Want more like this? Join TNA for more in-depth updates and access to member-only benefits like education and advocacy toolkits. Visit www.texasnurses.org to get started!

Political Update

Now that special session is over, we have now officially started policy season!

The Texas Nurses Association recently empaneled it’s Policy Council to discuss issues important to nurses and set out committees to do the deep dive work on policy development.

This year, the TNA policy committees will be:

- Workplace Advocacy
- Nursing Education
- APRN
- Regulatory
- Maternal Mortality & Morbidity

These committees will begin work immediately to develop the policies that TNA will incorporate into the TNA Policy Book to be released prior to the next legislative session. If you know of any TNA members who would like to be a part of this discussion, have them go to http://bit.ly/2yehnpc to fill out our form and become an Expert Advisor to one of the committees!

Since it is also campaign season, we wanted to give everyone in NLAC a quick update on the campaigns going on around the state that we already know about:

- Senator Van Taylor (Plano) is leaving his senate seat to run for Congress and two challengers have already emerged to take it: Senator Don Huffines' brother, Phillip Huffines, and Attorney General Ken Paxton's wife, Angela Paxton!
• Rep. Cindy Burkett (Sunnyvale) has decided not to run for re-election and instead challenge Senator Bob Hall for his seat, and Rep. Fallon (Frisco) has done the same to challenge Senator Craig Estes.
• A few legislators have decided not to run at all: Rep. Mark Keough (Woodlands), Rep. Larry Gonzales (Round Rock), Rep. Larry Phillips (Sherman), Rep. Jodie Laubenberg (Parker)

Get Involved in Campaigns!

Your organizations and your members can (and should!) make a difference at the local level with legislators. Here are my top 5 tips for getting involved during the interim and making a difference when it really counts!

1. Right now they need you more than you need them! They're up for re-election right now. Don't wait until the legislators are in session; go talk to them now when they are clamoring for votes!

2. Have talking points ready to go so that you can stay on message throughout.

3. Bring business cards and bring handouts to leave with the legislator when you leave.

4. Don't be political. This isn't about political party or any wedge issues. When you go in for nursing issues, you represent the NURSE PARTY.

5. Offer to be a nursing expert for them. They have a ton of issues that they have to know about and it helps to have constituent experts on hand.

    I have a presentation that I can give on local engagement. If your organization would like to have me present it to your membership, contact me at acates@texasnurses.org and we can discuss speaking fees and logistics.

General Updates

NURSES HELPING NURSES - CALL FOR AID: The Texas Nurses Foundation is accepting contributions to help the nurses affected by Hurricane Harvey. All money collected will be distributed directly to nurses living in any one of the Texas counties declared disaster areas. Donations will be accepted through November 30, 2017. Any funds remaining by March 31, will be donated to the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund established by the city of Houston.

2018

NLAC 2018 MEETINGS: We are starting planning for the 2018 NLAC meetings. Please email Cathy White at cwhite@texasnurses.org by OCTOBER 20, 2017 with the 2018 dates that you would NOT be available to attend an NLAC meeting.

Also, in your email please let us know what type of meeting you prefer, a Roundtable or Auditorium presentation?

Rulemaking Update - September, 2017

PROPOSED:
Texas Medical Board - TMB has adopted rules implementing SB 674: Applicants for licensure are no longer required to pass the jurisprudence exam within three attempts, and there will be an expedited licensure process for out-of-state psychiatrists. TMB has also proposed telemedicine rules based on SB 1107. TNA, along with other nursing groups, has submitted comments regarding certain aspects of the rule language.

Department of State Health Services - DSHS has proposed rules that implement HB 1067, which requires schools to screen students for abnormal spinal curvature at ages 10 and 12 for females and 13 or 14 for males.

Department of Aging and Disability Services - DADS has proposed rules as a result of an HHSC Medicaid Bed Allocation Audit. The rules would give additional time to nursing facilities with pending applications to
comply with licensure requirements. They would also allow facilities to request informal review regarding Medicaid bed allocations, and allow a facility to contest de-allocated beds. They’ve also proposed rules that allow residents with ICF/IID to use a wheelchair self-release belt in certain circumstances.

ADOPTED:
Health and Human Services Commission - HHSC has adopted new reimbursement rates for the Medicaid Home Health Program, early periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment, and family planning services.

Support our efforts at the Texas Capitol from the comfort of home. Join the growing list of nurses that are investing in their profession and their future by supporting Texas Nurse PAC with a contribution. Go to www.texasnurses.org and click on Texas Nurse PAC under the Advocacy tab to get started.