



Alaska Nurses
Association

Candidate Biographies

**Joint Board of Directors &
Labor Council General Election**

FALL 2024



**Alaska Nurses
Association**

3701 East Tudor Road, Suite 208
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
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Dear AaNA Member,

The AaNA Board of Directors and AaNA Labor Council would like to thank you for taking the time to vote in this year's AaNA Board of Directors General Election and Joint Board of Directors & Labor Council Election. This is an exciting time of year as we get ready to welcome new leaders and prepare for our annual conference and General Assembly.

For the first time, **this year's elections will be conducted through a secure online voting platform. [Voting invitations have been snail mailed and emailed to all eligible AaNA union members.](#)** This is your opportunity to cast your vote for members of AaNA's Board of Directors and AaNA's Labor Council – leaders who will serve our union and association, our profession, and most importantly, our members.

Candidate biographies are available to read in this packet. Please take a moment to review your colleagues' qualifications and statements of interest.

Another way to be active in your association is by attending the **AaNA General Assembly**: our annual membership meeting designed to review the progress we've made in 2024 and set goals and priorities for 2025. This year, our General Assembly will be held in the afternoon on October 5th at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage and via Zoom.

Along with our General Assembly, we will host several other important events in October. The **2024 Trending Topics in Nursing Conference** will be held October 3-5 in Anchorage. Register today for this exciting conference to explore the trending topics that matter to today's Alaskan nurses!

We will also host **Nursing Narratives**, an evening of storytelling at the Bear Tooth Theatrepub, on October 2 at 8 PM. It's a can't-miss event! Tickets are on sale now. The proceeds benefit the Foundation for Alaska Nurses.

Check out www.aanaconference.org for all things Trending Topics and visit www.aknurse.org for info on our General Assembly and Nursing Narratives tickets.

We're grateful for your membership and continued support, and we thank you for taking the time to vote.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our office if you have questions or need assistance with voting. You can get in touch with us via phone (907-274-0827) or email (andrea@aknurse.org).

Sincerely,

Beth Farnstrom

Beth Farnstrom, BSN, RN
Chair, Nominations & Elections Committee
Alaska Nurses Association

**Chair
(Labor Council)
&
Labor Council Chair
(Board)**

Chair (Labor Council) & Labor Council Chair (Board)

Terra Colegrove, BSN, RN

Present Employment Position:

Staff Nurse, Operating Room, Providence Alaska Medical Center

Residence:

Anchorage, AK

Years' experience as an RN:

38

Past 5 years of Professional Experience in Nursing or Related Positions:

- Staff RN, Operating Room, Providence Alaska Medical Center – 1987 to Present
- Staff RN, Surgery Center of Anchorage – 2011 to 2022

AaNA or Other Organizational Experience:

I began my nursing career at Providence Alaska Medical Center (PAMC) in 1987. Twenty-five years ago, I was just one of many PAMC nurses supporting the idea of Alaska Nurses Association and the strength of a collective bargaining agreement.

- President, Providence Registered Nurses Bargaining Unit – 2013 to Present
- Negotiating Team, PRN Bargaining Unit – 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021 & 2024
- Vice President, AaNA Board of Directors – 2018 to Present
- Vice Chair, AaNA Labor Council – 2018 to Present

Statement of Interest:

As an elected leader to the position of Labor Council Chair, my vision and strategic goals would be to educate and empower new leaders, advocate for safe working environments for nurses, grow the union membership, work for better contracts with strong contract campaigns, and better enforcement of collective bargaining agreements.

Chair (Labor Council) & Labor Council Chair (Board)

Brittany Mackey, RN, RNC-OB

Present Employment Position:

RN, Labor & Delivery, Providence Alaska Medical Center

Residence:

Wasilla, AK

Years' experience as an RN:

10

Past 5 years of Professional Experience in Nursing or Related Positions:

- RN, Scrub Nurse & Preceptor, Labor & Delivery, Providence Alaska Medical Center - Feb. 2016 to Present

AaNA or Other Organizational Experience:

I have been a grievance officer with the AaNA since about 2018, I have volunteered with the Ketchikan nurses and held signs to help with their earlier contract. I was on the contract team for the previous contract and aided with negotiations with the hospital. I have attended training on how to best stand for our union and nurses while being a full-time nurse and union advocate. I have been a delegate to the AFT and attended healthcare specific conferences and a five-day intensive training on bargaining representing the AaNA. I am on our legislative committee and have flown to Juneau for the last five years and advocated for legislation to best help our state and nurses here, I was able to also go to Washington D.C. and speak to our elected representatives there about a federal workplace violence bill.

Statement of Interest:

I wish to hold this position to help my fellow RN's continue to have a powerful and successful union. I try to help make that possible; I enjoy getting to know fellow nurses through this position. I would like to continue doing that for the next two years. I am excited to help us keep up our strong momentum after the most recent contract 2024-2027!

Chair (Labor Council) & Labor Council Chair (Board)

Donna Phillips, BSN, RN

Present Employment Position:

Staff RN, Hospice, Providence Alaska Medical Center

Residence:

Girdwood, AK

Years' experience as an RN:

45

Past 5 years of Professional Experience in Nursing or Related Positions:

- Staff RN, Hospice, Providence Alaska Medical Center – July 2024 to Present
- Staff RN, ICU, Providence Alaska Medical Center – May 1994 to Nov. 2023

AaNA or Other Organizational Experience:

- Hearing Officer for State of Alaska Workers Compensation Board – 2014 to 2020
- AaNA Labor Council – 2000 to Present
- Chair, AaNA Labor Council – 2002 to 2011 & 2012 to Present
- Negotiating Table and Strategy Team – PAMC several contracts
- AaNA Legislative Committee (ongoing) Lobbying in Juneau
- PRN Treasurer – 1997 to 2000, 2002 to 2008 & 2009 to 2022
- AaNA Treasurer – 2007 to 2011
- Central Labor Council Delegate, Anchorage – 2003 to Present
- AK State Federation of Labor, VP for AaNA – 2003 to 2005 & 2009 to 2024
- Various committees at PAMC, including Safe Pt. Handling, Environment of Care and Policy & Procedures, Pharmacy & Therapeutics
- Treasurer Alaska Nurses-PAC (political action committee)
- AFT-VP – 2020 to 2024

Statement of Interest:

As chair of the labor program of the AaNA, I remain committed to the values of the AaNA. "Advocacy, Integrity, Professionalism, Representation and Empowerment". This is the reason I started in the union movement at PAMC so many years ago (1994). Nurses are great patient advocates, but it is sometimes a challenge to have them embrace caring for themselves and each other. The mission and values of the AaNA have not changed since the inception of the AaNA in 1953. As a committed leader I strive to uphold this mission everyday. As nurses and community members, we have the opportunity to help Alaskans in many ways through our Union. My goal is to

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continue to empower nurses through the collective bargaining process. As we grow both the union and professional program of the AaNA, we will continue to be the largest nurses' group in Alaska.

I was proud to have serve in my appointment by President Randi Weingarten as one of the 43 Vice Presidents for the AFT on behalf of the 1.8 million members we represent. I also serve on the Program and Policy Council for Nurses and Health Professionals of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), our national union home. This council sets the body of work to take to the AFT Convention for all AFT Affiliates to vote on and then works on the implementation. We have passed a resolution at the 2024 AFT convention to address the Staffing Shortages in the Healthcare Workforce, through the "Code Red" campaign. I am thrilled to be part of this work to hold facilities accountable by mandated staffing ratios or safe patient limits.

The 2024 election is upon us and your vote is important in all elections. Get to know your representatives running for State house and Senate, as well as our National representative candidates. There are many opportunities to get to know those who are elected to serve us. Candidates want to hear from you.

As the labor program, we have seen our local bargaining units come together to achieve great contracts through internal organizing. Now is the time to step up our efforts to organize the unorganized. We strengthen our voice in the workplace by having more union members in the AaNA. Your vote is important in all elections. I would be proud to continue to serve the nurses of Alaska by being elected to the Alaska Nurses Association-Labor Council Chair position. I hope to hear your thoughts and ideas at our next Labor Council meeting, or the General Assembly, Oct 5th either in person, or virtually.

**Vice Chair
(Labor Council)
&
Vice President
(Board)**

Vice Chair (Labor Council) & Vice President (Board)

Jennifer Hazen, RN, PMHN-BC

Present Employment Position:

ECT Program Coordinator, Providence Alaska Medical Center

Residence:

Anchorage, AK

Years' experience as an RN:

16

Past 5 years of Professional Experience in Nursing or Related Positions:

- ECT Program Coordinator, Providence Alaska Medical Center – June 2019 – Present

AaNA or Other Organizational Experience:

- AaNA Treasurer – 2010 to 2012
- AaNA Grievance Officer – 2012 to Present
- Producer of Nurse Narratives, a nurse based storytelling show
- Vice President of my condominium co-op, overseeing property taxes and all volunteer roles

Statement of Interest:

I was on the Board of the Alaska Nurses Association and took some time off to raise my kids. They are teenagers now and are busy with their own lives and I'm looking forward to becoming more involved again.

I am hoping for leadership role and I believe that my time working with the Nurses Association has prepared me for this step. I love serving nurses in the state and I look forward to a more active role in doing so.

Vice Chair (Labor Council) & Vice President (Board)

Joey Peacott, BSN, RN, OCN, CRNI, CHPN

Present Employment Position:

Staff Nurse, Infusion Center/Radiation Oncology, Providence Alaska Medical Center Cancer Center

Residence:

Anchorage, AK

Years' experience as an RN:

45

Past 5 years of Professional Experience in Nursing or Related Positions:

- Staff Nurse, Providence Alaska Medical Center Cancer Center - 2004 to Present

AaNA or Other Organizational Experience:

- Former Secretary of Providence Registered Nurses and Providence Registered Nurses Labor Council Rep to AaNA
- Former President of Denali Oncology Nursing Society
- Participated in flu vaccine project serving residents of assisted living homes
- Former instructor of ONS chemo/immunotherapy course in a number of communities in AK including Anchorage, Ketchikan, Juneau, Fairbanks & Petersburg
- Current Chair of Infusion Clinical Decision Team for Providence St. Joseph Health
- Co-Chair of Medication Safety Committee at Providence Alaska Medical Center

Statement of Interest:

I want to change the structure of AaNA. The vast majority of our members are members through the labor program. Instead of pretending we are a "professional" organization with a labor program/union imbedded, we need to become a true union with the ability to provide education and other "professional" services to our members. This was promised years ago but never realized. Now is the time to make it happen.

**Director
(Labor Council)
&
Director at Large
(Board)**

Director (Labor Council) & Director at Large (Board)

Stephanie Hill, MS, RN, CNL

Present Employment Position:

Staff RN, Pediatric ICU, Providence Alaska Medical Center

Residence:

Anchorage, AK

Years' experience as an RN:

26

Past 5 years of Professional Experience in Nursing or Related Positions:

- Staff RN, Pediatric ICU, Providence Alaska Medical Center - 2022 to Present
- Nurse Manager, VA Joint Venture - 2020 to 2022
- Asst. Nurse Manager, AHVI - 2018 to 2020

AaNA or Other Organizational Experience:

Master of Science, University of Portland, Clinical Nurse Leadership - 2016

Here are some of the highlights of leadership experiences I've had through my career:

- 2024 - Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy for pediatric patients, program and policy development with our pediatric nephrologist and another PICU RN - 2024
- 2020 to 2024 - Polaris K-12 Parent Teacher Association board member
- 2022 - Nurse manager of 27-31 staff in up to nine different departments at Joint Venture hospital. Leader sponsor for VA ICU RNs to start up a unit-based VA council.
- 2018 to 2020 - Manage daily activities of large private specialty clinic. Develop, coordinate, and teach lunch and learn series for clinic staff at AHVI
- 2016 to 2018 - Programmatic oversight of nursing orientation, new graduate nurse residency program, and other nursing education related programs at ANTHC. Leader sponsor for Nursing Education and Development Council.
- 2014 to 2016 - Volunteer parent teacher organization and volunteer school nurse at Cascade Summit Montessori School in Oregon.
- 2008 - Operationalizing LifeMed Alaska as part of a small team from each parent company that coordinated all the resources and equipment that would need to be in place at inception.

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- 2007 to 2014 – Small business co-owner, gaining business skills operating a small business of less than 15 employees. Coordinating team development events, plan conference attendance for staff, conference booth displays, and prepare conference presentations.
- 2003 to 2011 – Flight nurse with added duties to include Operations Council chair/co-chair, base safety officer, Safety Council co-chair/chair, management of medication ordering, point of care coordinator and program development for LifeMed.
- 2003 to 2008 – AaNA member, and for a part of that time a union steward mentored by K. Gettys.

Statement of Interest:

As a longtime Alaska nurse I have watched the evolution of nursing and the healthcare climate in our state. I would like the opportunity to give back to my community of nurses and participate in a way that is impactful. Promoting nursing interests and upholding the goals and mission of AaNA through active participation in AaNA endeavors would be a privilege. I see it as important to solidify our unity, foster growth in the organization, and develop strong partnerships. Nurses are one of the largest volume of professionals in the state and we are important to the health of our communities. I have always said I would rather be a part of the solution than a part of the problem, which means getting involved. Through my experiences I have learned that leadership is about alleviating barriers and empowerment. To do that you must be able to understand those that depend on you. I will listen with the intent to learn and understand, aim to find common ground, and take pause before making significant decisions.

Director (Labor Council) & Director at Large (Board)

Jenipher Young, BSN, RN

Present Employment Position:

ADT Nurse & Utilization Review Nurse, Central Peninsula Hospital

Residence:

Soldotna, AK

Years' experience as an RN:

14

Past 5 years of Professional Experience in Nursing or Related Positions:

- Utilization Review RN, Central Peninsula Hospital - 2022 to Present
- ADT RN, Central Peninsula Hospital - 2020 to Present
- Med/Surg RN - Since start of my nursing career

AaNA or Other Organizational Experience:

- President of RNs United Bargaining Unit
- Former Vice President and Grievance Officer, RNs United Bargaining Unit
- Director, AaNA Labor Council & Director at Large, AaNA Board of Directors

I have been involved with the Alaska Nurses Association & RNs United collective bargaining agreement negotiations for many years. Participated in several educational opportunities with union seminars which help strengthen our union and elevate healthcare development. I've assisted with educational pickets, call trees, voting, donation drives, Hustle text, Mini VAN, negotiations and advocating for patients and nurses of the Alaska. As a grievance officer I fiercely advocated for nurses rights and a safe working environment. Currently my role is President of RNs United in Soldotna, Alaska.

Statement of Interest:

Driven to provide a healthy healing environment and advocating for patients. The best way to have a healthy healing environment is to have satisfied healthy nurses. I strive to stay involved in many ways to promote the safest and best possible work environment. Unfortunately, we've all seen unsafe work loads and environments that promote dangerous conditions and poor outcomes. I'm empathetic to all parties involved and like to facilitate finding a possible middle ground that has the best outcomes for patients and nurses alike. My vision is to retain and defend good employees from injustices caused by unsafe and unhealthy work environments.