

at MA. Day one was spent on Capital Hill, joined by more than 30 Delaware nurses to advocate for restricting mandatory overtime, Nurse Faculty Shortage Reduction Act (H.R. 7002, S. 2815), Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act (S. 2418, H.R. 2713) and to protect timely access to quality nursing care in long-term care facilities. Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester heard directly from Delaware nurses on these topics.

On day two, representatives from state nursing associations and ANA leaders gathered to discuss and hear vital issues from nurses affecting the profession. The first dialogue forum focused on the impact of licensure and employment practices on nurse's mental and emotional well-being, including how to eliminate barriers. The second forum addressed care coordination and collaboration for veterans receiving community care, ensuring access to care and nurses prepared to provide care. The third forum focused on the comprehensive revision

of the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements. State nursing associations were asked to provide comments on the proposed changes.

We heard from ANA's interim CEO, Angela Beddoe, on an enterprise initiative in which we envision ANA in 2040 and closing the gaps to prepare us for the future. Her bold vision includes ensuring nurses have "best in class practices, innovation, engagement, education, research, programs, and financial vitality." This address was a powerful and forward message with eyes fixed on a destination the ANA hasn't seen before and we are excited for it.

On day three, the voting body moved to support the work on the dialogue forums from the previous day. In addition to this, a motion was made and approved on transparency in investments and ethical partnerships. This work confirms that nurses are activists and change makers. This is an exhilarating time for the work of the nursing profession and

for ANA and state nursing associations to be positioned to make a greater impact than ever. New ANA Board of Director members were elected and announced. Those include:

- President Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Oregon Nurses Association;
- Secretary Amanda Oliver, BSN, RN, CCRN, CPST, ANA-Illinois;
- Director-at-Large Edward Briggs, DNP, MS, APRN, Florida Nurses Association;
- Director-at-Large Ahnyel Burkes, DNP, RN-BC, NEA-BC, Louisiana State Nurses Association; and
- Director-at-Large, Staff Nurse Josephine Agyei, BSN, RN, ANA-New York.

Thank you to all our members for trusting us to use a collective voice on these key issues. The future is bright, and I am excited to continue to advance nursing and our profession in Delaware and nationally. ■

## Executive Director's Report

Christopher E. Otto, MSN, RN, CCRN



### Nurse Advocacy in Action: Your Voice Matters!

June is always a busy month. It is the month that DNA hosts our annual

"Nurse's Day at Legislative Hall" in Dover, ANA's Hill Day in Washington, the end of Delaware's legislative session, and the ANA Membership Assembly. This June, Delaware's nurses made an impact!

Over 20 LPNs, RNs, and APRNs participated in DNA's day at Legislative Hall in Dover. Over a dozen constituent meetings were held, with nurses advocating for multiple topics. Nurses got to meet with DE's three nurse legislators, too, Lt. Governor Dr. Bethany Hall-Long, House Majority Leader, Representative Melissa "Mimi" Minor-Brown, and Representative



Valerie Jones-Giltner. These nurses made an immediate impact on the legislative process.

House Bill 140, end of life options/death with dignity, was passed out of committee the following day and eventually passed both chambers. House Bill 401, school nurse access to lead screening status and results, passed on the House consent agenda and eventually passed the Senate. Senate Bill 195, programmatic support and funding for DMOST, passed out of Senate committee and eventually passed both chambers.



## When Nurses Speak, Dover Listens!

Over 20 Delaware LPNs, RNs and APRNs traveled from Newark to our nation's

capital on Thursday, June 27th to participate in the American Nurses Association Hill Day. They were met by many more Delaware nurses. Altogether, nearly

500 nurses came together from across the nation to advocate for elimination of mandatory overtime, safe staffing in long-term care, reducing barriers to APRN practice, and investments in nursing faculty pay. Delaware nurses met directly with Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester just outside the Capital to discuss our issues and how we can work together to solve them.

Meetings continued with representatives from Senator Coons and Carper's teams. We continued discussing these issues, with Delaware nurses providing real examples of the impacts of mandatory overtime, workforce shortages, faculty shortages, and more. Delaware is the 2nd smallest state, but we were the state with the most representatives at 2024 ANA Hill Day! ■

## When Nurses Speak, Washington Listens!

## Guest Editor

**Aaron Sebach PhD, DNP, MBA, AGACNP-BC, FNP-BC, CP-C, CEN, CPEN, NREMT, CGNC, CLNC, CNE, CNEcl, SFHM, FNAP, FAANP**

Greetings, Delaware Nurses! As Guest Editor for this edition of the DNA Reporter, I am honored to serve. In today's complex healthcare environment, understanding and applying legal considerations is critical for nurses in all specialties. The first article, authored by Dr. Sean Elwell and colleagues from Nemours Children's Hospital, focuses on considerations for emergency nurses related to the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Agreement (EMTALA). A case study is included to assist readers in applying EMTALA to practice. Additionally, Wilmington University DNP students Lindsey Coates and Rachel Riordan contributed an article highlighting legal considerations specific to emergency department nurses. The third article, authored by Dr. Angela Brittingham and Amy Williams from TidalHealth, introduces forensic nursing. While forensic nurses primarily advocate for sexual assault survivors, their role is broad and encompasses much more. The edition concludes with a primer on medical malpractice in Delaware,

authored by Wilmington University MSN student and legal nurse consultant Abigail Rogers.

I trust you will find these articles valuable in your practice throughout the State of Delaware and beyond. Stay tuned for a second edition of the DNA Reporter, which will delve into additional legal considerations later this year. ■

IMPORTANT!

Delaware  
DAISY Dates

2nd Annual  
Delaware DAISY Gala!

Nov 7 | 5 PM

Bally's Dover Casino Resort  
[denurses.org/events](http://denurses.org/events)

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September 15th

Submit your nominations for DE nurses! Nominations to be reviewed for presentation at the Nov 7th Gala.

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