



NJSNA/IFN CEO Report NJ Nurse September 2026

By: Judy Schmidt, DHA, MSN, RN, NJSNA/IFN CEO

LEGISLATION

Political Updates:

- Legislature is in full session.

Legislation Watch:

- S2981 Establishes initiatives related to nurses
 - Introduced in Senate Health-
 - Codifies NJ Nursing Emotional Wellbeing Institute (NJ NEW)
 - \$\$ for Transition into practice hospital programs
 - Mandates surveys for HHA, CAN, LPN, RN, APN
 - Increase \$\$ to NJCC
 - S4001- moves CNA to NJBON
 - S4034- Nurse Practitioner preceptor tax credits
 - S4028-Nursing School Expansion Grant
- A1974/S3022 Patient Protection and Safe Staffing
 - Introduced in Senate Health
 - Introduced in Assembly Health Infrastructure Committee
- A2289/S2635 Establishes certain protections for health care professionals who receive behavioral health care and apply for State licensure
 - Introduced in Senate Health
 - Introduced in Assembly Regulated Professions
- A3308/S818 Requires Division of Consumer Affairs to hire staff to alleviate professional license application backlog; appropriates \$10,000,000 in fiscal years 2027, 2028, and 2029.
 - Introduced in Senate Commerce and referred to Senate Budget
 - Introduced in Assembly Regulated Professions
- A2474 Nurse Title Protection
 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Regulated Professions
- A4160 Establishes Chief Nurse in NJDOH
 - Introduced in Assembly Health passed on 5/11
 - Referred to Assembly Oversight, Reform & Federal Relations

NJBON

- All NJ Board of Nursing positions for one LPN and two public members remain unfilled.
- NJBON subcommittee reviewing a proposed rule to add procedures to the APN joint protocols. Nursing Organizations including NJSNA have sent letters opposing this proposal. NJBON sent proposed rule to the Attorney General's (AG) office for legal opinion. Still waiting for a response from AG's office. However, we have a new AG and are not sure if it is on her agenda.

Collaboration with the American Nurses Association (ANA):

- Attended Quarterly Open Business Meetings
- Attended Quarterly CEO session with ANA CEO
- Attended ANA PAC Leadership Society Meetings
- Attended ANA ESREC Meeting (Eastern Seaboard Regional Executive Committee)
- Attended ANA Hill Day and ANA Membership Assembly

Collaboration with other organizations:

NJSNA continues to network with and provide valuable input into the following:

- NJ Business and Industry Health Care Policy Committee
- Jersey Renews
- Consortium of New Jersey Nurse Educators
- ONL NJ Legislation and Advocacy Committee
- Rutgers University School of Nursing Advisory Committee
- Kean University School of Nursing Advisory Committee
- Felician University School of Nursing Advisory Committee
- Thomas Edison State University Advisory Committee
- Seton Hall University School of Nursing Dean Advisory Council
- New Jersey Collaborating Center
- New Jersey Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- New Jersey State School Nurses
- New Jersey Nursing Students
- Nurses Service Organization (NSO) Insurance Company
- Lorna Breen Caring for Caregivers NJ Executive Committee
- Nursing Coalition Group
- Society of Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses
- NJ Chapter American Psychiatric Nurses Association
- NJ Health Cares about Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence

Collaborative

Meetings attended:

- Presented on Nursing Issues Podcast with Dr. Brenda Marshall at Montclair University
- Attended Sigma Theta Tau International Alpha Beta Chi Chapter Induction Ceremony
- Attended Assemblywoman Tenille McCoy's Political Fundraiser
- Attended Chi Eta Phi Northeast Region Conference
- Presented Legislation and Advocacy at the NJ American Psychiatric Nurses Association at their annual conference.
- Attended HCM SNAP Meeting re State Nurses publication

- Attended Seton Hall College of Nursing Haley Awards
- Attended American Association of Indian Nurses Chapter 2 Nurses Week Celebration
- Attended Assemblyman Gerry Scharfenberger Political Fundraiser
- Attended Rutgers School of Nursing Convocation
- Attended NJSNA Region 6 Annual Meeting
- Attended the INPAC fundraising event
- Attended Ocean County Vocation Technical School Career Day

Region 1 (Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Warren)

Rebecca Thomlinson MSN, FNP- c; NJSNA Region 1 VP of Communications & Social Media

Nurses are promoting nursing throughout communities in New Jersey's Region 1. We are displaying NJSNA information and memorabilia at Louise Childs Library in Sussex County.



Daniel Misa RN attended 2026 ENA Day on the Hill event in April. He had the opportunity to meet with the staff at the offices of Senators @senbooker and @senatorandykim to discuss key healthcare legislation. Dan Misa is serving as the @newjersey-ena President Elect advocating on behalf of our colleagues in

the Emergency Nurses Association #ENAINDC.

Region 1 participated in the 2026 Hackettstown Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2026. It was a great event that promoted Nursing support of our military personnel who sacrificed their lives in service to our country and for our freedom to choose. We had 15 participants and 1 dog! The spectators applauded as we went by yelling to us "We love nurses" and "Thank you nurses" enthusiastically!



Ruth Ochoa RN attended AWHONN on Capitol Hill and advocated for women's health and safe staffing. For awareness of human

trafficking education Francesca Nordin RN attended www.safernj.org Law Enforcement Conference March 4&5 then <https://worldcupact.org/> on May 30. Both workshops focused on raising awareness of and prevention of labor and sex trafficking at the FIFA play-off games in NJ. As part of another team she visited area hotels/motels on June 6 with <https://www.canfreedom.org/> to educate staff to identify missing and exploited children and report their findings to the **National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888 or TEXT "Be Free" to 233733**

Naomi Fox RN with colleagues published in the Journal for Nurses in Professional Development (JNPd)

- Fox, Naomi DNP, RN, NPD-BC, CCRN; Harper, Mary G. PhD, RN, NPDA-BC; Robertson, Bethany DNP, CNM. Developing Our Own: Fifteen Cohorts of Leadership and Evidence-Based Practice Academies. JNPd():10.1097/NND.0000000000001264, June 1, 2026. | DOI: 10.1097/NND.0000000000001264
- Fox, Naomi DNP, RN, NPD-BC, NEA-BC, CCRN. What Professional Development Do You Need? JNPd():10.1097/NND.0000000000001256, May 19, 2026. | DOI: 10.1097/NND.0000000000001256

Region 1 Open Positions for 2027-2028:

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Vice-President for Communications
- Warren County Coordinator
- Nominations Committee (4)
- Passaic County Coordinator.

Candidates or those who Nominate a person for one of these positions must be NJSNA members. The deadline to submit the ballot to State NJSNA is September 30 for the Election in November 2026. Please contact Francesca Nordin—fan.pnp@gmail.com or via cell (973) 902-7140 for information on the duties of the positions or how to prepare your ballot. Enter "Region 1 Position Info Request" in the subject line.

Region 1 Upcoming Events

Annual Education Dinner

- Thursday, September 24 at 6 pm.
- Presentation: AI in Life, Healthcare, and Nursing: Shaping the Future of Care

Region 1 is registered to participate in the fundraising walk on October 25, 2026, at 8:00am in Parsippany. The name of our team is "Nurses on a Mission (Pink Edition)"

If you would like to join our Breast Cancer Walk - visit our Team Page Making Strides of Parsippany: [NURSES ON A MISSION \(PINK EDITION\)](#)