



Alaska Nurses
Association

Candidate Biographies

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

FALL 2026

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

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

Caitlin Smiley, BSN, RN

Present Employment Position:

Acute Care RN, ICU—Providence Alaska Medical Center

Residence:

Anchorage, AK

Years' experience as an RN:

12

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

- Treasurer, Board of Directors/Labor Council, Alaska Nurses Association; 02/2025- present
- Grievance Officer, Providence Registered Nurses Bargaining Unit, AaNA; 10/23- present
- Acute Care RN, ICU, Providence Alaska Medical Center; 07/2022- present
- Acute Care RN, PCU/IMCU, Providence Alaska Medical Center; 10/2014- present

AaNA or Other Organizational Experience:

I have been involved with AaNA since I was a student at UAA. I graduated in August of 2013 with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing Science and Minors in both Sociology and Psychology. I worked for the AaNA Continuing Education department from 2014-2015. More recently, I was recruited to take notes for the PRN Bargaining Unit's negotiations for the 2023-2024 cycle and was an important part of the success of that campaign. Since that campaign, I have increased my involvement in AaNA: first as a Grievance Officer for PRN ensuring our nurses are treated justly, and then as the Treasurer for both the Board of Directors and Labor Council. In 2025 there was a historic vote of the membership removing the \$600 cap on annual dues. As a direct result of that vote, AaNA is once again on very strong financial footing. In the role of Treasurer and Chair of the AaNA Finance Committee, I have led a near-complete overhaul of our organization's financial policies and practices with a focus on expanding programming while maintaining careful, future-focused attention to efficiency, value, and mission.

Statement of Interest:

I strive to continue the transformative work I have undertaken as Treasurer to help lead our organization into a future all nurses and healthcare workers in Alaska deserve - one led by the people doing the work of caring for our community. Together with Jessy Hilliard, candidate for Labor Council Vice Chair, we will fight to empower Alaskan nurses and healthcare workers to be dynamic leaders in our profession and

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community, and to center workers' voices in all conversations about healthcare in Alaska. Through the work of Collective Bargaining, organizing, and Labor advocacy, nurses and healthcare workers cement their role as experts in their working conditions; giving us the platform to make meaningful changes in the places care is delivered to our community.

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

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

Jessy Hilliard RN

Present Employment Position:

Staff Nurse, PAMC

Residence:

Palmer, AK

Years' experience as an RN:

16

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

- Resource Pool RN, PAMC, Nov 2010-current
- PRN Grievance Officer, AaNA , Jan 2021-current
- PRN Representative to Labor Council, AaNA, Jan 2025-current

AaNA or Other Organizational Experience:

I have served as a grievance officer for the last 6 year. In the role I ensure fellow nurses at PAMC are treated fair and justly in our workplace and ensure our contract is enforced through the grievance process, NPPAC and Conference Committee. I had the honor to serve on the 2021 and 2024 Bargaining Team to negotiate for a stronger Collective Bargaining Agreement and am currently serving on our 2027 Bargaining Team. I strive to listen to every concern and help to find a resolution using OUR CBA.

I have a diverse education background, along with holding a AAS in Nursing, I obtained a BS in Business Administration with an Option in Management along with studies in Fire Science and Education.

Statement of Interest:

It is important that we as nurses work together to fight for safer working conditions for all healthcare workers. As the Vice President (Board) & Vice Chair (Labor Council) my goal to work with the current AaNA members and leaders to empower healthcare workers have a voice in their workplace through organizing current members of our organization along with growing our organization by adding additional bargaining units.

Together with Caitlin Smiley, candidate for Labor Council Chair, we will fight to empower Alaska's Nurses to be leaders in OUR profession and OUR community. As nurses and healthcare workers we must ensure that our patients and community have safe and accessible places to receive care.

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

—2 Positions—

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

Marina Banks, RN

Present Employment Position:

Registered Nurse, 5W Neuroscience Providence Alaska Medical Center

Residence:

Wasilla, AK

Years' experience as an RN:

9

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

- RN, Providence Alaska Medical Center, March 7th 2017 – Present

AaNA or Other Organizational Experience:

I am actively involved with the Alaska Nurses Association (AaNA/AFT Local 1953) and currently serving as a Grievance Officer and joint seat as Director at Large (BOD) & Director (LC). Through these roles, I advocate for nurses on issues involving workplace rights, contract enforcement, staffing, scheduling, seniority, discipline and other concerns affecting our members.

My involvement with AaNA has also included in contract campaigns, assisting with grievances and member representation, educating and supporting nurses regarding their contractual and Weingarten rights, and engaging in public advocacy on issues affecting Alaska nurses. I have participated in organizing efforts, rallies, petitions, and testimony, including advocacy related to safe staffing and nursing policies.

These experiences have strengthened my skills in leadership, communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and advocacy. Most importantly, they have reinforced my commitment to ensuring nurses have strong voices in decisions that affect our profession, our workplaces, and the patients and communities we serve.

Statement of Interest:

I am seeking the joint seat of Director-at-Large (BOD) & Labor Council Director position because I believe strong nursing leadership requires both advancing our profession and advocating for the nurses who practice it. My involvement with AaNA has strengthened my passion for advocacy and shown me the importance of having engaged nurses represented at every level of our organization. As Director-at-Large, I hope to strengthen member engagement, promote professional voice of nurses, and help ensure that the diverse perspectives of nurses across Alaska are represented within AaNA. As a Labor Council Director, I want to continue advocating for fairness, safe working conditions, strong contracts, and the rights of nurses in the workplace. In both roles, I would bring perspective of a bedside nurse and labor advocate, along with a willingness to listen, ask difficult questions, collaborate, and speak up when it

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matters. My goal is to build a stronger, more connected AaNA that empowers nurses, advances our profession, and remain a strong voice for Alaska's nurses and the patients and communities we serve.

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

Jane Erickson RN

Present Employment Position:

Staff RN, PAMC ICU

Residence:

Palmer, AK

Years' experience as an RN:

44

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

- Staff RN & Charge Nurse PAMC ICU
- PRN Grievance Officer, PRN VP
- Past President AaNA BOD, Past VP BOD & VC LC

AaNA or Other Organizational Experience:

Since 2014 I have been involved with the Alaska Nurses Assoc. First as a BOD director then onto VP and then President. At the time the Assoc was very busy in the community. I would volunteer at the Heart Run & the Heart Walk, man the First Aid stations at the Solidarity Picnics, and get involved with the Nursing Students graduations. As the VP & then the President we grew our Continuing Ed dept, expanded our Editorial committee & the magazine, increased our involvement with the state BON, grew our Legislative committee and increased our involvement with the state AFL-CIO. With the expansion of our CE dept our annual Trending Topics in Nursing conference has grown to serve our community of nurses to obtain CE's without leaving our state. With the change from a newspaper type of magazine, to now a magazine-style of magazine, we were better able to keep the members better informed. I have always believed that by volunteering in the community of nursing our community becomes healthier and gives back to others.

Statement of Interest:

I have taken a step back from being president to let others lead in a way that the organization can continue to grow and prosper. I would like to continue my volunteering as a BOD director at large/LC director to continue being active with the association and assist as much as possible in growing our organization. I believe that being on the BOD/LC I can continue to be present in our community & can help organize the hospitals and clinics in our state. That should be our vision as a union and that is my vision for this organization.

Thank-you for this opportunity to express myself and hope to be working with the BOD/LC in Oct.

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Regards

Jane

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

Tonya Raney

Present Employment Position:

RN in Surgical Services (Day Surgery and PACU), Central Peninsula Hospital

Residence:

Kenai, AK

Years' experience as an RN:

12.5

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

- RN in Day Surgery and PACU, Central Peninsula Hospital 7-29-2016 to present

AaNA or Other Organizational Experience:

I have been a member of AaNA since returning to Alaska in 2016. While I supported the organization for many years, I became actively involved at the local level in the summer of 2024 when I was elected Grievance Officer for RNs United. Shortly after being elected, I participated in contract negotiations in the fall of 2024, gaining valuable experience in labor advocacy and member representation.

For approximately the past five years, I have participated as a virtual participant in AaNA's annual Fun Run. Over the past year, I have attended several Labor Council monthly meetings as a guest, participated in Legislative Committee meetings chaired by Madison Eckhart, and attended quarterly Grievance meetings in Anchorage. During the legislative session this spring, I helped keep our members informed by sending links related to the Safe Staffing Bill, including information on how to report unsafe staffing concerns and access legislative resources.

Outside of AaNA, I am actively involved in my local church, where I serve in multiple leadership roles that support individuals from communities across Alaska. My responsibilities include event planning, administration, leadership development, and ministry. These experiences have strengthened my leadership, communication, organizational, and collaboration skills, all of which I bring to my work and volunteer service.

Statement of Interest:

I am seeking a Board of Director - Director at Large and Labor Council Director within AaNA because I am passionate about strengthening our profession and ensuring that nurses have a strong, respected voice in advocating for quality patient care, safe practice environments, and the future of nursing in Alaska. Through my recent experience serving as a grievance officer and participating in contract negotiations, I

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have developed a deeper appreciation for the importance of effective leadership, collaboration, and advocacy. If elected, my goals are to actively represent and support our members, encourage greater engagement within the association, foster open communication, and contribute to initiatives that advance the nursing profession. I am committed to serving with integrity, listening to the concerns of members, and helping AaNA continue to be a trusted resource and influential advocate for nurses across Alaska.