NOVA HISTORY 2020

January 13 – NOVA Committees’ Chairpersons Call with NOVA President Kelly D. Skinner


January 21 – Outgoing board members: Sharon Johnson and Ron Nardi recognized for their commitment during their years of service on the NOVA Board.

January 25 – NOVA News’ new digital platform was launched.


February 5 – NOVA Calls on Congress to Safeguard and Strengthen VA Services

As nurses on the frontlines, taking care of our Nation’s heroes, the Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA), calls on Congress and the Administration to safeguard and strengthen VA services as part of its 2020 legislative priority goals.

February 12 – Webinar, Joint Patient Safety Reporting System, Presenters, Lesley Taylor and Wendy Morrish

February 12 – Member of the Month article featured Betty M. Ogren, VA Northern Indiana Health Care Systems (VANIHCS), Fort Wayne, Indiana. First appointment of an LPN/LVN to the NOVA Board of Directors.

February 13 – Two scholarships were awarded in the amount of $250 each to Ashley N. Jones, MS, BSN, RN, OCN, CHPN, VA Maryland Healthcare System and Steven D. Powell, MSN, BSN, BA, RN-BC, Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center to attend NOVA on the Hill Day on March 5, 2020.

February 26 – Webinar, Providing Meaningful Input for Proficiency for Nurse II, Presenter, Nancy Claflin

March 5 – NOVA on the Hill Day Event, Washington, DC

Advocating for the Department of Veterans Affairs nurses is at the heart of NOVA’s mission. NOVA nurses are frontline staff who provide the best care for our Veterans.
The VA remains one of the largest agencies in the Federal Government, with over 106,000 nurses. It is critical for NOVA to have a voice on Capitol Hill.

Those attending NOVA Hill Day were prepared with critical issues to use for a successful meeting with their House and Senate Leaders. NOVA Hill Day kick-off event started at the Wink Hotel with special guests Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, RN and member of the House VA Committee and Suzanne Miyamoto, CEO, American Academy of Nursing.

The kick-off also included introductions from NOVA Board members and Legislative Committee Co-Chairs. Attendees were provided an Advocacy Toolkit that included handouts for congressional meeting tips, meeting with your members of Congress, things to do in D.C., and scheduling a meeting with your member of Congress.

After the kick-off events, a bus carrying the attendees departed for Capitol Hill. The attendees met on Capitol Hill with their Representatives and Senators. At the end of the day, a debriefing took place back at the Wink Hotel.

In attendance were President Kelly D. Skinner, Immediate Past President Thelma Roach-Serry, Past Presidents Cecilia McVey, Margaret Kruckemeyer, and Nancy Claflin, President Elect TJ Wilcox-Olson, Secretary-Treasurer Ruth Holmes, Directors Theresa Presley, Cathy Giasson, and Michelle Salazar, and Executive Director Deb Dupnik.

March 6 – NOVA Legislative Roundtable, (DAV Headquarters, Washington, DC)

The NOVA Legislative Roundtable took place at the DAV Headquarters in Washington, D.C. from 9:00 -12:00. Organizations that participated in the NOVA Roundtable included House and Senate Committee of Veterans Affairs, VA Office of Nursing Service, American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Veterans' Service Organizations (American Legion, DAV, Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses, American Academy of Nursing, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, NOVA Legislative Committee members, NOVA Nurse Emeritus members, NOVA Board of Directors, and NOVA Staff.

Welcome – Introductions: by Kelly D. Skinner, NOVA President

NOVA Legislative Priority Goals: Cecilia McVey and Michelle Salazar

Budget – Ensure an adequate budget that provides critical funding so that all VISNs and Medical Facilities can provide care and services to its population.

Access/Community Care Network – Maximize Veteran access to care through effective use of technology, efficient clinical practice and role enhancement for all nursing personnel.
Staff/Recruitment/Retention – Recruit and retain a highly qualified nursing workforce with a budget to support modern staffing models.

Beth Taylor, CNO Office of Nursing Service (ONS) gave an update – there are currently 106,000 nurses in the VHA healthcare System with 22% that are eligible for retirement. The average age is 48.2 and 10-11% are less than 30 years of age. VA is the largest attractor for new graduates.

APRNs now have full practice authority – The Leadership Board mandated full practice authority for all APRNs in October 2019. All except for one VA has granted full practice authority and is in the process of completion. APRNs have the full support of Dr. Stone and his team.

Modernization of the VA – The CNO reports to the Undersecretary of Health with operational responsibilities for Geriatrics and Extended Care, Pharmacy, and Sterile Processing Services. The leadership for these clinical programs will begin in March with additional responsibilities.

AVANA – outcomes data, salary caps, military transfer out to VA has been particularly challenging due to practice and salary, Parental leave for Title 38, underused for Opioid crisis.


Director of Government Affairs – S221 & HR 3530 – looking for common ground, ongoing credentialing review.

Government Relations of America – Focused on suicide prevention and access to mental health care, legislative adjustments where necessary concern about turn over, continuity of leadership from VA centers to VACO, constant reform; full practice for Nurse Anesthetists’ from DOD to VA, Title 8 funding (has not kept pace with inflation) COVID-19, a huge concern; executive order to practice at top of licensure, access to care, minimize use of opioids.

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) – survey all SCI centers; SCI System of Care (17,000) receive care- 2019 shortage of 6000 SCI nurses due to Human Resources (HR) delays, lack of custodial assistance, some veterans bring in their own cleaning supplies, Physicians in VA understand the SCI systems of care better compared to the private sector.

American Nurses Association (ANA) – COVID-19 concerns about shortage of N95 masks, considering the N95 masks -24-hour topic of discussion, plan to agree to eliminate mandatory OT for nurses, workplace violence against nurses, remove data waiver for APRNs.
American Psychological Association (APA) –(APA) suicide prevention, develop comprehensive legislative model – Access HR 5697, any Veteran regardless of enrollment, discharge status will receive care for Acute Crisis and will not be billed.

**March 7** – National NOVA Board Meeting, Washington, DC

**March 11** – The WHO declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic.

**March 11** – Webinar, New Guidelines for Buprenorphine (Pharmacology Credit), Presenter, Kimberlee Bayless

**March 18** – Member of the Month article featured Yvette M. Twum-Danso, MSN, RN, CCRN, PhDc, Columbia VA Health Care System.

**March 19** – The office of Personnel Management approved VA’s request to make it easier to hire retired medical professionals. This approval gave VA the capacity to quickly expand the available number of health care workers as necessary, and VA moved quickly to start rehiring staff to ensure seamless operations during the outbreak.

**March 23-25** – Nurse in Washington Week Internship (NIWI) 2020, Scholarship Recipient, Betty Ogren, LPN. This event was cancelled due to COVID-19.

**Washington D.C. March 25, 2020** – As nurses on the frontlines of care, the Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA) remains vigilant in ensuring VA nurses across the country have the resources needed to protect themselves and the Veterans they serve. This includes making sure that proper protective equipment (PPE) and test kits are available for Veterans and staff.

We stand ready to provide care and services as part of VA’s 4th Mission which safeguards continued service to Veterans, while supporting national, state, and local emergency management, public health, safety and homeland security efforts.

We share the concerns of the nation during this difficult and stressful time and are thankful to Congress for providing $60 million in funding within the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 115-127), so VA can continue to carry out its mission.

We also remind lawmakers of priorities shared with the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) and many other professional nursing organizations which remain at the heart of healthcare needs for the nation:

- Ensuring the Safety of our Patients and Nurses.
- Re-authorization of Title VIII Nursing Workforce Programs.
- Increasing Funding for Title VIII and NINR.
- Removing all Unnecessary Barriers to Practice.
- Passing the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act (H.R. 2150/S.296).
- Passing the U.S. Public Health Service Modernization Act (H.R. 4870/S.2629); and
- Fund Child Care for Health Care Workers.
It is clear that if the American public consistently views healthcare workers in a favorable light, as noted by the most recent Gallup poll which again ranked nursing as the most trusted profession, and nurses as the professionals who uphold the highest ethical standards.

NOVA believes that as we move through the next weeks and months, we as a nation must stand by our healthcare professionals by ensuring we have what we need to protect the health and safety of Veterans and all individuals during this global pandemic.

We stand ready to serve and provide the care needed at the over 1,243 VA health care facilities within the US and its territories.

April 2 – VA facility in Bedford, Massachusetts, cared for 10 state Veterans home patients.

April 3 – VA announces a suspension of the collection and other actions related to outstanding Veteran debts, so that Veterans can stay focused on their health and safety.

April 5 – Pursuant to a FEMA mission assignment, VA opened 35 beds between the Ann Arbor and Detroit VA Medical Centers in Michigan to non-Veteran critical COVID-19 patients, after determining that care would not be disrupted.

April 6 – NOVA COVID-19 resource page on the website was developed for easy access to many references to COVID-19.

April 7 – VA facility in Providence, Rhode Island cared for seven community nursing home patients. VA accepted mission assignments from FEMA to open beds in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for non-Veteran patients, after determining that care to Veterans would not be disrupted.

April 8 – Webinar, Managing Methadone: Properties and Unique Challenged (Pharmacology Credit), Presenter, Kimberlee Bayless.

April 9 – VA’s National Cemetery Administration launches a website listing all Veterans interred at a national cemetery each day.

April 10 – Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Illinois accepted mission assignment from FEMA to open beds for non-Veteran patients, after determining that care to veterans would not be interrupted.

April 13 – Teresa Morris tracking stories regarding VA facilities providing aid as part of its fourth mission.

April 13 – VA releases data showing significant increases in virtual mental health care services provided to Veterans amid the pandemic.

April 16 – Member of The Month article featured NOVA Nurse Emeritus Member Nancy Claflin, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, CENP, CCRN-K, CPHQ, FNAHQ.
April 17 – Teresa Morris gives update on the COVID-19 stimulus package. NOVA signed onto a letter to address the House and Senate Leadership compiled by the Nursing Community Coalition. The letter thanked Congress for what they provided in the CARES Act and made suggestions on items to be included in any future legislative package.

April 17 – VA announces an arrangement to ensure all Veterans who receive VA compensation and pension payments automatically receive their coronavirus stimulus payments even if they did not file a tax return.

April 20 – VA announces acquisition of a community hospital in Texas that was used to increase its capacity for patients with COVID-19. This is a 470,000 square foot facility that provided 100 beds in the VA North Texas Health Care System.

April 22 – A Call for NOVA awards to honor individuals and/or groups who have made significant contributions to the Nurses’ Organization of Veterans Affairs, the nursing profession, and the health care of Veterans, or in service to our country. All awards nominations to be submitted via NOVA’s online submission forms by June 1, 2020. The categories for awards are LPN/LVN Excellence Award, RN Excellence Award, APRN Excellence Award, Distinguished Chapter Award and Veterans Service Award.

April 22 – Webinar, Organ and Tissue Donation: Impact on Veterans, Presenters, Berta Grunbeck and Emily Larimer

April 23 – Update on VA COVID-19 cases and the VA response written and published by Leo Shane of the Military Times.

May 1-31 May Membership Competition – recruit new members and new members will receive 30% discount when they pay in full. Winners: Cynthia Carder (1st Place), Fayetteville VAMC, Julie Szegda (2nd Place), VA Boston HCS and Heather Roth (3rd Place), and W. J. Bryan Dorn VAMC.

May 5 – Director of Advocacy & Government Relations Teresa Morris and NOVA President Kelly D. Skinner wrote an article: “Veterans Affairs Nurses: Stories from the Front Lines of a Pandemic”, Veterans Affairs & Military Medicine OUTLOOK and DefenseMediaNetwork.com.

May 12 – Kelly D. Skinner, NOVA’s National President posted photos of the NOVA National Board Members with a message in honor of National Nurses Week and to commemorate the 200th birthday of Florence Nightingale. A video was also attached to the posting with photos of nurses in different roles and from different facilities as well Nurse Emeritus members.

May 12 – The latest Coronavirus Stimulus package titled, “Health and Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act” or the “HEROES Act” was released.
May 13 – Webinar, Care Coordination/Integrated Case Management Impacting Patient Care, Presenter, Wendy Morrish

May 13 – NOVA drafted a letter of support for a recent VHA Directive (1899) which allows CRNAs to practice to their full authority and license during COVID-19.

Several of the provisions with respect to VA look to help support homeless Veterans, waive any health care co-payments related to COVID-19, extend health care coverage for emergency care and mental health for Guard and Reservists, and provide extensions for filing claims and appeals under VBA. In terms of provisions for Federal employees/VA, the package includes a hazard pay fund for frontline workers, paid sick leave and the ability to file for workman’s compensation related to COVID-19 illness.

May 26 – Penny Kaye Jensen, DNP, FNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP and Mr. Ronald Nardi MSN, APRN, PMHCNS-BC agreed to serve as chairpersons of the newly formed NOVA Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Committee.

May 27 – Webinar, Treatment of Pneumonia and Asthma (Pharmacology Credit), Presenter, Sohera N. Syeda

June 1 – NOVA President Kelly Skinner attended the ANA Special Membership Assembly 2020 Meeting.

June 1 – NOVA Coronavirus Survey Results show that improvements are still needed.

June 2 – NOVA posted statement to the Floyd Family and against racism and discrimination.

June 5 – Update from Teresa Morris, NCC created a special section on response to Racism and Discrimination.

June 6 – NOVA D-Day Remembrance, June 6, 1944

June 9 – NOVA posted on LinkedIn- Senate VA Committee discussed PPE and other critical supplies.

June 9 – NOVA surveyed members on COVID-19

June 11 – NOVA submits testimony to House VA Committee on pandemic progress

June 12-13 – Virtual National NOVA Board Meeting

June 16 – Member of the Month article featured NOVA Member and LPN/LVN Co-chairperson, Carol McTavish, LPN, VA Boston Healthcare System.

June 16 – Margaret Kruckemeyer, NOVA Past President and NOVA Nurse Emeritus helped escort the original 15-foot crafted statue of Abraham Lincoln from Mike Majors Studio in Urbana, Ohio to Dayton, Ohio.
June 17 – NOVA President Kelly D. Skinner, winner of the 2020 ANCC Certified Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Award.

June 18 – NOVA President Kelly Skinner attended the ANA Organizational Affiliates Meeting.

June 19 – NOVA President Kelly Skinner and NOVA Executive Director Deb Dupnik attended the ANA Membership Assembly the ANA Organizational Affiliates Meeting.

June 24 – Webinar, The Evolution of LPNs in the VA, Presenter, Carol McTavish
June 25 – NOVA President Kelly D. Skinner announced that the NOVA 40th Annual Meeting is transitioning to a virtual experience amid the coronavirus outbreak. The health and wellbeing of the attendees, speakers, sponsors, and staff are a priority.

July 8 – Webinar, Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (Pharmacology Credit), Presenter, Kimberlee Bayless

July 20 – Dr. Steven Lieberman, Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, shared a video on the Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS) with NOVA.

July 20 – Member of the Month article featured Theresa Presley, MSN, RN, CNL, CRRN, Director Board Member, Associate Chief Nurse, VA Boston Healthcare System.

July 22 – Webinar, Mentoring for Starting and Revitalizing NOVA Chapters, Presenters, Teresa Acosta and Yvette Twum-Danso

August 1-31 National Minority Donation Awareness Month – over 100,000 people are awaiting lifesaving transplants; every 10 minutes there is someone new in need of a transplant.

August 4 – NOVA August Recess Challenge: Share Your Voice and Your Stories
NOVA President, Kelly D. Skinner encouraged everyone to reach out and talk to members of Congress, as a reminder of what VA nurses do every day for Veterans.

August 12 – Webinar, VA Nurses: Providing Meaningful Input for Your Proficiency, Presenter, Connie Perry Simon

August 12 – Heard on The Hill – Teresa Morris, Director Advocacy and Government Relations – Congress is on recess and working in their districts and state offices for the entire month. NOVA continues to remind Congress of the importance of passing a robust budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure delivery of timely, quality health care and other services for Veterans.
August 12 – Member of the Month article featured NOVA Nurse Emeritus Member Sharon Simpson, MSN.

August 12 – National NOVA Board Member Spotlight article featured NOVA Secretary/Treasurer Ruth Holmes, MS, BSN, RN from the Office of the Medical Inspector, VA Central Office, Washington, DC.

August 12 – Webinar, Evaluating Your Input for your Proficiency for Nurse III, Presenter, Connie Perry-Simon

August 12 – Dr. Richard Stone, Executive in Charge of the Veterans Health Administration, announced the #IWearAMaskFor America social media campaign. On behalf of NOVA, NOVA President Kelly D. Skinner asked members who do they wear a mask for? Without hesitation, the national NOVA Board of Directors jumped right in to participate in this social media campaign.

August 25 - October 23 – NOVA Virtual 5K Fundraiser to raise money for NOVA educational opportunities such as nursing scholarships. Each year NOVA’s Nurse Emeritus members champion the Mary Raymer Memorial Scholarship fund. Monies raised this year will help to honor May Raymer’s contributions to NOVA and provide funds to a deserving Nurse to offset educational expenses.

August 25 - 27 NALA (Nursing Alliance Leadership Academy) – Virtual Attendees Kelly D. Skinner, President
Thelma Roach-Serry, Immediate Past President
TJ Wilcox-Olson, President Elect
Ruth Holmes, Secretary-Treasurer
Teresa Acosta, Membership Secretary
Cathy Giasson, Director
Betty Ogren, Director
Deb Dupnik, Executive Director

Topics: Leading with Joy, Leading Successful Virtual Meetings & Conferences, Legal and Financial Stewardship for Association Leaders, Leadership Styles in Times of Crisis, Developing an Effective Board-Executive Director Partnership, Coping with the New Reality as Leaders (Mental Health), and Virtual Sip, Laugh and Chat Session

August 26 – Webinar, Assessing Pain and Opioid Use (Pharmacology Credit), Presenter, Kimberlee Bayless

August 27 – NOVA Past President and Nurse Emeritus Sharon Johnson presented at the virtual Society of Federal Health Professionals (AMSUS) Sustaining Members Quarterly Meeting (Members Only), VA Focus.
September 9 - NOVA relays its views and priorities to the House Veterans Affairs Committee regarding Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Legislation being discussed at a hearing this week.

September 9 – Webinar, Retirement, Social Security and TSP Withdrawals, Presenter, Deborah Hatch

September 15 – Journal Club Webinar, Academic Practice Partnership: Key to the Future of our Profession, Presenter, Cecilia McVey.

September 16 – Get Out the Vote Campaign – NOVA is reminding everyone about the importance of voting.

September 16 – ONS agreed to give a NOVA letter from the NOVA President and NOVA handouts to the ADPCS/Nurse Executives going through the New Executive Training.

September 21 – Member of the Month article featured NOVA Member Cynthia Solomon, ACNP-BC, Central Virginia VA Health Care System.

September 21 – National NOVA Board Member Spotlight article featured Ernestine Goode, MSA, BSN, RN, CRRN, CBIS, NOVA Director, Former Chief Nurse, Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders/Polytrauma, Central Virginia VA Health Care System and NOVA Nurse Emeritus Member.

September 23 – Webinar, Telemetry Contingency Planning, Presenter, Wendy Morrish

September 24-25 – Virtual National NOVA Board Meeting

September 26 – NOVA congratulates the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) on their 100th Anniversary with a video. Their service to our Nation’s Veterans, support of VA healthcare and those who provide that care - especially NOVA nurses - is unwavering.

October 1-31 – Carolyn Dunbar, top recruiter, LVN/LPN Membership Campaign

October 5 – Letter about NOVA benefits to APRNs from NOVA President Kelly D. Skinner appeared in the VHA APRN Newsletter, September/October 2020.

October 5 – Journal Club Webinar, Registered Nurses’ Self-Assessment of Their Clinical Leadership Knowledge and Competence, Presenter, Valerie D. Wright.

October 10 – NOVA President Kelly Skinner, NOVA Immediate Past President Thelma Roach-Serry, NOVA Director Cathy Giasson and NOVA Past President Sharon
Johnson met in Washington, DC with VHA Leadership: Dr. Richard Stone and Dr. Beth Taylor to discuss topics important to VA nurses. The recorded sessions were included in NOVA’s 40th Annual Meeting.

**October 20** – NOVA has been granted a 4-year accreditation as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation (September 22, 2020 – March 31, 2025).

**October 21** – Member of the Month article featured NOVA Member Mary Hill, LPN, VA Boston Healthcare System.

**October 22** – National NOVA Board Member Spotlight article featured NOVA Membership Secretary Teresa Acosta, DNP, RN, El Paso VA HCS.

**October 29 - 30 - NOVA’s 40th Annual Meeting** – the event was completely virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The year’s theme: Celebrating NOVA’s Legacy and Promise of NOVA’s Future. During the opening ceremony at NOVA’s 40th Annual Meeting, introductory remarks were given by Catherine Giasson, DNP, MHA, RN, NE-BC, VA Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System and Taryn-Janae Wilcox-Olson, MHS, RN, VA Portland Health Care System. Presentation of Colors done and National Anthem sung by Adeola Oluwamakinde, RN, Central Virginia VA Health Care System. There was a Moment of Silence for Lost Friends. Opening Remarks were also given by NOVA President Kelly D. Skinner, DNP, APRN, NP-C, GNP-BC, CRRN, WCC, CFCN, VA Boston Healthcare System. Agenda included: Leading the VA During the COVID-19 Crisis with Dr. Richard Stone, VHA Executive in Charge and Dr. Beth Taylor, DHA, RN, NEA-BC; Striving for Excellence to Strengthen Your VA Nursing Practice presented by Christine Anne Engstrom, PhD, CRNP, FAANP; Holistic Caring: Bridging the Gap Between Traditional and Cannabis Medicine presented by Elisabeth Mack, BSN, RN, MBA; VA Scholarly Endeavors: Research vs. Quality Improvement Projects presented by Sheila Cox Sullivan, PhD, RN, VHA-CM; Organ Donation: Inspired by the Gift of Life presented by Emily Larimer, MSN, RN, BA Berta Grunbeck, RN; Nursing Resiliency: Secrets for Getting Out of the Mindset Alligator Pit and Moving On presented by Carrie Vanston, CPC-IPEC, ACC, ELI-MP; Competency Development and Leadership in Practice presented by Christopher Saslo, DNS, APRN-BC, FAANP; VSO Panel with Members from MOAA, IAVA, PVA, VFW, and The American Legion Moderated by Teresa Morris; Eyes on the Prize: Moving up the VA Career Ladder presented by Arredondo, DHA, RN, VHA-CM; Transitional Pain Program: Helping Veterans Reduce Dependence on Opioids presented by Kimberlee Bayless, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC; and ONS Town Hall: 2020 Year of Nurse and Beyond with Beth Taylor, DHA, RN, NEA-BC. This two-day event was informative and memorable, highlighting the outstanding care for our nation’s Veterans. There were 138 registrants The Planning Committee did an outstanding job coordinating this first ever virtual NOVA
Meeting. NOVA expects that in 2021, NOVA members can meet in person for its 41st anniversary celebration.

2020 NOVA Awards and Scholarship recipients were recognized during the Awards Ceremony.
RN Excellence Award: Sheila Mann
LPN/LVN Award: Danielle Manning
APRN Excellence Award: Veda Forte
Veterans Service Award: John DiMaggio
Distinguished Chapter Award: Chapter 232 Central Western VA
President’s Award: Natalie Parce
Most New Members in the Large Chapter Category: Chapter 226 (VA Boston HCS)
Most New Members in the Medium Chapter Category: Chapter 126 (VA Long Beach HCS)
Most New Members in the Small Chapter Category: Chapter 362 (Columbia HCS)
NOVA Chapter Transformation Award: Chapter 154 (Wilmington VAMC)
Nursing Leadership Scholarship in Honor of Catherine J. Rick: Jonlyn Glenn
Veterans Advocacy Scholarship in Honor of Anthony J. Principi: Ashley Jones
Commitment to Serving Veterans Scholarship in Honor of Jesse Brown: Danielle Alderman
Nurse Emeritus Academic Scholarship in Honor of Mary Raymer: Kimberly Claude
Annual Meeting Scholarship Winner: Nancy Brooks

**November 1-30** – Alma Holley, top recruiter, APRN Membership Campaign

**November 4** – Webinar, VA Nurses: Evaluating Your Input for Your Proficiency for Nurse III, Presenter, Nancy Claflin

**November 6** – NOVA announced a $50 discount on the Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse (CRRN) certification examination and recertification fees for NOVA members.

**November 18** – Webinar, Special Advancement for Achievement and Performance, and Cash Awards, Presenter, Connie Perry-Simon

**November 19** – Member of the Month article featured NOVA Member Christy Rios, BSN, RN, Spark Matsunaga VA Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**November 19** – National NOVA Board Member Spotlight article featured NOVA Director Michelle Salazar, BSN, RN, Black Hills Health Care Veterans Affairs.

**November 19** – National NOVA board Officers: Kelly D. Skinner, TJ Wilcox-Olson, Ruth Holmes and Thelma Roach Serry attended the Nursing Organizations Alliance’s Virtual Fall Summit.
December 2 – Webinar, FEBH, FEGLI, FEDVIP, FLTCI, and Flexible Spending Accounts, Presenter, Deborah Hatch.

December 3-4 – Virtual National NOVA Board Meeting

December 7 – Journal Club Webinar, Nurse Leaders as Problem Solvers: Addressing Lateral and Horizontal Violence, Presenter, Michelle R. Anthony-Richardson

December 10 – NOVA Board of Directors and AH Staff Virtual Holiday Social

December 16 – Webinar, Legal Issues Surrounding Opioids (Pharmacology Credit), Presenter, Kimberlee Bayless

December 19 – NOVA partnered with Wreaths Across America. 1.7 million wreaths were laid on the headstones of our nation’s heroes.

December 21 – Member of the Month article featured NOVA Nurse Emeritus Member Kathleen Lehmann, Ed.S, M.Ed, BSN, BA, RN-BC, PMHN.

December 21 – National NOVA Board Member Spotlight article featured NOVA Immediate Past President Thelma Roach-Serry, BSN, RN, NE-BC, Central Virginia VA Health Care System.

December 21 – The following nominees have been elected to serve a two-year term beginning January 1, 2021.
Membership Secretary: Catherine Giasson, DNP, MHA, RN, NE-BC
Secretary/Treasurer: Ruth A. Holmes, MSA, BSN, RN
Directors: Steven D. Powell, MSN, RN-BC, CRRN, Miriam Rogers Holy, MSN-PH, RN, ACM, Cynthia Solomon, MSN, APRN, ACNP-BC and Betty M. Ogren, LPN - appointed to fill a one-year term

December 22 – Kelly D. Skinner, President, TJ Wilcox-Olson, President Elect, Teresa Morris, Government and Advocacy Relations Director, and Cecilia McVey, Past President and Legislative Committee co-chair, met with the Biden-Harris Transition Team to discuss VA issues of importance for the incoming Administration and to NOVA.

The officers for 2020 were:
President: Kelly D. Skinner (VA Boston HCS)
President Elect: Taryn-Janae Wilcox-Olson (VA Portland HCS)
Secretary/Treasurer: Ruth Holmes (Office of the Medical Inspector)
Membership Secretary: Teresa Acosta (El Paso VA HCS)
Directors: Catherine Giasson (VA Central Western MA HCS)
Ernestine Goode (Central Virginia VA HCS)
Immediate Past President: Theresa Presley (VA Boston HCS)
Yvette Twum-Danso (Columbia VA HCS)
Michelle Salazar (VA Black Hills HCS)
Betty Ogren (VA Northern Indiana HCS)
Thelma Roach-Serry (Central Virginia VA HCS)

Executive Director: Deb Dupnik
Teresa Morris

Director of Advocacy and Government Relations: Ashley Lovelace
Natascha Williams

Membership Coordinator: Genesis Guevarra
Meeting Manager: Natascha Williams
Meeting Coordinator: Genesis Guevarra