



## FROM THE MONA PRESIDENT

Dr. Cindi Aurentz, DNP, MSN, RN, CNE

Dear Members of the Nursing Community, Nursing is the backbone of patient care, and we are facing multifaceted challenges today. Disparities in healthcare access persist, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations. Nurses often find themselves on the front lines of these inequities, striving to provide quality care amidst systemic barriers. I recently returned from the ANA Membership Assembly in Washington D.C., advocating for better working conditions, increased funding for nursing education, advancement of nursing practice, and policies that support our mental and physical well-being.

Staff shortages continue to strain our resources, compromising patient safety and nurse well-being alike. We must acknowledge and address the systemic challenges that threaten

our ability to provide the highest quality of care to our patients. Now more than ever, unity and advocacy are paramount. Together, we must stand united as one strong voice for Missouri Nurses and champion policies that prioritize patient outcomes and nurse welfare.

Our membership community is strong, thanks to you, but it could be even stronger. There are numerous opportunities and ways for you to help elevate nursing in Missouri; invite your colleagues to become a MONA member, engage in committees, share your expertise in the Missouri Nurse, or contribute to the MONA PAC. YOU are vital to our success. Thank you for your dedication to making nursing's voice heard! 🌟



## FROM THE MONA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jill Kliethermes, MSN, RN, FNP-BC

As we approach this important election, I want to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible dedication and resilience you bring to your profession every day. Your work is the backbone of our healthcare system, and your voices deserve to be heard in the political arena.

This election is an opportunity for us to shape a future where your needs and concerns are prioritized. Issues such as fair wages, safe working conditions, adequate staffing, and access to continuing education are essential for you to continue providing the highest quality care to your patients.

I encourage each of you to participate in this democratic process. Educate yourselves about the candidates and their positions on healthcare policies. Advocate for those who understand the challenges you face and are committed to supporting the nursing profession.

Your vote is powerful. By casting your ballot,

you are not only advocating for your profession but also for the well-being of your patients and the overall health of our communities.

Do you know about the Missouri Nurse Association Political Action Committee (MONA-PAC)? The MONA-PAC is the only political action committee representing the interests of all professional nurses in Missouri. It was established to elect candidates that will advance nursing's legislative and regulatory agendas.

MONA-PAC was founded in 1985 and since that time has interviewed and endorsed hundreds of candidates for elected office in the Missouri legislative and executive branches.

Each election cycle, MONA-PAC endorses candidates who have demonstrated strong support for nursing and health care issues and will best serve the interests of nurses and their patients. The Missouri Nurses Association and our PAC believe all Missourians deserve easy access to

affordable, quality health care, including that all nurses should be able to practice to the full extent of their education and training.

MONA-PAC works to ensure that nursing's perspective is considered in policy decisions made in Jefferson City. Endorsement decisions are based on several criteria including, but not

limited to, candidate survey, campaign information, and the candidate's voting record on MONA's priority issues. Consider making a recurring donation on a monthly basis – any amount that is affordable. Your regular giving helps us to plan our support for candidates for when it is most influential.

If we each do our part, we can assure

that our nursing PAC is the powerful entity we need. The nurses of Missouri are counting on us! If you have given to the PAC in 2024, THANK YOU SO MUCH! You make us stronger!

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to care, and let's work together to ensure that our voices are heard loud and clear in this election. 🌟



**Strong leadership skills among nurses are crucial for the future of healthcare and the nursing profession. MONA is dedicated to fostering professional and successful leadership among new nurses. The Future Nurse Leader Award, sponsored by MONA, acknowledges recent graduates who demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities during their time as nursing students.**

## Criteria for Student Nomination

**The Future Nurse Leader should be a graduating senior from an undergraduate nursing program who:**

- Is nominated by a full-time faculty/staff member of the school who is a current MONA member.
- Creates a positive learning/working environment
- Embodies the ethics and values of nursing
- Creates opportunities for engagement and involvement
- Demonstrates leadership:
  - Motivates and supports other students as leaders
  - Participates in community/school activities and gives back to others
  - Mentors fellow students
  - Promotes activity in nursing and student organizations

Each undergraduate nursing program can nominate one student per graduating class.

**Visit <https://missourinurses.org/fnl-award/> for full details & nomination form.**