

Report of the 2026 ANA Membership Assembly

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ANA-Ohio was well represented at the 2026 American Nurses Association (ANA) Membership Assembly (MA) meeting, held in Washington, D.C., June 25 -27. President Becky Patton, Executive Director Tiffany Bukoffsky, voting delegates Sally Morgan, Barb Brunt, and Meghan Ramic, alternate delegate Anna Goldman, observers Khaliah Fisher-Grace and Wynne Simpkins, ANA Professional Practice Committee member Raya Cupler, National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS) Organizational Representative Kayla Little, and Online Journal of Issues in Nursing (OJIN) editor Jackie Owens all attended the Assembly. In addition, Janet Michaelis attended Hill Day, the day before the MA. Janet is a recent ANA-Ohio Policy Influencer Boot Camp graduate and an active policy maker influencer.

Hill Day

Hill Day provides a chance for ANA members to talk with their legislators; it precedes the Membership Assembly so that delegates can more easily attend. To prepare members for Hill Day, ANA provided a breakfast briefing and shared informational materials on the following issues: Nursing as a Professional Degree, Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act, and Workplace Violence. During Hill Day, members met with Ohio senators and congressional representatives, shared personal stories focusing on these issues, and left them with materials outlining nurses' concerns. They also exchanged contact information for ongoing contact and lawmakers educational support after the Hill Day.

Board of Directors Roundtable

The ANA Board of Directors hosted a roundtable discussion after Hill Day to provide members an opportunity to discuss various issues and concerns. Fifteen Constituent and State Nurses Associations (C/SNAs), including ANA-Ohio, had developed a proposal relating to the ANA Political Action Committee (PAC) as an emerging topic, but the ANA legal team determined it did not meet the criteria for emergent business, so it was discussed at the roundtable. The proposal dealt with Embracing Transparency and Engagement in ANA Political Action and Congressional Candidate Support. Starting in 2022 there was a significant deviation from the long-standing practices of ANA-PAC, moving from a bipartisan, public congressional candidate endorsement process to a model based on financial support that is not promoted publicly. This change was instituted without consultation with C/SNAs or elected member representatives. The roundtable featured a presentation about the distinction between the responsibilities of the ANA Board of Directors and the ANA-PAC Board of Trustees. There was a robust discussion about the importance of transparency and communication with the C/SNAs and membership regarding ANA-PAC's activities and candidate support. The proposal advocated for reinstating consultation with C/SNAs, publicly communicating candidate support decisions and their rationale, and leveraging nursing's trusted voice through more visible political engagement. As a result of this discussion the ANA Board of Directors voted to recommend the following to the ANA-PAC Board of Trustees by September 30, 2026:

1. Review and, as appropriate, enhance communication processes regarding ANA-PAC activities; and
2. Review and, as appropriate, enhance the process for C/SNAs to provide input regarding congressional candidates.

ANA National and President Awards Ceremony

A welcome reception and presentation of ANA national and president's awards finished the evening on Thursday. There were 4 President's Award honorees, 2 Hall of Fame awards, and18 national awards in various categories. ANA-Ohio member Jan Lanier received the Advocacy Award. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend, but her colleagues helped her celebrate this honor at her home.

Membership Assembly

The official opening of the Membership Assembly meeting comes after Hill Day, the Board of Directors Roundtable, and the Awards Ceremony. The opening session of the assembly on Friday, June 26th included a report of the Nominations and Elections Committee, the ANA President's Address, and the ANA CEO Report and the Treasurer's report.

Bylaws Forum and Changes

Prior to this MA meeting, two bylaws' changes were proposed -one relating to allowing LPNS to join the organization and one concerning whether the MA should have representation based on actual number of members per state rather than the amount of dues paid.

Both topics had been referred by the 2025 MA to committees to explore these issues, and the ANA Board of Directors appointed two workgroups. During the bylaw's forum, each workgroup presented their findings and members had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss concerns. During the bylaws voting, both of the bylaws changes passed. LPN Membership will begin June 30, 2027, to allow ANA to work on issues related to this change. However, each C/SNA can decide whether to accept LPNs into their membership. ANA-Ohio currently has a task force looking at this issue, so watch for further updates.

Dialogue Forums and Recommendations

Three dialogue forums provided MA participants an opportunity to give feedback on the proposed recommendations which will guide the board's focus for the upcoming year. The first forum topic was Establishing a National Framework for the Prevention, Reporting, and Accountability of Incivility Bullying Across Nursing Education Practice Settings. The recommendation actions to achieve this were:

1. ANA's position statement on incivility should consider provisions for confidential reporting, clear investigation pathways within academic-clinical partnerships for clinical-site partnership agreements with behavioral expectations, safeguards against academic retaliation, grievance/resolution processes, and access to appropriate mental health support.
2. ANA, in conjunction with stakeholders, should develop, curate, or disseminate educational content, guidelines, standards, examples of resources (i.e., Clinical-site partnership agreements with behavioral expectations), or a tool kit to address incivility within the academic setting.
3. ANA should track the impact of incivility within academic settings.

The second topic was Nurses Leading Health Care Sustainability. Recommended actions for this proposal were:

1. Collaborate with stakeholders to clarify the nursing workforce's role, barriers, and potential as a driver of environmental sustainability in healthcare: Gathering relevant information through channels available to ANA, and consider a national survey if data is not otherwise available.
2. Translate evidence into actionable guidance that equips nurses to lead environmental sustainability efforts.

The third topic was Integrating Cannabis Nursing Competencies Through Education and Policy to Advance Patient Safety and Compassionate Care in Practice. Recommended actions for this proposal were:

1. Continue to promote policy alignments and support nursing practice of cannabis through advocacy, education, and practice support, including a series of educational webinars.

Saturday Sessions

The Saturday MA session started with remarks from the ANA Subsidiaries: American Academy of Nursing, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and the American Nurses Foundation. Each speaker addressed the challenges and accomplishments over the past year. There were also remarks from the National Student Nurses Association and the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of the ANA Enterprise, Dr. Bradley Goetti. Dr. Goettii shared the 2026-2030 American Nurses Enterprise Strategic Plan. The plan is anchored in three interconnected priorities: to **advocate** for nurses to shape policy, advance practice, and influence the future of healthcare, to **elevate** the profession by strengthening standards, expanding development, and increasing recognition of nursing excellence, and to **engage** members, partner, and communities to foster meaningful collaboration and shared purpose.

Keynote

The final lunch session titled "Presidential Perspectives: Legacy, Leadership, and Shaping the Future." featured all the ANA past presidents. Each past president shared a highlight from his/her term in office, and thoughts about the future of nursing during a panel discussion. Rebecca Patton, ANA-Ohio President, and ANA past president participated in the panel.

The final session of the MA included the Nurses Legacy Memorial, which is ANA's annual recognition of deceased nurses whose enduring contributions have profoundly impacted lives and communities. Outgoing board members were recognized, and the newly elected board members were announced. President Jennifer Mensik Kennedy provided concluding remarks, including that they received $25, 538 in donations to the Foundation during the MA meeting.

Hill Day and the MA meeting were exciting events that provided opportunity to network with nurses from around the country and to have input on issues that affect nursing. There was a lot of enthusiasm among the ANA-Ohio delegates/attendees both among themselves and through connections made with members in other states. Tiffany Bukoffsky distributed information about the ANA Ohio Policy Influencer Bootcamp at the delegate tables. This piqued the interest of other state delegates and there were several engaging discussions at ANA Ohio delegate table and the hallways and information exchange. Participation increases the visibility of nurses and reinforces their value as healthcare experts and advisors on policy issues. Any ANA-Ohio member can attend the MA as an observer and actively participate in this event. ■