

Speaker Bio Advocacy Retreat 2024

Haley Quinn

Bio: Haley Quinn is an Assistant Director in AFT's Health Issues department, focusing on safe staffing, healthcare workforce issues, and federal health policy. Haley has been with AFT Health Issues for five years and has been working in the labor movement for a decade. She has a degree in political science from New York University and lives in the Washington, D.C. area with her wife and their two cats.

Session Description: Across the country, AFT nurses and health professionals are winning meaningful gains for safe staffing and patient safety. In this presentation, participants will learn about approaches to safe staffing, recent victories for safe staffing, and how to effectively use the tools currently available to them to advocate for patient safety.

Amanda Frickle

Bio: Amanda Frickle was born & raised in Billings, MT in a union household. She was the first in her family to attend college and earned a B.A. in History & Political Economy from the College of Idaho and a Masters in Women's Studies from the University of Oxford. Amanda returned to Montana and began her career in political organizing, eventually going on to serve three sessions as the Chief of Staff for the Montana House Democrats and the ED of the Montana Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. Amanda is proud to have returned to her union roots as the Political Director of the MT AFL-CIO. During her time in this position, Amanda worked with affiliates to defeat every union-busting and RTW bill that was considered by the 2023 Republican Supermajority Legislature and Republican Governor. Amanda lives in Helena with her husband, daughter, and foster dog.

Session Description: Montana has a citizen legislature that meets every other year at the State Capitol. Advocacy from members of the public is vital in shaping the policy decisions that are made. This session will cover how to effectively engage in grassroots advocacy to win on issues important to the nursing profession.

Erin Foley

Bio: Erin has worked in healthcare for many years and has been representing union members for over 10 years. She holds a Bachelor's degree in communications and an Associate's degree in radiology. She is Secretary/Treasurer Teamsters Local 2 and President of MT AFL-CIO.

Session Description: Collective Action

Brenda Donaldson BAN, RN, NPD-BC

Bio: As a graduate of Carroll College, Brenda has practiced for nearly 38 years in a variety of roles in the nursing profession. To remain engaged in her profession, she has changed her focus in nursing practice every 10 years to include Med/Surg, Interventional Radiology, Endoscopy, Out-Patient Surgery and Nursing Professional Development. She obtained board certification with each specialty change. Currently, Brenda is serving as a Professional Development Specialist for the Montana Nurses Association. She was awarded the 2016 Nurse of the Year award from the Montana Nurses Association for her advocacy work related to MNA's workplace violence campaign "Your Nurse Wears Combat Boots" She engaged in providing education that violence is not part of the job, promoting a culture change, and engaging in legislative advocacy.

Session Description: Deciphering the MT Board of Nursing CE Repeal