



FROM THE MONA PRESIDENT

Dr. Cindi Aurentz, DNP, MSN, RN, CNE

As the President of the Missouri Nurses Association, I want to make it unequivocally clear that our organization is committed to fostering a healthcare environment that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive for all. We believe that every individual, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, or any other characteristic, deserves to be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion.

Racism, bigotry, and discrimination have no place in our profession or in our communities. We are committed to embodying a profession that reflects the diverse populations we serve. Nurses are on the front lines of healthcare, and we understand the profound impact that diversity, equity, and

inclusion have on patient care and community health outcomes.

We stand firm in our resolve to challenge and eliminate racism and discrimination wherever they may exist—whether in the workplace, in our schools, or in our healthcare systems. Together, we will continue to advocate for policies and practices that promote fairness, equality, and opportunity for all, as we ensure that every nurse, patient, and community member feels seen, heard, and valued.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Aurentz, DNP, MSN, RN, CNE

President, Missouri Nurses Association! 🌟



FROM THE MONA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jill Kliethermes, MSN, RN, FNP-BC

As we step into 2025, we are filled with excitement and optimism for the year ahead. This year marks another opportunity to strengthen our commitment to advancing nursing excellence, fostering professional growth, and driving positive change in nursing and healthcare.

In this first edition of the 2025 MO Nurse, we are thrilled to share some updates & opportunities:

- **Upcoming Events:** Mark your calendars for our 2025 events. We are planning an in person Fall Conference so be watching for more details soon.
- **Member Spotlights:** We want to celebrate the achievements of outstanding members. Please recommend a colleague and/or yourself to be recognized!
- **Committee Structure Changes:** We are excited to announce a pilot to transform our committee structure, designed to better align with our mission and meet the evolving needs of our members and the nursing profession. Our goal is to streamline our committees, establish mutual interest groups, and enhance member participation.

- **Advocacy Updates:** Legislative session is underway! Stay informed on critical nursing / healthcare policy developments and how we can amplify our collective voice.
- **Focused Efforts in 2025:**
 - **End Nurse Abuse:** It's NOT part of the job! We are actively working with the MO Hospital Association, MO Organization of Nurse Leaders and MO Emergency Nurses Association to address Workplace Violence.
 - **The subcommittee on Safe Staffing & Healthy Work Environment** continues to meet to establish strategies to address nurse staffing issues.
- **LPN Membership:** We are excited to announce a new chapter for our association as we pilot expanding our membership to include Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)! This decision reflects our commitment to fostering inclusivity and collaboration across all levels of nursing, recognizing the vital role LPNs play in delivering compassionate, quality care. The board and staff are finalizing plans and will be sharing more