



NEBRASKA NURSES ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q - Is NNA for all nurses?

A - The Nebraska Nurses Association is the premier professional organization representing the state's 20,000 plus Registered Nurses through its eight geographical districts. NNA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, stimulating and promoting professional development of nurses and advancing their professional security, and working for the improvement of health standards and availability of health care services for all people. Our vision is to be an effective voice for nurses and an advocate for Nebraska consumers on issues relating to health

Q - How does NNA relate to the American Nurses Association (ANA)?

A - The American Nurses Association (ANA) is a full-service professional organization representing the nation's 2.9 million Registered Nurses through its 54 constituent member associations (CMAs). The CMAs determine much of the direction of the ANA through the ANA House of Delegates, which comprises delegates sent by each state, apportioned according to each state membership count.

Q - Is the Nebraska Nurses Foundation part of the NNA?

A - The Nebraska Nurses Foundation (NNF) is a related entity of NNA. NNF is the philanthropic organization that promotes the continued growth and development of nurses and services to advance the work of the nursing profession. As a non-profit charitable organization with 501(c)(3) status, NNF relies on support from individuals, corporations, foundations, and government agencies that possess a strong interest in advancing nursing's future. Contributions to NNF are tax-deductible. The NNF recognizes donors through a Fellows Program and promotes contributions to its scholarship endowment.

Q - What kind of memberships does NNA have?

A - Individual Members may choose to belong to NNA/ District /ANA or may just belong to NNA/ District. There are eight geographical districts covering all areas of the state. Members may choose membership in any District but are encouraged to get the most out of their membership by joining the District where they live or work.

In addition, NNA has Organizational Affiliate members, where organizations with a majority of registered nurses on its board of directors may belong to NNA.

Q - Is this association only for RNs?

A - Yes, the Nebraska Nurses Association represents the interests of the state's 20,000 registered nurses and only licensed RNs are eligible to join.

Q - How do I become a member?

A - Complete the Membership Application and send it with your dues to NNA, P.O. Box 82086, Lincoln, NE 68501-2086.



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Q - What are the dues?

A - Membership dues vary based on your district selection and whether you are employed full-time, are retired or a student nurse. Contact the Executive Director or call (402) 475-3859 to learn what your dues will be.

Q – What do my dues pay for?

A - Membership dues support the work of NNA at the state, district and national level. NNA actively works (with and through the Districts) to promote the profession of nursing in Nebraska and nationally. NNA lobbies Senators in the Nebraska legislature on issues affecting RNs in the state. Our recent victories include passage of the nursing loan forgiveness program and establishment of the Nebraska Center for Nursing, to name a few. NNA also serves as a statewide advocate for nurses, promoting the safe workplace, equitable pay and professional respect that nurses deserve; and publishes leading-edge information that communicates nursing's essential role to legislators, patients and others working in health care.

The national association - ANA - speaks for all nurses in national and international forums. ANA is a recognized and respected voice - with considerable clout - in Washington, DC, where the national association has taken the lead in pushing for reforms such as the RN Safe Staffing Act of 2003 and Quality Nurse Care Act of 2004, which both mandate the development of staffing systems that require the input of direct-care RNs, provide whistle-blower protections for RNs who speak out about patient care issues, including inadequate levels of nurse, and establish a requirement for minimum staffing ratios based on ANA's Principles of Nurse Staffing. ANA also was responsible for laws providing Medicare reimbursement to advanced practice registered nurses and mandating the use of safer needles, to name a few. Additionally, ANA, calling on its volunteer members, shapes practice standards and defines the code of ethics for the profession. ANA also keeps the interests of nurses in the forefront of national debate through its very active media relations work with national and regional reporters.

More tangibly, members receive a subscription to *The American Nurse*, the bimonthly publication of the ANA, as well as a subscription to the monthly *American Nurse Today*. Quarterly issues of *The Nebraska Nurse* are delivered to each RN. Members receive discounts on various credentialing and conference fees and discounts on insurance if they choose to purchase professional liability, disability and life insurance. Individual members can apply for a Bank of America credit card with a discounted annual service fee. Additionally, ANA maintains the Web site, NursingWorld.org. NNA's web site features a member's only section with news and promotions just for members. Coupling the benefits of ANA with NNA's offered benefits makes membership in NNA/ ANA a strong value for the cost.

Q - I am looking for information on my great aunt twice removed who was a nurse in World War I. Can you help me? Was she a member?

A – While it may be interesting to learn such information, we respect the privacy of our members. NNA does not sell or otherwise provide personal information about its members.



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Q – What books and other information are available to members?

A - ANA publishes a number of professional references, including: *Nursing's Social Policy Statement* (2nd Edition), 2003; *Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* (03SSNP) and *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* (CEP21). This trio of interlinked and indispensable references for and about the profession are also available as a set called "Foundations of Nursing" (03FNDN), and are at a discounted rate for members.

Members also have free access to CINAHL through the ANA member's only web site.

Q - When and what is Nurses Week? How do I get a catalog of products? Are there special events or programs established anywhere celebrating nurses week? How do I get permission to use the Nurses Week logo at my hospital?

A - For information on National Nurses Week, go to www.nursingworld.org/pressrel/nnw/

Q - How do I contact specialty nursing organization?

A - Most specialty organizations can be found at www.nursingworld.org/affil/index.htm. For other groups, try an Internet search.

Q - Where do I get standards?

A - All ANA standards publication are available for purchase through www.nursesbooks.org.

Q - I need clinical information on....

A - ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the economic and general welfare of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public. For clinical information, contact the specialty nurses organization that addresses your particular clinical concern. All specialty organizations that the ANA is affiliated with can be found at www.nursingworld.org/affil/. For other groups, try an Internet search.

Q - What is ICN?

A - ICN is the International Council of Nurses, a federation of national nurses' associations representing nurses in more than 120 countries. The American Nurses Association represents the interests of American Nurses in the ICN. To learn more about the ANA's work in international nursing, go to www.nursingworld.org/inc/. To learn more about the ICN, go to www.icn.ch/



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Q - What is the Center for American Nurses?

A - Established in 2003, the Center for American Nurses (the Center) is an organization that offers tools, services and strategies designed to make nurses their own best advocates in their practice environments — particularly those nurses not represented by collective bargaining. The Center was created to develop strategies and recommendations to ensure that nurses who are not represented by collective bargaining have access to meaningful workplace advocacy strategies. Through research, continuing education and knowledge sharing among today's nursing community, the Center offers powerful resources to more than 44,000 nurses seeking to overcome workforce challenges and realize opportunities.

Q - Why was the Center established?

A - ANA's Commission on Workplace Advocacy was established by the ANA House of Delegates in 2000 to address the needs of individual nurses in the workplace not represented by collective bargaining. ANA allocated resources within the operating budget and a small staff to explore workplace advocacy issues for nonunion nurses. In 2003, the House of Delegates voted to create a new membership category for Associate Organizational Members (AOM). The Center was established as the single AOM dedicated to providing nonunion nurses with workplace advocacy tools to address challenges and opportunities nurses may face in their practice environments. This specialized focus allows the Center to offer its members customized, targeted support to advocate for themselves in the workplace.

Q - What is workforce advocacy?

A - The Center understands that this is a very abstract idea and not a tangible product or service. The Center defines workforce advocacy as an enabling process whereby nurses are supported with a program of services and tools to self-advocate in the workplace and in their professional and personal development. Individual nurses — in particular those who are not represented by collective bargaining — can use the Center's support services and educational tools to improve their workplace experiences and achieve professional and personal goals. The Center is working every day to build infrastructure and capacity to implement the development of concrete programs and products that can be used by nurses to be their own advocates in the field.

Q - How is the Center for American Nurses affiliated with ANA?

A - While the Center is independent of ANA, it is linked with ANA through an Affiliation Agreement in effect through 2008 as an Associate Organizational Member. Under this agreement, the Center coordinates with, purchases administrative services from and is co-located with ANA.

Q - Am I a member of the Center for American Nurses?

A - Currently the membership consists of 38 state nurses associations that represent more than 44,000 individual nurses nationwide. ALL MEMBERS OF NNA ARE MEMBERS OF THE CENTER AND ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE MEMBER BENEFITS.

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Q - What are the Center's member benefits?

A - Members of the Center are eligible for discounts and savings on publications and continuing education offerings, as well as networking opportunities at conferences and access to cutting-edge best practices for making the most of the nursing practice environment. The Center was founded on a vision to create products and services that land in the laps of individual nurses — particularly those not represented by collective bargaining — empowering them to be their own best advocates in their practice environments. Recently, these materials have included a legal monograph to inform nurses about their legal rights on the job, continuing education offerings through our audioconference series and a survey of the state of the mature nursing workforce.

Q - How are members' dues dollars being applied by the Center?

A - The Center uses membership dollars to:

- Offer non-collective bargaining strategies, programs and services to nurses seeking to address the challenges and opportunities that may emerge in their practice environments;
- Support nurses in personal and professional growth and development in the practice setting in order to promote positive work-related experiences;
- Collaborate with other organizations to provide services and to develop policies that positively affect the work environment for all nurses;
- Provide education to nurses on workplace issues;
- Promote and provide leadership and mentoring in the workplace environment; and
- Conduct, evaluate and support workplace-related research.

Q - What particular nursing and workplace issues is the Center currently focused on?

A - The Center has designed a strong advocacy agenda targeting many of the key issues affecting nurses today, such as appropriate staffing, workplace health and safety, patient safety and advocacy, and workplace rights. The Center's unique approach to improving the nursing practice environment focuses on a wide range of topics, including:

- Mature Nursing Initiative
- Career planning and development
- Conflict resolution support center
- Leadership development
- Retirement readiness and planning
- Financial literacy
- Intergenerational Nurses Initiative

Q - What nursing and workplace issues is the Center exploring through partnerships with other organizations?

A - The Center's philosophy is to identify and seek appropriate partnerships to support its activities. Current collaborative activities include a legal monograph, Legal Basics for Professional Practice, an audioconference, Legal Basics for Professional Nursing Practice, and the Mature Nurse Initiative. In addition, the Center welcomes opportunities to support initiatives of other organizations such as safe patient handling and smoke-free nurses.