

CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE



Learn more about the candidates for ANA-Illinois' Board of Directors, Nominating Committee, and ANA Representative to the ANA Membership Assembly.

Cast your vote for the candidates who:

- Possess the best qualifications and strengths for the office
- Demonstrate innovative and effective service in professional associations, in their communities, and/or in work settings.
- Use leadership skills to persuade others to work toward desired outcomes.

AUGUST 4, 2023

Introduction

The Candidate Profile Guide, which contains the candidate's self-reported profiles based on the response provided by the candidates in their consents to serves, is designed to introduce the members to the candidates for ANA-Illinois elective office. Members will have the opportunity to meet and learn more about the candidates during the Candidates Forum on September 12th at 6:00p via Zoom. Registration details are available on the ANA-Illinois website.

The ANA-Illinois Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the 2023 elections. Please note the candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name.

ANA-ILLINOIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT (*elect one*)

Yolanda A. Coleman PhD, MS, RN, FACHE, NEA-BC
W. Zeh Wellington DNP, RN, NE-BC

SECRETARY (*elect one*)

Gloria E. Barrera MSN, RN, PEL-CSN
Elaine Hardy PhD, RN

DIRECTOR (*elect two*)

Armando Valdez Martinez, Jr. MSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC, CMSRN, NE-BC, CNML
Stephanie Mendoza DNP, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
Diana Ortega BSN, RN
Pamela DiVito-Thomas PhD, RN

ANA REPRESENTATIVES

ANA Representative to the ANA Membership Assembly (*elect two*)

Elaine Hardy PhD, RN
Diana Ortega BSN, RN
Roshni Shah MSN
Feyifunmi Sangoleye PhD, RN

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating Committee (*elect two*)

Feyifunmi Sangoleye PhD, RN



PRESIDENT

Yolanda A. Coleman PhD, MS, RN, FACHE, NEA-BC

CNO/Professor

Chicago Area Hospitals and University

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA-Illinois (including prior elected or appointed positions in ANA-Illinois).

"I have been a member of ANA and ANA-IL for several years. I have been involved in ANA-IL through the ANA-IL Expert Education Panel, ANA-PAC/Legislative Committee, and the inaugural ANA NREO Academy."

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA (national level).

"I have been a member of ANA for several years now."

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with other state nurses associations affiliated with ANA or other nursing organizations at the state or national level (e.g., ISAPN, IANNA, NAHN, AONL).

- IONL-Bylaws Chair for (7) years and member
- ANA Member
- CHi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority-Scholarship Chair 2022 and member
- UIC College of Nursing Alumni President-current and previous Vice President, and member
- Sigma Theta Tau member

Describe any experiences you have had with public speaking, working with the media, working with legislators, and/or testifying in the legislature or other policy-making governmental bodies.

"I have had multiple experiences speaking in public related to healthcare topics in various setting including with government officials. I am already requested for speaking events for 2024.

Nursing Staffing Crisis: Illinois Healthcare Attorney Association, 2022 | National Cancer Survivor Month Guest Speaker: Weiss Memorial Hospital, 2022 | Community Health Equity Day Speaker: Weiss Memorial Hospital, 2022 | UIC Reunion Healthcare Panel: UIC College of Nursing, 2021 | Health Careers: WVON AM 1690 Radio, 2019 | Nursing Career Advice, Compassionate Care Network, 2019 | Nursing Careers, DePaul University, 2018 | Breast Cancer Lecture: Greater Missionary Baptist Church, 2017 | Diversity in Nursing Careers and My Personal Journal: WVON AM 1690 Radio, 2017 | Making Strides Against Breast Cancer: Breast Cancer Today, 2015 | Health Promotion, City of Chicago Retirees (CHARM), 2013 | The Different Hats."

Describe a situation where you influenced others to take action within your workplace, your community, or in a professional nursing organization.

Most recently, I was requested to speak on the behalf of HB 2509. I worked with the nursing schools and other organizations to support this bill by going to speak in Springfield directly to the Senators and House Representatives. I also garnered support from other college of nursing colleagues. This bill was eventually passed.

Based on the purpose statement above from the ANA-Illinois bylaws, briefly explain how you would describe the value of ANA-Illinois to potential members.

ANA-IL serves to ensure that nursing standards are incorporated into policy and regulatory standards. ANA-IL promotes the highest standards of nursing care by advancing the practice of nursing. Being a part of ANA-IL provides professional and personal development opportunities for members involved. Involvement can be rewarding and can cultivate new skills. ANA-IL will give you the opportunity to build a state network to share ideas and support the larger idea of improving health care services for all people in Illinois.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with members as part of the ballot?

Accomplished healthcare executive and innovative leader highly experienced in academic, community, and university medical center settings. Proficient in nursing care leadership, fiscal management, clinical operations, patient treatment, technology, and process/quality improvement. Proven track record in developing strategies and programs that promote health and educational services, while integrating research into nursing practice and collaborating with interdisciplinary teams. Prioritizes safety, security, effectiveness, cost, and the impact of resources utilized in the planning and delivery of nursing care and other services. Completed a PhD in Nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago, a master's degree in nursing at DePaul University, and a bachelor's degree in medical technology at Marquette University.

PRESIDENT

W. Zeh Wellington DNP, RN, NE-BC

Director of Procedural Care - Surgical Services

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago



Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA-Illinois (including prior elected or appointed positions in ANA-Illinois).

I am honored and proud to have been was recently awarded the 2023 Excellence in Leadership Award for my work serving on the Illinois Nursing Foundation (INF) Board of Directors 2022-2024, Illinois' Nurse representative to the American Nurses' Advocacy Institute (ANAI) 2022-2023, as Illinois's Re-Elected Director at Large for the American Nurses Association (ANA)-Illinois 2020-2024, serving on the National ANA Honorary Awards Committee 2021 -

2022 for ANA as well as working as Illinois' Representative at the Nurses' Day at the Capital.

Serving as your re-elected Director to the Illinois American Nurses Association has given me the opportunity work by the side of Dr Liz Aquino, our acting president, to acquire the knowledge to assist and help ALL the nurses of Illinois. I am currently serving on the Illinois Legislative committee which has given me a broad understanding of the bills in committee that we, as an unified force, must continue to promote. I continually apply and using nursing fundamentals to represent all nurses in the state of Illinois, lobbying not only in Springfield, Illinois, but also traveling to Washington, DC meeting with representatives to campaign for the rights of nurses and tirelessly promoting bills in committee at the national level that will richly serve our profession as nurses.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA (national level).

It has been my personal honor to represent ANA serving on the National ANA Honorary Awards Committee 2021-2022 for ANA and by serving as Illinois' representative to the ANAI (American Nurse Advocacy Institute) 2022-2023.

ANAI is a prestigious year-long mentored program to develop nurses into political leaders while expanding the grassroots capacity for the nursing profession and health care. The (ANAI) The American Nurses Advocacy Institute is an annual program designed to help nurses gain political competence.

A special thank you to the Illinois American Nurses Association for the endorsement which is necessary in order to participate and class size is limited to 24 per year. Topics include conducting a political environmental scan; bill analysis; preparing and delivering testimony; coalition building; and value of a PAC.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with other state nurses associations affiliated with ANA or other nursing organizations at the state or national level (e.g., ISAPN, IANNA, NAHN, AONL).

I have contributed to the ANCC National Magnet Conference, Operating Room Manager's National Conference, SC Nursing Association Conference, and at the Association of Operating Room Nurses (AORN) Conference. I am also a very proud to be a 2020 alumnus of the Amy V. Cockcroft Leadership Fellows, Chicago 2022 Power of Nursing Leadership: Pinnacle Leader Award winner and, recipient of the prestigious Palmetto Gold Nurse Award. Various publications and articles on Nursing and leadership principals have been accepted and presented in various Nursing and Sterile Processing's journals. I am a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nurses and the Phi Sigma Kappa International Fraternity.

Describe any experiences you have had with public speaking, working with the media, working with legislators, and/or testifying in the legislature or other policy-making governmental bodies.

I have used my nursing knowledge to instruct and teach students encouraging diversity in nursing and by promoting our profession through lectures and articles. I was recently the guest speaker at the Chicago Swartz Rounds being asked to share and speak of nursing hope and inspiration.

I am also proud to promote the gathering of all leaders of Sterile Processing Departments (SPD) together as the facilitator and originator of the SPD Forum where leaders across the city and state came together to learn, listen, and discuss important issues facing the Sterile Processing departments. It was a time to share experiences and lessons learned while discussing hot topics of mutual interest and creating a social connection and empowering a sense of community for all the leaders proving that SPD is "instrument-al" to the success of the operating room.

I have been asked to be a podium presenter and have contributed to the ANCC National Magnet Conference, Operating Room Manager's National Conference, SC Nursing Association Conference, and at the Association of Operating Room Nurses (AORN) Conference.

Describe a situation where you influenced others to take action within your workplace, your community, or in a professional nursing organization.

I am also proud to promote the gathering of all leaders of Sterile Processing Departments (SPD) together as the facilitator and originator of the SPD Forum where leaders across the city and state came together to learn, listen, and discuss important issues facing the Sterile Processing departments. It was a time to share experiences and lessons learned while discussing hot topics of mutual interest and creating a social connection and empowering a sense of community for all the leaders proving that SPD is "instrument-al" to the success of the operating room.

Also, equally noteworthy is having the opportunity of leading a nationally accredited operating room, working with multidisciplinary teams, researching new technology, teaching and instructing my team and students while being a mentor, resource, and advocate for nursing is what I am most proud of in my nursing journey. I also serve on our hospital wide teams, representing surgical services. I lead with creativity, with elegance, with grace and a smile. My motto is to offer everyone a smile and never jeopardize patient care. Working with children at their most vulnerable time in surgery, I am the voice of the patient who cannot speak for themselves, I am their advocate, guaranteeing that every child receives a safe procedure, and it is my ask to be your voice -representing you- as your president of ANA-Illinois.

Based on the purpose statement above from the ANA-Illinois bylaws, briefly explain how you would describe the value of ANA-Illinois to potential members.

Why join the American Nurses Association (ANA)? Why would a nurse want to spend the dues to be part of this organization? ANA and ANA-Illinois is your voice, your professional support and the ally to 4 million registered nurses in the U.S., throughout all specialties and practice settings. Together, we have the power to advance the nursing profession and create a health care environment in which nurses can thrive.

If I may join Kathleen Gaines BSN, BA, RN, CBC, as she wrote this which I feel is inspiring and helpful to know: "Nursing associations are organizations devoted to the professional and personal development of members and to the general advancement of the profession. Joining a professional nursing association is essential due to the ever-changing field of nursing."

According to the American Nurses Association (ANA), "professional development is a vital phase of lifelong learning in which nurses engage to develop and maintain competence, enhance professional nursing practice, and support the achievement of career goals".

Nursing organizations empower nurses to stay up to date on current practices, read what leaders in the field are saying, and get a glimpse at what other hospitals around the country are doing to innovate and advance patient care."

Is there anything else that you would like to share with members as part of the ballot?

When I am not mastering all the tasks that I am given at Lurie Children's Hospital, with ANA-Illinois, writing and promoting nursing, I am working in the community donating my time and efforts, creating a life of service to others. I am also an avid reader and enjoy spending time with my family and my very "treat motivated" pug - "Birdie JoLee".



SECRETARY

Gloria E. Barrera MSN, RN, PEL-CSN

Certified School Nurse, Visiting Clinical Associate
District 99; UIC

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA-Illinois (including prior elected or appointed positions in ANA-Illinois).

"I have the privilege and honor of serving as your current elected ANA Representative to the Membership Assembly. Prior to this position, I served as an expert panel member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee during its inception, and before that participated in the Membership Committee with a focus on growth."

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA (national level).

My most recent involvement and participation with ANA as at the national level has been serving as a voting Representative at the Membership Assembly in Washington DC on June 16-17, 2023. One of the key responsibilities of the ANA Membership Assembly is to determine policies and positions for the Association. I participated in the dialogue forum in which reports on critical healthcare issues were presented to the Membership Assembly, including presentations by the Professional Policy Committee on "Virtual Nursing as a Practice Model Innovation", "The Role of Nursing in Promoting Gun Safety and Preventing Violence", and "Addressing Nursing Documentation during a Time of Crisis"

A collaborative discussion on each of these topics occurred following each presentation. The innovative and collaborative efforts that were deliberated on regarding each of these topics demonstrated diverse backgrounds, and expertise that registered nurses across the nation.

The Membership Assembly then voted on the proposed amendments to the bylaws and voted on the recommendations of the proposed policy creation on the topics reported by the Professional Policy Committee. The seven bylaw amendments, all changes in language and not direct changes to procedures, were all approved by the Membership Assembly.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with other state nurses associations affiliated with ANA or other nursing organizations at the state or national level (e.g., ISAPN, IANNA, NAHN, AONL).

I am the immediate Past President and current Foundation President of the Illinois Association of School Nurses (IASN), a strong affiliate of ANA- Illinois. IASN promotes wellness and educational success of school communities by supporting, developing, and advocating for professional school nurse leaders. I hold a chair position within the American Public Health Association's Nursing Section (APHA-PHN) and currently am on their social media team and the creative behind their Friday Feature Campaign. I am an active representative of Hispanic nurses on the Nursing Coalition on Climate Change and Health, and a Fellow of the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE). At the national level, I am an active member of the National Association of School Nurses' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Working Group and reappointed to the Diversity Leadership Committee of the American Heart Association for another term.

Describe any experiences you have had with public speaking, working with the media, working with legislators, and/or testifying in the legislature or other policy-making governmental bodies.

Advocacy is a pillar of nursing, and we know that when nurses speak, our legislators listen! I first testified in Washington DC on behalf of the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments back in 2016, and have since taken every opportunity to speak up on behalf of nursing and address issues that impact my current practice and public health.

I have completed numerous interviews with the media-including podcasts, news articles, and interviews. I have completed media training, and seek other professional growth opportunities related to working with the media. During my leadership as President, IASN began working with Capitol Edge Consulting and worked towards legislation for a school nurse capacity study, ultimately leading to its Inaugural School Nurse Lobby Day this past May.

I most recently attended ANA Hill Day in June, joining over 400 nurses from across the country whom sought support for four of ANA's key federal policy issues: addressing the nurse staffing crisis; removing barriers to APRN full practice authority; building and sustaining the nursing workforce; and understanding the value of nurses and healthcare burnout.

You may read more about these issues at RNAction.org, run by the ANA Department of Government Affairs. I encourage every nurse reading this to please stay up to date on exactly what ANA and ANA-Illinois is doing to help advance the cause of nursing at the national and state level. Join the conversation!

Describe a situation where you influenced others to take action within your workplace, your community, or in a professional nursing organization.

I have demonstrated positive influence within the specialty of school nursing locally, regionally, and nationally. As an innovative leader, I have made positive changes to elevate the Illinois Association of School Nurses, and positively influence its members and stakeholders.

During my Presidency, I was the voice of school nurses in Illinois and provided many opportunities for IASN members to amplify their own voice and leadership. I promoted wellness and educational success of school communities by supporting, developing and advocating for all professional school nurse leaders. I was the creator of the successful, and still running, IASN Town Hall Meetings to educate school nurses on relevant topics impacting their roles. I strengthened collaborative relationships between IASN and stakeholders, like the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I led the development of a School Nurse Toolkit on Vaccine with the ICAAP and created fundraising opportunities by creating an IASN store front, and promoting IASN gear to members.

I increased the visibility of IASN by creating an Instagram and Twitter that now has a massive following. I believe that all students have a right to have their physical and mental health needs safely met while in the school setting, no matter their zip code. At IASN, I spearheaded the work to promote legislation to appropriate funding for a school nurse capacity study since January 2022 and ignited the idea for the Inaugural Annual School Nurse Lobby Day that came to fruition in 2023. I have testified in Springfield and in front of the Illinois State Board of Education on the nursing shortage and its impact on the specialty of school nursing, making it clear that the data collected from a school nurse capacity study would help drive action for our work in optimizing student health and learning for the future. The influence I've generated behind HB5601 and HR817 led to the Illinois State Board of Education allocating a school nurse capacity study and provide funding of \$350,000. At the national level, I was honored with the National Association of School Nurses' President's Award for her work on the NASN's DEI Task Force. On the DEI Task Force, I advocated for a new DEI Leadership in School Nursing Award to recognize peers that may have been otherwise marginalized within the organization. I presented nationally on the legislative and advocacy work of IASN, and with the CDC on Infection Control and Prevention Guidelines for K-12 Schools. Furthermore, I have amplified my voice on various platforms as the expert in public health, most recently as the lead for Salud America's Twitter Chat on Mental Health Impacting Youth in the U.S.

Based on the purpose statement above from the ANA-Illinois bylaws, briefly explain how you would describe the value of ANA-Illinois to potential members.

ANA-Illinois is the organization you can depend on to be the leading voice of all nurses in the state of Illinois.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with members as part of the ballot?

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gloriaebarrera/>

Twitter: @Barrera__Gloria



SECRETARY

Elaine Hardy PhD, RN

Dean of Academic Affairs

St. John's College of Nursing

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA-Illinois (including prior elected or appointed positions in ANA-Illinois).

I have been a member of ANA-IL for the past 10 years and previously an ANA member of Indiana and Pennsylvania. I have served on the board of ANA-IL from 2015-2017, and 2021-present. I have been the ANA Representative to the Membership Assembly and have thoroughly enjoyed learning and networking among all of the ANA Representatives in attendance.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA (national level).

I have attended the past two Membership Assemblies and have been able to attend the ANA nurses day on the hill, meeting with legislators in Washington.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with other state nurses associations affiliated with ANA or other nursing organizations at the state or national level (e.g., ISAPN, IANNA, NAHN, AONL).

I have been actively involved in the local chapter of the National Black Nurses Association, serving as President and past Treasurer. I am a member of the local chapter of NAHN, and the International Association of Latino Nurse Faculty, serving on the planning committee for the annual Cultural Inclusion Institute. I am a member of three local Sigma Theta Tau International organizations, and served as the vice-president for Illinois State University.

Describe any experiences you have had with public speaking, working with the media, working with legislators, and/or testifying in the legislature or other policy-making governmental bodies.

I have been asked to give talks on a variety of health and social topics for several organizations. I have given interviews to local television, radio and newspapers on a variety of health topics, and nursing education. I have worked with organizations in the community to complete the community health needs assessment, as well as the community health improvement plan. I work closely with the nursing lobbyists and have engaged with legislators around topics in nursing that impact nursing practice and nursing education.

Describe your experiences in fiduciary responsibility. - ONLY FOR CONSENTING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS - Vice President, Treasurer, & Director.

I was the treasurer for the local chapter of the National Black Nurses Association and was accountable for the monthly treasurer's report, as well as submitting the federal and state financial filings for the organization.

Describe a situation where you influenced others to take action within your workplace, your community, or in a professional nursing organization.

I have appointed a member of our local chapter of the National Black Nurses Association as the health policy liaison. We have written op-eds on topics of racism in the country. I encouraged my members to dispel misinformation around the Covid-19 vaccine and hosted a Pfizer representative to speak to the members about the vaccine and it's development. Armed with this accurate information, our members were able to speak to the community, family members and peers, stressing the importance of protection against Covid through vaccinations.

Based on the purpose statement above from the ANA-Illinois bylaws, briefly explain how you would describe the value of ANA-Illinois to potential members.

In the profession of nursing we are described as life-long learners and ANA-Illinois allows a platform for life-long learning, not only about the profession, but how nurses are educated and issues that negatively and positively impact our profession.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with members as part of the ballot?

I have enjoyed serving the nurses in Illinois as a board member of ANA-IL and having completed the inaugural class of Nurses Running for Elected Office Training Academy, would like to continue to use my newfound knowledge and experience to continue serving the nurses in the great state of Illinois, in whatever capacity they will have me.



DIRECTOR

Armando Valdez Martinez, Jr. MSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC, CMSRN, NE-BC, CNML
Nursing Supervisor
Advocate Health

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA-Illinois (including prior elected or appointed positions in ANA-Illinois).

While I may not have had the privilege of prior involvement with ANA-Illinois beyond membership has been limited, my heart brims with genuine excitement at the chance to actively engage and rediscover my purpose within this remarkable organization. I am wholeheartedly eager to pour forth my skills, knowledge, and unwavering passion into ANA-Illinois's profound mission, joining hands with esteemed members to make a lasting difference. This fresh opportunity fills me with a sense of deep gratitude, as I wholeheartedly embrace the chance to bring a renewed perspective and an unwavering spirit, immersing myself with enthusiasm in ANA-Illinois's inspiring initiatives and endeavors.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA (national level).

While my engagement with the American Nurses Association (ANA) at the national level beyond membership has been limited, I have taken proactive steps to further my professional growth within the nursing field. I obtained certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), which has augmented my expertise and validated my commitment to delivering exceptional care. Additionally, during my time as a student at Duke University, I had the privilege of working closely with the program director of Magnet, an experience that provided valuable insights into the significance of nursing excellence and leadership. While I may not have held specific elected or appointed positions within the ANA, these experiences have ignited a deep passion within me to contribute actively and make a meaningful impact on the broader nursing community.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with other state nurses associations affiliated with ANA or other nursing organizations at the state or national level (e.g., ISAPN, IANNA, NAHN, AONL).

Through my involvement with NAHN and IONL, I have witnessed the transformative impact of collaboration and leadership within nursing organizations. These experiences have ignited a deep passion within me to expand my involvement and make meaningful contributions at both the state and national levels. I am eager for the chance and opportunity to broaden my engagement by actively participating in the American Nurses Association (ANA) and other state nurses associations. I believe that by combining my membership, experiences, and enthusiasm, I can play an integral role in advancing the nursing profession, promoting patient advocacy, and fostering collaborative relationships among healthcare professionals. In 2022, I had the honor of being selected as an IONL fellow, which granted me a remarkable opportunity to embark on a year-long professional development experience. Throughout this transformative journey, I immersed myself in various educational and leadership activities facilitated by the Illinois Organization of Nursing Leaders (IONL). This fellowship not only deepened my understanding of nursing leadership but also equipped me with invaluable skills and insights that have shaped my professional trajectory.

The IONL fellowship served as a catalyst, sparking my interest in becoming more actively involved in nursing organizations and cultivating my passion for making a difference within the healthcare community. This immersive experience allowed me to witness firsthand the power of collaboration, mentorship, and the profound impact that effective leadership can have on patient care outcomes and the nursing profession as a whole. Now, having completed the IONL fellowship, I am eagerly seeking opportunities to expand my involvement beyond IONL and NAHN, and explore avenues for engagement with the American Nurses Association (ANA) and other esteemed state nurses associations. I firmly believe that by leveraging my experiences, expertise, and commitment to continuous growth, I can contribute meaningfully to these organizations, advocate for the advancement of nursing practice, and further elevate the healthcare landscape.

Describe any experiences you have had with public speaking, working with the media, working with legislators, and/or testifying in the legislature or other policy-making governmental bodies.

I possess a strong proficiency in public speaking, drawing upon my extensive leadership experience to communicate with purpose and inspire others. Through my roles in various leadership positions, I have honed my ability to address audiences confidently, articulate ideas effectively, and engage listeners with passion and clarity.

While I may not have direct experience working with the media or legislators, I embrace the excitement and challenge that comes with being an emerging leader. I am eager to seize opportunities to collaborate with the media and engage with legislators to advance the nursing profession and advocate for meaningful change. As a dedicated and motivated individual, I am committed to leveraging my skills, adaptability, and determination to navigate these spheres and make a positive impact.

By embracing these new avenues, I am confident in my ability to effectively communicate the needs and aspirations of the nursing community, contributing to constructive dialogues, fostering relationships, and ultimately shaping policies that will further elevate our profession. I am enthusiastic about the prospect of embracing these challenges, as they provide an avenue for personal growth and offer opportunities to propel the nursing profession forward.

Describe your experiences in fiduciary responsibility. - ONLY FOR CONSENTING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS - Vice President, Treasurer, & Director.

In my capacity as a nurse leader for a prominent non-profit organization, I have acquired substantial expertise in discharging fiduciary responsibilities with utmost proficiency. Entrusted with the stewardship of financial affairs, I have diligently fulfilled my duties by orchestrating the judicious allocation of resources and making astute financial decisions that align harmoniously with our organizational mission and objectives.

Throughout my tenure, I have exemplified a steadfast commitment to transparency, accountability, and unwavering integrity in all financial operations. Effectively managing budgets, ensuring optimal resource utilization, and establishing robust financial controls, I have safeguarded the organization's assets while adhering to stringent regulatory frameworks and ethical standards.

Moreover, my active engagement in strategic planning and decision-making processes has enabled me to navigate the intricate nexus of finance and healthcare with acumen. Employing rigorous analysis, meticulous risk assessment, and a forward-thinking mindset, I have consistently prioritized the long-term sustainability and prosperity of our organization, always with the best interests of our beneficiaries at heart.

My experience in fiduciary responsibility has endowed me with a profound comprehension of financial stewardship, empowering me to make judicious choices that optimize resource utilization and amplify the positive impact of our non-profit endeavors. Unwavering in my commitment to upholding the highest standards of fiduciary duty, I am resolute in my pursuit of continued organizational triumph, assiduously preserving the trust reposed in me by our stakeholders, and propelling our non-profit institution toward ever greater accomplishments.

Describe a situation where you influenced others to take action within your workplace, your community, or in a professional nursing organization.

As a nurse leader, I embarked on a transformative journey to inspire my team to reach new heights and reclaim our unit's culture to foster a more supportive environment. Recognizing the pivotal role of effective leadership in driving positive change, I focused on developing my charge nurses, nurses, and nursing assistants to grasp the intricacies of operations and align their efforts with patient-centered initiatives to elevate our patient experience scores.

To begin this transformative process, I fostered open lines of communication and cultivated an atmosphere of trust and collaboration within the team. Through regular team meetings, one-on-one discussions, and feedback sessions, I ensured that every team member felt heard, valued, and empowered to contribute their unique insights and perspectives.

I invested time and resources in professional development initiatives tailored to the specific needs of my charge nurses, nurses, and nursing assistants. By providing targeted training programs, mentorship opportunities, and ongoing support, I enabled them to enhance their understanding of operational dynamics and equipped them with the skills and knowledge needed to champion patient-centered initiatives.

To drive a cultural shift, I actively promoted a shared vision of excellence and patient-centric care. I led by example, demonstrating a commitment to compassionate, evidence-based practice, and encouraging my team to do the same. By consistently recognizing and celebrating individual and collective achievements, I reinforced a sense of pride and camaraderie, motivating the team to consistently deliver exceptional care.

To support our patient-centered initiatives and drive improvement in patient experience scores, I implemented robust communication channels and systems that facilitated seamless coordination and collaboration among team members. I encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration and fostered partnerships with other departments to ensure a holistic approach to patient care.

Through these concerted efforts, I witnessed a remarkable transformation within our unit. Our team embraced a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to delivering exceptional patient care. We observed tangible improvements in our patient experience scores, reflecting the positive impact of our collective dedication to patient-centered initiatives.

As a nurse leader, I am proud to have influenced my team to seek new heights, reclaim our unit's supportive culture, and empower individuals to understand operations and support patient-centered initiatives. Together, we have reshaped our unit into a thriving environment that promotes excellence, fosters growth, and prioritizes the well-being and satisfaction of our patients.

Based on the purpose statement above from the ANA-Illinois bylaws, briefly explain how you would describe the value of ANA-Illinois to potential members.

ANA-Illinois offers potential members three key benefits: improving health standards and healthcare accessibility, fostering high nursing standards, and promoting personal and professional development. Members gain access to advocacy, resources, education, and networking opportunities to contribute to healthcare improvement, enhance their practice, and grow personally and professionally. Joining ANA-Illinois means becoming part of a community dedicated to positive change and elevating the nursing profession in Illinois.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with members as part of the ballot?

As you consider casting your vote, I want to personally share a few thoughts with you, my fellow members of ANA-Illinois.

First and foremost, I believe in the power of active participation and engagement within our organization. ANA-Illinois is not just a membership; it's a vibrant community of nursing professionals like you and me, all dedicated to advancing our profession and improving healthcare in Illinois.

I urge you to join me in getting actively involved in ANA-Illinois. Together, we can shape the direction of our organization, contribute our unique perspectives and expertise, and make a meaningful impact on the nursing profession and the communities we serve. By volunteering for leadership roles, joining committees, attending educational events, and participating in advocacy efforts, we can truly drive positive change and create a brighter future for nursing in Illinois.

Furthermore, I want to highlight the incredible resources and opportunities that ANA-Illinois provides us. From professional development programs to mentorship initiatives, ANA-Illinois offers a wealth of resources designed to support our growth, enhance our practice, and empower us to reach new heights in our nursing careers. Let's take full advantage of these offerings and seize every opportunity to expand our knowledge, skills, and professional networks.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for your support and for considering me for this position. It would be an honor to represent you and our collective interests within ANA-Illinois. Together, we can foster a strong and united nursing community, advocate for the interests of nurses and patients, and truly make a difference in the nursing profession.

Remember, your vote matters, and your support can help shape the future of nursing in Illinois. I am committed to working tirelessly on your behalf, and I humbly ask for your trust and vote. Together, let's transform healthcare, elevate the nursing profession, and create a brighter future for all.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve you as a member of ANA-Illinois.



DIRECTOR

Stephanie Mendoza DNP, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM

Clinical Nurse Consultant II

UI Health

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA-Illinois (including prior elected or appointed positions in ANA-Illinois).

I am currently a member of ANA-Illinois. I have also had the privilege of working with ANA-Illinois as the president of NAHN-Illinois and organizational affiliate. I have served on the the INF 40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader event since its inception. I served as a planning committee member and now as an advisory committee member. I support ANA-Illinois in all our advocacy events and am proud to be a member.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA (national level).

I have not had the opportunity to, but I am looking forward to the opportunity to participate and contribute to change.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with other state nurses associations affiliated with ANA or other nursing organizations at the state or national level (e.g., ISAPN, IANNA, NAHN, AONL).

I recently completed my term as president of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses. I had the privilege to serve for two years and promote the health of our Hispanic population. I led chapters' annual events, monthly membership meetings, education and community service projects. Partnerships with other organizations like ANA-Illinois, PNAI, Lion's Diabetes Nurses, and INF have led to wonderful events for our communities.

Describe any experiences you have had with public speaking, working with the media, working with legislators, and/or testifying in the legislature or other policy-making governmental bodies.

I have had the privilege to speak during various events and activities during my service with NAHN-IL. I have been able to participate in nursing panels, discussions, and various committees on patient safety.

Describe your experiences in fiduciary responsibility. - ONLY FOR CONSENTING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS - Vice President, Treasurer, & Director

During my service with NAHN-Illinois, I was responsible for fiscal oversight for the association, planning events, and raising funds for scholarships.

Describe a situation where you influenced others to take action within your workplace, your community, or in a professional nursing organization

To promote better patient outcomes in my institution, I researched and implemented a life saving device the Jada System. The device is used to control postpartum hemorrhage at our institution. With support from mentors and nursing organizations, I am currently planning a mental health symposium to take place in late November.

Based on the purpose statement above from the ANA-Illinois bylaws, briefly explain how you would describe the value of ANA-Illinois to potential members.

ANA-Illinois is a leader in advocacy and nursing practice. The organization leads with strength and compassion to assure everyone has equal health care. The support provided for nurses is impeccable, and they always strive to perfect and increase resources for nurses to grow all around. ANA-Illinois is a champion for us nurses, exploring ways to improve our development. To be part of ANA-Illinois, means making change for the better in areas with need.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with members as part of the ballot?

I am passionate advocate for policy changes. I am committed to continuous growth while supporting others to grow. I am passionate about education, mentorship, and community outreach. I lead by example and am eager for the opportunity to create change. I am committed to be a strong leader with a heart to promote better outcomes.



DIRECTOR

Diana Ortega BSN, RN
Staff Nurse/ Ambulatory
Rush Oak Park Hospital

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA-Illinois (including prior elected or appointed positions in ANA-Illinois).

I have not held any prior elected positions with ANA-Illinois but have participated in webinars offered. I was also part of the Inaugural Nurses Running for Elected Office Training class in which it fostered my passion to get more involved in our state legislation. I am also part of NAHN-IL which is an affiliate of ANA-IL.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA (national level).

I do not have any prior involvement with ANA at national level but definitely interested and eager to. I want to be more knowledgeable on the issues affecting healthcare and nurses.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with other state nurses associations affiliated with ANA or other nursing organizations at the state or national level (e.g., ISAPN, IANNA, NAHN, AONL).

I have been an active member of the NAHN-IL chapter for nearly a decade. I started as a student nurse where I volunteered in my community and gained leadership skills.

I later became co-chair for the Pre-Nursing Engagement and Mentorship Committee where we recently revamped and relaunched our Mentorship program this past year. I was appointed to the chapter board as Secretary fall of 2021 and will finish my term next year. I have led many recruitment events, participated in many health fairs in the community and mentored others. I was awarded 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader thru INF and NAHN last year. I am also part of ANA-IL Inaugural Nurses Running for Elected Office Training class where we learned a lot about running for an elected office. I am also Secretary of LFRA- Latinos First Responders Alliance, a newly non-profit organization working to empower and mentor the next generation of Latino First Responders.

Describe any experiences you have had with public speaking, working with the media, working with legislators, and/or testifying in the legislature or other policy-making governmental bodies.

Being part of professional organizations has taught me and honed many skills like speaking in public. I have led many meetings and spoke on different topics as well as led CPR classes. As long as I can remember, I have been very comfortable in public speaking, more so if it is something that I am passionate about or if I am teaching. I also am social media savvy and have a nice following on Facebook and LinkedIn, as well as growing on TikTok and Instagram. In today's society, social media has taken a major growth and is accessible to many.

Describe your experiences in fiduciary responsibility. - ONLY FOR CONSENTING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS - Vice President, Treasurer, & Director.

Sitting as the NAHN-Illinois Chapter board as Secretary has many responsibilities. We help make executive decisions in the best interest of our chapter that makes a positive impact on our membership and community. We work as a team to keep us all accountable on financial decisions and other things that can impact our Chapter Mission. I also sit on the LFRA board where we make those same important decisions to help elevate our organization.

Describe a situation where you influenced others to take action within your workplace, your community, or in a professional nursing organization.

I have been part of many collaborative initiatives that better our communities. I have spoken up about workplace bullying and my workplace has tried to put more emphasis on this issue with different activities, surveys, etc. As I mentioned before about revamping and relaunching our mentorship program this year through NAHN-IL, I worked hard to bring this back because mentorship is key in growing in your career.

Based on the purpose statement above from the ANA-Illinois bylaws, briefly explain how you would describe the value of ANA-Illinois to potential members.

Becoming a member of ANA-IL is very valuable as a student nurse, a practicing nurse or even as a retired nurse because the main focus is to help improve healthcare standards and services to all in our state as well as to promote personal and professional development of nurses. As a nursing student, we don't really see what is happening in healthcare and how it affects us after graduation. We are focused on graduating and passing NClex but when you join SNAI, you begin to understand a bit about policy and involvement. As a practicing nurse we get first hand experience on the restrictions that are imposed by higher governing and most are not appropriately thought through for adequate practice. That is why we need to get involved with ANA-IL, so we can further educate ourselves and be the voice for our communities and for nurses. ANA-IL has helped spearhead many healthcare and nursing related policies in our state legislation that has improved our healthcare, but much more work needs to be done. We need individuals who want to help make a difference in everyone's lives, we need world changers.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with members as part of the ballot?

Being a bilingual, Hispanic nurse, first generation college graduate and single parent has come with many obstacles but has been very gratifying. Having first hand experience with healthcare inequality and disparities in our communities has sparked a passion in me. I see insurance related issues in providing care for my patients and how many obstacles many face in order for them to get better. After completing NREO- Nurses Running for Elected Office training Academy, I found that we do not have a nurse in our state legislature and that only three nurses are in the federal government from three different states. It definitely got me thinking about what I can do to be the voice for those who are not heard. I decided to continue my education and further my career in leadership in order to be able to have the experience and knowledge to make a difference. I have always been very passionate about educating our communities, future nurses and now our state legislature. I hope to one day soon be able to run for an elected political office to help make significant changes in our healthcare standards and nursing related policies. I would love to be elected to the ANA-Illinois Board of Directors or be a State Representative, I am eager to learn and make a difference.

DIRECTOR

Pamela DiVito-Thomas PhD, RN

Adjunct Professor

Methodist College



Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA-Illinois (including prior elected or appointed positions in ANA-Illinois).

I currently sit on the ANA-Illinois Program Committee and the INF Editorial Committee.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA (national level).

A long- time member of ANA.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with other state nurses associations affiliated with ANA or other nursing organizations at the state or national level (e.g., ISAPN, IANNA, NAHN, AONL).

- Oklahoma ANA
- STTI
- NLN

Describe any experiences you have had with public speaking, working with the media, working with legislators, and/or testifying in the legislature or other policy-making governmental bodies.

Presented in diverse academic and community areas on: Health Policies, NLN Board of Governors Days on the Hill; supporting nurse by visiting with Legislators and Senators.

Politically active when in Oklahoma in Town Board; continue to support nursing practice in community venues.

Describe your experiences in fiduciary responsibility. - ONLY FOR CONSENTING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS - Vice President, Treasurer, & Director.

- Previously; President of STTI chapters;
- Served on the Town Board as Vice- Mayor and the town budget. NLN Board of Governors Financials with high- stakes fiduciary accountability and responsibility;
- Developed and Implemented the Coffeyville Community College 1+1 Nursing Program.

Describe a situation where you influenced others to take action within your workplace, your community, or in a professional nursing organization.

In Kellyville Oklahoma, with ANA Oklahoma made a resolution that elementary, middle and high school teachers needed to have CPR certification: this was passed and made CPR available in staff development sessions.

Contributed a column in the Coffeyville Newspaper; Health, the National Treasure- within six- months several health focused articles from pharmacists, and other providers created a whole section in that Newspaper.

Initiated; Health, the Kingdom Treasurer in selected faith- based institutions; Now, the best is yet to come for with an evidence- based nursing practice!

Based on the purpose statement above from the ANA-Illinois bylaws, briefly explain how you would describe the value of ANA-Illinois to potential members.

ANA-Illinois Nurses are leaders that have a powerful collective voice to bring the best health initiative to all people. And, together members serve bring each other from where they are to where they want to be.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with members as part of the ballot?

Simply. Be who you are in nursing- and be your best!



ANA REPRESENTATIVE
Elaine Hardy PhD, RN
Dean of Academic Affairs
St. John's College of Nursing

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA-Illinois (including prior elected or appointed positions in ANA-Illinois).

I have been a member of ANA-IL for the past 10 years and previously an ANA member of Indiana and Pennsylvania. I have served on the board of ANA-IL from 2015-2017, and 2021-present. I have been the ANA Representative to the Membership Assembly and have thoroughly enjoyed learning and networking among all of the ANA Representatives in attendance.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA (national level).

I have attended the past two Membership Assemblies and have been able to attend the ANA nurses day on the hill, meeting with legislators in Washington.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with other state nurses associations affiliated with ANA or other nursing organizations at the state or national level (e.g., ISAPN, IANNA, NAHN, AONL).

I have been actively involved in the local chapter of the National Black Nurses Association, serving as President and past Treasurer. I am a member of the local chapter of NAHN, and the International Association of Latino Nurse Faculty, serving on the planning committee for the annual Cultural Inclusion Institute. I am a member of three local Sigma Theta Tau International organizations, and served as the vice-president for Illinois State University.

Describe any experiences you have had with public speaking, working with the media, working with legislators, and/or testifying in the legislature or other policy-making governmental bodies.

I have been asked to give talks on a variety of health and social topics for several organizations. I have given interviews to local television, radio and newspapers on a variety of health topics, and nursing education. I have worked with organizations in the community to complete the community health needs assessment, as well as the community health improvement plan. I work closely with the nursing lobbyists and have engaged with legislators around topics in nursing that impact nursing practice and nursing education.

Describe your experiences in fiduciary responsibility. - ONLY FOR CONSENTING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS - Vice President, Treasurer, & Director.

I was the treasurer for the local chapter of the National Black Nurses Association and was accountable for the monthly treasurer's report, as well as submitting the federal and state financial filings for the organization.

Describe a situation where you influenced others to take action within your workplace, your community, or in a professional nursing organization.

I have appointed a member of our local chapter of the National Black Nurses Association as the health policy liaison. We have written op-eds on topics of racism in the country. I encouraged my members to dispel misinformation around the Covid-19 vaccine and hosted a Pfizer representative to speak to the members about the vaccine and it's development. Armed with this accurate information, our members were able to speak to the community, family members and peers, stressing the importance of protection against Covid through vaccinations.

Based on the purpose statement above from the ANA-Illinois bylaws, briefly explain how you would describe the value of ANA-Illinois to potential members.

In the profession of nursing we are described as life-long learners and ANA-Illinois allows a platform for life-long learning, not only about the profession, but how nurses are educated and issues that negatively and positively impact our profession.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with members as part of the ballot?

I have enjoyed serving the nurses in Illinois as a board member of ANA-IL and having completed the inaugural class of Nurses Running for Elected Office Training Academy, would like to continue to use my newfound knowledge and experience to continue serving the nurses in the great state of Illinois, in whatever capacity they will have me.



ANA REPRESENTATIVE

Diana Ortega BSN, RN
Staff Nurse/ Ambulatory
Rush Oak Park Hospital

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA-Illinois (including prior elected or appointed positions in ANA-Illinois).

I have not held any prior elected positions with ANA-Illinois but have participated in webinars offered. I was also part of the Inaugural Nurses Running for Elected Office Training class in which it fostered my passion to get more involved in our state legislation. I am also part of NAHN-IL which is an affiliate of ANA-IL.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA (national level).

I do not have any prior involvement with ANA at national level but definitely interested and eager to. I want to be more knowledgeable on the issues affecting healthcare and nurses.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with other state nurses associations affiliated with ANA or other nursing organizations at the state or national level (e.g., ISAPN, IANNA, NAHN, AONL).

I have been an active member of the NAHN-IL chapter for nearly a decade. I started as a student nurse where I volunteered in my community and gained leadership skills. I later became co-chair for the Pre-Nursing Engagement and Mentorship Committee where we recently revamped and relaunched our Mentorship program this past year. I was appointed to the chapter board as Secretary fall of 2021 and will finish my term next year. I have led many recruitment events, participated in many health fairs in the community and mentored others. I was awarded 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader thru INF and NAHN last year. I am also part of ANA-IL Inaugural Nurses Running for Elected Office Training class where we learned a lot about running for an elected office . I am also Secretary of LFRA- Latinos First Responders Alliance, a newly non- profit organization working to empower and mentor the next generation of Latino First Responders.

Describe any experiences you have had with public speaking, working with the media, working with legislators, and/or testifying in the legislature or other policy-making governmental bodies.

Being part of professional organizations has taught me and honed many skills like speaking in public. I have led many meetings and spoke on different topics as well as led CPR classes. As long as I can remember, I have been very comfortable in public speaking, more so if it is something that I am passionate about or if I am teaching. I also am social media savvy and have a nice following on Facebook and LinkedIn, as well as growing on TikTok and Instagram. In today's society, social media has taken a major growth and is accessible to many.

Describe your experiences in fiduciary responsibility. - ONLY FOR CONSENTING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS - Vice President, Treasurer, & Director.

Sitting the the NAHN-Illinois Chapter board as Secretary has many responsibilities. We help make executive decisions in the best interest of our chapter that makes a positive impact on our membership and community. We work as a team to keep us all accountable on financial decisions and other things that can impact our Chapter Mission. I also sit on the LFRA board where we make those same important decisions to help elevate our organization.

Describe a situation where you influenced others to take action within your workplace, your community, or in a professional nursing organization.

I have been part of many collaborative initiatives that better our communities. I have spoken up about workplace bullying and my workplace has tried to put more emphasis on this issue with different activities, surveys, etc. As I mentioned before about revamping and relaunching our mentorship program this year through NAHN-IL, I worked hard to bring this back because mentorship is key in growing in your career.

Based on the purpose statement above from the ANA-Illinois bylaws, briefly explain how you would describe the value of ANA-Illinois to potential members.

Becoming a member of ANA-IL is very valuable as a student nurse, a practicing nurse or even as a retired nurse because the main focus is to help improve healthcare standards and services to all in our state as well as to promote personal and professional development of nurses. As a nursing student, we don't really see what is happening in healthcare and how it affects us after graduation. We are focused on graduating and passing NClex but when you join SNAI, you begin to understand a bit about policy and involvement. As a practicing nurse we get first hand experience on the restrictions that are imposed by higher governing and most are not appropriately thought through for adequate practice. That is why we need to get involved with ANA-IL, so we can further educate ourselves and be the voice for our communities and for nurses. ANA-IL has helped spearhead many healthcare and nursing related policies in our state legislation that has improved our healthcare, but much more work needs to be done. We need individuals who want to help make a difference in everyone's lives, we need world changers.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with members as part of the ballot?

Being a bilingual, Hispanic nurse, first generation college graduate and single parent has come with many obstacles but has been very gratifying. Having first hand experience with healthcare inequality and disparities in our communities has sparked a passion in me. I see insurance related issues in providing care for my patients and how many obstacles many face in order for them to get better. After completing NREO- Nurses Running for Elected Office training Academy, I found that we do not have a nurse in our state legislature and that only three nurses are in the federal government from three different states. It definitely got me thinking about what I can do to be the voice for those who are not heard. I decided to continue my education and further my career in leadership in order to be able to have the experience and knowledge to make a difference. I have always been very passionate about educating our communities, future nurses and now our state legislature. I hope to one day soon be able to run for an elected political office to help make significant changes in our healthcare standards and nursing related policies. I would love to be elected to the ANA-Illinois Board of Directors or be a State Representative, I am eager to learn and make a difference.



ANA REPRESENTATIVE

Roshni Shah MSN

Faculty
DePaul University

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA-Illinois (including prior elected or appointed positions in ANA-Illinois).

I have joined ANA Illinois as a student and online to support the advancement of the nursing profession. I have never ran for any elected position and feel ready to take more leadership on the issues I am passionate about.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA (national level).

I have only been involved nationally on the events that are hosted such as visiting Springfield or advocacy work online.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with other state nurses associations affiliated with ANA or other nursing organizations at the state or national level (e.g., ISAPN, IANNA, NAHN, AONL).

Not Applicable

Describe any experiences you have had with public speaking, working with the media, working with legislators, and/or testifying in the legislature or other policy-making governmental bodies.

I have worked as an advocate for Asian American, Minority, First Generation and/or female nurse leadership on the grassroots level both locally & nationally. I believe in helping share stories from the frontlines to articulate the needs and change necessary. I have shown support to local legislation but would like an opportunity to be more actively involved in the legal component of health advocacy. Prior to my role as a nurse, I worked in community outreach and global health advocacy in small communities in Illinois and abroad in villages in India. I have always felt that we more empowered by advocating for the change we want to see instead of wasting energy complaining.

Describe a situation where you influenced others to take action within your workplace, your community, or in a professional nursing organization.

As an ICU Nurse at Advocate Christ, I was the president of the Unit Council and an active member in leadership workshops and national conferences advocating for more support, promoting on going education and career advancement for my peers. I have led various service and self care initiatives, impacting the staff retention at baseline. As an educator, I support and encourage my patients to not only be nurses, but see themselves as community leaders. I help them curate, implement and initiate organizational change with partner non profits in the Chicago area to encourage them to have a broader perspective of health and wellness. I have a record of initiating change by example. My projects and passion for health equity are integral to every role I take on as a "nurse" inspiring others to find multi-dimensional roles within their own careers.

Based on the purpose statement above from the ANA-Illinois bylaws, briefly explain how you would describe the value of ANA-Illinois to potential members.

As a nurse, it is important that we not only empower others about the work we do but also empower ourselves as we navigate such a dynamic and nuanced career. Joining ANA allows you an opportunity to be an advocate for this profession and supports your role as a leader for justice, equity and access to appropriate healthcare for residents in Illinois (and nationally). Being an integrated part of the ways we want to implement change allows an opportunity to foster high standards for professionalism and progress in our career.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with members as part of the ballot?

I am passionate about the advancement and nourishment of the nursing professionals I work along side (and get to teach) everyday and believe that by focusing on ways to improve our profession from the inside, we can impact our communities more deeply on the outside.



ANA REPRESENTATIVE

Feyifunmi Sangoleye PhD, RN

Administrative Nurse III

University of Illinois Hospital and Healthcare System

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA-Illinois (including prior elected or appointed positions in ANA-Illinois).

As a member of ANA-IL, I respond to and share legislative action alerts and upcoming events via social media accounts. I recognize that the information needs to also be disseminated to ANA non-members for the collective nursing voices to be amplified and heard.

I have also had the pleasure of attending or speaking at ANA-IL events such as the Professional Issues Conference, Student Nurses Association.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA (national level).

I recently attended the ANA Membership Assembly in DC as an alternate representative. I was able to share my views regarding important topics that affect fellow nurses.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with other state nurses associations affiliated with ANA or other nursing organizations at the state or national level (e.g., ISAPN, IANNA, NAHN, AONL).

I am an active member of the Alpha Eta Chapter, Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority. I was drawn to the organization because of its emphasis on fostering interest in nursing, and service to humanity through advocacy and education. I have participated in community service activities at the chapter level and attended our Midwest Regional Conference in Milwaukee, WI.

Describe any experiences you have had with public speaking, working with the media, working with legislators, and/or testifying in the legislature or other policy-making governmental bodies.

My active leadership and involvement across a broad spectrum of activities is representative of my commitment and dedication to the nursing profession and humanity. I have held positions and participated in different activities that required me to use my voice, listen to learn different opinions, and communicate effectively. I will highlight some of them below.

Clinical Nurse Consultant II

I collaborated with nurses and interdisciplinary healthcare professionals during huddles and weekly meetings to identify and address patient care needs, maintain patient safety, and achieve quality healthcare outcomes. I worked with other Clinical Nurse Consultants to develop and implement hospital wide nursing education and quality initiatives. I served as a mentor to new nurse hires, helped facilitate clinical placements on the oncology unit, and provided positive clinical experiences for nursing students.

I participated in organizational shared leadership activities by serving on different committees and advisory councils [Nursing Quality and Safety Committee, Nursing Policies & Procedures Committee, Pain Committee, Transfusion Practices Committee, Divisional Advisory Council (DAC), Cancer Care Committee, Bone Marrow Transplant Quality Initiatives Committee, and Bone Marrow Transplant Unit Advisory Council (UAC)].

Researcher

I virtually presented and answered questions regarding my dissertation, "Persistence in Baccalaureate Nursing Students", at the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) conference. I recently submitted a manuscript to the Journal of Professional Nursing on this topic.

Keynote Speaker

I have been happy to share my experiences as Keynote Speaker at ANA-IL events, community-based programs, and with fellow nurses.

Entrepreneur, TeMi Beads

I have a small business focused on helping women set intentions/goals, develop self-confidence, and practice mindfulness, and celebrate their feminine energy. I utilize social media to disseminate motivational quotes, tell stories, and share experiences daily. This avenue has afforded me the chance to have health-related discussions with my clients since I openly share that I am nurse. I have been able to connect with women from all works of life, including nurses and nursing students (who I sometimes mentor) on those platforms.

Describe a situation where you influenced others to take action within your workplace, your community, or in a professional nursing organization.

Bedside nurses can be resistant to change. In my role as Clinical Nurse Consultant II, I was able to highlight the importance of nurse-driven research in improving the care of our oncology and stem cell transplant patients. Under my leadership, we conducted research and implemented changes to reduce: 1) central line associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI), and 2) secondhand exposure of chemotherapy in ancillary healthcare. We also submitted and presented evidence-based unit research posters at organizational research days.

In my current role, I was part of the team to research and present on the importance of a discharge lounge in the management of patient throughput. The lounge was approved. Nursing and patient education was needed to ensure success. The discharge lounge has a huge impact on how beds are available to our ED and PACU patients. I am proud to have been part of that project.

Based on the purpose statement above from the ANA-Illinois bylaws, briefly explain how you would describe the value of ANA-Illinois to potential members.

Nursing is a career that you embark upon after a rigorous program. It is a journey that can take you in different directions and provide many opportunities for you to make an impact on your patients and community. It can also be confusing because you are unsure how/why to start and the best path to take. Remember how you wondered if someone would always be there with you on that journey? That is what ANA-IL is for. ANA-IL is the voices for all nurses by supporting your legislative rights, advocating for priorities that impact nurses, and providing mentorship and leadership opportunities.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with members as part of the ballot?

I thought long and hard before submitting this nomination. I am eager to bring my skills to the table, take on an active role within the organization to help advance the profession, mentor nursing students, and carry out the mission of the organization. I appreciate the consideration.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Feyifunmi Sangoleye PhD, RN

Administrative Nurse III

University of Illinois Hospital and Healthcare System

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA-Illinois (including prior elected or appointed positions in ANA-Illinois).

As a member of ANA-IL, I respond to and share legislative action alerts and upcoming events via social media accounts. I recognize that the information needs to also be disseminated to ANA non-members for the collective nursing voices to be amplified and heard.

I have also had the pleasure of attending or speaking at ANA-IL events such as the Professional Issues Conference, Student Nurses Association.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with ANA (national level).

I recently attended the ANA Membership Assembly in DC as an alternate representative. I was able to share my views regarding important topics that affect fellow nurses.

Describe any prior active involvement or participation with other state nurses associations affiliated with ANA or other nursing organizations at the state or national level (e.g., ISAPN, IANNA, NAHN, AONL).

I am an active member of the Alpha Eta Chapter, Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority. I was drawn to the organization because of its emphasis on fostering interest in nursing, and service to humanity through advocacy and education. I have participated in community service activities at the chapter level and attended our Midwest Regional Conference in Milwaukee, WI.

Describe any experiences you have had with public speaking, working with the media, working with legislators, and/or testifying in the legislature or other policy-making governmental bodies.

My active leadership and involvement across a broad spectrum of activities is representative of my commitment and dedication to the nursing profession and humanity. I have held positions and participated in different activities that required me to use my voice, listen to learn different opinions, and communicate effectively. I will highlight some of them below.

Clinical Nurse Consultant II

I collaborated with nurses and interdisciplinary healthcare professionals during huddles and weekly meetings to identify and address patient care needs, maintain patient safety, and achieve quality healthcare outcomes. I worked with other Clinical Nurse Consultants to develop and implement hospital-wide nursing education and quality initiatives. I served as a mentor to new nurse hires, helped facilitate clinical placements on the oncology unit, and provided positive clinical experiences for nursing students.

I participated in organizational shared leadership activities by serving on different committees and advisory councils [Nursing Quality and Safety Committee, Nursing Policies & Procedures Committee, Pain Committee, Transfusion Practices Committee, Divisional Advisory Council (DAC), Cancer Care Committee, Bone Marrow Transplant Quality Initiatives Committee, and Bone Marrow Transplant Unit Advisory Council (UAC)].

Researcher

I virtually presented and answered questions regarding my dissertation, "Persistence in Baccalaureate Nursing Students", at the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) conference. I recently submitted a manuscript to the Journal of Professional Nursing on this topic.

Keynote Speaker

I have been happy to share my experiences as Keynote Speaker at ANA-IL events, community-based programs, and with fellow nurses.

Entrepreneur, TeMi Beads

I have a small business focused on helping women set intentions/goals, develop self-confidence, and practice mindfulness, and celebrate their feminine energy. I utilize social media to disseminate motivational quotes, tell stories, and share experiences daily. This avenue has afforded me the chance to have health-related discussions with my clients since I openly share that I am a nurse. I have been able to connect with women from all walks of life, including nurses and nursing students (who I sometimes mentor) on those platforms.

Describe a situation where you influenced others to take action within your workplace, your community, or in a professional nursing organization.

Bedside nurses can be resistant to change. In my role as Clinical Nurse Consultant II, I was able to highlight the importance of nurse-driven research in improving the care of our oncology and stem cell transplant patients. Under my leadership, we conducted research and implemented changes to reduce: 1) central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI), and 2) secondhand exposure of chemotherapy in ancillary healthcare. We also submitted and presented evidence-based unit research posters at organizational research days.

In my current role, I was part of the team to research and present on the importance of a discharge lounge in the management of patient throughput. The lounge was approved. Nursing and patient education was needed to ensure success. The discharge lounge has a huge impact on how beds are available to our ED and PACU patients. I am proud to have been part of that project.

Based on the purpose statement above from the ANA-Illinois bylaws, briefly explain how you would describe the value of ANA-Illinois to potential members.

Nursing is a career that you embark upon after a rigorous program. It is a journey that can take you in different directions and provide many opportunities for you to make an impact on your patients and community. It can also be confusing because you are unsure how/why to start and the best path to take. Remember how you wondered if someone would always be there with you on that journey? That is what ANA-IL is for. ANA-IL is the voices for all nurses by supporting your legislative rights, advocating for priorities that impact nurses, and providing mentorship and leadership opportunities.

Is there anything else that you would like to share with members as part of the ballot?

I thought long and hard before submitting this nomination. I am eager to bring my skills to the table, take on an active role within the organization to help advance the profession, mentor nursing students, and carry out the mission of the organization. I appreciate the consideration.