



FROM THE MONA PRESIDENT

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

AS I WRITE THIS MESSAGE, I find myself reflecting on what an extraordinary season it has been for the Missouri Nurses Association. Across our state, nurses continue to lead, advocate, innovate, and care

for patients in ways that strengthen not only our healthcare system, but also our communities. It is an honor to serve as your president and to witness the impact Missouri nurses make every day.

One of the greatest strengths of MONA is its people, and I am excited to welcome several new members to our Board of Directors. These individuals bring diverse perspectives, fresh ideas, and a deep commitment to advancing nursing in Missouri. Their willingness to serve reflects the passion and leadership that continue to drive our profession forward.

I am especially pleased to recognize **Felicia Hampton**, who has been elected as MONA's next president. Felicia will assume the presidency in January 2027, and I could not be more excited about the future of our association under her leadership. Her dedication to nursing, advocacy, and professional engagement has already made a significant impact, and I know she will continue to move MONA forward while honoring the values that unite us as nurses. Please join me in congratulating Felicia and supporting her as she prepares for this important role.

Advocacy remains at the heart of MONA's mission. This year, we celebrated several important legislative successes that help strengthen nursing practice and support patient care throughout Missouri. While significant progress has been made, our work is far from complete. MONA continues to advance initiatives focused on workforce development, workplace safety, nursing education, professional practice, and policies that empower nurses to provide the highest quality care possible.

By the time you read this, our delegation will have completed another successful Hill Day in Washington, D.C. Missouri nurses joined colleagues from across the nation to bring our voices directly to federal policymakers. These conversations matter. When nurses share their expertise and experiences, we help shape healthcare policy in meaningful ways. Thank

you to everyone who participated and represented Missouri nursing on the national stage.

We are also excited about several changes designed to increase member engagement and create more opportunities for meaningful involvement. Beginning this year, MONA has transitioned to a consistent meeting schedule, with membership meetings occurring on the first Monday of each month. In addition, members can select a committee area that aligns with their interests and passions. During our meetings, committee breakout sessions will allow members to collaborate, develop initiatives, and actively contribute to the work of the association. Whether your interests include advocacy, professional development, workforce issues, education, membership, or community engagement, there is a place for you to make a difference.

MONA is strongest when nurses are actively involved. Membership is more than simply belonging to an organization—it is an opportunity to influence the future of nursing. Every nurse has valuable insights, experiences, and talents to contribute. Whether you are a new graduate, a bedside nurse, an educator, an advanced practice nurse, a nurse leader, or retired from practice, your voice matters.

If you have been looking for a way to become more engaged, now is the perfect time. Join a committee, attend a meeting, participate in advocacy efforts, mentor a colleague, or simply bring your ideas to the conversation. Together, we can continue building a stronger nursing profession and a healthier Missouri.

Thank you for your membership, your leadership, and your commitment to nursing. I look forward to seeing what we accomplish together in the months ahead. 💖

With gratitude,
Dr. Cindi Aurentz, DNP, MSN, RN
President
Missouri Nurses Association