

Stepping Into Leadership: Building the Future of ANA-Michigan Together



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It is an exciting time for ANA-Michigan—one defined by growth, renewed energy, and a clear vision for the future of nursing leadership across our state.

Since stepping into the role of Executive Director earlier this year, I have had the privilege of working alongside dedicated leaders, members, and partners who are deeply committed to advancing the nursing profession. While my time in this role has been brief, the momentum we are building together is both meaningful and inspiring.

In partnership with Associate Director Candice Black and the ANA-Michigan Board of Directors, we have focused on creating a strong and sustainable foundation for the organization's future. Through consistent collaboration and engagement with board leadership, we are strengthening operations, enhancing communication, and expanding opportunities for member connection and involvement.

A Future-Focused Vision

As we look ahead, our work is increasingly centered on intentional growth and strategic alignment. Our priorities focus on leadership development, professional advancement, and advocacy—ensuring that ANA-Michigan continues to meet the evolving needs of nurses across the state.

A key part of this vision is the expansion of dynamic, accessible programming designed to support nurses at every stage of their careers.

In 2026, ANA-Michigan is proud to introduce and enhance several exciting initiatives:

- **The Empowered Leadership Series** will equip nurses with the tools, confidence, and practical skills needed to lead in today's complex healthcare environment. Through mentorship and real-world application, this series will foster the next generation of nurse leaders.
- **Statewide Town Halls** will create space for meaningful dialogue on timely issues impacting nursing practice, workforce challenges, and healthcare policy. These conversations are designed to amplify your voice and strengthen our shared sense of community.
- **A Social Determinants of Health Webinar** will bring national expertise to our members, featuring guest presenters Katie Boston Leary, PhD, MBA, RN, FADLN, FAONL, FAAN, and Rumay Alexander, Ed.D, MSN, RN, FAAN from the American Nurses Association. This session will explore how social factors influence health outcomes and how nurses can lead efforts to advance health equity.

In addition, we are expanding educational offerings, strengthening partnerships at both the state and national levels, and broadening platforms like the *Voices for Nurses* podcast to increase engagement and visibility.

Strengthening Our Collective Voice

At the heart of these efforts is a commitment to advocacy and community. ANA-Michigan is not only working to support nurses in their daily practice, but we are also dedicated to elevating the profession and ensuring that nurses have a strong, unified voice in shaping the future of healthcare.

We are actively developing strategies to grow and retain membership, recognizing that a thriving, engaged community is essential to our success. At the same time, we are enhancing governance structures and communication systems to ensure clarity, alignment, and accountability as we move forward.

Building the Future—Together

What makes this moment truly special is not just the progress we have made, but the potential that lies ahead.

We are not simply maintaining ANA-Michigan—we are actively building its future:

- A future where the organization is more responsive to your needs
- A future where you are supported in becoming the nurse you aspire to be
- A future where connection, learning, and leadership are more accessible than ever
- And a future where our collective voice drives meaningful change across healthcare in Michigan
- This work is only possible because of your dedication, engagement, and belief in the mission of ANA-Michigan. Every day, you are shaping not only the lives of your patients, but the future of our profession.

As we continue this journey together, one thing is clear: leadership is not a destination; it is a continuous process of growth, collaboration, and action.

As Helen Keller once said, *“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”*

Now is our moment. Let's step into leadership—together. ■