

A MESSAGE FROM MNA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Best Days Are Ahead

As we move into the summer months, I find myself reflecting on what it means for a professional community to grow, evolve, and thrive. Nursing has always been a profession shaped by change — in science, in practice, in the needs of our patients and communities. And just like the profession we represent, the Maryland Nurses Association is entering a season of meaningful transformation.

These changes are not cosmetic; they are structural, intentional, and designed to strengthen MNA for the future. I want to acknowledge something openly: not everyone will welcome these shifts. Many of our long-standing members have deep roots in the way things have always been done, and that history deserves respect. Our traditions matter. Our relationships matter. The work that brought us to this point matters.

But honoring our past does not mean standing still.

Change is not a disruption — it is an invitation. An invitation to reimagine what is possible. An invitation to build

systems that are more resilient, more equitable, and more aligned with the realities of modern nursing. An invitation to create a statewide association that can serve every nurse, in every district, with clarity, consistency, and purpose.

The adjustments ahead are grounded in one simple truth: MNA must be strong, unified, and future-ready if we are to continue advocating for the highest quality of healthcare, safe work environments, and excellence in nursing. That strength requires governance structures that work, leadership pipelines that are sustainable, and district operations that support—not strain—our mission.

I ask each of you to approach this moment with openness and curiosity. Instead of asking, “*Why can't things stay the same?*” I encourage us to ask, “*What new opportunities might this create?*” Opportunities for new leaders to emerge. Opportunities for districts to collaborate in fresh ways. Opportunities to build a more connected, more empowered statewide community.

Nurses are innovators by nature. We adapt. We problem-solve. We lead. And when we embrace change with intention, we create better outcomes — for our patients, our colleagues, and our profession.

As we move forward together, I remain deeply grateful for your commitment to MNA and to the future of nursing in Maryland. This is a pivotal moment, and your engagement, your voice, and your willingness to grow with us will shape the next chapter of our association.

Let's meet this moment with optimism, courage, and the shared belief that MNA's best days are ahead. ■

With gratitude,

Barbara Biedrzycki



MNA and ANA Join Forces for Nurses Week

Nurses Week 2026 began with a powerful celebration of nurses and the extraordinary impact they make in our communities every day. In partnership with the American Nurses Association (ANA), Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) staff, including Executive Director Barb Biedrzycki and Director of Marketing and Communications Ron Santana, helped kick off the week by distributing breakfast and gifts to nurses at MedStar Washington Hospital Center, the largest hospital in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The event was a meaningful way to thank nurses for their dedication, compassion, and leadership while recognizing the essential role they play in patient care every day.

The celebration continued that afternoon at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center, where nurses working at the forefront of groundbreaking clinical research were honored for their contributions to healthcare innovation. Barb and Ron were joined by NIH Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, ANA CEO Angela Beddoe, and ANA CNO Brad Goettl for this special occasion. The presence of Dr. Bhattacharya underscored the national importance of nursing leadership and research, making this an inspiring and memorable start to Nurses Week 2026. ■



(Top) NIH Clinical Center nurse leaders, ANA leaders and MNA staff.

(Bottom) Ron Santana, Brad Goettl, Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, Barb Biedrzycki, and Angela Beddoe.