

Candidate — Newly Licensed Director (1 year term)



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Spectrum Health • Staff Nurse

The Michigan Breastfeeding Network • Continuing Education Consultant
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1. What activities are you currently involved with or have been in the past related to ANA-Michigan or ANA?

I joined ANA and ANA-Michigan as soon as I graduated and am excited to be an active member, and recently applied to serve on a committee for ANA-MI. I am a participant in ANA's mentorship program as a mentee and my mentor has served as an invaluable resource. As a nursing student I was elected to a national position within the National Student Nurses' Association and attended five of their national conventions and conferences, where ANA always had a strong presence. I was able to meet Dr. Pamela Cipriano when she was a keynote speaker and heard incoming President Ernest Grant give an engaging presentation at another. I always left these gatherings motivated to advance my leadership abilities in a professional organization like ANA-Michigan.

2. What other elected, appointed offices or community activities relevant to this position have you been involved with?

I currently serve as a board member on my local Sigma Theta Tau International chapter, Kappa Epsilon, and Chair of Kent County's Breastfeeding Coalition. As a student I served as President of Grand Valley State University's Student Nurses' Association for five semesters, was elected to two terms as a board member for the Michigan Nursing Student's Association, and completed a year long term in April 2018 as Chair and Northern Election Area Representative for the Nominating and Elections Committee for the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA). During this time I was also appointed to a year long term as a column reporter for Imprint, the professional magazine for student nurses published by NSNA. These positions facilitated my growth as an individual and team member. I enhanced my skills in conflict resolution, public speaking, working with a team that lived in multiple states throughout the United States, writing and abiding by an association's Bylaws and policies and procedures, and running a national election. I led my schools' association of over 400 members, increased our committee participation by over 100%, and led legislative campaigns. My goal was to ensure that our board members knew the needs of our members and our profession, and we worked tirelessly to make sure each student felt like a valued member of our association. I loved my time serving in these associations while in school and am ready to serve at the professional level.

3. Please write a statement that indicates your view on issues facing ANA-Michigan? Indicate why you want to serve in this role and why you are best qualified to carry out the duties of this office? This statement will be shared publicly with the membership.

There are several issues facing ANA-Michigan regarding safe staffing ratios, advancing the profession of nursing, and social justice matters. I am pleased to see that ANA-MI is advocating for safe nurse staffing to ensure quality and safe patient care. I have read ANA-MI's letter on new Midwifery rules that was submitted to the Department of Licensing and Regulatory affairs with several other professional organizations. As a nurse at two regional hospital's family birth centers, I work with midwives in our communities and look forward to contributing to any future actions regarding this bill. I appreciate ANA-MI's active participation in legislation and advocacy for our profession and other health matters. I would love to be more involved in key issues and actions that I can take to improve the health in Michigan. I want to serve as ANA-Michigan's Newly Licensed Director because I am passionate about my role as a nurse, our profession, and the value of serving in a professional nursing organization. I am committed to ANA-Michigan's mission of advancing the nursing profession in Michigan and believe in our vision of impacting quality care and patient safety. I wish to proudly represent the association and its members and contribute perspective and information that reflects the needs of nurses early in their careers. I am best qualified to carry out the duties of this office due to my leadership experiences and work history. I am the only former nursing student in Michigan to recently serve at the national level with the National Student Nurses' Association, where I was elected as Chair and Northern Election Area Representative for the Nominating and Elections Committee. In addition to this I served as President of Grand Valley State University's Student Nurses' Association for five semesters and was elected to two terms as a board member for the Michigan Nursing Student's Association. These various leadership positions give me a unique perspective on how to participate on and lead organizations at local, state, and national levels. I worked as a Medical Assistant for ten years, most of that time at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. I wanted to advance my clinical and leadership skills and became a non-traditional student in Grand Valley State University's nursing program. Despite being a new nurse, my medical background has given me a broader perspective of healthcare, the opportunity to work in a multidisciplinary office, and the understanding that every person plays an important role in providing quality and safe patient care. I currently serve as a board member for my local Sigma Theta Tau International chapter, Kappa Epsilon, and chair of Kent County's breastfeeding coalition. I know that I will be able to effectively manage my work load in these organizations, ANA-MI, and as a nurse, just as I was able to manage multiple leadership positions during nursing school. Thank you for the opportunity to be more involved in ANA-MI!