will be followed by contract bargaining, ensures that the nurse anesthetists' concerns are heard, their role is respected, and patient care is prioritized.

Conshohocken, PA - Tonight, 27 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) at Jeanes Hospital and Fox Chase Cancer Center, both of which are under the Temple University Health System umbrella, voted overwhelmingly to form a union. They join the more than 9,000 frontline healthcare professionals across the commonwealth represented by the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals (PASNAP), including 2,200 nurses and professionals at Temple University Hospital/Main Campus, 315 nurses at Temple North/Jeanes Hospital, and 100 nurses who work in Temple research and outpatient clinics.

“We are thrilled to welcome more sisters and brothers into our union,” says PASNAP President Maureen May, a longtime Temple University Hospital nurse. “There is always strength in numbers, but in this time of great strain for frontline healthcare workers, it is especially imperative to have a seat at the table to advocate for ourselves, our patients and our professions.”

“We hope that by coming together to form a union, working conditions and CRNA retention at our hospitals will improve, which will ultimately have a positive impact on our patients and on the community we serve,” says Bernadette Golarz, DNP, CRNA, a nurse anesthetist at both Temple North/Jeanes and Fox Chase Cancer Center. “We look forward to sitting down with members of our leadership in a democratic fashion and working together to improve our hospitals.”

The CRNAs and nurses at Temple Main and at Jeanes Hospital have a voice, a seat at the table, and a great contract. Why shouldn't their colleagues at Temple North?

“We chose to unionize in order to define our worth,” says nurse anesthetist H. Alexis Pepe, MSN, CRNA. “We are a highly skilled, intelligent, diligent, and dedicated group of individuals who strive to provide the best quality care to our patients – many of whom have numerous complexities – each and every day. We banded together in order to be seen and treated as valuable contributors to the patient care experience within the Temple University Health System.”

The Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals represents more than 9,000 nurses and healthcare professionals across the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania Independent Nurses is a PASNAP local.