It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as ANAMASS President for the past two years. 2020 was unlike any year we could have expected with the onset of a global pandemic. Our healthcare system and our nursing community was stretched to the limits. But we are strong. We are resilient. We are nurses. One year later, there is a light of hope that is shining brighter each day. I am incredibly proud of ANAMASS and all we have accomplished this past year and how we continue to be the voice of all registered nurses in the Commonwealth. I am honored to share some of our noteworthy accomplishments of ANAMASS from the past year.

Throughout the COVID 19 pandemic, ANAMASS supported nurses in Massachusetts in many ways: advocating at the State House for PPE and other pieces of important legislation, offering debriefing “huddles” to staff nurses, creating a COVID-19 resource page, raising awareness about the mental health of our nurses and offering resources such as the Emotional PPE Project and suicide prevention sites. Recently, the American Nurses Foundation released survey results with staggering information related to nurses reports of depression, anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, exhausted and a lack of ability to handle stress. ANAMASS hopes to bring a text program called RNConnect 2Well-Being directly to staff nurses. We will continue to do whatever we can to support nurse’s mental health and resiliency in any way we can.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of so many, ANA Massachusetts saw its first piece of legislation PASS in the State House this year with the designation of a registered nurse for a permanent seat on the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission. This bill was part of the “Patients First Act”, along with the important expanded scope of practice for Advanced Practice Nurses. Both initiatives are incredibly impactful to the future of healthcare. They also highlight that perseverance and continued advocacy can help advance legislative priorities and influence positive change.

ANAMASS also launched a new program this year called “Commonwealth Conversations”. The first in the series featured Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, who spoke candidly about the effects of the pandemic on the PPE supply chain, systemic racism, effects to long term care, and more. Governor Baker was heartfelt in his acknowledgement of the incredible work of nurses in the Commonwealth and shared his deepest appreciation for all the heroic efforts. The second in the series featured Massachusetts Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, who addressed some of the important issues facing nurses and members of the Commonwealth, including vaccinations, health equity and mental health. We are thrilled to offer the 3rd in the series which will feature Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey.
One of this year’s many accomplishments is the launch of the Foundation for Nursing Advancement in Massachusetts, Inc. (FNAMA), a 501c3 charitable organization. Our mission is to advance the nursing profession through philanthropic activities that promote scholarship, nursing research and innovation. Our vision is a health Commonwealth through the power of nursing. I am incredibly grateful to founding Board members and Past Presidents, Gino Chisari, Tara Tehan, Barbara Blakeney and Donna Glynn to their commitment over the last year to seeing this goal of ANAMASS become a reality. We look forward to giving back and making a positive and lasting impact on the nursing community. Please visit www.fnama.org to donate.

As our patients and providers increased their savviness with the use of virtual care, so did ANAMASS. This year, we provided timely and important webinar offerings, and were able to quickly learn the nuances of the virtual Zoom world. ANAMASS provided statements denouncing racism in all forms and offered a powerful “Racism in Nursing: Be the Change” webinar which was educational and impactful. A successful Medicare for All webinar was also held. Upcoming webinars will continue to be offered, including the two-part series on resiliency in nursing, a timely and important topic following the mentally exhausting year of a global pandemic.

At the closing of our 2021 Annual Meeting on April 9th, I will turn the Presidency over to the very capable hands of Lynne Hancock. The past two years as President have been filled with so many incredible experiences and opportunities. I have been so humbled to witness the heroic acts of nurses throughout a global pandemic, and so honored to be part of a nursing community and organization that always comes together in times of hardship and times of celebration. ANAMASS’s commitment to “getting it right” is truly awe inspiring. A heartfelt Thank You to all of the ANAMASS Board members, committee members, Executive Director Cammie Townsend and Office Assistant Lisa Presutti, for your steadfast and deep devotion to our organization.

ANAMASS is the heart and soul of the nursing profession in Massachusetts. It has been a great honor to have served as President. I look forward to continued work together and to be a part of a bright and promising future within the nursing profession.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Cronin, RN, DNP, OCN, NE-BC
President, ANA Massachusetts