

“ANA continues to lobby on issues our members care about,” Hatmaker said, citing examples of eliminating mandatory overtime, furthering payment models that reflect the value of nursing, and leading coalition efforts on APRN scope of practice issues.

Making the healthcare work environment safer is another priority. In April, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that requires hospitals to develop violence-prevention plans. The bill, endorsed by ANA, has moved to the Senate for consideration.

Unprecedented needs

With nurses giving more than ever, they need more support. ANA has made nurses’ well-being a priority with programs and initiatives such as mental health resources and financial assistance.

Working with ANA and specialty nursing organizations, the American Nurses Foundation (the Foundation) established the Well-Being Initiative to support nurses’ mental health and resilience during the pandemic. This program helps nurses combat burnout, manage stress, and overcome trauma.

In addition, the ANA Enterprise developed the Nurse Suicide Prevention and Resilience Resource site to help nurses cope with depression, anxiety, and thoughts of suicide.

The Foundation’s Coronavirus Response Fund for Nurses provided \$2.6 million in direct aid to more than 2,000 nurses in 45 states.

In remembrance

The Assembly honored fallen nurses with the annual Nightingale Tribute, which includes nurses who died due to COVID-19, with a reading of a poem by Kansas State Nurses Association member Duane Jaeger, MSN, RN (nursingworld.org/nightingaletribute).

Innovation and inspiration

Cole noted in her address that nurse innovation thrived during the pandemic. “We [nurses] found ourselves at ground zero, having to innovate and collaborate our way through situations we had never encountered before,” she said. “The crisis inspired nurses to bring their ingenuity to solve everyday problems affecting COVID-19 patients and the hospitals treating them.”

Cole cited ANA’s commitment to building a culture of innovation with initiatives like the See You Now podcast, virtual Innovation Lounges, the ANA Innovation Awards, and other projects in development.

In addition, Cole reflected on nurses’ experiences over the past 15 months and looked to the future. “We are rethinking our roles as nurses, especially after COVID-19,” she said. “The respect we gained in the public eye during the pandemic has empowered us. Now we must build on these accomplishments and the value of nursing is better understood and remembered well after the pandemic fades.”

—Elizabeth Moore is a writer at ANA.

ANA elects national officers and committee members

The American Nurses Association (ANA) annual leadership elections took place after the 2021 Membership Assembly, with Joan Widmer, MS, MSBA, RN, CEN, of the New Hampshire Nurses Association, and Amy McCarthy, MSN, RNC-MNN, NE-BC, of the Texas Nurses Association, newly elected as treasurer and director-at-large, respectively. Widmer and McCarthy will serve 2-year terms.

In addition, Vice President Susan Swart, EdD, MS, RN, CAE, of ANA-Illinois, and Director-at-Large, Recent Graduate Marcus Henderson, MSN, RN, of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, were re-elected to their 2-year terms on the board of directors.

The voting representatives of the ANA Membership Assembly elected leaders to serve in these positions and on the nominations and elections committee. Voting took place from June 18 through June 24. Terms for all positions will start on January 1, 2022.

Those continuing their terms on the ANA Board of Directors in 2022 include: President Ernest Grant,

PhD, RN, FAAN, of the North Carolina Nurses Association; Secretary Stephanie Pierce, PhD, MN, RN, CNE, of the Louisiana State Nurses Association; Director-at-Large, Staff Nurse Amanda Buechel, BSN, RN, of ANA-Illinois; Director-at-Large Jennifer Gil, BSN, RN, of ANA Massachusetts; and Director-at-Large Brienne Sandow, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, of ANA-Idaho.

Four individuals were elected to serve on the nominations and elections committee: Gayle Peterson, RN-BC, of ANA Massachusetts; Larlene Dunsmuir, DNP, FNP, ANP-C, of the Oregon Nurses Association; Nelson Tuazon, DNP, DBA, RN, NEA-BC, CENP, CPHQ, CPPS, CPHQ, FAAN, FANP, FACHE, of the Texas Nurses Association; and Linda Taft, RN, of ANA-Michigan.

ANA thanked Treasurer Jennifer Mensik-Kennedy, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, and Director-at-Large Jeff Watson, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, whose terms run through Dec. 31, for “their strong and thoughtful leadership, steadfast commitment to the profession, and selfless service to ANA.”

ELECTION RESULTS