

New Jersey State Nurses Association
2016 Preliminary STATE BALLOT

To follow are the position statements of the candidates nominated so far. Nominations will be accepted at the NJSNA Annual Meeting on October 12 and at the closing business meeting on October 13. Electronic ballot will be emailed to NJSNA members on November 1, 2016.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS UP-TO-DATE.

1. PRESIDENT-ELECT

(Vote for ONE) Term 2 years

1. Kate Gillespie (R5)
2. Mary Ellen Levine (R1)

2. TREASURER

(VOTE for ONE) Term 2 years

1. Eleanor Dietrich-Withington (R6)
2.

3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(VOTE for TWO) Term 3 years

1. Minnie Campbell (R4)
2. Elizabeth Kleber (R4)
3. Kathleen Mullen (R6)
4. Varsha Singh (R3)
5. Susan Weaver (R1)

4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS – STAFF NURSE

(VOTE for ONE) Term 3 years

1.
2.

5. COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

(VOTE for THREE) Term 2 years

1. Kathleen Boreale (R3)
2. Colleen Nauta (R6)

7. CONGRESS ON POLICY/PRACTICE

Member-at-Large

(VOTE for TWO) Terms 3 years

1. Kathleen Burkhart (R4)
2. Susan Fowler (R4)
3. Mary Krug (R6)
4. Aleesa Mobley (R5)

**New Jersey State Nurses Association
Ballot for Elective Offices**



PRESIDENT-ELECT

**Kathleen S. Gillespie, BSN, RN, MBA, NE-BC
Region 5**

Currently: Member-at-Large, Board of Directors

Position Statement: I am interested in seeking approval to be a candidate to run for the office of NJSNA President Elect. As a member for the past 6 years, I have held the following position at the regional level, VP of Membership, INPAC appointee, President Elect and President. On the State level, held the positions of Chairman of INP AC from 2011-2015, Board of Directors for Region 5, 2014-2016 and current participation on INPAC and JPSG committees.

I was late in my career before joining the NJSNA, for many reasons, as a young nurse my initial focus was on my career, then the focus was on marriage/family with limited employment in nursing positions.

When I became a member of NJSNA, for me it wasn't about just paying my dues and what the NJSNA membership could give to me, it was more about what I could do to actively support the nursing profession through NJSNA and how I could give back to nursing for all the opportunities the nursing profession has given for me.

The NJSNA has provided me with the opportunities to network, learn from some great nurses, and in many ways given me the tools to advance my career to corporate nursing.

It is now my hope that I can give back more to NJSNA and our NJ nurses by being considered as a candidate to run for the office of President Elect. I have read the position description and what is required, as well as reaching out to those great nurses who have a legacy at NJSNA, obtaining their input on the position and whether I have the background to do the office justice.

Thank you for your consideration in my application for nomination for the office of President Elect.



PRESIDENT ELECT

**Mary Ellen Levine, MSN/ED, RN
Region 1**

Currently: NJSNA Region 1 President

Position Statement: As a member of New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA), I feel privileged to be a part of an organization that advocates for nurses. As a member of Region 1, I have held the office of Vice President for Education, President-Elect, and am presently serving as Region 1 President. Having served on the Region 1 Bylaws Committee as President-Elect and as a member on all the committees of Region 1 as Region President, I have acquired knowledge in all facets of Region business. My dose involvement with the finance, education, communication, community service, and membership duties has helped me make the decision to run for NJSNA President-Elect. I have a special interest in the legislative process that impacts the registered nurse and look forward to being involved at the state level.

As a candidate for the position of President-Elect for New Jersey State Nurses Association, I will work to maintain the advocacy, public policy, and professional representation that my predecessors and you, the membership, have worked to achieve. Thank you for your consideration.



TREASURER

**Eleanor Dietrich-Withington, BSN, MA
Region 6**

Currently: NJSNA Treasurer

Position Statement: This is an exciting time as well as a challenging one for nurses and nursing. Legislators and the public recognize the outstanding contributions that nurses are achieving in health care. Unfortunately, many health care providers are decreasing or eliminating RN's in order to cut costs. NJSNA, the Professional organization, has in the past and continues to address this issue as well as numerous others that affects nurses and nursing practice through it legislative activities and relationships with health care provider, leaders and other nursing organizations. In order to fulfill its mission and achieve its goals NJSNA requires a sound financial status. As the current treasurer and working with our President, Board, CEO and office staff NJSNA has the finances to continue with its work. I request your vote to serve a second term in order to continue to participate and contribute to advancing nursing and nurses.



NJSNA BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Minnie Campbell, DNSc, RN

Region 4

Previously: ANA Delegate

Position Statement: I have always, in some way, served NJSNA including several elections as Delegate to the former ANA House of Delegates (HOD). I desire to continue contributing my acquired skills and knowledge to the Association's efforts to advocate for NJ professional nurses.

Before now, obligations to family, full-time work, healthcare agency board memberships, and appointments to state offices would have interfered with my board effectiveness. Now, my child is an independent adult, I am retired from full-time employment, and although I retain other board memberships and hold one state appointment, I would like to increase my service by devoting my newly freed time and energy to helping NJSNA achieve its objectives.

I ask for your vote because I am well prepared for board membership. I know nursing and healthcare and have years of experience serving on other boards. I am fully aware of the responsibilities and obligations of board membership. It is a sacred trust that NJSNA members give to a select few via their vote. I believe that I am worthy of that trust and shall do all that I can to ensure that NJSNA continues its strong advocacy for professional nurses in New Jersey.



NJSNA BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Elizabeth Kleber, PhD, RN

Region 4

Previously: Congress on Policy and Practice

Position Statement: I believe that providing a group of strong and diverse leaders to the membership of NJSNA is essential in supporting the growth of the Nursing profession in NJ. Ensuring the goals of the Association members are met is essential when facilitating strategic decisions affecting Nursing practice in our State. A focus on growth and development of the Association, with an emphasis on education, research and efficient operational processes, is needed to maintain NJSNA's reputation as a strong influencer in the State of NJ. I believe that the NJSNA Board of Directors should be comprised of Nurses from a variety of healthcare practice areas, including Home Health Care which is one of the fastest growing Nursing specialty areas and one that is highly valued in the growing market of Accountable Care. As a Home Healthcare Nurse Leader and Researcher, I would like to contribute the perspective of Home Healthcare Nursing to the great work being done by the Association in regards to policy and practice for Nurses in the State of NJ.



NJSNA BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Kathleen Mullen, DNP, MSN, BSN, MA

Region 6

Currently: NJSNA Board of Director Member-at-Large Staff Nurse

Position Statement: The New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA) is the only advocate for all the registered nurse professionals who comprise the talented nursing workforce across our state. Our varied educational, professional, and life experiences enhance the quality practice of our profession in complex roles in an increasingly multifaceted healthcare delivery system. Each of us strives to provide the most compassionate care to the population more diverse than almost anywhere else in the country. I believe nurses are essential and central to achieving successful patient outcomes. Our voice is critical to the operation of an effective system.

In my career as a professional nurse, I have been a staff nurse at teaching hospitals and community hospitals. I have worked in primary care and in tertiary care, on days and on nights. I have been a manager, an administrator, and I am currently an educator.

I would like to continue to serve and represent nurses from all regions of the state in our efforts to improve nursing practice and patient care.



NJSNA BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Varsha Singh, MSN, RN, APN

Region 3

Currently: NJSNA Region 3 President; FNAP President Elect

Position Statement: I have been a member of NJSNA for almost 10 years and have served the organization in a variety of roles: Member 2006, VP of Communications Region 3 (2013-2014), President Elect Region 3 2014 and President Region 3 2015-2016.

NJSNA has provided me opportunities to grow as a nursing leader and during this journey I have learned a lot.

I would like to continue to serve NJSNA so that I continue to learn and mentor new members. I believe the values and mission of NJSNA and have witnessed an impressive growth under the new leadership. The ability to be a part of NJSNA Board is an honor and pleasure. If elected I would like to contribute in the best manner possible.

Thank you.



NJSNA BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Susan H. Weaver, PhD, MSN, CRNI, NEA-BC

Region 1

Previously: Congress on Policy and Practice Chair

Position Statement: As a proud member of NJSNA, I am interested in serving as a Director on the Board of Directors in order to advocate for New Jersey nurses and further the mission of our professional association. When I worked as an evening Administrative Supervisor, I learned about the importance of advocating for and taking care of staff nurses and became interested and passionate about nursing workforce issues. Since then I have been privileged to serve the members of our association in several Region One and state positions, most recently as Chairperson of the Congress on Policy and Practice (COPP). During my four years as COPP chairperson, our team worked hard for the members of NJSNA on issues affecting professional nursing practice. We accomplished many new goals such as publishing articles in the New Jersey Nurse about relevant legislation, presenting a breakout session at the NJSNA convention on the legislative process and current legislation, and updating the NJSNA position statement. I have experience as a critical care nurse, nurse educator and manager. Now, as a nurse scientist and a recent PhD graduate, I believe I have the expertise, motivation, and time to serve on the NJSNA Board.

NJSNA BOARD OF DIRECTOR STAFF NURSE

Region

Currently:

Position Statement:



COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

**Kathleen Boreale, MS, APN-C, ACHPN, CCRN
Region 3**

Position Statement: I have practiced in many different roles in both academic and clinical settings as a registered nurse and/or an advanced practice nurse. I have participated in several committees within each organization; unit-based, hospital-based, department and university level committees to advance the interests of nursing. I believe completely in advancing the practice of nursing and fully support the mission and values of the NJSNA.

I have been a member of NJSNA for many years and would like to become more active in the organization. I am seeking an appointment to the nomination committee. As a member of the nomination committee, I would work to recruit the best candidates to strengthen the New Jersey State Nurses Association and continue to promote the nursing profession.



COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Colleen Nauta, MSN, RN

Region 6

Position Statement: The Committee on Nominations is a vital role to every organization. A position on this committee is an optimum way for meeting and getting to know members of the organization. Currently, I am interested in seeking a position on the NJSNA nomination committee. My area of practice is in school nursing. I am a full-time school nurse in the Township of Ocean, at the Frederick A. Priff Elementary School. I am also a per diem Nurse Community Educator for Meridian Community Outreach. Additionally, I attend Kean University in their PhD program Doctoral Nursing Education Leadership program.

I have been very involved with the Ocean County School Nurse Association and interested in becoming involved again with NJSNA. In 1984-1987 I had been involved with NJSNA on the Public Relation Committee and assisted in organizing the book *Nursing in New Jersey*. I am hoping to get involved and active again with NJSNA.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Region

Currently:

Position Statement:

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Region

Previously:

Position Statement:



CONGRESS ON POLICY AND PRACTICE

Kathleen S. Burkhart, MSN, APN

Region 4

Currently: Member-at-Large Board of Directors Staff Nurse

Position Statement: I am excited to post my name on the ballot to run for a position as a Member at Large, NJSNA representing the Congress on Policy and Practice (COPP). I believe my almost 40-year journey as a nurse makes me an excellent candidate to fill this position. I have been fortunate to have worked as both a staff nurse as well as an advanced practice nurse. I have worked in a multitude of clinical settings including medical -surgical, emergency room, and primary care: as well as in the private sector, academia, military and federal health care systems. I have had the privilege to serve for 25 years as a Navy Nurse and have been promoted through the ranks from Ensign to Captain. Through all of these rewarding experiences I have seen how our nursing practice has evolved in response to ever changing health care needs with the ultimate goal being how to best care for the patients we serve. It has been through years of active involvement in my professional organizations both locally and nationally that I have been able to keep abreast of the multitude of federal and state legislation that has impacted nursing policy, practice, education and research. I have witnessed firsthand the power of nurses working together for a common cause, and how a united voice is imperative in moving our profession forward. If elected to this position, I look forward to working with the COPP and the NJSNA BOD as they work for every nurse in New Jersey in support of providing the resources and support for the best nursing practice for our patients.



CONGRESS ON POLICY AND PRACTICE

**Susan F. Fowler, PhD, RN, CNRN, FAHA
Region 4**

Currently: NJSNA Region 4 President

Position Statement: I am committed to advancing the art and science of nursing practice, at all levels of practice. I am an expert in evidence-based practice. I have developed a passion for health policy, having had the opportunity to attend the Nurses in Washington Internship (NIWI). I would like to focus on both practice and policy, marrying the two to advance our profession.



CONGRESS ON POLICY AND PRACTICE

Mary C. Krug, MSN, APN

Region 6

Currently: NJSNA Member-at-Large Board of Directors

Position Statement: As a Registered Nurse for 40 years and an Advanced Practice nurse for the last 20 years, I have always had an interest in nursing policy and practice. I have worked in a variety of settings in a variety of different roles, which has given me an appreciation for the challenges that nurses face in their everyday work life. Having been deeply involved in the New Jersey State Nurses Association, first as Treasurer of FNAP for 2 terms, then as President-elect, then President of FNAP and now currently sitting on the Board of Directors, I have learned that nurses CAN influence their practice through legislative efforts and networking.

It is only natural that as I finish my term on the Board of Directors this year, that I move on to another role as a member of the Congress on Policy and Practice, with the hopes that my participation will help move the practice of nursing forward, supporting the IOM recommendations that ALL nurses practice to the fullest extent of their education and training.



CONGRESS ON POLICY AND PRACTICE

Aleesa M. Mobley, PhD, RN, APN

Region 5

Currently: NJSNA Region 5 Treasurer

Position Statement: As a 40-year clinical veteran of the profession and a 20-year veteran as adjunct faculty, I believe I am well suited to promote and perform the comprehensive integrated analyses of current and future issues affecting the profession. As part of the New Jersey Nurse Initiative and Robert Wood Johnson Scholar, I believe that monitoring health care trends and the impact on the nursing profession are essential to professional longevity and individual competency in the profession. More than ever, nursing needs to be at the forefront of policy making decision, especially as other health care disciplines attempt to position themselves as the primary transformative leaders in an age of rapid health care reform.

It is important that nursing has a voice; one that is disciplined, accurate, effective and evidenced-based in nursing's unique service qualities that aim to promote health and prevent illness and injury in the patient populations served. It is also important that nursing provides evidence that is unique to its own profession and not a voice that merely echoes the practice of medicine and other allied health professions. As many nurses elevate into advanced practice roles, it is imperative that nursing scope and standards remain at the core of what we do without undue influence and potential conflicting oversight from other disciplines.