

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Delaware Nurses Association: Your Place to Lead, Advance, and Innovate

Christopher E. Otto, MSN, RN, CCRN



The Delaware Nurses Association provides platforms for nurses to lead, advance, and innovate in the profession of nursing and healthcare. Through our governance structure of standing and special committees at DNA and our subsidiaries, you too can lead, advance, and innovate. DNA also provides coordination for nurse inclusion on statewide boards and commissions (legislative and/or regulatory).

Delaware Nurses Association (DNA)
Advocacy Committee
Finance Committee
Professional Development Committee
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, Accessibility & Antiracism Committee
Editorial Committee
Nominations & Membership Committee
Delaware Nurses Foundation (DNF)
Committee on Recognition
Committee on Finance
Committee on Wellbeing
Committee on Science
Committee on History
Delaware Nurses Workforce Institute (DNWI)
Education Committee
Employer Committee
Finance Committee
APRN Committee

One of the most compelling reasons to serve on a DNA committee is the opportunity to make a tangible impact. Members help identify pressing issues, propose solutions, and ensure that diverse perspectives are considered in decision-making. This is done on a state level, impacting nurses across the profession and settings. These contributions often shape long-term policy and directly affect the professional quality of life in nurses across the state.

Serving also fosters collaboration and networking among professionals, advocates, and policymakers. Members gain access to a wide range of expertise and build relationships that can lead to future opportunities in public service, advocacy, or professional development. The experience of working alongside others with shared goals—yet differing viewpoints—enhances one's ability to negotiate, compromise, and lead effectively.

Participation in Delaware's statewide boards and commissions is a powerful way for nurses to influence public policy, shape outcomes, and contribute to the democratic process. These bodies, often composed of citizens, experts, and stakeholders, play a critical role in advising government agencies, allocating resources, and crafting legislation that affects Delawareans. Whether focused on education, healthcare, transportation, or environmental policy, statewide committees and commissions offer a unique platform for civic engagement and leadership. Nurses must be at these tables, leading, advancing, and innovating public policy.

Moreover, statewide boards and commissions are essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in government. These bodies often hold public meetings, solicit feedback, and publish reports that inform the public and guide elected officials. This participatory model strengthens trust in institutions and empowers individuals to hold leaders accountable. Representation is another key benefit. Boards and commissions provide a voice for underrepresented communities and help ensure that policies are equitable and inclusive.

Finally, serving on a statewide board or commission is a form of civic duty. It's a chance to give back, to use one's skills and insights for the public good. In an era when civic engagement is more important than ever, these roles offer a meaningful way to participate in democracy beyond voting. They allow individuals to be part of the solution, to help shape the future of their state in ways that are thoughtful, informed, and impactful.

In sum, membership in statewide committees and commissions is not just an honor—it's a responsibility. It's a chance to lead, to listen, and to serve. So, how do you get involved? The Delaware Nurses Association helps make it possible!

DNA & Affiliate Committees

Bring your voice, experience, and ideas to DNA and our affiliates. If you would like to join a standing or special DNA, DNF, or DNWI committee, simply email contactdna@denurses.org to express your interest/s. We have several openings available now!

Delaware Boards & Commissions

Applications are accepted continuously. Review more information and all available boards and commissions at this website. Click the link to submit your application. Applicants will be notified whenever there is an opening on one of the boards or commissions you expressed interest in. governor.delaware.gov/boards-and-commissions/ ■