A. Overview/History

The Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition (NLAC) is a coalition of nursing groups around Texas that find common ground on a core of issues and lend their voices to those issues for use at the Texas Capitol. NLAC was first established for the 1989 legislative session with eight member organizations. The number of member organizations quickly grew to approximately 20 organizations and currently includes 22 member organizations. The Nursing Legislative Agenda is a document that sets nursing's positions on issues of importance to the coalition – including both legislation that will be filed by member organizations and legislation that the coalition anticipates coming up during session. The Coalition consists of those nursing organizations that sign on to the Agenda and agree to support legislative action consistent with the positions set out in the Agenda.

B. Development of the Agenda

Development of the Nursing Legislative Agenda begins in the spring of even-numbered years with identification of potential legislative issues by the Texas Nurses Association's (TNA) Policy Council and Governmental Affairs Committee. Other nursing organizations are also encouraged to identify nursing or health-care related issues they believe will be, or would like to see, addressed by the upcoming legislature. Nursing organizations then meet again in the fall of even-numbered years to finalize the Agenda before the legislative session.

C. Organization of the Professional Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition

NLAC consists of nursing organizations and nursing groups within larger organizations. TNA convenes NLAC and provides administrative support for the group. The primary function for TNA will be to keep member organizations informed on legislative issues and to provide a forum for sharing information. The coalition will not function as a decision-making body but can serve as a vehicle for member organizations to reach non-binding consensus on issues.

Since NLAC is not a decision-making body, participating organizations are not prevented from setting their own legislative priorities. For example, the Texas School Nurse Organization may decide to devote their resources to a school nurse bill while other organizations may not have the issue as a top priority. The coalition simply operates as a forum for professional nursing organizations to collaborate on issues of common interest.

Coalition members will be informed of all needed changes to the Agenda and any member organization will have the right to rescind its endorsement if it cannot accept the change. While no changes are anticipated, new issues may arise during the session on which professional nursing will want to take a position.

This right of notification of changes in the Agenda may not include notification of all changes to specific bills relating to the Agenda. While TNA will try to provide such notification, time constraints of the legislative process may not always permit this to occur. However, coalition members will not be represented as supporting a particular bill or amendment unless the Agenda addresses the general subject matter of the bill, and the bill or amendment is consistent with the language of the statement.
of the Agenda on that subject.

D. Services to be Provided to Member Organizations by TNA

As the organizing and administering organization, TNA will provide each member organization with a set level of services throughout the membership cycle. These services include:

1. Listing of name of organization as a Member Organization on the Nursing Legislative Agenda.

2. Participation in Nurse Day for two (2) representatives at the TNA member rate, and attendance for those representatives at any reception for legislators held in conjunction with Nurse Day (space allowing).

3. Attendance for two (2) representatives at lobbying workshop webinar in January of odd-numbered years at the beginning of the legislative session. Further, all members of NLAC organizations may attend virtual legislative advocacy events at TNA/discounted member prices.

4. Tracking chart for all bills on the NLAC Agenda prior to each NLAC meeting/call and updates on legislation during meetings.

5. Information and Action Alerts to member organizations when important action is taken on legislation on the Agenda. TNA utilizes a grassroots software that permits nurses to respond with emails directly to legislative offices from the alert (see Section E below).

6. Participation in regularly scheduled conference calls during session via online virtual meeting platform or toll-free number. Begin with calls about every other week at the beginning of the legislative session and go to weekly calls during busiest part of session.

7. Action and Information Alerts during Interim

8. Attendance of two designated representatives to two workshops for developing Nursing Legislative Agenda (Spring and Fall of Even-numbered years)


E. Responsibilities of Member Organizations

1) [Fee] Fill out TNA NLAC organization membership form (attached) and pay membership fee on sliding scale based on individual organization membership levels:
   ➢ 0 - 100 members: $250
   ➢ 101 - 500 members: $750
   ➢ 501 - 999 members: $1,000
   ➢ 1000 + members: $2,000

   Fees are payable in January of odd-numbered years. Payment schedules can be arranged.
Note: there may also be individual fees for attendance at some events throughout the year to cover costs. To be more environmentally friendly, we will attempt to go mostly paperless at our meetings. If you prefer printed materials, there may be an additional cost.

2) [Representatives] Designate one person as primary contact for the organization with one back-up person. This person will be responsible for conveying information to the organization and getting feedback to TNA on the Agenda and particular pieces of legislation.

3) [Decision-making] Establish a decision-making process for providing quick feedback on the organization's position on nursing issues. Issues may arise in the course of amendments to a bill or in negotiating a bill and an organization's position may be needed. The time for such input can be as little as several hours when negotiations are serious and time is short.

4) [PAC solicitation] Place a link to Texas Nurse PAC website on your organization’s website behind your member firewall. Please also provide TNA with a complete membership list for your organization so that we can send emails on behalf of Texas Nurse PAC. Alternatively, if your organization would prefer to handle solicitations for the PAC yourselves, the organization may agree to send along all Texas Nurse PAC email solicitations and event notices to your membership with TNA’s Government Affairs Coordinator copied.

   i) This requirement does not apply to any member organization that operates its own political action committee.

   ii) Your membership’s contact information may be used by TNA for membership solicitation and PAC solicitation purposes only, and will never be sold to third parties for any reason.

5) [Grassroots] Participate in Grassroots Lobbying Network. Establish a telephone or email communications network that can be activated to get nursing input quickly to legislators during the session. If you would like for TNA to include your membership in its advocacy alerts via its advocacy software, your membership list will be required for inclusion in the database.

6) [Key Nurse Contacts] Participate in Key Nurse Contact Network. Attempt to identify a key nurse contact for as many legislators as possible. This key contact is a nurse member who has a working familiarity with the legislator. TNA will compile a spreadsheet for all legislators and key nurse contacts from each member organization for quick action.

7) [Knowledge Experts] Identify members within the organization with special knowledge or expertise on issues on the Nursing Agenda, interest in testifying, etc.

8) [Background on Bills] Help with the preparation of background sheets on agenda items of particular interest to the area of practice of the organization’s members.
## F. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ODD-NUMBERED YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Tuesday in January</td>
<td>Legislative Session Convenes</td>
<td>January 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>NLAC Virtual Legislative Workshop</td>
<td>January 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-February – May</td>
<td>Legislative Update Conference Calls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>TNA Nurse Day at the Capitol - Virtual</td>
<td>February 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60th Day</td>
<td>Last day to file bills without suspending of rules (frequently suspended in Senate and rarely in House)</td>
<td>March 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late April - Early May</td>
<td>Last Days to Get Bills Out of Committee and Still Have Chance to Get a Floor Vote</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140th day</td>
<td>Session Ends</td>
<td>May 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Tuesday in March</td>
<td>Primary Election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring (April/May)</td>
<td>Meeting to identify potential issues for upcoming legislative session that will begin in January of odd-numbered-year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Fall (September/October)</td>
<td>Meeting to reach final consensus on issues for Nursing Legislative Agenda for upcoming session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October – December</td>
<td>Finalize specifics of Nursing Legislative Agenda Draft legislation &amp; identifying bill sponsors Negotiate with other stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Tuesday in November</td>
<td>General Elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday after Elections</td>
<td>Pre-Filing of Bills Begins.</td>
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</table>
Payment Options

Payment in full due January 4, 2020

Option 1: Pay online by credit card

https://www.texasnurses.org/store/ListProducts.aspx?catid=266457

Option 2: Payment by credit card over the phone
Please call Tri Truong in the TNA Finance Dept at 512-452-0645 x148

Option 3: Payment by check *Please put NLAC membership on the memo line for processing ease

Send a check from your organization along with this membership form to:

Texas Nurses Association
c/o Tri Truong
4807 Spicewood Springs Rd.
Bldg. 3, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78759
Membership Application and Designation of Representatives
2021-2022 NURSING LEGISLATIVE AGENDA COALITION

Email, fax or mail completed form to Cathy White:

Mail: TNA, 4807 Spicewood Springs Rd., Bldg. 3 Suite 100, Austin, TX 78759
Fax: 512/452-0648
E-mail: cwhite@texasnurses.org.

Please return as soon as possible so that NLAC correspondence will go to the appropriate persons. You can change your representatives as needed but continuity is beneficial.

A. Organization: _______________________________________________
Acronym: _______________________

B. Individual Completing Form on Behalf of Organization

Name: _________________________________________________________
Position in Org: _________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________
City/St/Zip: ____________________________________________________
Phone: (C)________________________
Email: _________________________________________________________

C. Membership Level (Please circle/highlight the membership level applicable to your organization)

1. 0 – 100 members $250 2. 101 - 500 members $750
3. 501 - 999 members $1,000 4. 1000+ members $2,000

D. Organization's Contact Persons Regarding the 2021 Legislative Agenda.

Please indicate a primary and secondary contact person for your organization.

1. Primary
Name: _________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________
City/St/Zip: _____________________________________________________
Phone: (C)________________________
Email: _________________________________________________________

2. Secondary
Name: _________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________
City/St/Zip: _____________________________________________________
Phone: (C)________________________
Email: _________________________________________________________