

The VOICE



President's Message

With spring on the horizon, I am hopeful for new beginnings that the warmer weather brings. The local and national vaccination campaign gives me hope that returning to normal is just around the corner. GCNA is working with the Cleveland Department of Public Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Health and Geauga County Health on volunteer opportunities to support the local vaccination campaign efforts. Stay tuned for more information in our member email updates.

While face to face large gatherings are still questionable, I am hopeful to see my GCNA colleagues in person soon. Our virtual March 23rd joint district meeting with the Ohio League for Nursing – NEO Region as well as the Cleveland Council of Black Nurses (CCBN) will focus on advocacy during a pandemic. This panel discussion should be an insightful one on how nurses can and do advocate for public health awareness locally and nationally. Our speakers and moderator will inspire us to become involved and stay informed.

I would like to share a personal thank you to everyone who has supported me the past two years, especially during the pandemic. GCNA held strong and was still able to provide a wonderful virtual Faces of Care 2020 celebration. We continued to gather (electronically) at the district meetings and regularly connect with our community partners.

Lastly, I am grateful for the leadership of our President Elect Penni Rolon who will be assuming the presidency in March. Penni is a great asset to the GCNA community and will lead us successfully in the coming years.

Stay safe,

Meghan

Virtual GCNA March District Meeting in Collaboration with ONL-NEO and CCBN

Tuesday March 23, 2021

6:30-7:00 PM Business Meeting

7:00-8:00 PM Free CE Program

Advocacy in the Age of COVID: Debriefing Lessons Learned from 2020

Panelists:

Mary Grady, DNP, RN, OLN-NEO Region President

Latonya Martin, DNP, CNM, RN, CCBN President

Michaëlle Jones, BSN, RN, GCNA Member, Traveling Nurse

Stephanie Carlson, RN, Supervisor, Geauga County Health

Moderator: Colleen Sweeney, PhD, RN, JD

Panelists will describe how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Northeast Ohio in the areas of nursing education, public health, local response and reassignment to hospitals in crisis, and care of vulnerable populations. Nurses have been challenged in every setting and have risen to the challenges presented by the pandemic. Nurse advocacy for practice, education, research, and policy will guide the future for local, state and national pandemic preparedness and response.

Register at GCNA@CLEVELANDNURSE.ORG

OR call or text GCNA at 216-771-6922

Handouts and the program link will be emailed to you.

This program has been submitted to the Ohio Nursing Association for approval to award contact hours. The Ohio Nurses Association is accredited as an approver of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (OBN-001-91).

Save the dates for the **ONA Convention**, October 5-7, 2021, Hyatt Regency Columbus. This year GCNA will have 24 elected delegates. Consider running for delegate in April. Visit the ONA Connect site/app for info on awards, bylaws and reference proposals.

2021-23 GCNA CANDIDATES

President Elect - Laura Goliat, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Electronic Voting March 8-15.

Vote by Mail or access e-voting via email link sent to you.

SON/Degrees: DNP, Post-Masters Certificate of Education, MSN/APRN/FNP-BC, BSN, Ursuline College. **Position:** Associate Professor, The Breen SON, Ursuline College. **Membership, offices and committees:** ANA/ONA/GCNA 2021-present; Ohio League for Nursing: President- Northeast Ohio Region- 2015-2019; OLN: Summit Planning Committee 2013-present; Ohio Action Committee: Fund Raising Committee; NEO Action Committee: Health Assessment Competency Sub-Committee, Chair; NLN: NLN Ambassador, Group Member; AHA TeamSTEPPS® National Consultant and Education Advisory Board; QSEN- National Forum Planning Committee, National Forum Poster Judging Committee, Co-Chair, Education Summit -Abstract Reviewer; OLN/NLN Education Summit: Abstract Reviewer; Sigma Theta Tau: member, Iota Psi Chapter: Governance Chair/By-Laws-various positions. **Socio-civic activities:** Go Red, Co-Chair: American Heart Association-2011-2014; Student Nurses of Ursuline College: Faculty Chair and Co-Chair- 2010-2014; American Red Cross: Blood Drives 2010-2014 Faculty Co-Advisor; Summit County Board of Elections- Volunteer; Villa Montessori Center/Headstart: Former Board Member. **Most important issues facing GCNA:** As an OLN member, I have enjoyed working closely with the GCNA team over the years on joint membership meetings and Nurses Week Luncheons. GCNA district meetings cover the most pertinent and compelling topics of our time. Special GCNA traditions are the Faces of Care Galas, district meetings, and the annual Nurses Week Luncheons, and recognition our region's nursing students. This is an excellent way of supporting our future nurses, exposing them to professional organizations (GCNA/ONA/ANA), and promoting organizational growth. In these unprecedented, challenging times amidst a pandemic, it is vital that we continue to **expand membership** among student/new graduate nurse (NGNs) populations and continue to **offer and expand cutting-edge programming for our members**. Even the strongest organizations are vulnerable to membership melt during the ongoing global pandemic. Being proactive about strategies to maintain and boost membership is a win-win. Enhancing the GCNA tradition of welcoming and acknowledging nursing students and NGNs is a very effective way to promote growth and diversity. Convening a *GCNA Member Think Tank* would be an excellent way to gather ideas from our GCNA community through their unique perspectives, experience, expertise, and talents.

Treasurer - Stanley Carlton Betts, Jr. , MBA, MSN, RN, NEA-BC

Present Position: Behavioral Health Nurse Acute Inpatient Psych, Louis Stokes VA Medical Center. **Memberships:** ANA, ONA, GCNA, APNA. **Most important issues facing GCNA:** Besides the obvious issues revolving around the COVID-19 pandemic and nursing's role in the treatment and preventing the further spread of the disease, I feel GCNA needs to get back to its core role of advocating for nurses on all levels and developing the nurse leaders of the future. To assist in these goals, I would like to hear what others have in mind and help where I can.

Director Administration - Martie Allen, MSN, RN (retired)

Education: BA-Biology, Otterbein College; BSN and MSN, CWRU. **Employing Organizations:** Majority of career at UH as Manager of Medical and Cardiac ICU. CNO, UH Bedford Medical Center, CNO Edwin Shaw Rehabilitation Hospital, Akron; DON inpatient and outpatient Acute Rehabilitation, Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire, WI. **Most important issues facing GCNA :** GCNA, ONA, ANA are dedicated to supporting the profession of nursing and the health of Americans. Throughout my education and career, I have been mentored by many nurses who instilled the value of belonging to and being involved in our professional organization. As a board member, I hope to bring in young nurses and mentor them as I was to influence the future of nursing. Collaboration with SONs and collective research on professionalism in nursing will be valuable to our future.

Director Education - Barbara Yoost, MSN, RN, CNE, ANEF

SON/Degrees: Kent State University-BSN, MSN; CNS-2000-2019; CNE-2006-present. **Present Position:** Elsevier-nursing textbook author. **Employing Organization:** Retired nursing faculty. **ANA committee posts:** ANA Nurse Mentor-2019-present. **Membership, offices, and committees in other nursing organizations:** ANA, ONA, NLN, OLN, STTI-Delta Xi Chapter. **Socio-civic activities:** East Ohio Conf. United Methodist Church Board of Benefits-appointed/elected position. **Most important issues facing GCNA:** Two pressing issues are: 1) engaging and integrating current students into the life of GCNA and 2) addressing needs identified by the current nursing workforce. Most students and nurses seek active involvement in advocating for patients and their families and social justice issues, such as access to care. GCNA is in an excellent position to engage area nursing students in volunteer and mentoring activities. If students work with local GCNA nursing mentors to address community needs, it will encourage them to join GCNA and underscore the importance of professional organization membership. Volunteering expands the world view of students. Working with nurse mentors, students see firsthand how they make a difference and improve patient and community outcomes. Due to the pandemic and ongoing issues of increased workload, practicing nurses have identified an information care gap for patients and families during hospitalization and after discharge. GCNA must be involved in increasing awareness and tackling issues facing nurses related to patient needs and outcomes.

Director Staff Nurse— Valerie Koch, BSN, RN

SON/Degree: BSN with Honors (2019), Ursuline College **Present Position:** Clinical Nurse, Malignant Hematology & Bone Marrow Transplant, University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center. **Membership, offices and committees in nursing organizations:** Governance Committee Member, Iota Psi Chapter, SSTI (6/2019 - Present); Member, Oncology Nursing Society (11/2019 - Present); Member, ANA/ONA/GCNA (9/2020 - Present); President, Student Nurses of Ursuline College (5/2017- 5/2019); National Delegate, National Student Nurses' Association (9/2017- 5/2019). **Socio-civic activities:** Member, Kappa Gamma Pi, National Catholic College Graduate Honor Society (May 2019 -Present). **GCNA issues:** Moving forward after 2020, will be a challenge. The most important issues facing GCNA involve the mental health of nurses as well as the overall safety of nurses in the Greater Cleveland Area as we continue to battle a global pandemic. I wish to help GCNA expand their outreach to young nurses and new graduate nurses who are starting their careers working in such an unforeseeable time. In a time of isolation and despair, I plan on assisting GCNA to form connections within the nursing community and instill hope in nurses, especially those at the bedside. As a young Cleveland nurse, I hope to use my previous student nurses' association experience to work towards lessening the gap between members graduating nursing school and joining GCNA.

Director At-Large – Lynn Lotas, PhD, RN

SON/Degrees: BSN, MEd in Clinical Psych, Wayne State University;

MSN, child and family development, PhD in Nursing, University of Michigan. **Present Position:** Retired. **District offices and committees:** Mid-Ohio District Board member 1985-88. GCNA Director/Education 2010–2011, Secretary, 2016-18, ONA Delegate from Mid-Ohio and GCNA. **Membership, offices and committees in other nursing organizations:** STTI, AACN, Neonatal Network Editorial Board, 2017-present. **Socio-civic activities-** Fulbright Scholar-Lebanon 2011-12. **GCNA Issues:** The future of any organization depends on new generations seeing the importance of the organization and their participation in it. Relatively few newly graduated nurses are members of their professional organizations, and if they are, it is more commonly a specialty organization. I think a variety of strategies could be used, including public events, news coverage, etc. highlighting the leadership of GCNA on critical health issues in our community could bring some focus on the GCNA and its activities. Secondly, I have worked extensively with the problem of excessive childhood lead exposure in Cleveland’s children. There is a need for changes in health policy at the school district level, city, and state levels. It would be a major service for GCNA to advocate for changes in health policy at all levels to address this problem.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Staff Nurse - Stephanie Lamparelli**

SON/Degree: BSN, Ursuline College. **Position:** Staff Nurse, The MetroHealth System. **Socio-civic activities:** Mass Inoculation Point of Dispensing

(MIOPD). **GCNA Issues:** I believe one of the most important issues is mental health. Nurses are leaving their jobs due to being burned out from the pandemic. This has created a lot of anxiety within the healthcare community. I would resolve

this issue by creating a hotline that nurses could call. There would be a qualified professional to advise options and help elevate some of their anxiety and offer tools they needed to minimize their fears.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Education – Amelia Duckett**

SON/Degree: University of Pittsburgh/BSN. **Position:** Clinical Nurse Educator, University Hospitals. **Membership in nursing organizations:** ANA, ONA, GCNA. **GCNA Issues:** Nurse’s voices should matter, now more than ever. The global pandemic has dominated life for much of the past year and it will continue to do so for the next five to ten years. Nurses are not just on the frontline; we are the frontline! I plan to help support these efforts by being a spokesperson and providing a voice for this cause. Nursing’s contributions often go unnoticed and are taken for granted. I plan to be loud. Nurses are brave, strong and smart and need to be treated as such. Let’s work together to be heard and start facing these issues for the betterment of nursing and future nurses.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Administration – Diane Winfrey**

SON/Degree: Case Western Reserve MSN, ANCS-BC. **Position:** Retired. **ONA offices:** ONA BOD ONA 1st VP, ONA 2nd VP. **District offices:** GCNA President 2005-07,

GCNA President Elect 2003-05. **GCNA Issues:** The most important issue facing GCNA are membership growth and membership engagement.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE
At-Large –Bette Idemoto**

SON/Degrees: PhD (CWRU-2005), MSN (MCO-1991), BSN (Ohio State-1968). **Position:** Retired Geriatric ACNS-BC (University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center). **ANA/**

ONA offices: ANA: Ethics & Human Rights Advisory Board (2010-2014), ANA: Member, Congress on Nursing Practice & Economics (2006-2010), ANA Elected Delegate (2001-2003, 1995-99); ONA Elected Delegate 1993-1999); ONA Ethics Committee (1993-1998). **District offices:** GCNA (1985); GCNA President/

President Elect, Board of Directors (1991-1995). **Membership, offices and committees in other nursing organizations:** North East Ohio Clinical Nurse Specialist President (2005-2015), Past President (2015-2017), member. SSTI member; SSTI Retired Members Task Force (2018-2020); American Association of Critical Care Nurses (1981- 2017); Lake Erie Chapter AACN Co-President, 2015-2017). **Socio-civic activities:** St. Paul Lutheran Church Berea (Council President 1994-99), Health Committee: Chair, Monthly blood pressure screening (1995-2020); Covenant Choir, Lector (1979-2020). **GCNA Issues:** Because I am retired, I have not been working directly at the front lines of the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, sharing world events with colleagues, family and friends has been stressful and has required resilience to a degree not experienced by many in my generation. I believe it is the work of caring nursing professionals to provide support for our fellow nurses and healthcare workers even more than was obvious in our founder’s era. The WHO Celebration “Year of the Nurse & Nurse Midwife” brought to world-wide attention the history of the 200 years since Florence’s birth and her remarkable work to bring light to the soldiers of the Crimean. She began the formal education of the work of nurses with standards that are continuing today. The pandemic has created situations that all of us in healthcare must rise to challenge the status quo, both financially and in all other ways. We must be positive and optimistic in our dealings with both the daily and long-term situations that have no sure outcomes. Will the pandemic still be our main issue for the next two years? We will be fortunate if it is only for two years. I believe I have the time and energy to devote to helping seek solutions for the issues that are prevalent today. Pray for peace.

2021 OFFICIAL BALLOT

Greater Cleveland Nurses Association-District 16

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vote for or write-in one in each category.

<p>PRESIDENT ELECT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Laura Goliat</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>DIRECTOR EDUCATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Barbara Yoost</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>TREASURER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stanley Carlton Betts Jr.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>DIRECTOR STAFF NURSE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Valerie Koch</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Martie Allen</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>DIRECTOR AT-LARGE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lynn Lotas</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

Nominating Committee

Vote for or write-in one for Each Category.

<p>ADMINISTRATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Diane Winfrey</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>STAFF NURSE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Lamparelli</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>DIRECTOR EDUCATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Amelia Duckett</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>DIRECTOR AT-LARGE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bette Idemoto</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

Mail-in Voting Instructions

If you choose to vote by mail, please be sure your ballot is post-marked by Monday, March 15, 2021.

Place and seal your ballot in the envelope marked **BALLOT**. Put the ballot in the envelope addressed to GCNA, 1330I Smith Road, #42234, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. Be sure to include your return address on the envelope to ensure the ballot is counted.

Greater Cleveland Nurses Association
13301 Smith Road, #42234
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130
www.clevelandnurse.org 216-771-6922



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Director-Education - Catherine Mohny, MSN, RN
Director-Staff Nurse - Kathleen Koviak, BSN, RN
Director-Staff Nurse -
Director At-Large - Clare Keiser, RN
Director At-Large - Janterria Matthews, DNP, RN
Executive Director - Carol Sams, MSN, RN

Are you receiving both email and mail from GCNA?
If not, does ONA have your current contact information? Don't miss any news! Please update at:
www.ohnurses/members/

Personal and Professional Challenges of the Pandemic and Vaccination

The current Corona virus pandemic has presented nurses with enormous challenges, both personally and professionally. Many of us have seen our family and friends experience the terrible, life-threatening burden of the disease and some have lost loved ones. In professional roles, our friends and colleagues have struggled to provide care to patients who are seriously ill, separated from family support, and have done so despite staffing shortages and lack of proper protective equipment.

Now we face yet another challenge: doing all we can to educate ourselves and encourage our family, friends, and patients about the safety and critical importance of vaccination. ANA surveys have reported a deeply concerning lack of confidence among nurses regarding the vaccines. In the October "ANA Pulse on National COVID-19 Survey," 40% stated they were not confident in the vaccine development process and 36% would not voluntarily take the vaccine, despite the fact that 65% of respondents were providing direct care to COVID patients. Reasons for this included suspicion about the speed of development and a general lack of trust in drug companies and the government.

While these doubts are understandable, they do not excuse us from our responsibilities to, first, educate ourselves using sound, reliable data rather than relying on intuition or media reports, and second, to base our decisions about our actions and responsibilities as nurses on the evidence. There are a wide variety of reliable sources on line, such as the ANA and ONA Covid resource pages, CDC's "Coronavirus Disease 2019" (cdc.gov), and the FDA (fda.gov). In addition, there are publicly available articles describing exactly how the trials were conducted and the overwhelming positive results of each trial, such as the Moderna trial with 30,351 participants (Medscape.com/viewarticle/943193).

Fulfilling our responsibility as healthcare providers and licensed professionals begins with education, then with becoming vaccinated ourselves. The registered nurse has a duty to contribute to public health and, more strictly, to refrain from presenting risk to others by remaining non-immunized. We would not approve or ever condone a nurse's actions that violated accepted standards just because he/she had a different view or belief system. The rights that one has as a private citizen to act however one wishes are, in fact, constrained by professional duties. While the wait for many of us is frustrating, *please* be responsible and get vaccinated as soon as possible.