

and the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) 30th anniversary. Noting several of the association's accomplishments, she observed that, "again and again, nurses have been faced with extraordinary circumstances and then demonstrated their skill and fortitude."



Debbie Hatmaker

She added, "Protecting the interests of nurses and patients has been foundational to the ANA legacy. Through our activity, policymakers began to recognize the essential role nurses play in healthcare."

Hatmaker quoted ANA's 1897 meeting minutes that outlined the original goals for the organization: "To establish and maintain a code of ethics; to elevate the standards of nursing education; to promote the usefulness and honor, the financial and other interests of nursing."

"We can take pride in how ANA is still relevant and contributing to the public health of the nation 125 years later," Hatmaker said, "and the impact of ANCC on nursing excellence."



AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

Critical issues

On June 1 and 3, Assembly representatives engaged in four online dialogue forums on topics of importance to the profession, convened by the ANA Professional Policy Committee. The Assembly subsequently passed these recommendations that call on ANA to:

- adopt the position to endorse universal health-care coverage that ensures equitable access to comprehensive nursing services, incorporating appropriate reimbursement of all needed services and full practice authority for all nurses in the healthcare delivery system; therefore, rescinding its 1999 House of Delegates approved policy endorsing single-payer as the most desirable option for financing a reformed healthcare system.

- launch a strategic initiative to integrate precision health and genomics into basic and advanced nursing practice.
- advocate for changes that would authorize APRNs to directly bill for services provided for skilled nursing care, long-term care, and home and community-based care, including those services provided as an employee.
- report back to the 2022 Membership Assembly on actions taken to further address crisis standards of care and advance the preparation of nurses and the profession to respond to future disasters and pandemics.

Additionally, the C/SNAs are to consider the information contained in the Committee's report and encourage the Leadership Council Executive Committee (LCEC), a representative advisory body that provides informed guidance and recommendations on professional issues in collaboration with the ANA Board of Directors, to coordinate sharing innovations, best practices, and lessons learned regarding crisis standards of care. It was requested that the LCEC report back to the 2022 Membership Assembly on efforts at the state level to advance preparation for responding to disasters and pandemics.

ANA members can view background documents and the final report from the Professional Policy Committee on the Membership Assembly website (bit.ly/3hq1Ede).

Racism in nursing

On June 14, Assembly representatives heard a report from the National Commission to Address Racism in Nursing, "Moving Forward: Addressing Racism in Nursing." ANA Scholar-in-Residence G. Rumay Alexander, EdD, RN, FAAN, a North Carolina Nurses Association member, shared findings from the "Summary Report: Listening Sessions on Racism in Nursing."

The report was based on listening sessions conducted in early 2021. Nurses who identified as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) repeatedly echoed the same experience of being presumed incompetent with subsequent limited and denied opportunities. BIPOC nurses described the feeling of being challenged and having their knowledge minimized based on the belief that they are less than their White colleagues and therefore cannot provide qualified care.

The report, available to members on the Membership Assembly website, offered four recommendations: mentorship, accountability, allyship, and calling out racism.

Speaking up for safety and support

Cole, Grant, and Hatmaker emphasized ANA's advocacy on behalf of nurses and patients.