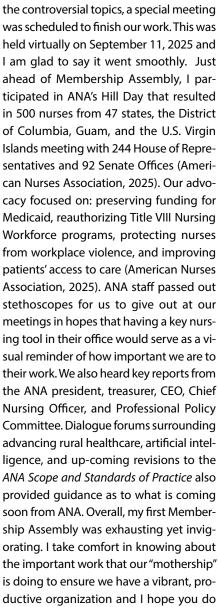
President's Message

Connie J. Perkins, PhD, RN, CNE

Every June the American Nurses Association hosts a Membership Assembly in Washington, DC. This brings together ANA's constituent member organizations (C/SNAs) (i.e. ANA-NY), Individual Member Division (IMD), affiliated organizations, and members of the ANA Board of Directors. This equals roughly 200 people each year. Representing ANA-NY besides myself and Jeanine Santelli were Kimberly Velez, Jessica Varghese, Lee Mancuso, Verlia Brown, Kerlene Richards, and Giselle Gerardi. This was my first time attending and with my luck, it was a "bylaws year". It was comforting to have a strong group of ANA-NY representatives with me as many revisions were proposed that needed careful consideration. Many of these were clerical in nature not requiring discussion. Others, not so much. There were so many bylaw amendments that ANA held four virtual pre-hearing sessions leading up to the actual Membership Assembly. Although overwhelming, it also showed their dedication to transparency as an organization. ANA-NY is also part of a

regional group that brings Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont C/SNAs together. There was discussion of controversial bylaw amendments with this group ahead of and at the Membership Assembly, which helped us see various sides of what was brought forth. A big discussion topic was about adding LPNs to ANA's membership. Pros and cons were shared many times by many state groups and even ANA past presidents. Ultimately, this change was referred back to committee for additional discussion and my hope is that it comes back to the next "bylaws year" with many of the logistical questions (i.e. do they get full membership? Can they run for a board seat?) addressed. Apportionment, which is the formula used to determine how many votes each state receives was also referred back to committee. "One member one vote", which would change the entire structure of ANA voting, was voted down. Due to the high volume of amendments proposed and

even higher level of debate on some of



American Nurses Association (2025, June 26). ANA hill day 2025: Nurses take key issues to Capital Hill. https:// www.nursingworld.org/news/newsreleases/2025/ana-hill-day-2025-nursestake-key-issues-to-capitol-hill/

now too.

