

# The Evolution of ANA-Ohio

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In 2019 a group of nurses, who were long-time members of the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA), came together informally out of a shared concern that ONA was no longer the voice for registered nurses in Ohio. Current ONA leadership was inexperienced, and increasingly focused its priorities on the interests and needs of acute care staff nurses in collective bargaining units, at the expense of the vast number of nurses looking for more inclusive representation from a professional nursing organization with a multi-purpose agenda and programming.

Many of these concerned nurses have held leadership positions in ONA, the American Nurses Association (ANA) and/or district associations and came from across Ohio. Some were nurse educators, some community health nurses, some advanced practice nurses, while others had shaped ONA's collective bargaining program since its inception. They shared the belief that nurses are stronger when they come together and that their collective voices must be

heard at policy tables when important decisions affecting healthcare providers and their patients are made. They believed that ALL nurses must be active shapers of the evolving healthcare system, but that ONA was representing unionized nurses to the marginalization of most ONA members.

During 2020, the group continued to try to influence ONA to take a broader approach to its advocacy efforts and to be more transparent and forthright, while intentionally seeking the opinions and expertise of all its members. Those efforts culminated at the 2021 ONA House of Delegates where these nurses proposed several motions that were adopted by the House. One of these motions directed the newly elected Board of Directors (now controlled entirely by collective bargaining interests) to engage in a formal mediation process conducted by an outside, experienced mediator to help resolve the differences and preserve ONA and its association with ANA). During its first meeting in January 2022, the new ONA Board of Di-

rectors voted in executive session that all motions adopted by the House were null and void because they violated unspecified organizational bylaws and provisions in Ohio law. Repeated efforts by members to obtain clarification regarding that decision were unsuccessful with the Board relying on the confidentiality of decisions made in executive session as the alleged reason for its lack of transparency.

Eventually, it became apparent that the goal of saving ONA as a professional organization for all registered nurses in Ohio was a failed mission. On March 18, 2022, a new organization, **Ohio Registered Nurses (OHRN)** was legally created through the filing of Articles of Incorporation with Ohio's Secretary of State. OHRN's avowed purpose, as identified in the Articles, was to support all nurses in their professional development, including honing of leadership skills, career coaching and mentoring; cutting edge continuing education; enhanced informed advocacy through inclusive collaboration; and user friendly,



timely, transparent communication with all its members. OHRN elected leaders established bylaws and affordable dues and grew its membership to over 800 by year's end.

In November 2022 OHRN learned of the disaffiliation by ANA of ONA as its Ohio Constituent/ State Nurses Association (C/SNA), opening the door for OHRN to apply. By April 2023 an application for consideration was submitted; in May 2023 OHRN members approved bylaws amendments that included a name change; and on June 1, 2023, OHRN became **ANA-Ohio**, with full rights and responsibilities as the Ohio C/SNA of ANA conferred by the ANA Board of Directors. On June 23,

2023, the two elected delegates with five other members of **ANA-Ohio** were officially welcomed into the ANA Membership Assembly in Washington, D.C.

**ANA-Ohio** is responsive, nimble, and is engaging new members, some were previous ONA members while others never belong to ONA. These members are joining the founding members and continuing to shape the organization as it grows and matures to reach its full potential. As of August 1, 2023, membership had reached 712 nurses from diverse backgrounds, roles, and practice settings. **ANA-Ohio** is committed to being a welcoming organization for nurse colleagues of all backgrounds and seeks the active participation of all Ohio nurses.

**ANA-Ohio** is not competing with any other Ohio organization. It is not affiliated with any union. Rather, its approach is fully collaborative and fully respectful of the need for equity, diversity, and inclusion in all that it does. It will rely on collaboration to address practice issues across all practice areas. The founders encourage all members to fully benefit from the ANA affiliation.

**ANA-Ohio** will bring issues and trends to its members so they can be innovative change agents. Its futuristic vision will enable members to thrive, not merely survive, the inevitable changes coming to every healthcare setting. ■

## ANA-Ohio Annual Meeting

Contributing Author: Barbara Brunt, MA, MN, RN, NE-BC, NPDA-BC

ANA-Ohio will have its first annual meeting on September 22nd and 23rd at The Ohio State University, Heminger Hall, Columbus, Ohio. The program theme is "Celebrate, Collaborate, Create". The program will begin Friday evening at 7:00 pm with a welcome reception and a celebration of the accomplishments and individuals who created OHRN, which officially became ANA-Ohio on June 1, 2023.

The Saturday program will provide two sessions offering nursing continuing professional development contact hours. Dr Ernest Grant, the immediate past president of ANA, will provide the keynote presentation titled "Putting the Fire Back in Your Organization". Nicole Ruttencutter from The Lamp Storytelling will be presenting the closing session, titled "Celebrate, Collaborate, and Create Stories to Heal the Healers."

There will be a business meeting with written reports from the various committees. The President, Executive

Director, and Finance Committees will have verbal reports, with welcomes from other dignitaries.

All participants will have an opportunity to participate in table-top discussion which will help guide ANA-Ohio's strategic plan development and actions. The topics for these discussion sessions are:

1. Promoting Diversity in Nursing Education
2. Developing Partnerships with Nurses and other groups
3. Preparing Nurses to Practice in the Future to achieve excellence through technology, resources, and innovation.

There will be a 10-minute presentation on the topic and then everyone will have an opportunity to share ideas for actionable strategies that ANA-Ohio could implement. Guidelines for the discussion will be shared with participants prior to the meeting. ■

You will not want to miss the ANA-Ohio inaugural meeting! This event provides an opportunity to engage and shape the future of this association.



## ANA-Ohio Inaugural Annual Meeting Schedule

Rebecca M. Patton, DNP, RN, CNOR, FAAN  
President, ANA-Ohio

### All activities will be at:

Heminger Hall, Ohio State University  
1577 Neil Avenue Columbus, OH 43210

### Friday, September 22, 2023

7:00 – 9:00 pm Reception and Celebration

### Saturday, September 23, 2023

7:00 am **BREAKFAST**

8:00 am **CALL TO ORDER**

Rebecca M. Patton, DNP, RN, CNOR, FAAN  
Welcome  
Introductions

8:15 am **CE KEYNOTE SESSION #1**

Ernest J. Grant, Ph.D., RN, FAAN  
“Putting the Fire Back in Your Organization”

9:30 am **BUSINESS MEETING**

ANA-Ohio Updates  
Committee Reports

11:15 am **POLICY DISCUSSION**

Policy Discussion Issue 1  
Preparing Nurses to Practice in the Health  
Care of the Future Through the Use of Tech-  
nology, Resources and Innovative Strategies  
Policy Discussion Issue 2  
Developing Partnerships with Nursing Groups  
and other Organizations  
Policy Discussion Issue 3  
Promoting Diversity in Nursing Education  
Lunch Provided

2:00 pm **CE KEYNOTE SESSION #2**

Nicole Ruttencutter BSN, RN-BC.  
“Celebrate, Collaborate, and Create Stories to  
Heal the Healers.”

3:00 pm **MEETING WRAP UP**

These continuing education sessions are  
jointly provided by the Nursing Institute for  
Continuing Education and ANA-Ohio.

The Nursing Institute for Continuing Edu-  
cation (NICE) is approved as a provider of  
nursing professional development by the  
Maryland Nurses Association, an accredited  
approver by the American Nurses Credential-  
ing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

There will be 2 CEs awarded for the day.

**REGISTRATION:** ANA-Ohio website @ <https://ANA-OHIO.ORG>

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** Room Block at Staybridge Suites  
Columbus OSU, September 22 with a departure on  
September 23. The room rate is \$150.

## Reserve your spot now!

Register online  
ANA-Ohio website  
[ANA-OHIO.ORG](https://ANA-OHIO.ORG)

