



JNESO

DISTRICT COUNCIL 1, IUOE / AFL-CIO
the professional health care union

TEL: (732) 745-2776
FAX: (732) 828-6343
WEB: WWW.JNESO.ORG
MEMBERS: (800) 292-0542

1225 LIVINGSTON AVE., NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ 08902

ELFRIEDA V. JOHNSON, RNC, PRESIDENT
DOUGLAS A. PLACA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stacey Ehling 609-408-2461
stacey@princetonsc.com

JNESO Announces 2023 Award Recipients

North Brunswick – JNESO District Council 1, IUOE-AFL-CIO, recognized the support of a local lawmaker on health care issues, honored nurses for their dedication and service, and presented scholarships to students during their Convention “Healthcare in the 21st Century,” held in Atlantic City.

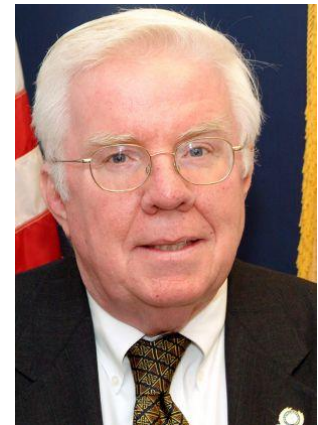
The Convention is part of JNESO’s ongoing commitment to making sure nurses have access to the latest information and training on important issues that can affect patients and the healthcare profession. JNESO, is one of the largest health care unions in New Jersey representing some 5,000 nurses and technicians at facilities across New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Public Servant of the Year

The support of local lawmakers is critical to ensuring that issues and concerns of nurses and other health care professionals are taken into consideration when legislation is being created in the State.

JNESO recognized New Jersey Assemblyman and Majority Deputy Leader Thomas Giblin as the “2023 JNESO Public Servant of the Year.”

“Assemblyman Giblin has always been a strong advocate for labor unions and showed his mettle when he came out to the JNESO picket lines to support our members during the 32-day strike at St. Michael’s Medical Center last May,” said Elfrieda Johnson, President of JNESO. “We are proud to honor him with the award this year.”



Giblin is a member of the New Jersey House of Representatives (District 34, Monroe County). He has served the state of New Jersey since 1990 and was elected to the General Assembly in 2006. In 2008, he was elected as Majority Deputy Leader. Giblin advocates for labor unions and councils across the state.

2023 JNESO Scholarship Recipients

Three \$1,000 scholarships which are based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership, social awareness, and career goals.

Laura King Scholarship - For the spouses or children of JNESO members advancing their education in any area of higher education.



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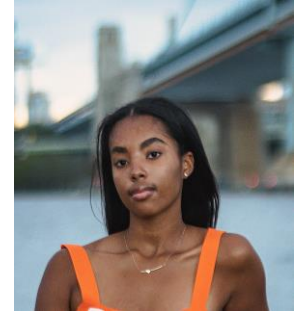
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Anira Thomas, of Sicklerville, N.J., is an honors psychology and business administration student at Howard University in Washington D.C.

“I take pride in being a person people can come talk to and feel safe with, which I would consider to be the driving force behind my career aspirations,” says Thomas, who aspires to work in the field of human resources. Her mother, Tomyka Thomas, RN, is a labor and delivery nurse at the Virtua in Voorhees, N.J.



Thomas will graduate in 2026 with her bachelor’s degree and plans to pursue her master’s degree shortly after. Throughout her academic career, she has taken on many leadership roles. Thomas is an active member of South Jersey Teenshop Inc. and A Better Chance’s Mid-Atlantic Chapter. As a stellar student, Thomas is also an inductee of the National Honors Society and has received multiple awards and scholarships for her accomplishments. This scholarship will help her to relieve textbook fees and other expenses.

Barbara Crosby Scholarship - For the spouses or children of JNESO members advancing their education in healthcare.

Amber Armitage, of Stroudsburg, P.A., is a current freshman double majoring in neuroscience and biology at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. Her mother, Suzette Armitage, is an interventional radiology nurse at Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono.



“I would love to have the knowledge to help people some day in ways that not many people can. Healthcare is a very demanding field of work, but it is also one of the most rewarding when you get to see all the patients and families you get to help, and I would love to be a part of that someday,” said Armitage, who aspires to attend medical school and become a neurosurgeon.

Since attending the University of Scranton, Armitage has become involved in many organizations including the Health Professions Organization, Scranton Neuroscience Society, Performance Orchestra, and aids in research prospects. The scholarship will help pay for undergraduate tuition and aid her in her academic journey to becoming a physician.

Virginia Spiegel Scholarship - For JNESO union members advancing their education in healthcare.



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Samantha Tew of Riverton, N.J. is currently a JNESO member and NICU nurse at Virtua Hospital of Voorhees, N.J. and is pursuing a Master’s of Science in Nursing at Rowan University in Glassboro, N.J. Tew is on track to achieve her dream role as a Family Nurse Practitioner.



“I always wanted to be a nurse as my mom is a labor and delivery nurse. I always looked up to her as a role model. I saw the impact she was able to make on the community, and I was inspired to do the same. I love helping and caring for others,” said Tew.

Tew previously attended the University of Tampa in Florida where she earned her bachelor’s degree in Nursing Science and was an active member of the student nurses association. As a current full-time nurse and graduate student, Tew acknowledges difficulties with a full schedule however, she continues to work tirelessly towards her dream career. “Although it may be hard at times, I know it will be worth it in the end when I become a Nurse Practitioner,” she said.

2023 JNESO Board Awards

Members of the JNESO board and all local unit leaders are volunteers who dedicate their precious free time to protect the health, safety and welfare of members at the workplace. These members were honored for their outstanding service and commitment.

Representative of the Year - Annmarie Ruggiero of Mt. Pocono, PA - Lehigh Valley Hospital - Pocono



Each convention year the JNESO Board of Directors selects an outstanding local member for recognition. Based on demonstrated leadership, political advocacy, membership recruitment, competency in negotiations, and plain old-fashioned moral support.

Steward of The Year Award - Lehigh Valley Hospital -Pocono Lisa Massa of East Stroudsburg, PA Lory Martini of Saylorsburg, PA



The awardees are chosen by the JNESO Labor Staff and are presented for competency in grievance handling, support to the members, long hours given freely to members and the Labor Staff and being the glue that holds our contract together.





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Mother Jones Award - Elfrieda Johnson of Union, N.J. President of JNESO, President of JNESO Local at Saint Michael's Medical Center, Newark, N.J.

Awarded when a member lives up to the moral compass and fighting spirit of labor pioneer Mary Harris, "Mother" Jones. Through a lifelong devotion to the wellbeing of fellow workers, the awardee reflects Jones' commitment to the rights of working men and women and carries on her legacy.



Unsung Heroes Award - Florine Jones of North Plainfield, N.J. JNESO Board Member, Nurse - Hackensack University Medical Center

The Unsung Heroes award is given when mundane but essential service should be appreciated. JNESO presents this award to those "with whom we could not do without," and to "people who day in and day out make our union work." This award is for those individuals who work above and beyond in the background to support JNESO's mission and members.



Solidarity Award - Saint Michael's Medical Center, Newark, N.J Local

The Solidarity Award is only given if circumstances warrant its distribution. The award is presented to a Local Executive Committee, Negotiating Committee or an entire Local or a defined group of a Local for demonstrating unity, harmony, cohesion, shared aims, camaraderie and/ or team spirit as a group.

This year's Scholarship Committee Members were Elizabeth Kudrick, Annmarie Ruggiero, George Christian and Barbara Jones. To learn more about JNESO visit www.JNESO.org

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