

Secretary



Tiffany Lyttle, BS, BSN, RN, PCCN

Resource Pool: Intermediate Division / LGH & VBH Supervision
Centra
Chapter 3 – Hill City

Professional/Work:

As a Pool Nurse, I have had the opportunity to cultivate a wide knowledge base & varying skill sets. This has helped me to develop the artistry of time-management, & flexibility. I am also cross-trained to Supervision which has sharpened my leadership skills & appreciation for a holistic organizational view. The overall picture is also why I love to serve on the Research Council & currently PI for cost saving project to decrease infection rates.

Community/Civic/Other:

I serve in our community through the American Red Cross: Pillow Case Project which teaches children 3-5th grade how to respond in different emergencies & cope with their feelings afterwards. I have served on VNA on the Committee on Nominations for a second term and remain a volunteer through the Near Southwest Medical Reserve Corps.

Candidate Statement:

We are on the precipice of a paradigm shift. We went into 2020 both discovering how gravely moral injury sustained by nurses was affecting our practice, then veered full speed into a global pandemic. We've learned so much about ourselves as nurses, our industry and where we would like to see changes made to practice. It is vital that we courageously confront these changes and compassionately grow from here. I am running for the commissioner of workforce issues because as a resource nurse I have been entrenched in all levels of care. I have seen and experienced moral injury but have come to love our profession all the more through this pandemic. As your peer, with a heart for research and passion for growth, it is my goal for us to team together to tackle workforce issues and ennoble each other to a greater vision of nursing practice.



Dana Woody, DNP, RN

Associate Professor of Nursing
Liberty University
Chapter 3 – Hill City

Professional/Work:

I am a lead, associate professor of nursing for community health. I currently teach in the residential, online RN-BSN and MSN programs. I serve as a subject matter expert for Community Health Nursing in the online RN-BSN program and the MSN program, as well as in residential studies and for Population Health in the online MSN program. Currently I am serving as a community advocate in support of vulnerable populations in the greater Lynchburg area, supporting the Salvation Army.

Community/Civic/Other:

Currently, I serve as the Division Nurse Leader for the Mid-Atlantic, and Regional Nurse Leader for the Historic Blueridge for the American Red Cross. I also serve as an educator in the area of disaster health for ARC. I am a Board Member for the Lynchburg Salvation Army and Historic Blueridge RC. I support the faith community nursing role, serve as a Sunday school teacher, and lead the largest student nursing association in the nation.

Candidate Statement:

Being an ideal candidate means serving with dedication and commitment to a role. I have had several opportunities personally and professionally to serve in leadership positions. In each position, I have served with a teamwork spirit, and a commitment to quality and excellence at all levels. I have a keen attention to detail and further have a great work ethic. I value voice in the profession and feel that this position would lend me an opportunity to grow in leadership at the state level.

Commissioner on Nursing Education



Catherine Cox, PhD, RN, CEN, CNE (Incumbent)

Associate Professor
School of Nursing, George Washington University
Chapter 8 - NOVA

Professional/Work:

I am currently an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at George Washington (GW) University in Ashburn, VA and Washington, DC. Prior to GW, I was the Director of Programs at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in Washington, DC. I am a retired Navy nurse and am thrilled that in my current job, I get to mentor student Veterans as they transition to a career in nursing.

Community/Civic/Other:

I am a member of the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps (VMRC). Also, I am a volunteer for the annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic as well as a docent for Wreaths across America at Arlington National Cemetery.

Candidate Statement:

I have been honored to serve as VNA's Commissioner on Nursing Education for the last two years. As such, I have been integral to the planning of its key annual conferences as well as the Legislative Summit. We also started two Commission Workgroups – Interprofessional Education and Academic Practice Partnerships – that are working hard to survey what is already in place; their goal is to develop toolboxes that will be housed via the VNA website. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, VNA has also ramped up its webinars to include timely topics with strategic leaders. In closing, please vote for me so that I can continue the great work VNA is doing, including bringing wonderful education events via multiple platforms (e.g., conferences, webinars, and articles) to the nurses who work hard across the commonwealth to ensure the safety and well-being of all Virginians. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.



Kimberly Brown, DNP, RN, CNE, NEA-BC

Founding Chair of Nursing
Ferrum College
Chapter 2 – Roanoke Valley

Professional/Work:

I am the founding chair of the division of nursing at Ferrum College. This newly created division will launch an online RN to BSN program in Fall of 2020, and has a pending application with the VA Board of Nursing to launch a pre-licensure BSN program as well.

I am in my 10th year of teaching and have been on faculty at Jefferson College of Health Sciences, Liberty, Radford, & James Madison Universities respectively.

Community/Civic/Other:

I am active in both civic and faith community activities. I volunteer time and talents to the Roanoke Refugee Partnership which supports families who are resettling in the area. Services include transportation to appointments, fundraising, gaining access to healthcare networks and services, workforce development and training, and ESL courses.

As a mother I volunteer within our school system for sporting, academic, and extra-curricular causes that benefit students. I enjoy and participate in animal rescue.

Candidate Statement:

It would be an honor and privilege to serve as the Commissioner on Nursing of Education for VNA. The depth and breadth of my academic and leadership experience would support the scope of this role.

Nursing education is on the cusp of significant advancement as a result of ever increasing flexibility and adaptability demands from public need, healthcare organizations, and changes along the wellness and illness continuum. Nurse educators must demonstrate and role model nimble and seamless reaction to rapid change as well as support students through successful navigation of ambiguous circumstances.

Commissioner on Workforce Issues



Linda Burnette, BSN, MSA, RN, CENP, CHEP

Faculty
ECPI
Chapter 4 – Hampton Roads

Professional/Work:

43 years of nursing experience at all levels. Worked in the not-for-profit and for-profit environments, and now in academia.

Community/Civic/Other:

Involved in many community activities, the largest endeavor was planning the first Remote Area Medical (RAM) event in Emporia.

Candidate Statement:

The Year of the Nurse has certainly turned into a time when nursing is recognized as a heroic and sacrificing profession even more than it has in the past. COVID-19 has provided us with an opportunity and a platform to be heard in various ways and I believe this will take us to new "tables." Our workforce issues of the past will continue, but there will be many issues to view some of our "old" ways and have new partners to help us achieve innovation. We will also face an added challenge in the recovery phase for our workforce and the community. This recovery will take all of us supporting each other and leading the way.



Deborah Kile, DNP, RN, NE-BC

Quality Improvement Coordinator
Sentara RMH Medical Center
Chapter 9 - Augusta

Professional/Work:

In my role as Quality Improvement Coordinator, I serve as project manager/facilitator on a variety of clinical process improvement teams. I also serve as Nurse Residency Coordinator and have the opportunity to lead new graduate nurses as they assimilate in their first year of practice.

Community/Civic/Other:

I have presented both poster and podium presentations on managing nurse-to-nurse incivility in local and state settings. In 2018, my article "The Effectiveness of Education and Cognitive Rehearsal in Managing Nurse-to-Nurse Incivility: A Pilot Study" was published in the *Journal of Nursing Management*.

Candidate Statement:

I believe that a healthy work environment is essential for nurse retention and the provision of quality healthcare. Today, nurses in all practice settings are faced with acts of incivility from their co-workers as well as acts of violence from the patients and families they serve. As a profession, it is our responsibility to manage and mitigate these behaviors.

As a professional organization, it is our duty to advocate for the provision of work environments where nurses can work safely without fear of being hurt by those we serve. It is also important that nurses work in environments in which incivility and bullying behaviors are not tolerated. I look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with fellow VNA members to promote the importance of these issues.



Richard Ridge, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CENP

Nursing Professional Development Specialist
University of Virginia
Chapter 5 – Central Virginia

Professional/Work:

I am an Assistant Professor in the UVA School of Nursing. My clinical background includes spinal cord injury, psychiatric and mental health, and rehabilitation. I have served as a Director of Medical/Surgical Nursing, Nursing Education, and as CNO of a community hospital. I have participated at the leadership level in the formulation and implementation of legislative and regulatory strategy. I incorporate nurse advocacy and nursing workforce issues into my CNL-MSN and DNP courses.

Community/Civic/Other:

I am actively involved in the University of Virginia and surrounding communities as an active member of the local UVA Alumni Club, The Raven Society, and the local Sigma Chapter, Beta Kappa. I've been actively engaged in local community outreach projects through the university and associated groups.

Candidate Statement:

As an innovative nurse leader and educator, I am committed to strengthening today's nursing workforce while preparing all of us to be better prepared to meet future needs across Virginia. Current HRSA projections call for the RN Supply to exceed the demand by 2030, but these numbers do not begin to tell the whole story. We will be challenged to have the right numbers of the right nurses, prepared in the right way, in the right place, at the right time. As we live through and emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, we must strengthen relationships between and among nurses of all specialties and practice settings. I will work tirelessly to build nurses' competencies and promote retention. I will leverage my passion for nursing with other nurses and with leaders across the state, who are in positions to impact our futures as nurses and the overall health of our communities.

Commissioner on Nursing Practice



Caryn Brown, MSN, MHA, RN, NPD-BC, NEA-BC (Incumbent)

Magnet Program Coordinator / Patient Engagement Coordinator
Centra Health
Chapter 3 – Hill City

Professional/Work:

I have been a staff nurse, nurse educator, nurse manager and currently act as the Magnet Program Coordinator and Patient Engagement Coordinator for Centra Health in Central Virginia.

Community/Civic/Other:

I have been a member of Sigma Theta Tau Xi Upsilon Chapter for 25 years. I am a member of Keystone Baptist Church and serve as the Co-Chair of the Leadership Council for the Church.

Candidate Statement:

I have been engaged with VNA as the Commissioner on Nursing practice for the last two years and have worked with the Commission on Nursing Practice's Nursing Research Workgroup to provide nursing research resources to Virginia's nurses to support nursing research and evidence based practice in all settings. The Nursing Research/EBP Tool Kit is live on the VNA website. Additionally, I have been engaged with the Commission on Nursing Practice's Ethics Workgroup. This workgroup has been working to provide ethics articles in upcoming *Virginia Nurses Today (VNT)* publications. As the Commissioner on Nursing Practice, I have participated in discussions with Governor Northam, Senator Tim Kaine, and Congresswoman Spanberger related to the COVID pandemic and Virginia's response (including support for nursing, PPE, etc.). I hope to further support Virginia's nurses as the Commissioner on Nursing practice for another two year term, continuing the work of the VNA/Commission.



Erin Keister, MSN, CPPS, CPHQ

Chief Nursing Officer
HCA
Chapter 5 – Central Virginia

Professional/Work:

Professionally I have been a nursing leader for over 20 years. My background in Nursing, Quality, Patient Safety, Infection Control, Risk and Education makes me an advocate for nurses across a variety of workplace venues. I consider my extensive experience within HCA an asset and this has allowed me to view nursing from many different angles to help best support the profession and make the workplace better.

Community/Civic/Other:

In the community I feel it is important to promote nursing as a profession and offer representation when I can for the nurses in the community. I am a member of the local Rotary and attend civic groups at the local community college. Outreach to the community has been a focus of our leadership team with support for local shelters being a top priority.

Candidate Statement:

During my 24 years of nursing I have held a variety of positions that have prepared me to serve as the VNA Commissioner on Nursing Practice. With a background in Quality, my expertise is in performance improvement. This has led me to understand nursing process at its core while providing actions for improvement. Incorporating evidence based practices to support nursing practice has been a cornerstone of my leadership. Currently I lead a diverse nursing workforce in a community hospital. I am at the heart of nursing issues, trends, and how the nursing practice setting is being shaped by internal and external factors. My decision making on a day to day basis is grounded in fair and ethical practice. I promote professionals owning their practice and being accountable change agents. I believe this makes me an excellent candidate for this position. I look forward to expanding my experience to a broader platform.

Director-at-Large, Staff Nurse



Melissa Earley, BSN, RN, QMHP-C, NHDP-BC (Incumbent)

Director of Community Outreach
The #IfYouCouldSeeMe Project
Chapter 5 – Central Virginia

Professional/Work:

- Director of Community Outreach and Trauma and Resiliency Basics Instructor for The #IfYouSeeMe Project (Non-profit organization focused on mental health advocacy)
- Camp Nurse- Camp Lochearn for Girls (Summer 2020)
- Helped develop new curriculums, protocols, and best practices at the regional, state, and national level.
- Regardless of the personal consequences I have refused to compromise my integrity or my core values to uphold my commitment to the Nursing Code of Ethics.

Community/Civic/Other:

- Life Member-Lakeside Rescue Squad.
- President's Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service by President Obama
- SAARA of Central Virginia Member BOD
- Depression/Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) BOD/ Family Education/ Support Group Facilitator
- Virginia DBHDS- Disaster Behavior Response Team
- Virginia DBHDS- REVIVE! Instructor/Trainer.
- Virginia Medical Reserve Corps- Deployed for Federal and State Declared Disasters/Public Health Emergencies: Most recently taking an active role in the Central Virginia area Health Districts COVID-19 response.

Candidate Statement:

I believe that my contributions to VNA have proven my commitment to establish a presence that represents staff nurses and give a much needed voice to those who often are not included in the conversation. By cultivating relationships in the Virginia General Assembly, I have helped to further the platform of VNA to improve nursing practice through legislation for all nurses. I have sought opportunities to serve on committees that are relevant to current issues being faced by frontline nurses on a daily basis in order to be most effective in my position. I have welcomed conversations with nurses across the commonwealth and consistently brought concerns and ideas back to the board. I would be honored to have the opportunity to continue to serve on the board and work with you to make sure we have the tools we need to care for ourselves and our patients.

Committee on Nominations



Mesha Jones, BSN, RN, CCRN, CWON

Wound Ostomy Registered Nurse
UVA Health
Chapter 7 – Piedmont Area

Professional/Work:

I am a member of the Wound Ostomy Continence Team at UVA Health. Before being part of the WOC team, I worked in our surgical trauma intensive care unit, where I have remained a wage employee. I am an active member of the Professional Nursing Staff Organization, vice-chair for our professional development committee and coordinator of the RN to BSN mentorship program. I am a member of AACN, WOCN, and have certifications with both organizations.

Community/Civic/Other:

My volunteer work includes serving as a member of the Community Health UVA Partnership. I am a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses and Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses, and Virginia Medical Reserve Corps. As an active member of my church, I serve as our nursery leader and participate in several ministries.

Candidate Statement:

I am delighted to be running as a candidate for the VNA Committee on Nominations. I believe my experience as the current chapter president and other professional involvement has given me the knowledge necessary to fill the role. I have been an active member in the Piedmont Chapter 7 but wish to become more involved in VNA. If elected to the Committee on Nominations, I would be committed to assisting in finding the best-qualified candidates to represent the Virginia Nurses Association.



Patty Moore, MSN, MBS, RN, NE-BC

Owner and Principle Consultant
Premier Healthcare Strategies, LLC
Chapter 3 – Hill City

Professional/Work:

I am the founder and principle consultant of Premier Healthcare Strategies where I focus on clinical operations improvement, "lean" strategies and policy development.

Community/Civic/Other:

I am an active board member of Central VA's CASA in which we focus on fundraising. I volunteer with a quilting group where we are now making masks. I also volunteer with Elizabeth's Early Learning Center and our historic association.

Candidate Statement:

It would be a privilege to serve on the Committee on Nominations with the Virginia Nurses Association. In my career as a nurse, I have been in various roles where I had the opportunity and responsibility to interview, evaluate and select potential employees and leaders for inpatient settings, ambulatory clinics, committees, and boards. I have served as co-chair of a physician medical group committee with more than 300 clinical staff and 200 providers, chaired the ambulatory clinic quality committee, chaired Magnet committee and Joint Commission for ambulatory clinics and member of the working board for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children. Verbal, non-verbal, and written assessments along with professional relationships and experiences were reviewed to ensure the right candidate was chosen for various roles/positions on the committees and vacancies. I take pride in working with others, learning and listening to other views and collaborating with a team. Working with the Committee on Nominations to share my strengths and values and to represent VNA is an opportunity I would be honored to serve. Thank you for your consideration and vote.



Michelle Wise, MSN, NNP, CPNP, IBCLC

Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
Langley AFB Pediatric Clinic
Chapter 4 – Hampton Roads

Professional/Work:

I am the owner of MBS Child Wellness Center, LLC.

Community/Civic/Other:

I serve as a Board Member for COA.

Candidate Statement:

During my nursing career of 30-plus years, I have worked in multiple settings and different fields of nursing. My exposure to leadership styles were variable. It is imperative for persons who are in a leadership position to be on the ground and interpret the needs of those who lead and have the vision to innovate and progress into the future.