



**South Carolina
Nurses**
Association

2026 SCNA State Convention

“Act, Innovate, & Lead:

The Future of Nursing Starts Now”

October 15-17

Hyatt Regency - Greenville, SC

**2026 Annual Book of Reports
&
Annual Meeting Materials**



Lexington Health

Table of Contents

SCNA Annual Membership Agenda..... 3

I'm a Nurse: Together we are ANA..... 5

Standing Rules..... 6

Tips On Parliamentary Procedure..... 7

Time of Remembrance 11

Report of SCNA Treasurer 14

SCNA Annual Reports 19

Proposed SCNA Legislative Priorities 2026-2028 51

Governance and 2025 South Carolina Nurses Association Bylaws..... 52

Event Sponsors 89



**SCNA Annual Membership
Agenda**

October 15, 2026 | 4:00–5:30 PM

- I. Call to Order...**Dr. Nakita Barnes**, SCNA president
 - A. Provisions of the Code of Ethics...**Dr. Angela Dykes**, Acting President-Elect
 - B. I Am a Nurse Together We Are ANA — **Dr. Jennifer Woodley**, Director Seat 1
- II. Establishment of the Agenda and Standing Rules...**Dr. Nakita Barnes**
- III. Announcement of a Quorum...**Rosie Robinson**, SCNA Executive Assistant
- IV. Time of Remembrance...**Dr. Nakita Barnes (Nurse Honor Guard)**
- V. Address of the President... **Dr. Nakita Barnes**
- VI. Report of the SCNA Treasurer...**Katie Osteritter**, SCNA Secretary/Treasurer
- VII. Report of Organizational Units
 - A. Commission on Public Policy and Legislation...**Dr. Marissa Bartmess**, Chair
 - B. Commission on Professional Advocacy and Development...**Dr. Jason Thrift**, Chair
 - C. Director Seat 1...**Dr. Jennifer Woodley**
 - D. Director Seat 2 **update in the Executive Director's report**
 - E. SCNA Chapters
 - APRN Chapter, **Leiann Boards**
 - Nurse Educator Chapter, **Dr. Debora Stokes**
 - Psychiatric/Mental Health Chapter, **Dr. Jacquelin Hyman**
 - Women and Children's Health Chapter, **Dr. Kelly Walker**
 - Acute Care Nursing Chapter, **Kayleigh Setropawiro**
 - F. Immediate Past President...**Dr. Angela Dykes**
- VIII. Report of the SCNF President... **Dr. Deanna Cox**

IX. Report of the SNA-SC President... Harry Kirven (Unable to Attend)

X. Organizational Affiliate Reports- **Two Minutes Each**

- A. The SC Faith Community Nurses Association
- B. Midlands of South Carolina Black Nurses Association
- C. SC Department of Public Health
- D. Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority, Delta Eta Chapter
- E. Center for Nursing Leadership, University of South Carolina
- F. NeoHero Foundation
- G. Coalition for Access to Healthcare
- H. South Carolina Chapter of National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

XI. Proposed 2026–2028 Legislative Priorities... **Dr. Marissa Bartmess**

XII. Report of the SCNA Executive Director...**T.K. Curtis-Pugh**

XIII. Report of the Tellers and Declaration of Election...**Dr. Eboni Harris, NEC Member**

XIV. For the Good of the Order...**Dr. Nakita Barnes**

XV. Adjournment...**Dr. Nakita Barnes**



I'm a Nurse: Together we are ANA

Cultural Covenant

"As nurses, ANA members and elected/appointed officials, we need each other to create nursing's future.

Our issues are big and require the best thinking of each and everyone of us.

Therefore, we shall demonstrate through our behaviors and preparation our commitment to the spirit and purposes of ANA.

We recognize that we are more alike than we are different, but we know that differences often lead up to better decisions.

We believe that passion is positive and confrontation is counterproductive.

We affirm the value of each person.

We shall create an atmosphere of acceptance, demonstrating care for each other, as we do our patients.

We shall listen to each other so each voice will feel heard.

We shall respect each other's opinions.

We shall be positive and open to new possibilities.

We shall build on our past by focusing on our future.

Through consideration, collaboration, compromise and consensus we can achieve our common goals. ¹

'If not us, who?

If not now, when?'"

¹ Authored by the Ohio Nurses Association, 2009

Adopted by the ANA House of Delegates June 2010

Standing Rules

- Rule 1. For admission to the annual meeting, to facilitate identification and seating, members shall be required to wear the official name tag issued at registration.
- Rule 2. Members may not speak and debate more than twice to the same question or longer than three minutes, without permission granted by a two-thirds vote with debate. No member may speak more than once to a question if a member who has not spoken wishes to do so.
- Rule 3. Any member of SCNA may be granted the privilege of the floor.
- Rule 4. All main motions offered by a member shall be in writing (on the forms provided), signed by the maker and the seconder, and shall be given directly to a Monitor for immediate forwarding to the chair as soon as the speaker has been recognized. Members making incidental motions not in writing will give name before making a motion.
- Rule 5. Business interrupted by a recess of the meeting shall be resumed at the point where it was interrupted at the end of the recess.
- Rule 6. Any substantive resolution forwarded to SCNA for consideration of the Reference Committee, which was not approved for presentation, if introduced by an individual member, must receive a two-thirds vote of the Annual Meeting to reach the floor for consideration and a majority vote of the Annual Meeting to be adopted.
- Rule 7. Any substantive resolution not of emergency nature nor one previously forwarded to SCNA if introduced by an individual member, must receive a three-fourths vote of the Annual Meeting for consideration and a two-thirds vote of the Annual Meeting to be adopted.
- Rule 8. The members will act only on the resolves of the resolutions and the recommendations of reports. Questions of clarification about the intent and meaning of the resolves and recommendations will be handled according to parliamentary procedure.
- Rule 9. Notices for announcements to the Annual Meeting shall be in writing, signed by the person (or proper representative to the person) under whose authority the announcement is issued, and shall be sent to the desk of the recording secretary.
- Rule 10. The Board of Directors shall be authorized to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting not later than the first regular meeting of the Board of Directors during 2027 Board year.

Tips On Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary procedure must not be viewed as a set of arbitrary rules. It should be considered as the application of common sense and logic in the conduct of a meeting. Compliance with this set of rules serves to protect, and is directly related to, our jealously guarded ideal of democratic process. The great value of the democratic process is open and orderly discussion which results in intelligent compromise. When general consent is evidenced by a group, the importance of following parliamentary procedure becomes primarily that of maintaining the orderly conduct of a meeting.

Democratic principles basic to the appropriate conduct of a meeting are as follows:

1. Justice and courtesy to all.
2. One thing at a time
3. Rule of the majority
4. Right of the minority to be heard.

The rules contained in the latest edition of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER shall govern meetings of this association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

SOME RULES OF DEBATE

1. Recognition by the chair is, of course, the first step in presenting a motion.
2. Time will be saved if members will think carefully before wording a motion so as not to make it too long, say what they really want and not include points of discussion in the motion.
3. All motions, other than those of a personal nature, must be in writing.
4. No business involving any kind of action should be conducted without a motion.
5. All main motions are debatable.
6. Debate begins after the motion is made.
7. Debate should be limited to the motion before the assembly.
8. Proposer of the motion may speak to it first.
9. Proposer of the motion may not speak against his/her motion but may vote against it.
10. Address remarks through the presiding officer; do not speak directly to other members during debate.
11. Avoid personalities. The motion is under discussion not the proposer.
12. The presiding officer should not enter into debate and cannot close debate.
13. Voting may be done by general consent (silence). Chair says, "If there is no objection, the report will be accepted as information."
14. The Chair votes only if his/her vote will change the result or break a tie. If his/her vote creates a tie, the motion is lost.

RRONR: Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th Edition

OBTAINING THE FLOOR AND PROCESSING A MAIN MOTION

1. Member addresses the Presiding Officer,
"Mr./Madam President"
2. Presiding Officer recognizes member by calling his/her name.
3. Member proposes motion,
"I move that _____"
4. Another member seconds the motion,
"I second the motion."
5. Presiding Officer states the motion,
"It has been moved and seconded that _____."
6. Presiding Officer calls for debate,
"Is there any discussion?"
"Are there any remarks?"
"Are you ready for the question?"
7. Presiding Officer takes the vote when debate has ended.
"The question is on the adoption of the motion that (repeat the motion).
Those in favor say 'Aye.'
Those opposed say, 'No.'"
8. Presiding Officer announces result of vote.
"The ayes have it. The motion is carried, and we (state effect of adopting the motion)."
"The noes have it. The motion is lost, and we will not (state effect of not adopting the motion)."

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AT A GLANCE BASED ON ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER

TO DO THIS	YOU SAY THIS	MAY YOU INTERRUPT SPEAKER?	MUST YOU BE SECONDED?	IS THE MOTION DEBATABLE?	WHAT VOTE IS REQUIRED?
Adjourn the meeting*	"I move the meeting be adjourned"	NO	YES	NO	Majority
Recess the meeting*	"I move the meeting be recessed until . . ."	NO	YES	NO	Majority
Complain about noise, room temperature, etc.	"Point of personal privilege"	YES	NO	NO	No Vote
Suspend further consideration of something	"I move to table the motion"	NO	YES	NO	Majority
End debate	"I move the previous question"	NO	YES	NO	2/3 vote
Postpone consideration of something	"I move this matter be postponed until . . ."	NO	YES	YES	Majority
Have something studied further	"I move this matter be referred to a Committee"	NO	YES	YES	Majority
Amend a motion	"I move that this motion be amended by . . ."	NO	YES	YES	Majority
Introduce business (a primary motion)	"I move that . . ."	NO	YES	YES	Majority
Object to a procedure or to a personal affront*	"Point of Order"	YES	NO	NO *Chair Decides	No Vote
Request Information*	"Point of Information"	YES	NO	NO	No Vote

TO DO THIS	YOU SAY THIS	MAY YOU INTERRUPT SPEAKER?	MUST YOU BE SECONDED?	IS THE MOTION DEBATABLE?	WHAT VOTE IS REQUIRED?
Ask for a vote by actual count to verify a voice vote*	"I call for a division of the house"	NO	NO	NO	No Vote
Object to considering some undiplomatic matter*	"I object to consideration of this question"	YES	NO	NO	2/3 Vote
Take up a matter previously tabled*	"I move to take from the table . . ."	NO	YES	NO	Majority
Reconsider something already disposed of*	"I move to reconsider the action relative to . . ."	YES	YES	YES	Majority
Consider something out of its scheduled order*	"I move to suspend the rules and consider . . ."	NO	YES	NO	2/3 Vote
Vote on a ruling by the chair*	"I appeal the chair's decision"	YES	YES	YES	Majority

*Not Amendable

Time of Remembrance



SOUTH CAROLINA NURSES ASSOCIATION

1301 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

www.scnurses.org

The Nightingale Tribute was designed and developed by the Kansas State Nurses Association in 2003 to be used to honor deceased nurses. Any part or all of the Nightingale Tribute may be used, and modifications to the reading and script are encouraged.

"She Was There" is copyrighted by Duane Jaeger, RN, MSN as published in this brochure. Individuals using this poem as part of a memorial service are permitted to change the pronoun to make it gender appropriate.

The Nightingale Tribute

A tribute to any registered nurse or licensed practical nurse for their years of service, to be given during the nurse's funeral by a nurse colleague or friend.

Nursing is a profession of service that the majority of time is not lived in isolation. Nurses rely on each other for the synergistic effect of teamwork in our efforts of care giving. Nursing is a calling, a way of life. It is appropriate that we honor our colleagues not only during their career, but also at the end of life's journey.



Format for the Nightingale Tribute

The Nightingale Tribute begins with a short synopsis of the nurse's career. A creative reading follows the synopsis. A white rose is placed with the nurse after the reading, with the statement, "(Name), we honor you this day and give you a white rose to symbolize our honor and appreciation for being our nurse colleague."

This entire tribute takes only two minutes and can be placed anywhere in the service appropriate to the traditions and beliefs of the recipient's faith.

How do I arrange for this tribute for my loved one?

- Visit with your funeral home director about this tribute.
- Choose an RN friend or colleague (active or retired) of the deceased to present the tribute.
- Ask the nurse to visit with you. Provide them a brief synopsis of your loved one's life as a nurse.
- Use the words included with this brochure as a creative reading to follow the career synopsis. Adapt the reading to fit the recipient.
- Schedule the Tribute in the service in collaboration with the family, funeral home and place of worship as appropriate.
- Decide if you would like a white rose placed with your loved one in tribute and honor. If so, notify the nurse presenter and any other nurse bringing a white rose.

The Nightingale Tribute Reading

Nursing is a calling, a lifestyle, a way of living. Nurses here today honor _____ and his/her life as a nurse.

_____ is not remembered by his/her _____ years as a nurse, but by the difference he/she made during those years by stepping into people's lives... by special moments:

She Was There

When a calming, quiet presence was all that was needed,
She was there.
In the excitement and miracle of birth on in the mystery and loss of life,
She was there.
When a silent glance could uplift a patient, family member or friend,
She was there.
At those times when the unexplainable needed to be explained,
She was there.
When the situation demanded a swift foot and sharp mind,
She was there.
When a gentle touch, a firm push, or an encouraging word was needed,
She was there.
In choosing the best one from a family's "Thank You" box of chocolates,
She was there.
To witness humanity - its beauty, in good times and bad, without judgment,
She was there.
To embrace the woes of the world, willingly, and offer hope,
She was there.
And now, that it is time to be at the Greater One's side,
She is there.

Note: Pronoun can be changed.

© 2004 by Duane Jaeger, RN, MSN

_____, we honor you this day and give you a white rose to symbolize our honor and appreciation for being our colleague.



Judith Alexander died March 12, 2026.



Barbara Jane Murphy Edlund

On August 24th, 2025, Barbara Jane Edlund passed peacefully into the arms of her Lord and Savior with her husband and two dear friends at her side. Barbara was 81 and was predeceased by her parents John C and Marie Murphy, and her younger sister, Patricia Ahern.

Barb was an Army Brat living in many places growing up, but home was always where her family resided. She graduated from St. Mary's Academy in Alexandria, VA and after graduation entered the Order of the Sisters of the Holy Cross at Notre

Dame University. In her sixth year as a nun, she began to question if that was where God wanted her to be and prayed continually for a sign. On a retreat in Colorado, she awoke one morning with such incredible peace, a peace she never experienced again, and knew that she could leave the cloistered life.

She returned home to Maryland and finished her studies to become an RN at The University of Maryland and after graduation she accepted a position in the ICU at University of Maryland Hospital. In 1971 she met her husband to be, Bill, on a blind date arranged by her roommate. She was married in August of that year and took up residence in Fairfax, Virginia beginning her teaching career at Alexandria Hospital.

In 1973, Bill was transferred to Rochester, NY and Barb joined the nursing faculty at The University of Rochester after getting her Master's degree in Medical Surgical Nursing, as well as becoming a Nurse Practitioner. She and Bill spent 7 years in Rochester and Barb wore out at least two electric blankets during that time.

While in Rochester, Barb and Bill's favorite vacation spot was Hilton Head Island, SC and they loved the South. They spent time in Savannah and at the suggestion of former neighbors from Fairfax who were native Charlestonians, also spent time in Charleston. They moved to Charleston in 1980 with Barb finding employment at the MUSC College of Nursing and Bill making a career change to Commercial Real Estate with the Max Hill Company. They moved to Seabrook Island where they lived for 10 years and joined the Episcopal Church of Our Savior, a very important event in Barb's life.

In 1984, Barb and Bill were blessed with a son, Bret, another important event. She continued to teach at MUSC and during the late 80's and early 90's commuted to USC in Columbia, while working full time, to earn her PhD in Public Health with her boys managing at home. She spent 38 years in the College of Nursing, always giving her time and talent generously to the university. She received many awards but the one she was most proud of was the University-wide Distinguished Service Award voted on by her peers which included a \$3,000 stipend. She retired as Professor Emerita on July 1st, 2018. She was respected by her peers and loved by her students.

Barb's faith was a very important part of her life – she loved the Lord and lived her life accordingly. She was a giver, always thinking of others and willing to help regardless of her circumstances. She also used

her medical training to help many friends with their medical issues. Bard just loved everyone, and they loved her right back.



Debbie Dobson Moore

Deborah “Debbie” Denise Dobson Moore, 72, passed away April 21, 2026.

A native of Greer, daughter of the late Edward Dennis Dobson, Sr. and Frances Emmeline McGill, she was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Greer. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University, her Master of Health Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina, and Master of Science in Nursing from Clemson University School of Nursing;

she was a nurse and nurse practitioner for 50 years.

Surviving are her son, Dr. Scott Emory Moore of Cleveland, Ohio, her brother, Edward Dennis Dobson, Jr. (Sandy) of Greenville, South Carolina, her nephew, Jonathan Lyons Dobson (Kirsten) of Bellevue, Washington, and her dearest friend, David Vincent Duncan of Greer, South Carolina. Ms. Moore is predeceased by her parents and nephew, Alan McGill Dobson.

A memorial service will be held 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 9, 2026, at First Presbyterian Church, Greer conducted by Rev. Will Shelburne.

Visitation will be held immediately before the service from 12:00-1:45 p.m., Saturday, May 9, 2026, in the fellowship hall at the church. With committal service to follow at Mountain View Cemetery.

Honorary escort will include Brent Maddox, Dr. Jim Alexander, Jimmy Chulkus, and Ronnie Dilworth.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Greer, South Carolina, and the Annual Fund of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University of Cleveland, Ohio.

Online condolences may be made to www.thewoodmortuary.com.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Debbie Dobson Moore please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

Report of SCNA Treasurer

SOUTH CAROLINA NURSES ASSOCIATION

COLUMBIA, S. C.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2025**

SOUTH CAROLINA NURSES ASSOCIATION

COLUMBIA, S. C.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS

DECEMBER 31, 2025

Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	38,867
Security Deposit		2,000
Furniture and Equipment	\$	15,227
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(15,227)
		<hr/>
Total Assets		<u>40,867</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Payroll Taxes Withheld		<u>3,725</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>3,725</u>
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Board Designated		21,683
Undesignated		<u>15,459</u>
Total Net Assets		<u>37,142</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		<u>40,867</u>

Notes to Financial Statements are an Integral Part of This Statement

SOUTH CAROLINA NURSES ASSOCIATION

COLUMBIA, S. C.

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions

Revenues

Membership Dues	\$ 246,705
Interest	6
Publication - SC Nurse	1,319
SCNA Approver Committee	20,790
Membership Benefit Program	12,223
Miscellaneous	6,844
Annual Convention	98,130
Advocacy Fund	19,444
Chapter Receipts	7,653
	<hr/>

Total Revenues

413,114

Expenses

Member Services	440,508
Supporting Services	87,039
	<hr/>

Total Expenses

527,547

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions

(114,433)

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions, Beginning of Year

151,575

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions, End of Year

37,142

Notes to Financial Statements are an Integral Part of This Statement

SOUTH CAROLINA NURSES ASSOCIATION

COLUMBIA, S. C.

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES - MODIFIED CASH BASIS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	Program Services	Supporting Services	
	Member Services	General and Administrative	Total Expenses
Personnel	\$ 140,909	\$ 46,969	\$ 187,878
Occupancy	27,809	9,270	37,079
Annual Convention	132,996	-	132,996
Legislative Activities	41,384	-	41,384
Chapter Disbursements	7,257	-	7,257
Other Expenses	90,153	30,800	120,953
	<u>440,508</u>	<u>87,039</u>	<u>527,547</u>

Notes to Financial Statements are an Integral Part of This Statement

SOUTH CAROLINA NURSES ASSOCIATION

COLUMBIA, S. C.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ (114,433)
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities:	
(Increase) Decrease in Security Deposit	994
Increase (Decrease) in Payroll Taxes Withheld	<u>3,698</u>

Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	<u>(109,741)</u>
--	------------------

Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(109,741)
---	-----------

Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	<u>148,608</u>
---	----------------

Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	<u><u>38,867</u></u>
---	----------------------

Notes to Financial Statements are an Integral Part of This Statement

SCNA Annual Reports

SCNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The reports below summarize activities from the Annual Membership Meeting covering the period October 2025 through July 2026. Additional details, if required, will be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting on October 15, 2026. That meeting will take place at 4:00 PM on Thursday during the SCNA State Convention at the Hyatt Regency Greenville in Greenville, South Carolina.

President-Elect Annual Report

Submitted by: Dr. Nakita J. Barnes, DNP, ACNP-BC, PPCNP-BC

Convention Leadership and Planning

A major focus of my work this year has been serving as lead coordinator for the 2026 SCNA Annual Convention, to be held October 15–17, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Greenville under the theme “ACT, Innovate, and Lead: The Future of Nursing Starts Now.” Planning began early in the year with multiple committee meetings, an on-site visit to the Hyatt Regency Greenville, and the development of an enhanced conference structure offering up to 20 contact hours for attendees.

This year marked a milestone for SCNA: our first cycle of open abstract submissions. The response exceeded expectations, with more than 50 podium abstracts submitted for just 22 available presentation slots, showing clear evidence of the appetite among South Carolina nurses to share their research, innovations, and clinical insights with their peers.

Sponsorship recruitment and exhibitor engagement remained year-round priorities, with efforts focused on increasing both attendance and financial support for the convention. We have also secured keynote speakers representing leadership, innovation, and nursing advocacy, positioning this year’s convention as one of the most comprehensive professional development opportunities SCNA has offered to date.

Professional Development and Educational Initiatives

Recognizing that nurses need support well beyond the annual convention, I led several educational initiatives this year designed to provide meaningful, year-round professional development.

In March, SCNA hosted “Pathway to Publication,” a webinar created for poster presenters, novice researchers, and aspiring authors ready to turn their work into published scholarship. Nursing leaders and experienced authors shared practical, hard-won guidance on manuscript preparation, abstract development, and navigating the publication process — the kind of insider knowledge that can mean the difference between a project that ends at the poster session and one that reaches a national audience.

In May, we followed with “Amplify Your Impact: Strategic Online Engagement for Professionals,” drawing more than 20 participants eager to strengthen their digital presence, advocacy voice, and leadership visibility. The strong turnout reinforced something we have suspected for a while: virtual programming is one of the most effective ways to reach members across every corner of the state, regardless of distance or schedule.

Leadership Development and Organizational Engagement

As President-Elect, I have stayed actively engaged in the organizational work that will determine SCNA’s sustainability and member engagement for years to come.

Throughout the year, I worked side by side with chapter leaders to drive convention participation, sponsorship opportunities, and organizational initiatives. Our conversations consistently returned to three themes: strategic planning, member recruitment, and the value of standardized engagement efforts across all five chapters.

I also partnered with the Nominations and Elections Committee on candidate recruitment and succession planning. With nominations closing on May 1, our focus has shifted to candidate engagement and to ensuring strong, representative leadership at every level of the organization.

Beyond these efforts, I have spent this year preparing for the transition into the presidency — collaborating closely with current leadership, reviewing organizational priorities, and identifying where SCNA can grow most: membership engagement, leadership development, and long-term financial sustainability.

Looking Forward

This year laid the groundwork. The year ahead is about building on it. As I prepare to step into the role of SCNA President, here is where I plan to focus our energy:

- Strengthen chapter engagement and communication, including more consistent two-way dialogue between the board and chapter leadership.
- Expand leadership development opportunities so more members are ready to step into board and committee roles.
- Grow convention participation and sponsorship support, building on the momentum of this year’s record abstract submissions.
- Deliver more year-round educational offerings that bring value to members long before and after the convention.
- Champion nursing advocacy and workforce initiatives that address the realities South Carolina nurses face every day.
- Foster collaboration among nursing students, emerging leaders, and experienced professionals, so the pipeline of future SCNA leadership stays strong.

This year has once again demonstrated the strength, resilience, and dedication of South Carolina’s nurses. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside such committed leaders, and I look

forward to continuing our work together as we ACT, Innovate, and Lead.

Secretary/Treasurer Annual Report

Submitted by: Katie Osterritter, MSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC, NEA-BC

This year, the work of the South Carolina Nurses Association has remained rooted in our mission to advocate for nurses, advance the profession, and strengthen the voice of nursing across our state. As Secretary/Treasurer, I want to provide a clear and honest financial update, while also emphasizing the opportunity we have in the year ahead.

In 2025, SCNA ended the year with a significant deficit. Total income for the year was approximately **\$389,000**, while total expenses were approximately **\$506,000**, resulting in expenses exceeding income by approximately **\$117,000**. Several areas contributed to this deficit, including increased convention expenses, occupancy expenses, operations expenses, and advocacy-related costs. Most notably, convention expenses exceeded the 2025 budget by more than **\$72,000**, and total advocacy expenses exceeded budget by more than **\$68,000**.

While this is a serious concern, it is also a call to action. SCNA's ability to continue advocating for nurses across South Carolina depends on our collective commitment to financial sustainability. Balancing the budget is not simply a financial goal. It is necessary to protect the future of our association, maintain our advocacy presence, support professional development, and ensure that nurses continue to have a strong voice in decisions that impact our profession and our patients.

For 2026, the proposed budget is balanced at **\$486,145.35** in income and **\$486,145.35** in expenses. This budget reflects both fiscal responsibility and an ambitious plan for growth, including a projected increase in membership dues revenue and increased convention revenue.

A major part of this plan is our drive to reach **3,000 members**. Membership is the foundation of SCNA's financial health and our influence. More members mean more revenue, but more importantly, more voices speaking together for nursing in South Carolina. To support this goal, we have launched the **Every Member Bring a Member** campaign. If each current member personally invites one nurse to join SCNA, we can make meaningful progress toward strengthening both our membership and our impact.

In addition to membership growth, increased fundraising and sponsorship support will be essential, especially as we prepare for the **2026 SCNA Convention** in Greenville. The convention is one of our most visible opportunities to bring nurses together, provide education, celebrate the profession, and connect with partners who believe in supporting nurses. To make the 2026 convention financially successful, we will need intentional sponsorship outreach, strong attendance, creative fundraising, and active engagement from our members, chapters, committees, and partners.

It will take all of us to balance this budget. Financial recovery cannot fall to one person, one committee, or one initiative. It will require shared ownership from the Board,

members, chapters, and all who believe in the work of SCNA. Each membership invitation, sponsorship connection, fundraising effort, and convention registration matters.

SCNA has important work to do. We advocate for nurses at the state level. We elevate the nursing profession. We create opportunities for connection, leadership, and professional growth. We speak up for the issues that matter to nurses and the communities we serve. To continue that work, we must be financially strong.

As we move into 2026, I am confident that with transparency, accountability, and collective action, SCNA can correct course and build a stronger financial future. Thank you to every member who continues to invest in this organization, invite others into the work, and support the mission of advocating for nurses across South Carolina.

Commission Chair – Public Policy / Legislation Annual Report
Submitted by: Marissa Bartmess, PhD, RN

Advocacy in Action: A Year of Progress for SCNA

This has been a great year for SCNA advocacy. Together, we have strengthened our voice at the Statehouse, expanded our legislative influence, and advanced policy priorities that support both nurses and the patients we serve. While meaningful policy change often takes time, the progress we've made this year has positioned us for greater success in the years ahead.

Policy and Advocacy Updates

As we look toward the next legislative session, Full Practice Authority (FPA) for APRNs remains one of our top policy priorities. While S.45 / H.3580 did not advance during the 2025-2026 session, the momentum we built this year represents significant progress. Scope of practice legislation requires persistence, relationship building, stakeholder engagement, and evidence-based advocacy. These are areas where SCNA has excelled. After our Nurse Legislative Day, 10 legislators were added as co-sponsors for the FPA house companion bill (3580), which is a direct result of the advocacy efforts of our members before and during the event. SCNA and the Coalition for Access to Healthcare continue to cultivate support among healthcare stakeholders across South Carolina. These efforts have strengthened our position and increased the likelihood of success when the legislation is reintroduced.

Another key priority for SCNA is addressing workplace violence in healthcare settings. Although several bills aimed at protecting healthcare workers were introduced during the 2025-2026 legislative session, none ultimately advanced. This is an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and build broader support for future legislation. As a branch of the Legislative Committee, we have formed a workplace violence task force charged with identifying evidence-based solutions that improve safety through both policy and practice.

SCNA continues to engage in conversations at the statehouse that impact nurses and the patients we serve. We are committed to supporting safe, effective healthcare through elevating efforts to promote safety and quality in nursing and other healthcare work environments in SC.

Policy and Advocacy Work

Our legislative footprint continues to grow because of the dedication of engaged members across the state. Since its revitalization in 2024, SCNA's Legislative Committee has expanded to more than 20 active members and continues to welcome new voices.

The committee plays a vital role in shaping SCNA's advocacy efforts by developing policy resources, planning legislative events, and providing guidance on key policy priorities. Highlights from the committee's work over the past year include:

- Developing bill-specific advocacy materials for Legislative Day and pocket advocacy cards available through the SCNA app.
- Planning and supporting Nurse Legislative Day, including creating legislative packets for members and event coordination.
- Organizing efforts to increase South Carolina nurse participation in the American Nurses Association's Hill Day in Washington, D.C.
- Creating a Get Out the Vote initiative to encourage civic engagement and voter participation among members.

Our advocacy efforts are powered by members. If you are interested in learning more about health policy, building connections with fellow nurse leaders, and advocating for the profession, consider joining the Legislative Committee. To get involved, request a meeting invitation through the SCNA calendar by selecting an upcoming Legislative Committee meeting.

Policy and Advocacy Events

This year, the Commission for Public Policy/Legislation hosted several impactful events designed to educate, engage, and empower nurses. Our 2026 Nurse Legislative Day was one of our most successful to date, with over 200 nurses registered and 199 in attendance. We PACKED the statehouse; we even made the news! Our goal is to continue growing participation each year, and we invite you to save the date for **February 3, 2027**, when we will return to the Statehouse once again. We encourage every attendee to bring at least one nurse who is not yet an SCNA member. There is no better way to showcase the power of nursing and the impact we can have when we stand together.

We work for you, and your membership dues directly support SCNA's advocacy initiatives, educational programs, and policy efforts. The stronger our membership, the stronger our collective voice becomes. By inviting a colleague to join, you are helping build the resources and influence needed to advocate effectively for nurses and patients across South Carolina.

Additional policy and advocacy events this year included:

- **From Practice to Politics: Empowering Nurses to Lead & Serve**, presented by Healing Politics, a nonpartisan campaign school for nurses and midwives.
- Educational webinars focused on advocacy skills, civic engagement, and effective policy influence.
- Participation in **ANA Hill Day** in Washington, D.C., where South Carolina nurses advocated for nurses and patients at the federal level.

Looking Ahead

As we continue this work, we want to hear from you. SCNA members are our eyes and ears across South Carolina, and your experiences, concerns, and ideas help shape our priorities and advocacy agenda. Whether you have identified a challenge in your workplace, see an opportunity for policy improvement, or simply want to become more involved, your voice matters.

Thank you for your continued support of SCNA and for the trust you place in us to represent the nursing profession. It is an honor to serve as Commission Chair for Public Policy/Legislation, and I am excited about the opportunities ahead. Together, we will continue building momentum, strengthening our advocacy efforts, and advancing policies that improve the lives of nurses and the patients we serve.

Commission Chair Professional Advocacy and Development Annual Report **Submitted by: Jason Thrift, PhD, RN, CHSE, NI-BC, CDP**

Over the course of 2026, I have been working to understand the role of Commission Chair Professional Advocacy and Development. I've spoken with Sherry James and Shara Rhodes, who have had responsibilities associated with the role. Sherry was the immediate past Commission Chair and helped me understand her past experiences. She continues to work with Peer Assistance Program In Nursing (PAPIN) and has kept me updated on the use of this resource. To date we have had 2-3 attendees on average for PAPIN meetings but with 20 or more registering routinely. We are attempting to determine how to help get registrants for the sessions to the sessions themselves.

With Shara Rhodes, I have discussed the needs of the Continuing Education Approver Committee (CEAC) and how that functions to provide education credit to nurses attending webinars, conventions, and workshops. During this time, full approval of the approver committee was obtained, ahead of the changes coming from ANCC in July 2026. The review with NCNA as a provider of CEs was also being commenced and will discuss with Shara how that resulted. As of June 2026, SCNA's Provided Unit was approved by North Carolina Nurses Association as an approved provider.

I've been working on ways to determine how best this role can be used to support SCNA and nurses across the state. I've continued where Sherry James left off attempting to write articles for The SC Nurse each quarter, with the latest being "Hey Chat, if You Had the Ability, How Would You Destroy the Nursing Profession?" as a thought experiment using

ChatGPT to determine how the nursing profession is being impacted by societal and internal factors. I am currently planning to submit an article to follow-up to this one for September.

I attended my first Legislative Day in Columbia in February 2026 to represent nursing as a leader within SCNA. This experience helped me to understand the processes involved in legislation that affects the profession at all levels, while understanding the advocacy role more readily. I also attended the Legislative Committee meetings this year to learn more about the processes involved and weigh-in whenever possible.

This March, I was a panelist in the SCNA webinar "Pathway to Publication" that featured me, Tese Stephens, and Sheryl Mitchell offering advice and answering questions individuals had regarding the publication process for manuscripts and research. I felt this reflected professional advocacy and development well because understanding the publication process can assist other nurses to identify ways they can provide their input to the literature of the profession in ways that will allow it to be shared readily.

I also registered and participated in the Nurses 5K "Miles that Matter" for runners and walkers, to raise funds for the mission of the South Carolina Nurses Foundation (SCNF) to provide scholarships to nurses and student nurses across South Carolina. SCNA also sponsors this race, allowing both to help with the goal of making others' dreams come true.

I feel there is still more to come in this role as it evolves in the weeks, months, and years ahead. I look forward to seeing where I can take the role as I plan to attend the 2026 SCNA Convention in Greenville, SC, and continue to advocate for nursing through research, teaching, and learning, such as being a panelist at the SC ACHE leadership conference also in October and presenting as the Keynote speaker of the virtual South Carolina Faith Community Nurses Association's annual conference.

Director Seat 1 Annual Report

Submitted by: Jennifer Woodley, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

This year the strategic plan was revamped with robust input from a number of SCNA members. It is always available to view on the website. As an organization, we have moved forward with innovation, collectively made an impact by engaging our healthcare partners and communities, increased our position as it concerns legislative advocacy, seen organizational growth in membership and managed to maintain our footprint in professional development.

SCNA Strategic Plan

2025 – 2027

01		INNOVATION KEY ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern virtual platforms for information sharing Expanded use of Artificial Intelligence OUTCOME MEASURES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated, user-friendly SCNA website AI SME educational offerings AI-supported meeting minutes
02		COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & INVOLVEMENT KEY ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCNA SME Speaker Hub Partnerships with organizations Nurses on Boards tracking OUTCOME MEASURES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaker request submission system Vetting process for SME members 2+ partnered events per year Repository of nurse leaders
03		LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY KEY ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support pro-nurse legislation Collaborate with state legislative groups OUTCOME MEASURES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely lobbyist engagement Support for S45/H3580 (Full Practice Authority) Partnerships with Healing Politics, SC-WIL, SCHA, Affiliates
04		ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH KEY ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased visibility on social media & in the community Collaboration with SNA-SC OUTCOME MEASURES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% membership growth over 2 years SCNA speakers, mentors, and engagement for SNA-SC
05		PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT KEY ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain IAA and APU excellence University and school of nursing partnerships Chapter-led NCPD offerings OUTCOME MEASURES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IAA (2024): 7 IAAs; 56.25 contact hours; 406 RNs + 2,047 others APU (2024): 25 APUs; 8,278.5 hours; 35,659 RNs + 15,945 others 2 webinars/year with state colleges Minimum 1 educational offering per chapter/year

SOUTH CAROLINA NURSES ASSOCIATION
Elevating the voice, visibility, and impact of nursing across the state

SCNA, you should be very proud. The hard work has not gone unnoticed. As we look to our flagship, American Nurses Enterprise (ANE), we know that there will be an updated strategic plan published this year that will guide us forward through 2030. The newly elected Director Seat 1 will meet with the current President and determine the vision for SCNA. They will align SCNA and the ANE plans to forge the path for nursing in our state for the next two to three years. The membership will be able to comment and offer feedback, as we need to hear the collective voices of all nurses in the state. Please see below for a comprehensive evaluation of our strategic plan.

Evaluation of Strategic Plan:

Goals met/exceeded and opportunities:

1. Innovation – increased use of technology by offering more webinars. Had a speaker at convention on the use AI in Healthcare. The website has been updated.

Opportunities: Need to continue with updates to the website to continue to make it more user friendly. Use of AI with meeting to assist developing minutes, etc.

2. Community Engagement/Involvement – SCNA has increased collaboration with other organizations. Grand Canyon, Healing Politics, Insurance offerings.

Opportunities: still need to develop SME Speaker's Hub. Poll members and keep repository of Nurses on Boards.

3. Legislative Advocacy – Sen. Tom Davis and Wanda were at the SCNA 2025 Convention. Webinar before Legislative Day and a very successful February 2026 Legislative Day – approx. 300 Nurses in attendance. Healing Politics presentation

for half-day, with reception.

Opportunities: see FPA to fruition.

4. Organizational Growth – increased visibility on social media platforms. Sweet Tea & Stethoscopes podcasts. Goals was to grow 5% over 2 years. Membership Dec 2024: 2386; Membership Dec 2025: 2449; Membership July 2026 2599
Supported SNA-SC with some SCNA members serving as speakers.

5. Professional Development

The North Carolina Nurses Association's (NCNA) Accredited Approver Unit granted Provider Unit approval to SCNA for three years, June 25, 2026, through July 1, 2029. The CEAC Approved NCPD Provider Units awarded 4,765.96 hours in the 1,087 individual programs offered in 2025. 16,635 nurses were awarded hours from these programs and 4,718 individuals from other disciplines participated in the programs.

In 2024 - 25 APUs; 8278.50 contact hours awarded to 1339 different individual activities which included 35,659 RNs and 15,945 other disciplines

Thank you to all of the steadfast members and the great leadership of the SCNA Board of Directors, our Executive Director and Staff person for the dedication and commitment to moving our premier state nursing organization forward. ONWARD!

Director of Transition to Practice Annual Report

Social Media / Communications Annual Report

Immediate Past-President Annual Report

Submitted by: Angela E. Dykes, DNP, FNP-C

It has been an honor to serve the South Carolina Nurses Association (SCNA) as Immediate Past President during the past year. In this role, I remained actively engaged in supporting the mission, vision, and strategic priorities of the Association while providing continuity of leadership and organizational support. Throughout the year, I attended all scheduled Board of Directors meetings and participated in discussions and decision-making activities that advanced the goals of SCNA. I was privileged to support the President and Board as needed, offering guidance, historical perspective, and assistance with initiatives that promoted the nursing profession and strengthened our organization.

My primary focus this year was serving as Chair of the Nurse 5K Committee and leading the planning and execution of our Third Annual SCNA Nurse 5K. This event continues to grow as a signature initiative that promotes nurse wellness, community engagement, and support for nursing scholarships and programs. The Nurse 5K is much more than a race—

it is a celebration of nursing, wellness, and community. As a collaborative partnership between the South Carolina Nurses Association (SCNA) and the South Carolina Nurses Foundation (SCNF), this event represents a shared commitment to investing in the future of nursing while promoting the well-being of those who dedicate their lives to caring for others.

Through scholarship fundraising, the Nurse 5K helps aspiring and practicing nurses advance their education, strengthen their professional development, and contribute to a stronger healthcare workforce. Equally important, the event brings together nurses, healthcare professionals, students, community partners, and supporters to connect, collaborate, and build lasting relationships.

Rooted in the principles of self-care and wellness, the Nurse 5K encourages participants to prioritize their physical, mental, and emotional health while honoring the compassion, resilience, and commitment that define the nursing profession. Our Third Annual Nurse 5K was an extraordinary success, bringing together an inspiring community united by a shared passion for nursing, wellness, and service. The morning was filled with enthusiasm, encouragement, and meaningful connections as participants gathered to celebrate the profession while supporting a worthy cause. The energy throughout the event reflected the strength of the nursing community and the impact we can make when we come together with purpose.

This event would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our Nurse 5K Committee. Their vision, commitment, and countless hours of planning helped create an exceptional experience for all who attended. I extend my sincere appreciation to each committee member for their contributions and unwavering support. We also extend our gratitude to Strictly Running for their partnership, expertise, and professionalism throughout the planning and execution of the event. Their guidance played a significant role in ensuring a successful and memorable experience for all participants. Working alongside dedicated committee members, sponsors, volunteers, and SCNA members, we successfully organized and implemented another outstanding event. The Nurse 5K provided an opportunity to highlight the importance of physical and mental well-being among nurses while increasing community engagement and visibility for the nursing profession across South Carolina. I am grateful for the commitment and support of the Board of Directors, committee members, sponsors, volunteers, and SCNA members who contributed to the success of our initiatives this year. It has been a privilege to continue serving the Association in the role of Immediate Past President, and I look forward to supporting SCNA as we continue to advance nursing, promote health equity, and strengthen the future of our profession.

SNA-SC Annual Report

South Carolina Nurses Foundation Report

ANNUAL REPORT



2026

Submitted by
Dr. DeAnna L. Cox, CNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Table Of Contents

Page 3 - SCNF Mission and Team

Page 4 - Special Initiatives

Page 5 - Marketing and Development

Page 6 - Palmetto Gold

Page 7 - Accomplishments

Page 8 - Challenges

SCNF Mission and Team

SCNF Mission Statement: to promote high standards of health care by insuring the advancement of the nursing profession through scholarships, grants, and programs of excellence.

Officers

DeAnna L. Cox, President
Lindy Beaver, Secretary

Tami Tetzmann, Vice President
Kendra Vandross, Treasurer

Members of Board of Trustees

In addition to the officers - Christina Beal, Nancy Outburn, Pattie Hendy, Lara Hewitt, Elwood Owens, Kristen Poston, Jennifer Rice, Stephanie Tammol, Judith Zink and Rebekah Loquist (Emeritus) and Julia Quinn (SCNA Representative), Wendy Myers (CPA).

Appointments

Tami Tetzmann to the Palmetto Gold Steering Committee.

Meetings of the Board of Trustees

The SCNF Board of Trustees met during the year on January 3, March 27, July 10 and October 5. This year we re-instituted having in-person meetings with the expectation of full attendance. The first and last meeting of the year were in person while the other 2 meetings were held virtually. The meetings are held from 10am until 12pm. Additionally, the Executive, Bylaws, Finance, Marketing, Nominations and Scholarship committees met during the year to work between the BOT meetings.



Nurse Care License Plate Initiative



Through legislation, SCNF was able to obtain a special license plate referred to as the South Carolina Nurses Foundation NURSES CARE License Plate. These vehicle license plates are available through the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles. Proceeds from the sale of the license plates are stated in the legislation must support nursing scholarships. The amount of each scholarship has increased over time based on revenue generated. License plates can be obtained by visiting <http://scdmvonline.com>.

Scholarships and Awards Committee

The License Plate Initiative (Nurses Care Scholarship) application process is conducted online. In 2025, 16 Nurses Care scholarships were awarded for the total amount of \$65,000. We awarded 11 undergraduate scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 each and 5 graduate scholarships in the amount of \$4,000 each. Additionally, we awarded a \$2,000 scholarship for the Upstate Nurse Practitioner Association Scholarship in memory of Debbie Dobson Moore. This year we were able to increase the number of scholarships compared to the previous year which was \$19,000. This increase was very significant and represented an increase of over 100%.

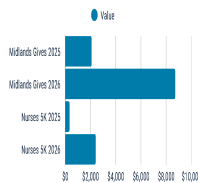
2025 vs. 2026 Scholarship Awards



Marketing and Development

SCNF again participated in **Midlands Gives** on May 4. Midlands Gives is an event that promotes raising money and awareness for Midlands' nonprofits during an online giving challenge. Social media was used for promoting the event. All BOT members were encouraged to give and challenged to have 5 others give during the selected Power Hour. As a result, SCNF was awarded an additional amount of \$2,000 for having the most unique donors for a small organization during the selected Power Hour of 6pm to 6:59pm. The total raised was \$6,714 with an additional grant from Midlands Gives of \$1,000. We had 44 unique donors and 46 total donors with a ranking of #17 on the leaderboard for a small organization. We retained 15% of our donors. This represented the best year in several years. The total funds received from this event were \$2,714 as compared to last year (2023) where we only raised \$2,094.

Fundraising Results



Additionally, SCNF partnered with SCNA for the 9th Annual Nurses SK this year on May 10. It was the most successful one yet and had 110 participants with 118 registered. The vendors contributed over \$3,000 in registration fees. SCNF received \$2,418.75 which represented 59% of profit proceeds.

A newsletter was developed and sent out to donors, BOT and the Palmetto Gold database in August with plans for quarterly distribution. A donor database was started this August and plans are to add the SCNA database. These efforts are to promote our mission and generate additional interest in SCNF.

Palmetto Gold

This special committee of the Foundation is responsible for implementing the Palmetto Gold Nurse Recognition and Scholarship Program. Each year this program selects 100 South Carolina Nurses for awards of excellence in practice based on a rigorous nomination and blind screening process. In addition, each successful registered nurse education program in South Carolina is offered a scholarship for an outstanding undergraduate nursing student selected by the school.

The scholarships offered in 2026 at the Palmetto Gold Gala held on April 11 were for \$1,500 each at the undergraduate level and \$2,000 each for the graduate level. 13 undergraduate scholarships were awarded in addition to 9 graduate scholarships and the Renetta S. Loquist Graduate Nurse Scholarship for 2,500. Maranda Williams, contract assistant to SCNF and Palmetto Gold along with the Palmetto Gold Steering committee worked tirelessly for another successful event.



Accomplishments

The year of 2026 has been a good year for the Foundation. Board members have supported the mission of SCNF by participation on committees and contributing to the efforts of the Foundation through individual expertise. The Foundation continues to be able to support scholarships and other activities. We have continued our fund-raising opportunities with participation in Midlands Gives and the Nurses SK along with Giving Tuesday. Investments remain in a moderate risk model of 60/40. The By-laws were updated, and the Strategic Plan is currently being revised and updated. Additionally, procedures are being developed to align with the foundation's goals and mission and to ensure continuity through succession planning. An inaugural newsletter was also developed and distributed this year.

Social Media

SCNF now has an independent Contract Assistant, Maranda Williams whose expertise has been used to promote SCNF's presence on social media. We have visibility on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The website has been updated and will continue to be reviewed to keep up to date. Additionally, we had promotional items of a scholarship brochure, rack cards and a tablecloth with our logo developed to use at events such as the Nurses SK and SCNA convention.



Challenges

A major challenge for the Board of Trustees is that most of the work of the foundation is on a volunteer basis. Additionally, many of the funds coming into the Foundation are designated for scholarships. The general fund for operational activities is limited but has increased allowing the foundation to continue to support our independent contract assistant. The Marketing and Development committee is in the process of identifying potential larger donors to support our mission for Giving Tuesday. The Friends of the Foundation campaign is ongoing and represents another challenge. The Friends of the Foundation is a network of concerned nurses and individuals who support the operational and financial sustainability of the Foundation to achieve its mission, and to honor nurses who have made a significant, lasting, contribution to the profession statewide. Currently, PJ Johnson is the featured Friends of the Foundation in honor of her many years serving SCNF as Treasurer and service to Palmetto Gold. The BOT has not identified anyone else currently for the future. The BOT will be investigating others to consider and avenues to secure more funding. As of present, minimal funds have been raised for this initiative.

The board continues to explore fundraising options and will focus on continued marketing to raise awareness of SCNF. The marketing committee and BOT will look for larger dollar donations. These discussions and explorations will continue as the BOT works toward making the Foundation even more successful.



SCNA COMMITTEES

Continuing Education Approver Committee (CEAC) Annual Report **Submitted by Shara Rhodes, DNP, RN, NPDA-BC[®], NEA-BC, MEDSURG-BC**

SCNA submitted the CE Approver Unit Annual report to the American Nurses Credentialing Center in April of 2026 for the 2025 year.

The CEAC Approved NCPD Provider Units awarded 4,765.96 hours in the 1,087 individual programs offered in 2025. 16,635 nurses were awarded hours from these programs and 4,718 individuals from other disciplines participated in the programs.

The CEAC approved 5 individual programs in 2025. 353 nurses participated in these programs with a total of 6,637 hours awarded.

Continuing Education Provider Committee (CEPC) Annual Report **Submitted by Shara Rhodes, DNP, RN, NPDA-BC[®], NEA-BC, MEDSURG-BC**

The North Carolina Nurses Association's (NCNA) Accredited Approver Unit granted Provider Unit approval to SCNA for three years, June 25, 2026, through July 1, 2029.

SCNA submitted the CEPC 2025 Annual Report to North Carolina Nurses Association in March of 2026.

In the 2025 calendar year, SCNA provided 42 different NCPD individual programs.

The 42 programs were awarded 56.75 NCPD hours/credits

726 nurses earned credits with a total of 988.5 hours being awarded.

SCNA CHAPTERS

As of this publication, 320 SCNA members belong to at least one chapter. Visit <https://www.scnurses.org/page/ConsentParticipateChC> (<https://www.scnurses.org/page/ConsentParticipateChC>) to join one or more chapters at no additional cost — chapter membership is a benefit included with SCNA membership.

Acute Chapter Annual Report

APRN Chapter Annual Report

Submitted by: Leiann Roberts Boards, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC

Chair, SCNA APRN Chapter

Number of members: 155

June 2025 – June 2026

The APRN Chapter has had an active and productive year focused on advocacy, education, professional development, networking, and member engagement. Since June 2025, the chapter has continued to strengthen its presence within SCNA while providing valuable opportunities for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses across South Carolina.

Leadership and Chapter Development

In January 2025, I assumed the role of APRN Chapter Chair and have worked alongside chapter leaders and SCNA leadership to expand engagement opportunities for APRNs throughout the state. The chapter has remained committed to supporting APRN practice, fostering collaboration, and advocating for issues impacting advanced practice nursing.

Membership Engagement and Networking

The chapter hosted several membership meetings throughout the year, including virtual meetings designed to increase accessibility and participation from APRNs across South Carolina. These meetings provided opportunities for members to discuss legislative updates, professional issues, chapter initiatives, and future planning.

The APRN Chapter also collaborated with other SCNA chapters and supported networking opportunities that encouraged relationship-building among nurses across specialties and practice settings.

Legislative Advocacy

Advocacy remained a major focus of the chapter. Members participated in Legislative Day activities and engaged in discussions surrounding healthcare policy and APRN practice issues. Chapter members participated in the SCNA/Coalition for Access to Health Care Town Hall Meeting in preparation for Legislative Day, allowing members to gain a better understanding of current legislative priorities and advocacy efforts.

The chapter continues to support initiatives that improve access to care, promote APRN practice, and advance the role of APRNs throughout South Carolina.

Educational Programming

The APRN Chapter provided educational opportunities for members through webinars and collaborative learning events. Highlights included:

- Educational programming focused on clinical practice and patient care topics.
- A collaborative educational event with the Psychiatric-Mental Health Chapter

featuring a presentation on CAPLYTA and advancements in the treatment of Major Depressive Disorder.

- Ongoing discussions regarding emerging healthcare trends, pharmacologic updates, and issues affecting APRN practice.

On June 11, 2026, the chapter will host an informative webinar focused on menopause and the care of patients experiencing perimenopause and menopause. This program will provide valuable clinical insights and practical strategies for APRNs caring for this patient population.

SCNA Convention and Organizational Support

The chapter actively supported the South Carolina Nurses Association Annual Convention through planning efforts, promotion, and member participation. Chapter leadership also contributed to convention programming and worked to secure educational speakers to enhance the conference experience for attendees.

In addition, chapter leadership participated in various SCNA committees and initiatives, including convention planning activities, Nurses 5K Run/Walk and support of organizational events.

Community and Professional Collaboration

The APRN Chapter partnered with fellow SCNA chapters and healthcare stakeholders to foster collaboration and promote professional engagement. Through these efforts, members were able to connect with colleagues across the state and share best practices in advanced practice nursing.

Looking Ahead

As we enter the coming year, the APRN Chapter remains committed to expanding opportunities for engagement, education, and advocacy. In addition to the June 11 menopause webinar, we look forward to hosting an additional educational webinar later this summer or early fall on a topic of interest to APRN practice. The chapter also plans to host a member meet-and-greet event to strengthen professional connections, encourage networking, and increase chapter engagement.

The chapter is excited to continue building momentum, supporting APRNs across South Carolina, and advancing the profession through education, advocacy, leadership, and collaboration.

Nurse Educator Chapter Annual Report

Psychiatric Mental Health Annual Report

Submitted by: Jacquelin Hyman, DNP, MSN, BSN
Chair, SCNA PMH Chapter

Number of members: 80

Officers:

Dr. Jacquelin Hyman, Chapter Chair

Dr. Michelle Myers, Vice Chapter Chair

Dr. Sandra Randolph, Secretary/Treasurer

Orientation Meeting and Training

On January 10th, three members of the Psychiatric Mental Health Chapter Executive Team attended the Orientation Meeting and Training. The session provided valuable guidance, leadership updates, and strategic direction to support the chapter's goals and upcoming initiatives.

Chapter Collaboration Event

On February 12th, the Psychiatric Mental Health Chapter partnered with the APRN Chapter at Cola's for a pharmacy presentation followed by a brief chapter meeting. The event was well attended and highly informative. This collaboration provided valuable educational content and strengthened engagement between chapters.

6th Annual Psychiatric Mental Health Symposium

The 6th Annual Psychiatric Mental Health Symposium was held on May 15, 2026, at the University of South Carolina Clinical Center. The Symposium was well attended by nurses and nurse practitioners. The event provided exceptional speakers, numerous vendors, and networking opportunities. It was a great success for our chapter.

The chapter met on June 13th for a debriefing of the 6th Annual Psychiatric Mental Health Symposium. Plans begin for the 7th Annual Psychiatric Mental Health Symposium which will be held on May 21, 2027.

Psych Provider Peer Support Group

The Psych Provider Peer Support Group was initiated on February 5th in both in-person and virtual formats. Six participants attended the inaugural session. The meeting was engaging, well received, and greatly appreciated by attendees. The second Peer Support Group meeting was held on July 9th at 6 pm in person and virtual. This platform provides an opportunity for providers to share experiences and practice pearls.

Chapter Meetings

Chapter meetings were held quarterly. The meetings were held on March 14th, June 13th, and August 8th at 10 am. Each meeting provided updated information for the members as well as an opportunity for the members to share information about current practice.

The chapter focuses on improving the quality of mental health services and providers in South Carolina. We strive to do this through educational opportunities and community

service.

Community Service Projects

On August 8th, the PMH Chapter distributed 40 snack bags to the homeless in the downtown Columbia area near the public library. The chapter has been collecting toiletry items and gift cards throughout the year for Mental Health America. The items collected will be given to Mental Health America in December.

Women and Children's Health Chapter

Submitted by: Kelly Walker; DNP, NPD-BC, RNC-MNN, C-ONQS

Chair, SCNA WCH Chapter

2025 Activities

- WCH Chapter members advocated for Full Practice Authority for Advanced Practice Nurses legislation during SCNA Legislative Day in February 2025.
- WCH Subcommittee submitted a Proclamation Draft for Black Maternal Health Week, April 2025.
- WCH Chair recruited and filled for open positions on the WCH Executive Team (Secretary/Treasurer and Vice-Chair) for 2026.
- WCH Chair participated in the Convention Planning Committee and Gala Planning Committee for the 2025 Annual Conference.
- WCH Chair facilitated the 2025 SCNA Daisy Award program.
- WCH Chapter provided three virtual contact hour presentations in 2025, one presentation for the Roadmap to Convention series.
 - Breaking Barriers: How The Midwifery Model of Care Can Transform Maternal Health in South Carolina
 - Racism, Implicit Bias, and Social Determinants of Health: A Call to Action
- WCH Chair participated in the 5K Nurses Run in Columbia, SC.
- WCH Chapter engaged members via the SCNA WCH Facebook page as well as the SCNA mobile app.

2026 SCNA WCH Annual Goals

Goal 1: Increase chapter membership by 3% = 2.76 members - Met

Goal 2: Promote three or more education events - 2 completed for 2026

Goal 3: Increase pediatric/neonatal representation of WCH Chapter- In progress

Goal 4: Advocate & Publish- Initiatives by WCH Chapter members - In progress

SCNA ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATE MEMBERS

For more information about the Organizational Affiliate Member program visit <https://www.scnurses.org/page/SCNAAffiliates2023> (<https://www.scnurses.org/page/SCNAAffiliates2023>)

South Carolina Faith Community Nurses Association Annual Report

Submitted by: Anita Boland, RN, MN

The mission of the South Carolina Faith Community Nurses Association is to promote healthy congregations by encouraging and supporting the development and sustainability of faith community nursing practices and health ministries throughout the state of South Carolina.

The SCFCNA in 2025 held quarterly meetings at First Baptist Church in Irmo where we provided CE credit for the several of the educational offerings. These meetings were held in person and virtually to allow for the attendance of more members.

In January of 2025, we had a presentation from Tori Anderson CDP, CADDCT, Dementia Care Specialist with the South Carolina Department on Aging regarding the SC Department on Aging's Dementia 101 and 201 which educates healthcare professionals and families regarding the care needs of those suffering with dementia. In April 2025, we had Debbie Schneider, Program Manager for the SC Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association present "Courageous Inspiration" in which she shared her personal journey through recovery from a traumatic brain injury. In July 2025, we had a presentation given by Candace Taylor, CDP, Program Manager, Alzheimer's Association, SC Chapter. Her presentation entitled "ALZ IN: Building Faith Support for Caregivers." In October 2025, Margaret Miller, MS, PhD Co-Director and Alzheimer's Disease Registry Manager: Office for the Study of Aging: Research Assistant Professor Arnold School of Public Health the University of South Carolina presented "Unveiling Alzheimer's Impact: Epidemiologic insights from the South Carolina Registry."

This theme led into our annual conference held on August 1 entitled "Caring for the Caregiver: Body, Soul and Spirit." Speakers included Angela Conder MS, APRN, FNP-BC the dean of the school of nursing at CIU who shared how it takes a multidisciplinary team to meet the needs of the caregiver. We then had presentations from organizations within the community who provide services and supports for caregivers. The conference concluded with a presentation by Janet Altman the Seniors Ministry Coordinator at First Presbyterian Church Columbia entitled "Me Time: The Family Caregiver's Most Fundamental Need."

The SCFCNA offered a foundations course in 2025 to provide nurses with training in the scope and practice of Faith Community Nursing. There were 5 nurses who completed the course. The SCFCNA has also participated as a vendor for the South Carolina Student Nurses Convention and the South Carolina Nurses Convention. The SCFCNA also

supported the Palmetto Gold Program with an advertisement in the brochure. The SCFCNA has provided quarterly articles for the SCNA newsletter which included the activities of the members in their faith communities. As part of the underpinnings of the organization, meetings of the executive board, board of directors and education team were conducted throughout the year. The membership is currently 48 faith community nurses and recruitment efforts are ongoing. We are always interested in discovering other nurses who have ministries in their faith communities as well as health ministry leaders and pastors.

The officers for 2025 were Anita Boland, president; Mary Ellen Haile, vice president; Rosemond Squirewell, secretary; and BJ Roof, treasurer. Our website is www.scfcna.com (<http://www.scfcna.com>).

Center for Nursing Leadership Annual Report

Submitting by: Tina Ralyea, DNP, MBA, MS-NP, NE-BC, CNL, OCN, CCRN

Over the past six months, the **Center for Nursing Leadership** has continued its mission of developing and empowering nurse leaders across South Carolina and the region. Through leadership development programs, educational initiatives, and strategic partnerships, we remain committed to preparing nurses to lead effectively in an increasingly complex healthcare environment.

We were honored to celebrate the graduation of the **22 Amy V. Cockcroft Fellows** from the 2025–2026 cohort. These outstanding nurse leaders completed a rigorous leadership development experience designed to strengthen their influence, effectiveness, and impact within healthcare organizations.

On **March 27, 2026**, the Center hosted its **Annual Leadership Summit**, welcoming approximately 180 nurses and healthcare leaders from across the region. We were privileged to feature **Debra Zimmermann**, CEO of the DAISY Foundation and Immediate Past President of the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL), as our keynote speaker. Her inspiring message reinforced the importance of courageous leadership, professional excellence, and recognizing the extraordinary contributions of nurses.

We are equally excited about the **2026–2027 Amy V. Cockcroft Fellowship cohort**, which includes 21 emerging masters prepared nurse leaders. Fellows have successfully completed their first two sessions, each consisting of three days of immersive leadership education, networking, and professional growth activities. We look forward to supporting this talented group throughout the coming year.

Responding to requests from Chief Nursing Officers across the state, the Center has developed **two new leadership education programs** to address critical workforce and professional development needs.

NurseEXCEL: Emerging Leader Pathway Program

Launching in **September 2026**, NurseEXCEL is designed for BSN-prepared nurses who currently lead teams, projects, or initiatives and are passionate about advancing their leadership skills. This innovative **eight-month program** is linked to two Master's in Nursing core courses (**NURS 734 and NURS 740**), providing participants with both academic and leadership development opportunities. Applications remain open through **August 10, 2026**. For additional information, please contact **Tina Ralyea** at **tralyea@mailbox.sc.edu**.

Healthcare Finance Course

Understanding healthcare finance has never been more important as healthcare delivery and reimbursement models continue to evolve. To meet this need, the Center will offer a new **two-day Healthcare Finance Course** on **October 1–2, 2026**. Participants will learn from a distinguished panel of industry experts, including a Market CEO, the South Carolina Hospital Association CFO, and a Market Financial Analyst. This program will provide practical insights into financial management, strategic decision-making, and the economic forces shaping healthcare today. Registration is available at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/health-care-financial-course-tickets-1988759787059?aff=oddttdtcreator> (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/health-care-financial-course-tickets-1988759787059?aff=oddttdtcreator>)

As we look ahead, several exciting initiatives and announcements are on the horizon. The Center for Nursing Leadership remains dedicated to developing exceptional nursing leaders, strengthening workforce retention and well-being, and equipping healthcare professionals to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing healthcare landscape. Through innovation, education, and collaboration, we will continue investing in the future of nursing leadership and the health of the communities we serve.

Thank you for your continued support of the Center for Nursing Leadership and our efforts to advance nursing excellence throughout South Carolina and beyond.

SC NAPNAP Annual Report

Submitted by: Sarah Wilson, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC

Events since October 2025:

- November 2025 - Virtual Food Drive raised over \$500 dollars for food banks in SC
- February 2026 - Participated in SCNA's Legislative Day at the Statehouse
- March 2026 - Participated in SC AAP's Hill Day
- March 2026 - Celebrated National Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Week with free Starbucks for members!
- March 2026 - SC Meet Up Event at National Conference
- April 2026 - Annual Conference in Columbia
- July 2026 Joint Statewide Day of Service with Sigma Theta Tau

Highlights and Accomplishments:

- Awarded \$1500 in Student Awards

- Testified and showed up to the statehouse for multiple bills this legislative season to support the children in our state
- Planned two service projects and one conference for our member!

Officers:

- President - Sarah Wilson, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC
- President Elect - Keisha Lockhart, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, CNM

Delta Eta Chapter Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated® Annual Report **Submitted by: JoAnn Williams, MSHS, BSN, RN, President Delta Eta Chapter**

Delta Eta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated® was founded June 19, 1982, in Columbia South Carolina. Delta Eta became only the second Chi Eta Phi chapter in SC when it was chartered. The ladies of the charter chapter represented professional Registered Nurses working in all areas of nursing service, nursing administration, and various institutions including hospitals, US Army, and public health. Our mission is “Service for Humanity.”

Disease Prevention & Health Promotion: Delta Eta has successfully implemented programs and projects focused on disease prevention and health promotion, making significant strides in promoting overall well-being within the community. Delta Eta members can be seen sporting green and yellow attire participating in blood pressure screenings in churches, schools, and various public events. Delta Eta continues to support the Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated national partnerships to include the Alzheimer’s Association, American Heart Association, and American Cancer Society by distributing important health information to the public.

In January 2026, seven members of Delta Eta participated in the Annual King Day at the Dome. Members assisted with manning a first responder and first aid health station. In March, we provided blood pressure screenings and education at the Brookland Baptist Church 24th Annual Community Health Fair. We also collaborated with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease (NIDDK) for Kidney Sunday. We also participated in the worship services at NE First Baptist Church and provided blood pressure screenings. Additional blood pressure screenings were provided at AEHPA Senior Living Center, Mt Nebo Baptist Church, Lower Richland Seniors Luncheon, and York Rite Masons Conference. These events reached over 200 community residents.

To care for the community, continuous education for healthcare providers is essential in promoting health and wellness, ensuring they are equipped to deliver high-quality care and stay updated on the latest advancements in medicine. Delta Eta led this initiative by hosting an educational symposium 11 April 2026: “Transformative Leadership: Empowering Nurses Advancing Healthcare. There were 40 participants and 5 (five) continuing education credits were awarded.

Delta Eta members were instrumental in assisting American Red Cross to collect 38 units of blood impacting 114 lives. We also participated in the virtual blood drive sponsored by our national team.

Visibility: Annually, since 2014 Delta Eta has selected one Soror or Frater who has demonstrated extraordinary service within the chapter. This year, 2026, our Soror of the Year is Ms. Tara King. The sorority also has members who have been bestowed the most prestigious Palmetto Gold Award. In 2026, Dr Sheila Belton Gaymon and Ms JoAnn Williams were recipients.

Delta Eta Chapter was also involved in several legislative efforts at the State House: Chi Day at the State House, where Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated® was granted a Resolution for Health Advocacy. We have also supported a Call to Action (APRNs full practice authority/remove regulatory barriers).

Programs for Youth & Young Adults: Delta Eta has been involved in and supported Girl Scout Troop 2128, aiming to positively impact our youth population. Mrs. Sheila Brown has been serving as a dedicated scout leader for many years. We sponsored the troop with a bountiful supply of paper and school products; also presented a mini focused talk on academics and service. Individual members of our chapter also made personal financial donations to Girl Scout Troop 2128.

Programs for the Elderly: Our dedication to the Delta Eta Turtle Love Initiative (DETLI) remains strong. Through this initiative, our chapter committees and individual members work diligently to support and engage with our esteemed members who are over the age of 75. This includes home visits, organizing home lunches, taking them out for meals, and participating in various activities to show our gratitude for their invaluable service to Delta Eta over the years. For Mother's Day this year, we honored our DETLs with beautiful orchids.

Partnerships: Delta Eta has maintained collaborations with various organizations in the Columbia area to work towards our shared goal of improving the community. The Delta Eta Chapter is a proud partner with the Christ Central Mission downtown Columbia, where members manage the clothes closet and various other programs weekly. Bimonthly, Delta Eta also presents health classes geared toward the elderly residents of Palmetto Oaks Seniors Day Care.

Our partnerships also include Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons in South Carolina, Palmetto Oaks Day Care, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Christ Central Ministries, and SC Black Nurses Association (MSCBNA). In collaboration with MSCBNA, Delta Eta participated in a Maternal Mortality Breakfast. Additional partnerships include AHEPA Senior Living Center and Prisma Health Bra Boutique.

Delta Eta became an organization affiliate with South Carolina Nurses Association (SCNA). Annually, Delta Eta has been a silver sponsor for the SCNA/SCNF. Several members have participated in the annual 5K Run/Walk in Columbia, SC.

Delta Eta established nursing scholarship in memory of our beloved Mrs. Brenda Brown. The scholarship is awarded annually to deserving nursing students to assist with their

nursing education. To date, Delta Eta has awarded \$66,500.00 in nursing scholarships. Delta Eta continues to sponsor an undergraduate Alpha Beta Chapter at the University of South Carolina.

As of June 2026, Delta Eta Chapter has 44 active members working toward a healthier tomorrow and building present and future nurse leaders.



From Front-Back: Sorors Mildred Evans, Chris Rock Fludd, Chris Patterson, Tara King, Wilma White, Sheila Brown, Cicily Huskey, Margaret Bryant, Gwen Simmonds, Frater Dennis Bell, Sorors Jean Hopkins, Bernice Kennedy, Iona Graham, Versie Wilson, Jettiva Belton, Kim Gilmore, Angela Dykes. Seated L-R: Soror JoAnn Wiliams, President; Sheila Belton Gaymon, Vice President.

Coalition for Access to Health Care Annual Report

Submitted by: Judith Zink, MSN, RN, APN-BC

This year we dedicated our time to meeting with legislators and representing our APRNs across the state of SC. We sponsored lobby day with SCNA and had a great turn out. Lobby Day next year will be on February 3, 2027. We will be filing our new FPA legislation in January 2027. We continue to meet monthly and monitor activities and other bills that may affect our APRNs and their patients in SC.

Midlands South Carolina Black Nurses Association Annual Report

Submitted by: Angela Dykes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Midlands South Carolina Black Nurses Association: Advancing Our Mission Through Mentorship, Advocacy, and Community Engagement

Over the past several months, the Midlands South Carolina Black Nurses Association (MSCBNA) has continued to advance its mission of mentorship, leadership, advocacy, and community engagement through a variety of impactful programs and partnerships.

One of our proudest accomplishments was the completion of the Mini Nurse Academy, an

after-school initiative offered in collaboration with Bradley Elementary School. Fifteen fourth- and fifth-grade students successfully completed the 12-week program, where they were introduced to the nursing profession, health promotion, and the importance of caring for the body. The program culminated in student presentations highlighting the major body systems and practical strategies for maintaining health and wellness. Through this initiative, MSCBNA helped inspire future healthcare professionals while reinforcing the value of education, confidence, leadership, and community service at an early age.

Supporting the future of nursing remains a cornerstone of our mission. During our annual Scholarship Luncheon, generously sponsored by Vertex, MSCBNA awarded scholarships to deserving nursing students across South Carolina, helping to support the next generation of nurse leaders. We are grateful to our sponsors, members, and supporters whose contributions continue to make these opportunities possible.

Our commitment to supporting current and future nurses also extended to Nurses Week, when members of the MSCBNA Executive Team visited Fortis College to celebrate with nursing students. The event provided an opportunity to offer encouragement, share professional experiences, provide refreshments, and foster meaningful networking and mentorship opportunities.

MSCBNA has also remained deeply engaged in maternal health education, advocacy, and community dialogue. Recognizing the importance of listening to the voices of those most affected, we hosted a listening session with Black women of reproductive age to better understand their experiences with patient-provider communication. The insights gathered are helping to inform ongoing discussions with academic and community partners focused on strengthening communication, patient advocacy, and respectful maternity care.

To further promote awareness and engagement around maternal health, MSCBNA hosted a unique Paint and Learn event. Combining creativity with education, participants were guided by a local artist in painting an image of a Black pregnant woman while engaging in meaningful discussion about the current state of Black maternal health and opportunities for improvement. The event created a welcoming environment for learning, reflection, and dialogue.

In April, MSCBNA joined with nursing organizations from across South Carolina to host a Maternal Health Awareness Breakfast. This collaborative event brought together nurses, healthcare professionals, educators, and community leaders committed to improving maternal health outcomes. Attendees were honored to hear from guest speaker Dr. Curisa Tucker, Assistant Professor, whose presentation sparked thoughtful conversation and was followed by an engaging panel discussion and audience participation. The event highlighted the power of collaboration and collective action in addressing critical health disparities.

Together, these initiatives reflect MSCBNA's commitment to creating spaces for learning, listening, partnership, and action. Through education, advocacy, mentorship, and community engagement, we continue to work toward healthier communities and a stronger nursing workforce.

Looking ahead, MSCBNA is excited to launch new initiatives focused on cardiovascular and brain health. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to promoting prevention, increasing awareness, and addressing health conditions that significantly impact individuals and families throughout South Carolina. As part of this work, MSCBNA will host a continuing education webinar on heart and brain health this fall. Additional details will be shared in the coming months.

As we move forward, the Midlands South Carolina Black Nurses Association remains steadfast in its commitment to leveraging nursing leadership to mentor future generations, advocate for improved health outcomes, and strengthen the communities we proudly serve.

SCNA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The State of SCNA 2026 *Building the Future of Nursing—Together* 2026 Annual Report
Submitted by: Teshieka K. Curtis-Pugh, MSN, RN, CMSRN, RN-BC, NPD, CRRN

There are moments in an association's history when progress is measured not only in numbers, but in momentum.

This has been one of those defining years.

As I reflect on the past year, I am proud, not because of what the South Carolina Nurses Association accomplished alone, but because of what we accomplished together. Every legislative conversation, educational program, student mentored, partnership formed, community served, and nurse empowered represents our shared commitment to the profession of nursing.

At SCNA, we often say that we are fueled by The Power of Nurses™, but that phrase is much more than a slogan. It is a responsibility. It reminds us that every day we are entrusted with protecting, advancing, and elevating the profession that has given so much to each of us.

Who We Are: Growing Stronger Together

SCNA's membership continued to grow across every region of South Carolina this year, surpassing 2,600 members while expanding organizational affiliates, faculty memberships, specialty nursing organizations, and student engagement opportunities.

Our partnerships with colleges and universities continue to strengthen the pipeline into professional nursing organizations long before graduation, helping students understand that professional membership is more than an extracurricular activity, rather, it is part of becoming a professional nurse.

Growth is not our destination; it is one measure of the trust nurses place in SCNA. Our true focus is impact, seen in the relationships we build, the representation we provide, and the opportunities we create. We are intentionally meeting needs, strengthening connections, and growing communities within the profession we love.

Membership growth affirms that more nurses see SCNA as a meaningful force for change, and that shared belief fuels everything we do next.

What We Have Accomplished: Advocacy Where Decisions Are Made

Advocacy is the heartbeat of SCNA.

At the South Carolina State House and on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., SCNA was present where decisions affecting nursing were being discussed.

Throughout the year, SCNA continued to advocate for:

- Full Practice Authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
- Medicaid Expansion
- Workplace Violence Prevention
- Maternal Health
- Evidence-Based Immunization Education
- Nursing Workforce Development
- Nursing Education
- Health Equity
- Access to Care across rural and underserved communities
- Nursing as a Professional Degree

Our voice has become increasingly recognized because it is thoughtful, collaborative, evidence-based, and always centered on what matters most...the Nurses of South Carolina and every life that they touch.

SCNA also continued serving as a trusted partner through statewide maternal health initiatives, the South Carolina Hospital Association, the American Nurses Association, and numerous coalitions working to improve healthcare across our state.

When policymakers need nursing expertise, they increasingly know where to find it. That presence matters today, and it also shapes the workforce of tomorrow.

Investing in the Future Workforce

Strong professions invest in those who will inherit them.

This year, SCNA expanded opportunities for nursing students through policy experiences, mentorship, scholarship reviews, leadership development, and professional networking, building the bridge between education and professional practice.

Health policy students from the University of South Carolina saw firsthand what advocacy looks like beyond the classroom, while future nurses learned that legislation shapes practice.

Our commitment also extends beyond traditional pathways.

SCNA proudly partnered in the development of the Nurse-Ability initiative, with Able SC and the University of South Carolina College of Nursing, creating opportunities for current and future nurses with disabilities while reinforcing our belief that nursing becomes stronger when everyone has a seat at the table.

As we build the next generation of nurses, SCNA is also carrying South Carolina's voice into broader conversations about the future of healthcare.

Leading Beyond State Lines

South Carolina nursing is making an impact far beyond our borders.

This year, SCNA leadership represented South Carolina nationally and internationally through keynote presentations, national advisory boards, policy discussions, editorial leadership, and professional conferences.

From Washington, D.C., to Atlanta, GA, from Arkansas to Ghana, the voice of South Carolina nurses continues to influence conversations about healthcare, leadership, workforce development, advocacy, and professional excellence.

Our participation ensures that South Carolina is not simply reacting to the future of nursing, but instead we are helping shape it. And that work is strongest when it is shared.

Stronger Together: The Power of Partnership

No organization accomplishes meaningful change alone.

Throughout the year, SCNA strengthened and expanded relationships with healthcare organizations, universities, corporations, nonprofit organizations, advocacy groups, and governmental agencies committed to improving healthcare.

Among many accomplishments, SCNA:

- Expanded relationships with the South Carolina Hospital Association
- Continued collaboration with the American Nurses Association
- Welcomed new Organizational Affiliates
- Strengthened partnerships with colleges and universities
- Partnered with the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation to help nurses better understand educational financing and loan repayment opportunities
- Collaborated with healthcare organizations focused on recovery services, maternal health, workforce development, and community engagement
- Offered SCNA's first half-day campaign school in partnership with Healing Politics
- Secured SCNA's first organizational grant in more than twenty years

These partnerships expand opportunities for nurses and strengthen the long-term sustainability of our association.

Our willingness to collaborate is one of SCNA's greatest strengths. We know that no single organization can meet every need of today's nursing workforce, but together we can accomplish extraordinary things.

This year, we proudly welcomed several new Organizational Affiliates, including the **Neo Hero Foundation, Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority, Delta Eta Chapter, and The Center for Nursing Excellence at the University of South Carolina**. These organizations joined an outstanding group of existing affiliates and strategic partners who continue to invest alongside us in the future of nursing.

SCNA also strengthened its role within the South Carolina Nursing Collaborative, further elevating the collective voice of nursing across our state. Through intentional collaboration, shared advocacy, and coordinated initiatives, we continue to demonstrate that when nursing organizations work together, the profession becomes stronger.

Our goal is not to offer more for the sake of more. Our goal is to offer the right opportunities, meaningful education, relevant advocacy, timely resources, networking, leadership development, and professional support that create measurable value for our members.

That value comes to life through education that supports nurses at every stage of their journey.

Educating Nurses Across Every Career Stage

Professional development remains one of SCNA's greatest responsibilities.

This year alone, SCNA provided webinars, conferences, symposiums, continuing education opportunities, leadership development, policy education, workforce resources, and specialty programming reaching nurses across every stage of practice.

Highlights included:

- 2026 Legislative Day at the SC State Capital
- The inaugural Acute Care Symposium
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Symposium
- Student Loan educational webinars
- Healing Politics Campaign School
- Nurses Month programming
- Nurses Week celebrations across South Carolina
- Continuing Education initiatives
- Specialty nursing collaborations
- Convention planning for another outstanding statewide conference

Education is one of the greatest investments we can make, not simply because nurses need continuing education credits, but because patients deserve nurses who never stop learning.

Behind each of these efforts is a team whose size may be small, but whose reach is statewide.

Small Team. Statewide Impact.

One statistic tells a powerful story.

Everything highlighted throughout this report has been accomplished by an office of **just two full-time staff members**, supported by an extraordinary Board of Directors, resolute committee members, chapter leaders, Organizational Affiliates, volunteers, and engaged members across South Carolina.

Behind every conference, legislative meeting, educational offering, webinar, publication, partnership, sponsorship, membership initiative, and advocacy effort is a small but mighty team committed to serving nearly 100,000 nurses across South Carolina.

Our greatest resource is our people. Their dedication, innovation, and belief in the profession make this work possible every day.

That same commitment guides not only what we do, but how we do it.

Why It Matters: Living Our Values

Some accomplishments cannot be captured fully in reports or financial statements.

They are measured in courage.

SCNA continued advancing conversations surrounding diversity, belonging, health equity, and our Racial Reckoning Journey while intentionally creating space for difficult but necessary conversations about the profession we all love.

We continued to demonstrate that leadership is not about avoiding difficult conversations.

It is about having them with integrity and using them to move the profession forward.

That integrity was visible in the way SCNA showed up for nurses across the state.

The Power of Nurses in Action

Throughout Nurses Month, SCNA traveled across South Carolina to celebrate nurses where they work, learn, serve, and lead.

We visited hospitals, celebrated with nursing students, hosted webinars, partnered with communities, attended sporting events, supported specialty organizations, and celebrated our largest Nurses 5K to date.

While May gave us an opportunity to celebrate nurses publicly, our advocacy did not begin on May 1, and it did not end on May 31.

Every legislative meeting, phone call, email, partnership, educational opportunity, media interview, coalition meeting, and conversation about healthcare represents SCNA working for nurses.

Every single day.

The scope of that work is reflected in everything that we do.

Our Vision for the Future

The future has never looked brighter because the work is already underway.

As healthcare continues to evolve, nursing must evolve with it and SCNA is committed to helping lead that evolution.

One of the greatest accomplishments this year was not SCNA's alone, but ANAs as well. Last October at the 2025 SCNA Annual Meeting, our members voted to welcome LPs into the association. As an organization that claims to represent the profession of nursing, ensuring that all nurses have an opportunity to become members was a vital step forward. At the 2026 ANA Membership Assembly, that opportunity became available to LPNs across the country! The historic 88.2% in favor vote was a testament to our shared commitment to represent every nurse, at every level. The electrifying energy in the room, only solidified what I believe, we all already knew...our professions are strongest when we all have a voice.

It is with that in mind that SCNA will continue investing in advocacy, innovation, leadership development, workforce initiatives, continuing education, strategic partnerships, and expanding opportunities for every nurse across South Carolina.

Our vision is bold because the future demands bold leadership.

Nurses deserve nothing less.

An Invitation to Every Nurse

If you are already an SCNA member, thank you. You make this work possible.

Your membership is more than an annual investment; it is an investment in every nurse practicing today and every student preparing to become one tomorrow.

If you are not yet a member, I invite you to join us.

Join the organization advocating for your profession in legislative chambers, investing in the future nursing workforce, creating educational opportunities, strengthening partnerships, expanding professional resources, and ensuring that the voice of nursing is heard wherever healthcare decisions are made.

Because here is the truth: whether you see us or not, SCNA is working for you every day.

Imagine what we can accomplish when every nurse in South Carolina collaborates with us.

Together, we are not simply preparing for the future of nursing, we are leading the way in creating it!

Together, we are **The Power of Nurses™**.

2026 Year at a Glance

An executive snapshot of SCNA's momentum, reach, partnerships, and priorities across the year.

Advocacy & Policy Influence

- Advocated for APRN Full Practice Authority (State and Federal)
- Continued leadership supporting Medicaid Expansion
- Advanced workplace violence prevention efforts
- Represented South Carolina nurses during ANA Hill Day and Membership Assembly
- Participated in statewide maternal health initiatives

Membership & Association Growth

- Membership surpassed 2,600 nurses
- Expanded faculty and bulk membership initiatives
- Added new Organizational Affiliates
- Increased engagement with nursing students statewide
- Continued growth across every membership category

Education & Professional Development

- Hosted Legislative Day
- Hosted the inaugural Acute Care Symposium
- Hosted Psychiatric-Mental Health Symposium
- Continued the SC Student Loan Corporation webinar series
- Expanded continuing education opportunities
- Hosted Healing Politics Campaign School and follow-up programming
- Presented dozens of educational sessions across South Carolina

Partnerships & Collaboration

New Organizational Affiliates:

- Neo Hero Foundation
- Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority – Delta Eta Chapter
- Center for Nursing Excellence at the University of South Carolina

Strengthened partnerships with:

- American Nurses Association
- South Carolina Hospital Association
- South Carolina Student Loan Corporation
- Johnson & Johnson
- WayPoint Recovery Services
- Kelly Willenberg & Associates
- Numerous academic institutions and healthcare organizations

Leadership & Representation

SCNA staff leadership represented South Carolina at:

- ANA Membership Assembly

- ANA Hill Day
- American Nurse Journal Editorial Board
- Ghana Diaspora Nurses Alliance
- AORN Regional Conference
- SCASE Annual Conference
- ECPI University Commencement
- Clinton College Nursing Pinning Ceremony
- Statewide healthcare conferences, universities, and policy forums

Innovation & Sustainability

- Secured SCNA's first grant in more than 20 years
- Continued organizational technology modernization
- Implemented operational efficiencies
- Expanded sponsorship opportunities
- Advanced dynamic reporting initiatives (ANA)
- Continued strategic planning for long-term sustainability

Community Visibility & Impact

- Celebrated Nurses Month across South Carolina
- Hosted the largest SCNA Nurses 5K to date
- Expanded student engagement
- Increased visibility in hospitals and communities
- Supported future nurse leaders through mentorship and policy experiences

Impact by the Numbers

2,600+ SCNA Members	100,000+ Nurses represented across South Carolina
2 Dedicated full-time staff	Countless Volunteers, board members, committee members, chapters, Organizational Affiliates, and nurse accomplices
One Mission	Advancing Nursing. Improving Health. Serving Nurses Every Day.

We Showed Up.

For nurses. For patients. For students. For educators. For communities. For legislation.
For healthcare. For the future.

Because nurses deserve an organization that works for them every single day.

JOIN SCNA TODAY!!!

Proposed SCNA Legislative Priorities 2026-2028

The South Carolina Nurses Association has among its purposes:

- 1). To promote the quality of life and health care for all people
- 2). To foster the nursing profession as a leading, positive force in the health care delivery system

To achieve these broad purposes, the SCNA will provide leadership in the legislative and public policy arena

To promote the quality of life and health care for all people in South Carolina, SCNA will:

- 1). Promote access to and delivery of safe, cost effective, quality health services for the public
- 2). Protect nursing care services to the public with emphasis in the licensed nurses' roles as qualified providers of healthcare services
- 3). Support equal rights and opportunities for all peoples unrestricted by consideration of age, color, creed, disability, gender, health status, lifestyle, nationality, race, religion, or sexual orientation
- 4). Support legislation that promotes and protects environmental health in the home, at the work site, in the community
- 5). Initiate and/or support legislation to assure comprehensive health care services to all people, especially vulnerable populations

To foster the nursing profession in its role as a provider, leader, and collaborator in the health care delivery system, SCNA will:

- 1). Initiate, monitor and respond to all activity which would affect the practice of nursing
- 2). Assure nursing participation in planning, development, and evaluation of policies related to health care
- 3). Support and protect the rights of nurses in the workplace
- 4). Initiate and support the procurement of public and private funding for nursing education and nursing research

Adopted:

November 15, 2002 SCNA House of Delegates
November 11, 2006 SCNA Annual Meeting

Revised and Approved:

October 25, 2008 SCNA Annual Meeting
October 23, 2010 SCNA Annual Meeting
September 22, 2012 SCNA Annual Meeting
October 24, 2014 SCNA Annual Meeting
November 12, 2016 SCNA Annual Meeting
November 3, 2017 SCNA Annual Meeting
October 4, 2018 SCNA Annual Meeting
October 24, 2019 SCNA Annual Meeting
October 15, 2020 SCNA Annual Meeting
October 20, 2022 SCNA Annual Meeting
October 23, 2025 SCNA Annual Meeting

2026-2028 SCNA Legislative and Policy Agenda

Full Practice Authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)

- Ensure that Nurse Practitioners (NP), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM), and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) in SC can practice fully within their scope, under the licensure authority of the state board of nursing.

Protecting Nurses and other Healthcare Providers from Workplace Violence

- Support efforts to address workplace violence against nurses and other healthcare providers.

Nursing and Healthcare Workforce Development

- Support nursing and healthcare workforce development in SC including, but not limited to, removing barriers to licensure, tuition reimbursement, and Title VIII programs.

Access to Medical Cannabis

- Support efforts to ensure patients have access to cannabis for medicinal purposes under the direction and oversight of an authorized healthcare provider.

Remove Barriers to Health Insurance Coverage

- Support efforts to eliminate the health insurance coverage gap by eliminating barriers for working South Carolinians.

**The SCNA is committed to supporting safe, effective healthcare through elevating efforts to promote safety and quality in nursing and other healthcare work environments in SC.*

Governance and 2025 South Carolina Nurses Association Bylaws

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

The State of South Carolina, }
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT. } CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Whereas, Mrs. Ether C. Mouzon, and May C. Felder, of Florence, S. C. and
Darlington, S. C., respectively, and Alice B. Commer, Florence, S. C.,

two or more of the officers or agents appointed to supervise or manage the affairs of

South Carolina Graduate Nurses Association,

which has been duly and regularly organized, did on the **second** day of
June, A. D. **1932**, file with the Secretary of State a written declaration setting forth:

That, at a meeting of the aforesaid organization held pursuant to the by-laws or regulations of the said organization,
they were authorized and directed to apply for incorporation.

That, the said organization holds, or desires to hold, property in common for Religious, Educational, Social, Fra-
ternal, Charitable or other eleemosynary purpose, or any two or more of said purposes, and is not organized for the purpose
of profit or gain to the members, otherwise than is above stated, nor for the insurance of life, health, accident or property;
and that three days' notice in the **The Morning News**, a newspaper published
in the County of **Florence**, has been given that the aforesaid Declaration would be filed.

AND WHEREAS, Said Declarants and Petitioners further declared and affirmed:

FIRST: Their names and residences are as above given.

SECOND: The name of the proposed Corporation is

SOUTH CAROLINA GRADUATE NURSES ASSOCIATION.

THIRD: The place at which it proposes to have its headquarters or be located is
Florence, S. C.

FOURTH: The purpose of the said proposed Corporation is

For maintaining and raising the standards of the nurses of South Carolina.

FIFTH: The names and residences of all Managers, Trustees, Directors or other officers are as follows:

Mrs. Esther G. Mouzon, President, Francis J. Bulow, Alice B. Commer,
Mrs. Mae C. Felder, Secretary, Millie C. Cunningham,
Ruth Garrett, Annie Dominick, Mrs. Vincent Price, and
Agnes Coogan, Directors.

SIXTH: That they desire to be incorporated: **In perpetuity.**

Now, THEREFORE, I, **W. P. Blackwell**, Secretary of State, by virtue of the authority in
me vested, by Chapter 4564, Article III, Code of 1922, and Acts amendatory thereto, do hereby declare the said organization
to be a body politic and corporate, with all the rights, powers, privileges and immunities, and subject to all the limitations and
liabilities, conferred by said Chapter 4564, Article III, Code of 1922, and Acts amendatory thereto.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the State, at Columbia,
this **2nd** day of **June** in the year
of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and **thirty two**
and in the one hundred and **fifty sixth** year of the
Independence of the United States of America.

(SEAL)

Secretary of State

SCNA 501c6 STATUS

Internal Revenue Service

Date: July 2, 2004

Nurses Association of South Carolina
1821 Gadsden St.
Columbia, SC29201-2344

Department of the Treasury
P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Person to Contact:

Sheila Schrom 31-02836
Customer Service Representative

Toll Free Telephone Number:

8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST
877-829-5500

Fax Number:

513-263-3756

Federal Identification Number:

57-2491330

Group Exemption Number:

1981

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to your request of July 2, 2004 regarding a copy of your organization's group exemption letter.

In February 1969 we issued a determination letter that recognized your organization as exempt from federal income tax. Our records indicate that your organization is currently exempt under section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. Based on the information supplied, we also recognized the subordinates named on the list your organization submitted as exempt from Federal income tax under 501(c)(6) of the Code.

Your organization and each of its subordinates are required to file Form 990, *Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax*, only if the gross receipts each year are normally more than \$25,000. If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the organization's annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of \$20 a day, up to a maximum of \$10,000, when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay.

Unless specifically excepted, your organization and its subordinates are liable for taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) on remuneration of \$100 or more to each of the organization's employees during a calendar year. Your organization and its subordinates are also liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Your organization and its subordinates are not required to file federal income tax returns unless subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If subject to this tax, the organization must file an income tax return on Form 990-T, *Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return*. In this letter, we are not determining whether any of your organization or its subordinates' present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

Each year, at least 90 days before the end of your organization's annual accounting period, please send the items listed below to the Internal Revenue Service Center at the address shown at the end of this letter.

MISSION OF SCNA

The mission of the South Carolina Nurses Association is to represent all South Carolina registered nurses in a membership organization to promote and advocate the role of the registered nurse to improve health for all. – 2017

MISSION OF ANA

Nurses advancing our profession to improve health for all. – 2016

PHILOSOPHY OF SCNA

1. SCNA believes that nursing is a professional discipline and an essential service in meeting the health care needs of patients as individuals, groups, or communities. In support of this philosophy:
2. Nursing practice for registered nurses is defined in the nurse practice act of the State of South Carolina as “the performance of acts that involve assessment, analysis, intervention and evaluation. This practice requires specialized independent judgment and skill, and is based on knowledge and application of the principles of biophysical and social sciences;”
3. Nurses practice autonomously or collaboratively in accordance with their education and clinical credentials;
4. Nurses are encouraged to seek baccalaureate and higher degrees, to engage in lifelong learning and be employed according to role preparation;
5. Critical thinking is an essential competency for registered nurses;
6. Nurses are responsible to consumers for their practice and therefore must be responsive to individuals at all levels of wellness and from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds;
7. Nurses are responsible for the ethical practice of nursing according to the Code of Ethics for Nurses With Interpretive Statements, 2015;
8. Nurses are engaged in activities to improve health care standards and health care accessibility for all people;
9. All nursing practice includes the art of caring. Professional nurses are providers, managers, coordinators, educators, administrators, researchers of care in all settings;
10. “Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) means a registered nurse who is prepared for an advanced practice registered nursing role by virtue of additional knowledge and skills gained through an advanced formal education program of nursing in a specialty area that is approved by the Board of Nursing. The categories of APRN are the nurse practitioner (NP), certified nurse-midwife (CNM), clinical nurse specialist (CNS), and certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA). The NP, CNM, CNS, and CRNA hold a nursing doctorate, a post-nursing master’s certificate or a minimum of a master’s degree that includes advanced education composed of didactic and supervised clinical practice in a specific area of advanced practice registered nursing” (SC Nurse Practice Act);
11. Nurses are responsible for their own professional development and competencies. Continuing education and other professional activities enhance nursing practice and help to assure consumers of

safe quality and competent care. Nurses are encouraged to obtain and maintain competence.

“Competence is a dynamic concept, changing as the licensed nurse achieves a higher stage of development, responsibility, and accountability within the role. The role encompasses the possession and interrelation of essential knowledge, judgment, attitudes, values, skills and abilities which are varied and range in complexity” (SC Nurse Practice Act);

12. Nurses assure competent care and advance the practice of nursing by promotion, dissemination and utilization of research findings;
 13. Nurses influence health policy through legislative and political and advocacy actions;
 14. Workplace advocacy issues are a vital concern for nurses and nursing;
 15. Marketing the professional practice of nursing and the Professional Association to the public, legislators, and nurses is a priority.
-

Approved by the Board of Directors, October 14, 1981

Revised: February 2013, May 2021

Reviewed: August 2015; January 2017



2025 South Carolina Nurses Association Bylaws

ARTICLE I: TITLE, PURPOSES, FUNCTIONS

Section 1. Title

The name of this Association shall be the South Carolina Nurses Association, hereinafter referred to as SCNA.

Section 2. Purposes

The purposes of the SCNA shall be to:

- a. foster high standards of nursing.
- b. promote the professional and educational advancement of nurses.
- c. promote the welfare of nurses.
- d. promote better health care for all people.

The purposes shall be unrestricted by consideration of age, color, creed, disability, gender, health status, lifestyle, nationality, race, religion, or sexual orientation.

The purposes of SCNA do not include dealing with employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, or terms or conditions of employment.

Section 3. Functions

The functions of the SCNA shall be to

- a. promote, through appropriate means, standards of nursing practice, nursing education, and nursing services as defined by the American Nurses Association, ANA.
- b. insure adherence to the code of ethical conduct for nurses established by ANA.
- c. promote legislation and speak for the nursing profession in regard to legislation, governmental programs and health policy.
- d. support maintenance of nurse resources to meet health care needs.

- e. promote and protect the economic and professional security of nurses.
- f. represent and speak for the professional nurse with allied health groups, state and local organizations, governmental bodies and the public.
- g. represent and speak for the nursing profession with allied health groups, state and local organizations, governmental bodies and the public.
- h. provide for the continuing professional development of nurses.
- i. provide for representation in the annual Membership Assembly of ANA
- j. promote relationships with the South Carolina Student Nurses Association.

ARTICLE II: CHAPTERS

Section 1. Definition

Groups of nurses who are members of the South Carolina Nurses Association which have been or hereafter may be organized based on shared nursing practice interests or geographical boundaries. SCNA Chapters shall operate under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the SCNA Board of Directors. The MOA shall be reviewed annually by the SCNA Board.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Composition

- a. SCNA shall have membership open to all nurses and meet the qualifications of membership as in these bylaws.
- b. SCNA shall be composed of Full Members who belong to the American Nurses Association (ANA) through the state and have representation in the International Council of Nurses through the ANA and who may have membership in the SCNA Chapters; and State-Only Members who live and/or practice in the state of South Carolina only pursuant to a sanctioned agreement with ANA.
- c. The SCNA shall remain affiliated with the American Nurses Association until such time as 2/3 of the entire SCNA full membership votes to disaffiliate from the ANA. SCNA membership, for these purposes, is defined as individual members of the SCNA who have ANA rights and privileges of membership as a result of their SCNA membership. The vote may occur by mail or electronic ballot, with appropriate notice and procedures to protect the integrity and validity of the vote.
- d. SCNA shall have membership open to all registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and licensed vocational nurses who meet the qualifications of membership as in these bylaws. Licensed practical nurses and licensed vocational nurses are open to a state-only membership with the SCNA. If the ANA passes membership acceptance for licensed practical nurses, SCNA will adopt the ANA model.
- e. SCNA shall be composed of Full Members who belong to the American Nurses Association (ANA) through the state and have representation in the International Council of Nurses through the ANA and who may have membership in the SCNA Chapters; and State-Only Members who live and/or practice in the state of South Carolina only pursuant to a sanctioned agreement with ANA.
- f. The SCNA shall remain affiliated with the American Nurses Association until such time as 2/3 of the entire SCNA full membership votes to disaffiliate from the ANA. SCNA membership, for these purposes, is defined as individual members of the SCNA who have ANA rights and privileges of membership as a result of their SCNA membership.

Section 2. Qualifications

- a. A member is one—
 - 1. who has been granted a license to practice as a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or licensed vocational nurse in at least one state or territory, or possession of the United States and does not have a license under suspension or revocation in any state, or is otherwise entitled by law

to practice and whose renewal of membership shall be contingent upon the granting of licensure as a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or licensed vocational nurse;

2. who may be a nurse in recovery who has surrendered a license to practice, or a nurse who has retired and/or no longer chooses to practice, but whose license was in good standing with his/her licensing board at the time the nurse made the decision not to maintain an active license;
3. whose application for membership in SCNA has been accepted;
4. whose dues are not delinquent;
5. whose membership is not under revocation for violation of the Code of Ethics for Nurses With Interpretive Statements, 2015 or the bylaws of this Association.
6. Honorary Full Membership shall be given to those registered nurses at the discretion of the SCNA Board of Directors. There shall be no dues amount associated with honorary membership.

Section 3. Membership Rights and Obligations

a. Full Members shall have memberships rights as follows:

1. Participate in the elections of SCNA in accordance with these Bylaws.
2. Participate in the elections of SCNA's two representatives and alternates to the annual Membership Assembly of ANA.
3. Serve SCNA and ANA in elected and appointed positions in accordance with SCNA and ANA Bylaws.
4. Fulfill the requirements of office if elected or appointed.
5. Attend the SCNA Annual Meeting, the ANA Membership Assembly and any other unrestricted activities SCNA and ANA.
6. Attend the Quadrennial Congress of the International Council of Nurses.
7. Utilize such SCNA and ANA services as may be available.
8. Submit proposals for consideration to SCNA.
9. Hold membership in SCNA Chapters in accordance with provisions of the Bylaws.
10. Receive a Constituent SCNA/ANA membership card.
11. Receive the SC Nurse and ANA Membership Publications.
12. Have the right of due process for the denial of any of the above rights.
13. Shall have the right to receive benefits from the ANA as a member at the national level

b. State-Only Members shall have membership rights as follows:

1. Participate in the elections of SCNA in accordance with SCNA Bylaws.
2. Serve SCNA in elected and appointed positions in accordance with SCNA Bylaws.
3. Attend any meeting and unrestricted activities of SCNA.
4. Utilize such SCNA services as may be available.

5. Receive an SCNA membership card.
6. Receive the SC Nurse.
7. Submit proposals for consideration to SCNA.
8. Hold membership in SCNA Chapters in accordance with provision of the SCNA Bylaws.
9. Have the right of due process for the denial of any of the above rights.
10. Shall have no rights to belong to or receive benefits from the ANA at the national level.

c. Full Members shall have membership obligations as follows:

1. Abide by the Bylaws of SCNA and ANA.
2. Abide by the most recently published version of the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements.
3. Pay dues as required by the Bylaws.
4. Fulfill the requirements of office if elected or appointed.

d. State-Only Members shall have membership obligations as follows:

1. Abide by the Bylaws of SCNA.
2. Abide by the most recently published version of the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements.
3. Pay dues as required by the Bylaws.
4. Fulfill the requirements of office if elected or appointed.

e. Honorary Members do not have the obligation to pay dues as required by the Bylaws.

PROVISO

The following categories of membership are not available to individuals joining after February 1, 2023.

- SCNA/ANA Premier Member
- SCNA/ANA Premier paying 50% dues
- SCNA/ANA Premier paying 25% dues
- State-Only Member

Section 4. Disciplinary Action

- a. A member may be disciplined for cause by SCNA or by a Chapter. Charges shall be filed with the Association in whose jurisdiction the alleged violation occurred.
- b. Cause for disciplinary action may include violation of—

1. the purpose, goals, and bylaws of SCNA; or
 2. the most recently published version of the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements as adopted by the ANA Board of Directors.
 3. Cause for disciplinary action may include violation of the ANA Bylaws.
- c. Subject to these Bylaws and the South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1994, as amended (the "Act"), a member may be expelled or suspended, and a membership in SCNA terminated if not less than fifteen (15) days prior written notice, sent by first class or certified mail, of the proposed expulsion, suspension, or termination of a member and the reason therefore shall be delivered to such member in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article III, Section 5 hereof. Such notice shall set forth the date, place, and time such member shall be given the opportunity to be heard orally by the hearing panel, which shall be not less than five (5) days before the effective date of the expulsion, suspension, or termination. Such notice shall also set forth the address to which and date by which such member may to be heard in writing by the hearing panel, which shall be not less than five (5) days before the effective date of the expulsion, suspension, or termination. Upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the hearing panel, SCNA acting fair and reasonable taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and circumstances, may expel or suspend a member, or terminate such membership. A member who has been expelled or suspended shall remain liable to SCNA for dues, assessments, or fees as a result of obligations incurred or commitments made before such expulsion or suspension.
- d. No disciplinary action shall be taken unless the member is served with written specific charges, given a reasonable time to prepare a defense, and given a fair hearing in accordance with common parliamentary and statutory law.
- e. A member may be suspended, terminated, censured or expelled by a hearing panel, established by, but not composed of, the SCNA Board of Directors.
- f. The decision of the hearing panel may be appealed to the SCNA Board of Directors; the decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.
- g. SCNA Chapters, and other Constituent/State Nurses Associations (C/SNAs) shall be notified by SCNA when a member has been subject to any disciplinary action by SCNA.
- h. Expulsion of a member from SCNA shall result in expulsion from the Chapter.
- i. An expelled SCNA member shall be reinstated upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors.
- j. A member expelled by SCNA who is subsequently reinstated by SCNA shall be automatically reinstated by the Chapter.
- k. Any disciplinary action by a Constituent/State Nurses Association (C/SNAs) against one of its members shall be given full recognition and enforcement, provided such action was taken in accordance with the disciplining C/SNA Bylaws and disciplinary procedures.

Section 5. Notice of Disciplinary Action

- a. An oral notice to members is permissible if reasonable under the circumstances and is effective when communicated in a comprehensible manner.
- b. Written notice to address on file, if in comprehensible form, is effective at the earliest of the following:

When received;

- 1. Five (5) days after its deposit in the United States mail, if mailed correctly addressed with first class postage affixed;
 - 2. On the date shown on the return receipt, if sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and the receipt is signed by or on behalf of the addressee; or
 - 3. Fifteen (15) days after its deposit in the United States mail, if mailed correctly addressed and with other than first class, registered, or certified postage affixed.
- c. A written notice or report delivered as part of a newsletter, magazine or other publication regularly sent to members constitutes a written notice or report if addressed or delivered to the member's address shown in SCNA's current list of members, or in the case of members who are residents of the same household and who have the same address in SCNA's current list of members, if addressed or delivered to one of such members, at the address appearing on SCNA's current list of members.

ARTICLE IV: ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATES

Section 1. Qualifications

An organizational affiliate of SCNA is an association that-

- a. Is a national or state organization that meets established Organization Affiliates Criteria.
- b. Has been granted organizational affiliate status by the Board of Directors.
- c. Has paid an organizational affiliation fee to SCNA.

Section 2. Responsibilities

Each organizational affiliate shall maintain a mission and purpose harmonious with the purposes and functions of SCNA and shall have a governing body composed of a majority of registered nurses.

Section 3. Rights

Each organizational affiliate shall be entitled to

- a. One participant shall have a voice, but no vote, in the SCNA Annual Membership Meeting.
- b. Make reports or presentations to the SCNA Annual Membership Meeting within its area of expertise.
- c. Submit names of representatives for appointment to ad hoc groups, and task forces.

ARTICLE V: DUES

Section 1. Amount of Dues

a. SCNA/ANA Standard and SCNA/ANA Premier Membership includes:

1. ANA Dues:

- a) SCNA will pay dues to ANA in accordance with the policies adopted by the Membership Assembly.
- b) The SCNA shall continue to pay dues to the ANA pursuant to the ANA Bylaws and Membership Assembly policy. SCNA will follow the implementation of the dues, including the Dues Escalator according to the calendar accepted by ANA.

2. SCNA Dues:

- a) The amount of the annual SCNA dues shall be established by 2/3 vote of the Full Members present and voting at the Annual Membership Meeting of the SCNA.
- b) The SCNA Board of Directors may establish a policy providing for an automatic cost of living increase in the SCNA dues...a dues escalator. This dues escalator, based on the Consumer Price Index for urban consumers (CPI-U), will increase triennially at the same time as ANA's inflation escalation and pass through to the ANA SCNA full members with notice but without requiring additional authorization of the Annual Meeting. It will never exceed more than 2 percent per annum. SCNA will follow the implementation of the dues, including the Dues Escalator according to the calendar accepted by ANA.
- c) The Board of Directors shall establish an operating budget for the chapters from the SCNA dues.
- d) No monies shall be refunded nor additional monies collected when a change in dues category is made within a membership year.

b. State-Only Membership includes:

1. State-Only Membership Dues shall be established by the Board of Directors.

- a) State-Only Membership Dues shall include SCNA dues and those fees established through agreement with the ANA for purposes of representation at the national/international level and any service fees.

- b) The SCNA Board of Directors may establish a policy providing for an automatic cost of living increase in the SCNA dues...a dues escalator. This dues escalator, based on the Consumer Price Index for urban consumers (CPI-U), will increase triennially at the same time as ANA's inflation escalation and pass through to the ANA SCNA full members with notice but without requiring additional authorization of the Annual Meeting. It will never exceed more than 2 percent per annum.
- c) No monies shall be refunded nor additional monies collected when a change in dues category is made within a membership year.

c. SCNA/ANA Premier Membership

- 1. SCNA/ANA Premier Membership dues are established and determined by ANA and SCNA upon implementation of VVP.

Section 2. Notification of Dues Changes

The SCNA Members shall be notified in writing of any proposal to change the dues at least sixty (60) days prior to the SCNA Annual Membership Meeting at which the proposal is to be voted upon.

Section 3. South Carolina Nurse

Of the dues paid by members, a portion, as decided by the Board, will be for an annual subscription to the Association's official publication, The S. C. Nurse.

Section 4. Special Member Dues for Full Members

- a. SCNA/ANA Premier Members who qualify for the following may elect to pay fifty percent (50%) of the dues:
 - 1. Registered Nurses who are not employed;
 - 2. Registered Nurses who are students in full time study;
 - 3. Graduates of the basic nursing programs for a first year of membership if initiated within six (6) months following graduation and those members who are continuing in a second year of membership following the condition of (b), for those who were members in good standing of the Student Nurses Association of South Carolina;
- b. SCNA/ANA Premier Members who qualify for the following may elect to pay twenty-five (25%) percent of the dues:
 - 1. sixty-six (66) years of age or older, who are not employed

2. new RN's who were members in good standing of the Student Nurses Association of South Carolina before graduation from their under graduate nursing program, for the first year of membership, if the membership is initiated within six (6) months of licensure.
- c. State-Only Members do not qualify for any special member dues rates.

Section 5. Transfers of Memberships

- a. A Full Member who moves out of this state may apply to the Secretary of this Association for transfer to another Constituent/State Nurses Association of the ANA. The SCNA is not required to refund to the individual member dues already paid.
- b. A Full Member who has made full payment of dues to another Constituent/State Nurses Association of the ANA may transfer to this Association without further payment of dues for the remainder of the membership year. The request for transfer shall be signed by the Secretary of the Constituent Member Association issuing the transfer.
- c. State-Only Members who are in good standing may transfer from or to a Constituent Member State that has a State-Only Membership option if an agreement between the Constituent Member States has been established.
- d. A State-Only Member who has made full payment of dues to another Constituent Member Association of the ANA may transfer to this Association without further payment of dues for the remainder of the membership year, in compliance with Article V, Section 5 (c). The request for transfer shall be signed by the Secretary of the Constituent Member Association issuing the transfer.

ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Definition

The Board of Directors is the corporate body composed of officers, directors, and commission chairs, as elected by the members of SCNA.

Section 2. Composition

- a. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the Association which are President, President-elect, Secretary/Treasurer, two (2) directors one of whom is a newly licensed nurse who graduated within five (5) years from a basic nursing program and who is a direct care provider, and two (2) Chairpersons of the Commissions.
- b. President of South Carolina Nurses Foundation (SCNF) or the President's designee shall be eligible to attend meetings of the Board with voice but without vote.
- c. The President of the South Carolina Student Nurses Association or the President's designee shall be eligible to attend meetings of the Board with voice but without vote.
- d. All Chapter executive committee chairs shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors with voice, but without vote.
- e. The Immediate Past President of the South Carolina Nurses Association shall be appointed to the Board of Directors as an ex-officio member with voice but without vote for a period of one year. This appointment may be renewed for an additional year by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors not to exceed a total of two consecutive years.

Section 3. Responsibilities

- a. Officers shall be elected by mail or elections balloting as hereinafter provided. Candidate for President and President Elect shall also be listed as candidates for representatives to the Membership Assembly of ANA. Vacancies in office shall be filled as hereinafter provided.
- b. No members of the Board shall—
 - 1. serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office;
 - 2. serve more than ten (10) consecutive years on the Board;
 - 3. hold more than one (1) seat on the Board at a time;
 - 4. serve as a member of the Professional Advocacy and Development Commission
- c. A Board Member who serves one-half (1/2) term or more shall be considered to have served a full term.

- d. Officers shall have the authority and shall perform the duties usually performed by such officers, and also such duties as specified in the SCNA Book of Positions and Roles and as authorized by the Board of Directors of this Association.
- e. The Secretary/Treasurer shall have responsibility for preparing minutes of the directors' and members' meetings and for authenticating records of SCNA.

Section 4. Vacancies

Absence from two consecutive meetings may be the cause for declaring a vacancy as determined by a majority of the Board of Directors. A vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors with the exception of the office of President. If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the President-elect shall assume the office of President and the Board of Directors shall appoint a new President-Elect.

ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Definition

The Executive Committee shall have the administrative power to transact all SCNA business between Board meetings and serves as the personnel committee for the Association; provided however, no committee may authorize distributions; approve or recommend to members dissolution, merger, or the sale, pledge, or transfer of all or substantially all the SCNA's assets; elect, appoint, or remove Directors or fill vacancies on the board or on any committee; or adopt, repeal, or amend the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

Section 2. Composition

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, the President-elect, and the Secretary/Treasurer. Only members of the Board of Directors shall serve as voting members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Section 1. Definition

The Board of Directors shall delegate to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) the authority to manage the association according to policies established by the SCNA Annual Membership Meeting and the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Accountability

The CEO shall be accountable to the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Responsibilities

- a. The CEO shall employ, direct, promote and terminate staff of the association.
- b. The CEO may represent the association and serve as spokesperson on matters of established policy and positions.

ARTICLE IX: COMMISSIONS

Section 1. Definition

A commission is a specific body of organization and communication to which the Annual Membership Meeting assigns specific responsibilities related to fulfilling the functions of SCNA. Commissions are accountable to the Board of Directors and report to the Annual Membership Meeting.

Section 2. Composition and Designation

The following Commissions are established with membership consisting of the chairperson or designated representative of the structural units listed below each:

- a. Commission on Professional Advocacy and Development
 - 1. Peer Assistance Program
 - 2. Continuing Education Approver Committee
 - 3. Continuing Education Provider Committee
- b. Commission on Public Policy / Legislation
 - 1. Legislative Committee

Section 3. Responsibilities

Each Commission shall perform the duties as specified in the SCNA Book of Positions and Roles and as designated by the Board of Directors of this association.

ARTICLE X: ELECTED COMMITTEES

Section 1. Definition

The Nominating Committee shall be the only elected committee of the South Carolina Nurses Association.

Section 2. Composition

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of not more than seven (7) SCNA/ANA Premier Members of the Association representative of the fields related to the Committee's functions.

- a. All Committee members shall be elected by the membership in even-numbered years to serve a two (2) year term.
- b. The elected member receiving the highest number of votes shall convene the first meeting of the committee, at which point the committee shall elect its own chair.
- c. Committee members shall be eligible to serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms. A Committee member who has served one-half (1/2) term or more shall be considered to have served a full term.

Section 3. Responsibilities

- a. The Nominating Committee is responsible for developing and implementing a program of activity to carry out the Committee's functions within the bylaws and policies determined by the Annual Membership Meeting, the Board of Directors and the SCNA Book of Positions and Roles.
- b. The Nominating Committee shall determine the extent of the Association's concerns, actions and influence in its respective area of responsibility.
- c. The Nominating Committee shall report and be accountable to the Board of Directors and Annual Membership Meeting.

ARTICLE XI: APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Section 1. Definition

There shall be the following committees: Committee on Bylaws, Continuing Education Approver Committee, Continuing Education Provider Committee, and Finance Committee.

Section 2. Composition

- a. Appointed Committees, with the exception of the Continuing Education Approver Committee and the Continuing Education Provider Committee, shall consist of no fewer than five (5) members appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors, unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws, to serve for two (2) years or until their successors are appointed.
- b. The Continuing Education Approver Committee and the Continuing Education Provider Committee shall consist of no fewer than five (5) members but no more than fifteen (15) members appointed by the President with approval of the Board of Directors unless otherwise specified in the bylaws, to serve for three (3) years on a staggered basis or until their successors are appointed.
- c. Members of the Committee on Bylaws must be SCNA/ANA Standard or Premier Members.

Section 3. Responsibilities

- a. The authority and responsibility of such Committees shall be the investigation and study of matters relating to the accomplishment of the purposes, functions, and/or administration of the Association of a continuous and recurring character and within the limitations of the defined responsibilities.
- b. In addition, the Continuing Education Approver Committee and the Continuing Education Provider Committee shall be responsible for the continuing education approver unit activities and continuing education provider unit activities within SCNA.
- c. The Committees shall:
 - 1. report their findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors and the Annual Membership Meeting;
 - 2. create subcommittees to accomplish specified tasks related to the Committee's duties;
 - 3. prepare an annual budget based on the planned income and expenditures and submit it to the Committee on Finance for incorporation into the annual budget;
 - 4. The Continuing Education Approver Committee and the Continuing Education Provider Committee will develop and implement those functions relative to approving and providing ANCC accredited continuing education activities within SCNA.

Section 4. Vacancies

Absence from two consecutive regular meetings of a committee may be cause for declaring a vacancy as determined by a majority of the Board of Directors. A vacancy in a Committee shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors from nominees submitted by members of the Committee and structural units of SCNA.

ARTICLE XII: SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Section 1. Definition

There shall be Special Committees as created by the Annual Membership Meeting, the Board of Directors, or other Association units so authorized.

Section 2. Composition

The qualifications and number of members of these Committees shall be determined by the Annual Membership Meeting, the Board of Directors or other Association units so authorized.

ARTICLE XIII: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Candidates

- a. Any Full Member in good standing is eligible for elected or appointed office in SCNA.
- b. Any State-Only Member in good standing is eligible for elected or appointed office at the state level with the exception of President, President-elect, and Representatives and Alternates to Membership Assembly of ANA, and members of the Nominating Committee.
- c. State-only members may vote for all officers. State-only members cannot vote for the two members to attend the Membership Assembly of ANA or the Alternates to the Representatives or the members of the Nominating Committee.
- d. Representatives and alternates to the ANA Membership Assembly shall be a separate election.
- e. Members shall be considered eligible in one elected office in SCNA at any one time with the exception of the nominating committee and/or Representatives to Membership Assembly or Chapter Officers.

Section 2. Nominations

- a. Candidates for office shall meet established qualifications and shall consent to serve if elected.
- b. An individual member who meets the established qualifications for an elected office may declare as a candidate by writing to the Secretary of SCNA.
- c. The slate of candidates shall be published, in accordance with Article X, Section 3(a), above, in the SC Nurse at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Membership Meeting of SCNA. SCNA members shall be notified in writing in accordance with approved policy.

Section 3. Elections

- a. Elections shall be held annually following the approved schedule.
- b. Elections shall be by secret ballot prior to SCNA Annual Membership Meeting. The ballot may be by mail or by electronic voting. Mailed ballots will be in accordance with Article X, Section 3(a). Electronic balloting is permitted if the integrity of the ballot is preserved and the SCNA does not access the ballot for purpose of identifying how a member voted and the ballot is available in accordance with Article X, Section 3(a).

Section 4. Challenge

Any challenge to the elections shall be filed with the Secretary within thirty (30) days after the announcement of the election.

Section 5. Action by Written Ballot or Electronic Ballot

Any action that may be taken at any annual, regular, or special meeting of the members, including but not limited to elections, may be taken without a meeting if SCNA delivers a written or electronic ballot to every member entitled to vote on the matter. Such written or electronic ballot shall set forth each proposed action and provide an opportunity to vote for or against each proposed action. Approval by written or electronic ballot pursuant to this section is valid only when the number of votes cast by ballot equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action, and the number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be required to approve the matter at a meeting at which the total number of votes cast was the same as the number of votes cast by ballot. All solicitations for votes by written or electronic ballot shall indicate the number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirements; state the percentage of approvals necessary to approve the matter other than elections; and specify the time by which a ballot or electronic response must be received by SCNA in order to be counted. A written or electronic ballot may not be revoked.

ARTICLE XIV: REPRESENTATION

Section 1. Member Representation at the SCNA Annual Membership Meeting

- a. The SCNA members shall be directly involved in the processes of the Association.
- b. The voting body of SCNA at each Annual Membership Meeting or special meeting shall consist of members of the Association who attend the meeting.
- c. Each Member, Officer and Board Member shall be entitled to one vote on all matters coming before the Annual Membership Meeting or special meeting.
- d. The members at any Annual Membership Meeting may adopt such rules of procedure for the transaction of business at their meetings as they may deem suitable.

Section 2. SCNA Representation at the Membership Assembly of ANA

- a. The SCNA is entitled to representation at regular and special meetings of the Membership Assembly of ANA in accordance with ANA Bylaws and policy.
- b. All elected Membership Assembly representatives and alternates may serve no more than two consecutive terms or until a successor is elected.
- c. The Chief Executive Officer of SCNA shall attend the Membership Assembly, with a courtesy seat.

Section 3. SCNA Representation at the ANA Leadership Council

- a. The SCNA is entitled to representation at meetings of the ANA Leadership Council in accordance with ANA Bylaws and policy. ANA COB Review: South Carolina Nurses Association.
- b. The SCNA President and SCNA Chief Executive Officer or designees shall serve as SCNA representatives to the ANA Leadership Council. The SCNA President or designee shall serve as voting representative to the ANA Leadership Council.

ARTICLE XV: MEETINGS

Section 1. Authority

This Association shall hold an annual meeting of the membership at such time and place as shall be determined by the Board of Directors, except where government regulations or condition incident upon war may render this impossible.

Section 2. Order of Business

The order of business of each meeting of the Annual Membership Meeting of this Association shall be in accordance with the program adopted at the beginning of the convention and shall include:

Call to Order

Address of the President

Reports of Organizational Units

Reports of the Tellers and Declaration of Election

Adjournment

Section 3. Annual Meeting of Members.

- a. This Association shall hold an annual meeting of the members once each calendar year at such time and place as shall be determined by the Board of Directors, except where government regulations or condition incident upon war may render this impossible.
- b. At each annual meeting of members, the President and Treasurer shall report on the activities and financial condition of the Association.
- c. For the purpose of determining members entitled to vote at any meeting of members, or in connection with any other proper purpose requiring a determination of members, the Board of Directors shall by resolution fix a record date for such determination. The record date set by the Board of Directors shall be not more than seventy (70) days, and not less than the last day for timely giving notice, before the meeting or action requiring determination of members is to occur. If the Board of Directors fails to set a record date, the members at the close of business on the business day on which notice is given or, if notice is waived, at the close of business on the business day preceding the day on which the meeting is held are entitled to notice of the meeting and to vote thereat. The members of record appearing in the books of the Association at the close of business on the record date so fixed shall constitute the members in respect of the activity in question. After fixing a record date for notice of a meeting, the Association shall prepare an alphabetical list of names of all members who are entitled to notice of the meeting. The list shall show the address of each member entitled to vote at the meeting. Subject to

the limitations of Sections 33-31-720, 33-31-1602(c) and 33-31-1605 of the Act, such list of members shall be available for inspection by any members for purposes of communication with other members concerning the meeting, beginning the day after notice is given of the meeting for which the list was prepared and continuing through the meeting, at the Association's principal office. The Association shall also make the list of members available at the meeting, and any member, a member's agent, or member's attorney shall be entitled to inspect the list at any time during the meeting or any adjournment.

- d. Members and Directors may not vote by proxy.

Section 4. Annual Meeting of Board of Directors

An annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be called and held for the purpose of annual organization, appointment of committees, and transaction of any other business. If such meeting is held promptly after and at the place specified for the annual meeting of members, no notice of the annual meeting of the Board of Directors need be given. Otherwise, such annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at such time (at any time prior to and not more than sixty (60) days after the annual meeting of members) and place as may be specified in the notice of the meeting. The Board of Directors may by resolution provide for the holding of additional regular meetings without notice other than such resolution; provided, however, the resolution shall fix the dates, times, and places (which may be anywhere within or without the State of South Carolina) for these regular meetings. Except as otherwise provided by law, any business may be transacted at any annual or regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Special Meetings

- a. Special meetings of the members of SCNA or the Annual Membership Meeting of this Association may be called for one or more lawful purposes by the President, a majority of the Board of Directors, or by the President upon written request of a majority of the chapters.
- b. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called for any lawful purpose or purposes by the President or at least twenty percent (20%) of the Directors then in office. The person calling a special meeting shall provide notification to each member of the Board of Directors at their approved telecommunication method including email, phone, or text. The notice will include the date, time and place of the meeting and will be provided at least two (2) days prior to the meeting. Notice of a special meeting will describe the purpose of the special meeting. Only business stated in the notification may be addressed at the meeting. An oral notice is permissible if reasonable under the circumstances and is effective when communicated in a comprehensible manner. Written notice is effective at the earliest of the following:
 - 1. When received;

2. Five (5) days after its deposit in the United States mail, if mailed correctly addressed with first class postage affixed;
3. On the date shown on the return receipt, if sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and the receipt is signed by or on behalf of the addressee; or
4. Fifteen (15) days after its deposit in the United States mail, if mailed correctly addressed and with other than first class, registered, or certified postage affixed.

Written notice is correctly addressed to a Director if addressed to the Director's business address shown in the Association's current records. If notice is given by telegram, the notice shall be deemed delivered when the telegram is delivered to the telegraph company and the transmission fee therefore is paid. If notice is given by telecopier facsimile transmission, the notice shall be deemed delivered when the facsimile of the notice is transmitted to a telecopier facsimile receipt number designated by the receiving Director, if any, so long as such Director transmits to the sender an acknowledgment of receipt. The notice of a special meeting shall describe the purpose of such special meeting. Any time or place fixed for a special meeting must permit participation in the meeting by means of telecommunications as authorized below. Special meetings of this Association may be called by the Board of Directors and shall be called by the President upon written request of a majority of the Chapters.

Section 6. Notification

Notices of the Annual Membership Meeting or special meetings of this Association shall be sent to the Chair of the Executive Committee of each Chapter and to all members of this Association prior to the meeting in question. Notices of the SCNA Annual Membership Meeting shall be mailed at least one (1) month before the first day of SCNA Annual Membership Meeting and notices of special meetings shall be mailed at least ten (10) days before the first day of the meeting. Oral or written notice of all meetings of members shall be given no fewer than ten (10) days, or if notice is mailed by other than first class or registered mailed, thirty (30) days, nor more than sixty (60) days before the meeting date by any method permitted under the Act, to all members of record entitled to vote at such meeting; provided however, the date upon which such notice shall be deemed effective shall be determined in accordance with Article III, Section 5 hereof. Such notice shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting and, if required by the Act or these Bylaws the purpose or purposes for which such meeting was called.

Section 7. South Carolina Student Nurses Association

Members of the South Carolina Student Nurses Association may attend meetings of this Association.

Section 8. Attendance At Meetings

Any Director may participate in, and be regarded as present at, any meeting of the Board of Directors by means of conference telephone or any other means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time.

Section 9. Board Action

The Board of Directors shall take action pursuant to resolutions adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors participating in a meeting at which a quorum is present, or the affirmative vote of a greater number of Directors where required by the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, the Act, or otherwise by law.

ARTICLE XVI: QUORUM

Section 1. Establishment of Quorum

- a. The number of voting members present at a duly noticed meeting of the members shall constitute a quorum for any regular or special meetings of the Association.
- b. A majority of the Board of Directors, one (1) of whom shall be the President or President-elect, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board.
- c. A majority of the voting members of any Committee shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Committee.

ARTICLE XVII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, most up-to-date edition shall govern meetings of this Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XVIII: OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

Section 1. Official Publication

The official publications of this Association shall be The American Nurse and The South Carolina Nurse.

ARTICLE XIX: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendment Process

- a. These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Annual Membership Meeting of SCNA by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting.
- b. All suggestions for proposed amendments shall be referred to the Bylaws Committee for study. The amendments proposed by the Bylaws Committee for Annual Membership Meeting action shall be in the possession of the Secretary at least two (2) months before the date of the Annual Meeting and shall be appended to the call to the meeting.
- c. These bylaws may be amended without previous notice at any Annual Membership Meeting by ninety-nine percent (99%) of those present and voting.

ARTICLE XX: DISPOSITION OF ASSETS

Section 1. Disposition of Assets

No person shall possess any property right in or to the property or assets of the Corporation. Upon dissolution of the corporation and after all obligations are satisfied, all assets shall be distributed to an eleemosynary corporation or non-profit business so designated by the Board of Directors at the time of disposition.

Approved and Revised: Annual Meeting September 14, 2007

Approved and Revised: Annual Meeting October 25, 2008

Approved and Revised: Annual Meeting September 12, 2009

Approved and Revised: Annual Meeting October 23, 2010

Approved and Revised: Annual Meeting September 9, 2011

Approved and Revised: Annual Meeting September 22, 2012

Approved and Revised: Annual Meeting October 11, 2013

2012 Proviso Removed: December 2014

Approved and Revised: Annual Meeting November 12, 2016

Approved and Revised: Annual Meeting November 3, 2022

Approved and Revised: Annual Meeting October 5, 2023

Approved and Revised: Annual Meeting October 23, 2025

Event Sponsors

EVENT SPONSORS

GOLD SPONSOR

 **Lexington Health**

SILVER SPONSORS

 **GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY**

Your **Health** 

McLeod Health