

Congress News

tional co-operation among affiliates, one union one industry, and representation based on paid-up membership.

Who is FEDUSA?

FEDUSA was established in 1997 by the amalgamation between FEDSAL and FORCE. FEDSAL had a history of involvement in the private and para-statal sectors whilst FORCE was involved in the public sector. FEDUSA is the second largest federation.

It functions on the principles of party political independence, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, professionalism, disciplined action, support for balanced market related economic policies, freedom of association and the right to organise, the development to advancement of all people, solidarity, social justice and peace.

Who is NACTU?

NACTU was formed in 1986 by amalgamation of the Council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA) and Azanian Confederation of Trade Unions (AZACTU). It is the third largest federation. There are discussions between NACTU and FEDUSA focussing on issues of common interest.

NACTU operates on the principles of non-racialism, worker control, working class leadership, financial accountability, non-affiliation to political organisations, and autonomy of affiliated trade unions.

What are the possible implications for DENOSA to affiliate to a federation?

DENOSA is a new Organisation. Joining a federation will have both positive and negative implications.

Positive implications include that:

- DENOSA will participate in major economic, social and development policies
- DENOSA will get support from its member affiliate/s participating in various bargaining forums
- DENOSA will get training on different labour issues run by its (mother) federation and NEDLAC.

Negative Implications include that:

- There are various perceptions about each of the various federations and, therefore, a danger that DENOSA may lose some of its members who may not be happy with DENOSA affiliating with a particular federation.

There are some questions that must be asked

Some questions that need to be asked, include:

- Is it the right time for DENOSA to affiliate to a federation?
- Should DENOSA not look at other independent unions/organisations and consider forming a federation of its own?

Discussion and debate at the National Congress

Lengthy debate followed the introduction of this item. Various views were expressed by delegates in favour of, and against possible affiliation at this stage. Some of the views expressed included the fact certain of the existing federations are politically influenced and this may not be in the interest of the membership of DENOSA.

No decision taken regarding affiliation

No formal decision was taken on affiliation of DENOSA to a par-

ticular federation. The delegates at the National Congress supported the view that the National Board of DENOSA should take the matter forward and provide for further consultation and debate.

**The name is...
DENOSA!!!**

Delegates at the first National Congress voted unanimously that the name of the organisation remains The Democratic Nursing Association of South Africa.

**One membership fee
for all!**

From the Editor's desk

Information provided here was taken from the opening address of the President as well as introductory remarks made by M Elda Pretorius, Member of the National Board, before the debate on membership fees took place at the first National Congress DENOSA on 2/3 October 1997

The President, Prof Philda Dudu Nzimande said in her opening address at the commencement of the first National Congress DENOSA that "...the strength of any organisation depends on its financial standing". DENOSA needs to strengthen its Union leadership and must improve its general servicing of members. In order for DENOSA to do this, more finances are needed. The delegates at the Congress accepted that DENOSA must be empowered to do what its membership expects from it. There are different ways of empowering DENOSA, but the most important factor lies in the financial empowerment of DENOSA through membership fees.

Delegates at the first National Congress on 2/3 October 1997 debated the issue of membership fees. Cognisance was taken of the fact that membership fees of other unions and organisations are much higher than those currently paid to DENOSA. If DENOSA wants to compete with other unions and organisations, an adjustment of membership fees becomes a crucial matter.

After a secret ballot, it was resolved that all members will pay the same membership fee irrespective of which category of nurses they represent.

It was resolved that the membership fee for 1998 will be R15 per month.

Even though there is a difference in salaries of the different categories of nurses, it must be realised that all members receive the same benefits from DENOSA.