



## 2018 ANA-ILLINOIS CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

The election for the ANA-Illinois Officers and Directors will be held online **October 1-October 15**.

*The election will be conducted electronically. Watch your email and the ANA-Illinois website [www.ana-illinois.org](http://www.ana-illinois.org) for the additional details.*

All terms are for two years.  
HERE ARE YOUR CANDIDATES:

### Vice President



#### **Karen Egenes EdD, MSN, MA, RN**

For the past five years, I have been honored to serve the American Nurses Association - Illinois in the position of Director at Large. In this position I also served as a board liaison to the Illinois Nurses' Foundation, and chair of the ANA Illinois Political Action Committee. In this position, in cooperation with other board members, I have worked to make Illinois nurses aware of the importance of their involvement in political action initiatives to promote both legislation favorable to our professional practice, and legislation that protects the health and wellbeing of the public. I have also worked to mentor nurses and nursing students in the process of contacting legislators to educate them about issues of importance to nurses and to lobby for their support of our stand on these issues. I have also worked with fellow board members to improve the images of ANA-IL, build collaborative relationships

with nursing associations that are affiliates of ANA-IL, and to grow membership in ANA-IL. If elected to the position of Vice President, I would work to continue these projects. However, the needs of Illinois nurses and their patients continue to evolve over time. Therefore, my goals would be the following: (1) promote advocacy in nursing through mentorship of nurses in advocacy skills, and encourage their involvement in advocacy activities; (2) development of future ANA-IL members and leaders through initiation of activities to greater involve members of the Student Nurses Association of Illinois in the work of ANA-IL and promotion of the advantages of ANA-IL membership; (3) continue initiatives to eliminate violence toward nurses and health care team members through education of the public, promotion of bans against violence, and education aimed at elimination of bullying behaviors; and (4) continued outreach to ANA-IL members in all areas of our state through provision of educational programs and opportunities for advocacy. I would be honored to serve in the position of VP, and respectfully request your vote.



#### **Bonnie Salvetti BSN, RN**

I believe in the advocacy and advancement for nursing. The projected shortages threaten nursing and the public health. We have unique opportunities to promote the impact that nursing has on quality of care, patient outcomes, and access to care. Effective impact is fully maximized by promoting nursing practice of experience and education for the diverse scope of services opened to nursing. I believe imperative that we advocate for resources to better educate greater numbers of highly qualified nurses. Significant effort and time is spent by nurses pursuing higher levels of education. Meanwhile, Physician Assistant programs are advancing legislatively to "increase healthcare access". Really? Improving our nursing professional collaborative communication skills to speak with one voice

would help engagement of all nurses in shaping meaningful solutions. This last practice act and the collaboration demonstrated a positive outcome for achieving meaningful practice for all nurses. My goal is to advocate and promote growth to a higher level of professional functioning within our profession respecting our diversity and the many different opportunities in Nursing. It is because my

continued passion around of these principles, I would like to be considered for ANA-Illinois Vice-President. Thank you

## Treasurer



### **Pamela Brown PhD, RN, ANEF**

I served as treasurer when ANA-Illinois was formed, and feel privileged to continue to serve as such. I also served as a board of director, and as chair of the Bylaws Committee. I am also an active member in the expert panel on workplace violence. As past President of Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing, I bring administrative and strategic planning skills to our organization.

## Director at Large - 3 to be elected



### **Karen Kelly EdD, RN, NEA-BC**

I have been an active member of my state nurses' association for 46 years. I have served on a wide range of committees, commissions, and task forces, and the board of directors over that 46 years of service. I am proud to have been the president of the state nurses' association during the formation of ANA-Illinois in 2012. The amazing growth of ANA-Illinois over the first six years of operation emphasizes the success of this organization. Until my retirement in 2017, I spent much of my nursing career in faculty positions (diploma, ADN, BSN, MSN, & DNP programs). I also served in nursing administration positions and worked as a behavioral healthcare consultant for nation-wide corporation. I earned certification from ANCC as a Nurse Executive Advanced (NEA-BC) in 1991. As candidate for director at large, I would build upon my experiences as a long-time, active member of my state nurses

association, including my role as founding president of ANA-Illinois; my experiences as member and board member/officer of two other state-wide nursing organizations (IONL & Illinois Coalition for Nursing Resources); service to the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation; and local nursing groups in Metro St. Louis/Metro East region. As a director at large, I hope to foster the continued growth of ANA-Illinois through policies, educational programs, collaboration with other nursing organizations, and outreach to nurses across the state of Illinois. Nurses have the potential to be an ever-stronger voice in health care and health policy in Illinois, as well as across the nation, through their aggregate action through their state nurses' association. I bring skills in advocacy, continuing education, marketing, writing, and public speaking that I will use to further the organizational goals of ANA-Illinois. Since my retirement, I have made volunteer work in nursing and advocacy for the human rights of disabled populations my vocation.



### **Lauren Martin RN, CEN**

I am seeking your vote to serve on the board of directors for ANA-IL for several reasons, the most profound being my deep dedication to the values and mission of this organization. When I became a Registered Nurse in 2014, my first action was to join the American Nurses Association. I became a nurse because of my passion for patient advocacy and the unique opportunity and responsibility that nursing has regarding this principle. Entering the workforce, I knew what kind of nurse I wanted to be and learned quickly that the resources and preceptors available were not always synonymous with my intentions. My membership with the ANA was a priority impressed upon me in nursing school, I understood that to truly advocate for patient rights you must also advocate for the profession. What I did not account for, and most important

to a newer nurse such as myself, was the vast support that ANA would provide to me as I transitioned from nursing student to new professional. I believe we can do better at engaging and promoting these organization benefits. My relatability to new professionals and the obstacles they face can help not only drive increased membership but also improve active participation from this important demographic. Additionally, I can speak to the perspective of patient-facing bedside nurses of multiple specialties whom I believe do not currently receive appropriate representation on the board of directors. While I am proud to know I have recruited nurses through education on my experience with ANA, it is too often my experience that novice and tenured bed-side nurses alike have no knowledge of nursing organizations or the strong resource they can be at all career stages. Likewise, our organization is too often missing out on the engagement and input of this key nursing population. I graduated from the associate degree program at William Rainey Harper College and am in the process of returning to school for my graduate degree through an RN to MSN program. I began my career working as a Charge Nurse in Long Term Care / Post-Acute Care in 2014 where I quickly became a resource for orienting new nurses and coordinating policy changes. In December 2015 I began working in the Emergency Room at Roseland Community Hospital, a low resource hospital which serves a low socioeconomic demographic impacted heavily by unmanaged chronic health problems, high prevalence of drug abuse, and violence. I have been honored to serve in this setting where it is so apparent to see the impact of strong nurse advocacy, compassion, and patient education. I place great value in continued learning through evidence-based practice research and pursued my Certification in Emergency Nursing in 2017. I have been an active ANA member, serving first on the Reference Committee in 2015 until it's transition. I have also served on the Expert Panel on Workplace Safety since 2015, which has been surveying Illinois nurses' workplace safety concerns to develop actions / education based on analysis of that data. I was an honored recipient of the 40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders award in 2017. Additionally, I coordinated a presentation of the sunset summit at Illinois Masonic Medical Center, a venue I look forward to utilizing in future as a centralized location to reach out to more Chicago based nurses. I ask for your support so that I may further serve the ANA mission, promote member recruitment with enhanced engagement, and continue to strengthen the impact of a nurse driven profession.



**Crystal Vasquez DNP, MS, MBA, RN, NEA-BC**

My name is Crystal Vasquez, and I have been a registered nurse for thirty years. My areas of expertise include Critical Care and the Emergency Department, Nursing Administration, and Nursing Informatics. I have worked in academic medical centers, ambulatory care, the pharmaceutical industry and in education. I have had the pleasure of serving as a Director on the ANA Illinois Board for the past three years. While in this role, my duties included serving on the finance committee where I participated in the plan to set budget goals for the association growth. I have represented the association where I have shared the benefits, educational opportunities as well as the active political advocacy that is done on behalf of nurses in IL with nurses from across the state of Illinois. I am most proud of the efforts of the

nurses from across Illinois to collaborate on our new Nurse Practice Act that recognizes all nurses and provides them with the opportunity to practice at the top of their scope of licensure. It has been my experience that nurses in this state are engaged and want to advocate for their profession, practice and educational preparation to ensure that they are heard. ANA has dedicated 2018 as the year for Advocacy. I cannot think of a better way for me to support this theme and my profession than to work on behalf of the nurses of IL to support, educate and help to raise their voices on matters such as violence in the workplace, bullying, educational preparation, patient advocacy, self-advocacy and many other platforms. I do not have an agenda on which I am campaigning. I only hope that I can help the ANA-IL continue its mission of advocating for nurses. I will do what is in the best interest of nurses to help them get a seat at the table to discuss the issues that impact our profession. I will work partner with the administration, members, and legislators to push the nurse's agenda. I know there is a lot of work to do considering the future of nurses in IL. However, I am inspired and willing to do my part to spread the good news, encourage, and advocate for nurses to have a voice and make decisions about their practice. It would be an honor to have your vote.



**Stephanie Yohannan DNP, MBA, RN, NE-BC**

As a leader in healthcare, my goal is to inspire the nursing profession at the bedside, develop future leaders, increase diversity and enhance patient safety. If elected, I believe my leadership competencies and experience will bring a new perspective. I have more than 12 years of nursing experience with 8 of them in leadership. I currently manage the Neurosciences ICU at Rush University Medical Center. I have been able to increase our employee engagement results by 30% year over year. I have experience in general surgical, ICU and shared governance. I would love the opportunity to help shape and mold policies and procedures for ANA Illinois. As an active member in the Latino community, I see disparities and recognize the importance of advocacy. If given the opportunity to represent the ANA Illinois, I know that I would dedicate my time to advancing

nursing as a profession and inspiring future leaders.



**Carrie Zbierski MSN/MBA-HCM**

I am seeking this opportunity to further my involvement in elevating the nursing profession. As a nurse leader, I think it is very important to increase my knowledge and model the way for nurses to get involved in legislation. We have the potential to have a substantial voice in the ever-changing face of health care, and we need as many nurses at the table making decisions that have the capacity to impact our communities and our profession. I look forward to this opportunity and helping to support my fellow nurses.

**Nominations Committee - Three to be elected**



**Karen Kelly EdD, RN, NEA-BC**

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**ANA Representative – 4 to be elected\***



**Cheryl Anema PhD, RN**

I have been a member of the ANA since graduation from my diploma nursing program 35+ years ago. I have always been interested in promoting the profession of nursing and displayed this through my years of service to the ANA -IL (INA) in my roles as District President and ANA-IL Board of Directors. I have participated on many committees. I continued my education so that I could teach nursing and help shape the future of nursing in IL. More recently I have moved my focus to the IL Nurses Foundation, being a Director for the past many years and currently the newly elected President. Representing ANA-IL as an ANA representative will allow me to carry the concerns and interests of the nurses in IL to the national level. In addition to my work in IL, I also work with nursing education

in MN and other states around the country teaching NCLEX-RN review courses for Elsevier. This has allowed me to learn about nursing in states across the country and some of the issues that are pressing in those states. My passion for nursing and nursing education, and my involvement in the organization and foundation, puts me in a prime position to bring the voice of nursing in IL to Washington.

**Karina Combes BSN, RN**

Although I am a relatively newly licensed nurse, I am passionate about the realm of healthcare-interested in making it a better experience for patients and healthcare employees alike. I have witnessed the scenarios that make healthcare a target for change and look forward to the possibility of bringing change to the industry. I am currently seeking a dual MSN/MBA in order to earn the credentials that will allow me to participate in policy making and changing where healthcare and business initiatives intersect.

NO  
PHOTO  
AVAILABLE



**Therese C. Gallagher DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CNL**

As a family nurse practitioner and an assistant professor, my passion is creating valuable educational experiences for future nurses. I strongly believe in teaching students in the classroom, as well as working alongside them in the community. By educating students on the foundations of nursing and exposing them to unconventional models of care, I strive to move the profession forward as we enter uncertain times in our health care system.

My nursing practice has been treating vulnerable populations, from children to homeless adults. I believe all individuals have a right to high-quality health care, regardless of their ability to pay. I established a nurse-managed community clinic and serve as a preceptor to nurse practitioner as well as pre-licensure students. Through my work in the community, I have improved access to health care for a low-income population who previously did not have reliable access to primary care. I addressed needs in the community and partnered with various organizations to improve the overall quality-of-life of my patients. Employment, housing, education, and food insecurity are all needs my patients have, in addition to chronic health conditions. By approaching my patients holistically, I give them the tools to improve their health and well-being for their whole lifespan.

As a member of the board, I will be an ardent advocate for the nurses of Illinois and I will be a proponent of policy to improve access to health care for all citizens. I believe we as nurses need to educate the public on the current state of health care and to be a strong voice for policy change.



**Eli Heicher MSN, RN, CENP**

I am excited to have the opportunity to represent Illinois-ANA and I need your support. As healthcare evolves, I believe that it is our duty as nurses is to evolve with it. One way that we can do this is through professional networking. While every nurse may practice in their own unique environment, the nursing profession as a whole has many of the same opportunities and challenges. Avenues of collaboration like Illinois ANA are how these opportunities may be recognized and evaluated in a structured manner. Professional organizations like ANA-Illinois are critical at leveraging change and promoting the nursing voice throughout the profession. This helps to shape patient care and the nursing profession for future generations. The fundamentals that are the cornerstone of the nursing profession should remain as we engage the future.

These core values that set the nursing profession apart for so many years can't be overlooked. They are a major reason we need to mentor newer nurses to practice with the same level of professionalism, compassion, commitment to quality care and a focus on patient safety that has built the nursing profession into what it is today. Working at a rural health care system in down state Illinois has shown me that no matter where you live or work we need to be involved in nursing's future. I hope to bring this perspective and advocate for the diverse populations of patients and nurses alike. Diversity should be celebrated and used as a resource to improve quality of care throughout the state of Illinois. I am excited to have the opportunity to bring my knowledge of patient care and nursing leadership experience to this forum. I want to become more involved with ANA-Illinois and will always keep the patient at the center of our focus. I would like to engage the next generation of nurses to also become active in ANA-Illinois early on in their professional careers. In an age of networking and collaboration unlike we have ever had available to us before, ANA and ANA-Illinois can be the platform that fosters the growth and maturation of nurses throughout our region, state and nation. I will work to make this a priority if elected to this position. Thank you for your consideration.



**Karen Kelly EdD, RN, NEA-BC**

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association, including my role as founding president of ANA-Illinois; my experiences as member and board member/officer of two other state-wide nursing organizations (IONL & Illinois Coalition for Nursing Resources); service to the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation; and local nursing groups in Metro St. Louis/Metro East region. As a director at large, I hope to foster the continued growth of ANA-Illinois through policies, educational programs, collaboration with other nursing organizations, and outreach to nurses across the state of Illinois. Nurses have the potential to be an ever-stronger voice in health care and health policy in Illinois, as well as across the nation, through their aggregate action through their state nurses' association. I bring skills in advocacy, continuing education, marketing, writing, and public speaking that I will use to further the organizational goals of ANA-Illinois. Since my retirement, I have made volunteer work in nursing and advocacy for the human rights of disabled populations my vocation.



**Monique L. Mandereson APRN, CNP**

This is my first time applying for an appointment for ANA Representative and quite honestly, it is far overdue. As your ANA Representative I plan to partner in efforts to continue to advocate and promote the Advanced Practice Nursing profession in my community and at large. This role for me encompasses participating in local and national activities that allow me to speak on issues that are important to the patients that we serve, especially providing education on the benefits of the Advance Practice Role and the positive patient health outcomes achieved each and every day. Thanks in advance for your vote!  
Monique



**Ann O'Sullivan MSN, RN, CNE, NE-BC, ANEF**

I have had the privilege and honor of serving as a delegate from ANA-Illinois to the ANA Membership Assembly for the past 5 years. I am finishing serving for 5 years as the ANA-Illinois Vice-President and am currently Chair of the ANA-Illinois Program Committee. In the past few years I served as Chair of the ANA-Illinois Scope of Practice Expert Panel and served as chair of the 2017 Nurse Practice Act subcommittee on Scope and Standards of Practice.

It is very important that ANA-Illinois remain a leader in ANA and one of the ways we do that is through our participation on committees, Professional Issues Panels, and Membership Assembly at ANA. Illinois nurses benefit tremendously from the collaboration and information we receive at the ANA Membership Assembly. I commit to you that I will continue represent ANA-Illinois well and share what I learn

with you all.



**Nanci Reiland DNP(c) MSN RN PHNA-BC**

Through my recent doctoral preparation and increased involvement as a community/public health leader, I have found a re-energization in the networking and mentorship that makes nursing power as effective as it is. Through programming, conferences, grant opportunities and communications, I have experienced the value and support that ANA-IL offers and it has allowed me to grow professionally in my role as both public health nurse and nursing educator. I value the leadership and knowledge that the national and statewide nursing organizations offer and enjoy engaging my students to see not only what the organizations can do for them, but what they can do with the organizations' support to enhance professional nursing and impact health outcomes. I find the public health focus of many ANA initiatives as a reminder that all nurses need to

take responsibility for the health of our communities. Both individually and collectively, we offer much wisdom and "up-stream" thinking toward solutions to issues that impact our societal health. As an ANA representative, I would strive to grow stronger in my ability to both collaborate and share experiences and perspectives with the leadership board and the diverse membership. Being a nurse leader at this level would increase my exposure to ANA and enable me to expose my students, my colleagues at the University level and nurse partners within the community to the vast benefits of active membership.



**Tracy A Viers MSN, RN, CCRN, TNS**

Hello all! My name is Tracy Viers, I am seeking the opportunity to serve the ANA – Illinois chapter. I have been a registered nurse since 2006, having earned my ADN in 2006, BSN in 2012, and MSN in 2017. I have worked in multiple roles throughout the acute care setting in rural Illinois and Missouri, starting my nursing career as a medical-surgical nurse specializing in pediatrics before moving to the intensive care in 2010 where I continue to practice. As a leader and mentor to students and bedside nurses I encourage continuing education, certification, and striving to set new goals as old ones are realized. I sit as chair for my organizations' Professional Practice Council and remain active in multiple councils throughout the unit and organization. I believe in the importance of being involved in political actions that affect nursing and our patients whom we

advocate for. I am passionate about nursing and enjoy being involved state, local, and organizational goals. I truly enjoy continuing to work at the bedside and feel that it keeps me grounded as to what our ultimate goal is as nurses. My past and present experiences afford me the opportunity to provide tremendous insight into topics that affect nursing today. I am certified in critical care nursing (CCRN), a trauma nurse specialist (TNS), transport nurse, and an active member of the ANA and AACN.

\*2 – two year terms, 2 – three year terms (determined by lot)