

Find Your Place. Advance Nursing in Michigan and Serve with Purpose

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Joining an ANA-Michigan Committee Matters

The strength of ANA-Michigan has always come from the commitment, expertise, and passion of our members. Every initiative we champion, every educational opportunity we provide, every advocacy effort we lead, and every professional connection we foster begins with members who choose to become involved.

This October, ANA-Michigan will open its annual Call for Nominations and Committee Appointments, and we invite you to consider becoming part of the team that helps shape the future of nursing in Michigan.

Committee service is one of the most meaningful ways to contribute to our profession while advancing the mission and strategic priorities of ANA-Michigan. Our committees transform ideas into action—developing programs, informing policy, strengthening member engagement, recognizing excellence, supporting nurses across the state, and ensuring that the voice of nursing continues to influence healthcare.

Our Strategic Plan calls on us to build a vibrant, engaged nursing community through leadership, advocacy, professional develop-

ment, innovation, and member engagement. These priorities cannot be achieved by the Board of Directors alone. They are accomplished through the collective work of dedicated volunteers who bring their expertise, diverse experiences, and fresh perspectives to committee service.

By serving on an ANA-Michigan committee, you have the opportunity to:

- **Advance the nursing profession** by helping shape programs, initiatives, and priorities that benefit nurses across Michigan.
- **Support advocacy efforts** that influence healthcare policy and promote healthy practice environments for nurses and the patients they serve.
- **Strengthen professional development** by contributing to educational offerings, mentoring opportunities, and leadership initiatives.
- **Foster innovation** by bringing new ideas, diverse perspectives, and creative solutions to the challenges facing healthcare today.
- **Enhance member engagement** by helping create meaningful opportunities for nurses to connect, collaborate, and grow professionally.

Committee service is also one of the best investments you can make in your own professional development. It provides opportunities to:

- Build leadership and governance experience.
- Develop communication, collaboration, and project management skills.
- Expand your professional network with nurses from every specialty and career stage.
- Learn from experienced nurse leaders while sharing your own unique expertise.
- Strengthen your curriculum vitae and professional portfolio.
- Discover new pathways for leadership within ANA-Michigan and beyond.

Many of today's leaders within ANA-Michigan first became involved by volunteering on a committee. Committee service provides an excellent introduction to association leadership while offering meaningful opportunities to make a tangible difference for Michigan nurses.

Equally important, committees bring together nurses from across the continuum of care—students, bedside clinicians, advanced practice nurses, educators, researchers, executives, entrepreneurs, and retired nurses. The diversity of experiences and perspectives represented within our committees strengthens our decision-making and ensures that ANA-Michigan remains responsive to the evolving needs of our profession.



Whether you have years of leadership experience or are looking for your first opportunity to become involved, there is a place for you. We welcome members from every region of Michigan, every practice setting, every specialty, and every stage of their professional journey. Your experiences, talents, and ideas can help shape the future of our association.

As Chair of the Nominations Committee, I encourage you to consider how your interests align with the work of ANA-Michigan. Committee service is more than volunteering—it is an opportunity to

contribute to something larger than ourselves: advancing nursing, supporting our colleagues, improving healthcare, and ensuring that the nursing profession continues to thrive for generations to come. Together we demonstrate “the power of nursing in Michigan”.

Watch for the 2026 Call for Nominations this October. We hope you will answer the call by joining one of ANA-Michigan’s committees and becoming an active partner in achieving our strategic vision.

Together, we are stronger. Together, we advance nursing. Together, we shape the future of healthcare in Michigan.

I hope you’ll join us. ■

Why Nurses Must Be Heard at the Ballot Box

MaryLee Pakieser, MSN, RN, FNP-BC

Nurses have long known that care extends beyond the clinical settings, such as hospitals, clinics, and public health departments. In the 2026 elections, our collective voice can help shape the conditions that affect patients, families, communities, and even the nursing profession.

Florence Nightingale once wrote, “I think one’s feelings waste themselves in words. They ought all to be distilled into actions which bring results.” For nurses, voting is one of those actions.

Studies on the voting behavior of physicians and nurses reveal a concerning pattern. Both groups vote at rates below the national average. This matters because one out of every 44 voter is a nurse, yet we are not fully using the power of our vote.

My message is nonpartisan. Every nurse needs to vote. Make a voting plan and encourage family and friends to vote as well. *Vot/ER* is a national nonprofit that helps health care professionals and students across the disciplines to support civic engagement in the voting process.

What I appreciate most about Florence Nightingale’s quote is its focus on action. She was not waiting for someone to tell her what to do or how to do it. She was pointing to the obvious. Nurses need to be part of the political process through voting.

Some nurses may say “I don’t have time,” or “I’m fed up with the whole political circus.” Instead consider reframing voting as power and action, even when your preferred candidate or issue does not win. Voting builds momentum for change.

If the choices feel overwhelming, focus on the issues that matter most to you, such as poverty, the environment, or the loss of educational resources. Then compare what candidates propose to improve those conditions. It is also important to have a voting plan. As nurses know, life can be chaotic when you are working full time, possibly attending school part time, raising a

family, and managing other responsibilities. Think ahead about whether you will vote by mail or in person and review the ballot in advance so you can understand which candidates best align with your values.

Then vote. Do not miss the opportunity to have a say in the future of our country. Choosing to vote is one concrete way nurses can turn concern into action.

This quote by Clare Barton, Civil War nurse, captures the call to action “I have an almost complete disregard of precedent and of faith in the possibility of something better. It irritates me to be told how things have always been done. I defy the tyranny of precedent. I go for anything new that might improve the past.” ■

Your voice matters.

- ✓ Make a plan
- ✓ Show up at the polls
- ✓ Let your voice be heard this election season

[Click here for detailed voter information and resources.](#)