MISSION STATEMENT

In accordance with its philosophy and bylaws Region 4 of the New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA), comprised of professional nurses, advances the profession, delineating the practice of nursing through standard setting, education and research, formulating public policy and fostering excellence and quality of health delivery in the State of New Jersey.

NJSNA PHILOSOPHY

The New Jersey State Nurses Association, a constituent member of the American Nurses Association, is organized for individual professional nurse members through its regions to participate in activities for the advancement of nurses and nursing and to promote the profession as an essential, independent and distinct social service.

The Association asserts nurses’ constituted authority to carry out defined functions while controlling and expanding the domain of interest and the scope and practice of nursing. It fosters inclusion and representation of all registered nurses regardless of age, color, creed, disability, gender, health status, lifestyle, nationality, race, religion or sexual orientation. As an advocate for all nurses within the profession, the Association acknowledges self-governance, seeks economic and general welfare and promotes collegiality.

This Association historically has characterized and identified itself with the improvement of the health of the society and continues to carry out a commitment and responsibility to ensure the continued growth of individually accountable nursing services by promoting ethical and optimal standards of nursing practice, education, administration, research and service through established Congresses and Committees.

To forward professionalism and the power necessary to carry out nursing’s social contract, the Association reaches out to nurses through its structure, program and resources striving for one forum for the identification of the entire profession yet reflecting special interests of practice.

The members, officers, and Board of Directors of the Association share the following common beliefs from which the Association’s actions and purposes emanate:

- Nursing is an essential part of the society it serves.
- Nursing is a professional practice discipline that includes the roles of care provider, educator and researcher.
- Nursing is the diagnosis and treatment of human responses to actual or potential health problems.
- Nursing is dynamic and responds to health needs of those served.
- The membership is responsible for the enunciation and maintenance of high standards of nursing practice.
- As an essential social service, the Association is concerned with the professional growth of its members and requires continuing education of its members so that the needs of people will be met in changing societal conditions.
- The Association’s membership strives for nursing care of the public that is qualitative, accountable and autonomous.
- The Association serves as the unified voice on nursing issues in New Jersey and cooperates with other health care organizations for the improvement to health standards.
- The Association protects the profession of nursing and advances the economic and general welfare of nurses to make it possible for nurses to practice through participative decision-making.
- The Association invites nurses to engage in socially significant work.
- The Association invites nurses to participate in research that will be utilized to advance the practice of nursing and improve health care for all consumers.
- The Association is committed to the development of nursing leaders by providing opportunities for participation at all levels within the organization.
The Association upholds standards responsive to the health needs of diverse populations.

ARTICLE I  NAME, PURPOSES, FUNCTIONS & AFFILIATIONS

Section 1.  NAME

Region 4 of the New Jersey State Nurses Association hereinafter referred to as Region 4.

Section 2.  PURPOSE

a.  The purpose Region 4 of the NJSNA shall be to:
   1)  Work for the improvement of health standards and the availability of health care services for all people;
   2)  Foster high standards of nursing;
   3)  Stimulate and promote the professional development of nurses;
   4)  Advance the economic and general welfare of nurses.

b.  These purposes shall be enhanced by a deliberate inclusion of all registered nurses regardless of age, color, creed, disability, gender, health status, lifestyle, nationality, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Section 3.  FUNCTIONS

The functions of NJSNA shall be to:

a.  Analyze, predict, and influence the delivery of health care;
b.  Advocate for the health care of the consumer;
c.  Establish, publicize, and evaluate standards of nursing practice and policy;
d.  Encourage and monitor adherence to the Code for Nurses as established by the American Nurses Association (ANA);
e.  Encourage utilization of nursing research findings;
f.  Initiate, promote, and monitor legislation and educate nurses in regard to legislative action;
g.  Represent and speak for nurses;
h.  Promote the continuing professional development of nurses;
I.  Promote and protect the economic and general welfare of nurses;
j.  Provide for representation in ANA.
k.  Promote relationships with the New Jersey Nursing Students Association.

Section 4.  AFFILIATION

NJSNA is a constituent member of ANA and shall pay dues to ANA in accordance with policies adopted by the ANA House of Delegates.

ARTICLE II  MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1.  COMPOSITION

NJSNA shall consist of members of Regional Associations, each of whom shall hold concurrent membership in a Regional Association. Membership shall be unrestricted by consideration of age, color, creed, disability, lifestyle, nationality, race, religion or sex.
Section 2. QUALIFICATIONS

a. A member is one:
   1) Who has been granted a license to practice as a registered nurse in at least one state, territory, possession or District of Columbia of the United States and who does not have a license under suspension or revocation in any state or
   2) Who has completed a nursing education program which qualifies the applicant to take the State Examination for Registered Nurse Licensure as a first time writer, and
   3) Whose application for membership has been accepted in accordance with Association policy, and
   4) Whose dues are not delinquent, and
   5) Whose membership is not under revocation for violation of the Code for Nurses, ANA, or NJSNA Bylaws.

b. Renewal of membership shall be contingent upon having been granted nursing licensure.

Section 3. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

Every member shall have the right to:

a. attend Region 4 Board meetings.

b. be a candidate for ANA and NJSNA elective and appointed positions.

c. participate in the election of delegates to the ANA House of Delegates.

d. attend the meetings of the ANA House of Delegates, the convention and other unrestricted ANA activities.

e. attend the Congress on the International Council of Nurses.

f. affiliate with ANA councils in accordance with provisions of the ANA Bylaws.

g. to attend all NJSNA meetings.

h. to vote in NJSNA elections.

Section 4. OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Every member shall be obligated to:

a. uphold the bylaws of ANA and NJSNA.

b. abide by the ANA Code for Nurses as adopted by the ANA House of Delegates.

Section 5. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

a. Members shall be subject to censure or expulsion by this Association for violation of the ANA Code for Nurses or for violation of the bylaws of ANA, this Association or its Regional Association.

b. A member expelled under the provisions of this section shall be eligible for reinstatement after one year upon application to the Congress on Practice and its subsequent approval thereof.

ARTICLE III REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Section 1. DEFINITION

A Regional Association is a geographic branch of this Association.

Section 2. BOUNDARIES
Boundaries of Regional Associations shall be clearly defined and recorded by the Board of Directors of the New Jersey State Nurses Association. Boundaries may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the membership by a secret ballot in conjunction with NJSNA elections.

Section 3. QUALIFICATIONS

A Region, which hereinafter is organized under NJSNA, shall have and maintain a constitution and bylaws upon approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. AREAS OF CONFORMITY

Each Region in order to become and remain a Region of NJSNA shall:

a. Adopt and maintain bylaws that:
   1) Conform to the purposes as specified in Article 1, Section 2.
   2) Provide that all members hold concurrent membership in NJSNA and a Regional Association.
   3) Each Region shall provide for out-of-state members.

Section 5. DUTIES

It shall be the duty of each Regional Association to:

a. Send to the Secretary of NJSNA the names and addresses of all officers and committee chairpersons of the Regional Association immediately following their election or appointment.

b. Adopt and maintain bylaws upon approval of the NJSNA Board of Directors which shall be consistent with the NJSNA bylaws and keep NJSNA supplied with complete and current copies of same.

c. Submit prior to adopting any proposed amendments to its bylaws said amendments to NJSNA Bylaws Committee for review.

d. Submit a list of nominees to the Committee on Nominations of this Association for delegates and alternates to the ANA House of Delegates.

e. Report to NJSNA as may be required by the Board of Directors in order to comply with these bylaws.

Section 6. DISQUALIFICATION

a. A Regional Association which fails to comply with the requirements of these bylaws, or for other cause deemed sufficient, may be disqualified as a Regional Association by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, provided due notice has been given the Regional Association at least three months before the vote is taken.

b. Disqualification of a Regional Association shall result in revocation of its charter and all rights and privileges pertaining thereto as such region of this Association.

c. The Regional Association shall have the opportunity for a hearing with the NJSNA Board within said three-month period.

Section 7. REINSTATEMENT

A Regional Association, which has been disqualified, may be reinstated by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV: REGION 4, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. DEFINITIONS
The Board of Directors is composed of elected members and serves as the agent for the Region 4 membership.

Section 2. FUNCTIONS

The business and affairs of the Region 4 shall be managed by or under the direction of the Board of Directors and the Board of Directors shall have the following specific duties and responsibilities:

a. Develop, promulgate and implement a strategic plan for the Region.
b. Establish policies governing the affairs of the Region and devise and promote measures for the Region’s growth and development.
c. Insure that the Region addresses ethical and human rights issues related to nursing practice, education, research and operation of the Association.
d. Exercise the corporate responsibility and fiscal duties of the Region consistent with applicable provisions of the law.
e. Appoint and define the authority and responsibilities of the President.
f. Adopt the budget
g. Establish policies and procedures for the operation and maintenance of Region 4 activities
h. Fill any vacancy on the Board of Directors, and any office except a vacancy occurring in the office of the President or President-Elect.
i. Approve the appointment of standing committees and ad-hoc committees as the need for them arises.
j. Make all other appointments not otherwise provided for in these bylaws.

Section 3. COMPOSITION

The Region 4 Board shall consist of the officers of the Region Vice Presidents for Communications, Vice President of Membership, Vice President to the Institute for Nursing and Vice President for Nominations and Elections, Vice President for Policy and Practice the immediate Past President and Regional Members at large.

a. The Four officers shall be: President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.
b. The Presidents of the Regional Associations of NJSNA shall have voice and vote at all meetings of the NJSNA. If a Regional President is unable to attend a meeting, the district shall send the elected President-Elect. The designee shall have voice and vote.
c. The immediate Past President shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors for two years. The immediate Past President shall have the rights and privileges of a member of the Board.

Section 4. VACANCIES

The absence of any member from the Region 4 Board of Directors for greater than two consecutive meetings shall be referred for review and action.

Section 5. TERMS OF OFFICE

a. Each Board Member shall serve for a term of two years.
b. No Officer or Director elected by the general membership shall serve more than eight (8) consecutive years on the Board of Directors. The office of President and Past President are not included in the eight-year period.

Section 6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST
a. No Member of the Board shall serve concurrently as an Officer or Director of any other state nursing organization if such participation results in conflict of interest with NJSNA as determined by the Board.
b. Any member of the Board of Directors or staff of NJSNA who will derive any profit or gain, directly or indirectly, by reason of membership on the Board of Directors, or for services to the Association, shall declare such interest to the Association and will refrain from participating in any decision on such matters. The individual’s abstention from vote and reason for it will be recorded.

Section 7. MEETINGS

a. Regular meetings of the Region 4 Board of Directors shall be held prior to the annual meeting and at such other times and places as shall from time to time be determined by action of the Board.
b. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President on at least three days’ notice to each member of the Board either personally, by mail, telegraph or telephone, and shall be called by the President on like notice or upon written request of five or more members of the Board of Directors. Special meetings shall be held at the time and place as may be specified in the notice thereof.

Section 8. QUORUM

A majority of the Region 4 Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board. A quorum of the Board shall be majority of the elected Members at Large and Officers.

Section 9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Directors composed of the President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary and the Treasurer of the Association. This committee shall have all powers of the Board of Directors to transact business of an urgent nature between board meetings. All transactions of this committee shall be reported at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. A majority of the membership of this committee shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1. OFFICERS

The Officers of the Association shall be:

a. President
b. President-Elect
c. Secretary
d. Treasurer

Section 2. TERMS OF OFFICE

a. The President shall serve a term of two years and may not serve consecutive terms except in the event a President-Elect fills a vacancy in the office of President.
b. The President-Elect shall be elected for a term of two years and automatically becomes President.
c. The Secretary shall be elected for a term of two years and shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.
d. The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years and shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.
Section 3. VACANCIES

a. In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of President, the President-Elect shall serve as President until a successor is elected.

b. All other vacancies and officers’ positions shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No Officer shall serve concurrently as an Officer or Director of any state nurses association if such participation results in conflict of interest with NJSNA as determined by the Board.

Section 5. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

a. The Officers of this Association shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and such other duties as may be required by the Association or by its Board of Directors.

b. All Officers upon expiration of their respective terms of office shall forthwith surrender all property in their possession pertaining to their office to state headquarters.

c. The President shall:
   1) Serve as Chairperson of the Region 4 Board of Directors
   2) Appoint standing and special committees with the approval of the Board of Directors.
   3) Serve as ex-officio member of all committees
   4) Preside at all meetings of the Association and conduct them by a formal order of business.
   5) Deliver an annual address.
   6) Perform all other duties of the office.
   7) Notify all Officers, Directors and committees of their election or appointment
   8) Submit a report to the Association at each annual meeting

d. The President-Elect shall:
   1) Assume all duties of the President in the President’s absence.
   2) Assume such duties as assigned to them by the President or the Board of Directors of this Region.
   3) Plan and implement the annual business meeting.
   4) Submit a report to the Region at each annual meeting

e. The Secretary shall:
   1) Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Region
   2) Preserve all papers, letters and transactions of the Region.
   3) Submit a report to the Region at each annual meeting

f. The Treasurer shall:
   1) Receive and have charge of all funds of the Region, deposit such funds in a bank designated by the Board of Directors and disburse as may be ordered by the President of the Board of Directors.
   2) Report to the Board of Directors the financial standing of the Association whenever requested to do so and make a full report to the Association at each annual meeting.
   3) Have all books of accounts reviewed at least annually by President and President elect of the region.
   4) Submit a report to the Region at each annual meeting

g. The Vice President of Communications shall:
1) Prepare summary of region activities monthly for the New Jersey Nurse Region News column.
2) Prepare and distribute press releases related to Region activity.
3) Maintain ongoing communications as directed by the President and the Board of Directors.
4) Submit a report to the Region at each annual meeting.

h. The Vice President of Membership shall:
   1) Maintain and report all records of the region membership
   2) Contact all new members monthly
   3) Contact all canceled members monthly
   4) Act as mentor and liaison to all Region schools of nursing.
   5) Promote NJSNA Membership
   6) Submit a report to the Region at each annual meeting

i. The Vice President to the Institute for Nursing shall:
   1) Develop and implement fundraising events to support mission of the Institute for Nursing
   2) Submit a report to the Region at each annual meeting

j. The Vice President for Nominations and Elections shall:
   1) Prepare the Region election Ballot
   2) Oversee mailing and collection of the Ballot
   3) Notify Officers of their election or appointment.
   4) Act as chairperson for the Student Awards Committee
   5) Submit a report to the Region at each annual meeting

k. The Vice President for Policy and Practice shall:
   1) Monitor trends in health care delivery and assess their impact on the nursing work force and existing resources.
   2) Evaluate proposed federal and state legislation and regulations that may have an impact on nursing policy, practice, education and research.
   3) Advise the Board of Directors on legislative and regulatory matters.
   4) Sit on NJSNA Congress on Policy and Practice
   5) Submit a report to the Region at each annual meeting

l. The Member at Large shall:
   1) Attendance at Region 4 board meetings.
   2) Prepare a brief informational report about local nursing news from your region to be emailed or faxed to VP of Communications.
   3) May report on personal events.
   4) May report on events within your own facility.
   5) Encouraged to contact nursing departments and nursing agencies within your area.
   6) Participate in standing sub committee activities
   7) Participate in region fund raising.

ARTICLE VI.  MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section 1.  ANNUAL MEETING

a. There shall be an annual meeting of the Region.
b. Notices of the annual meeting shall be mailed to membership at least 30 days before the first day of the annual meeting.

c. Quorum: Five members of the Board of Directors and two percent of the membership rolls, as of the 1st day of the month prior to the annual meeting; shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. SPECIAL MEETING

a. Special meetings of this Region may be called by the Board of Directors and shall be called by the President upon written request. No business other than that specified in the call thereto, shall be considered at any special meeting.

Section 3. VOTING

a. Each member who is present and in good standing shall be entitled to one vote.

ARTICLE VII NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. ELECTIONS

a. Elections shall take place in a secret ballot to go out by first class mail; to be returned three weeks from date of mailing.

b. Voting shall not be limited to nominees on the ballot. Voters may write in on the official ballot, the names of other eligible candidates.

c. Votes shall be counted and results reported to the membership via The Vice President for Nominations and Elections.

d. A plurality vote shall constitute an election. In case of a tie, the choice shall be determined by lot.

e. Terms of office shall be consistent with the operating year.

f. All ballots and other records shall be preserved for two years.

Section 2. ELECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Nominations and election policies and procedures shall be determined by the Board and shall be consistent for all units of NJSNA.

ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEES

Section 1. BYLAWS COMMITTEE

a. Suggest and receive all proposed amendments to these bylaws.

b. Prepares the convention program.

c. Provides for and coordinates all aspects of the convention including:

1) Exhibits
2) Banquets/meals
3) Evaluation
4) Report to the Board

Section 2. PLANNING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

a. Consists of the Treasurer of this Region who shall serve as Chairperson and Two other members consisting of:
1) Current President
2) President-Elect

b. Prepares an annual budget, advises as to expenditures and investments of funds and reports the same to the Board of Directors at meeting.

Section 3. ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
   1) President Elect Chairs

ARTICLE IX OFFICIAL JOURNALS

Section 1. THE NEW JERSEY NURSE

The New Jersey Nurse is the official organ of this association and shall be provided to each member.

Section 2. THE AMERICAN NURSE

The American Nurse is the official organ of ANA and shall be provided to each member of this association by ANA.

Section 3. THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

The American Journal of Nursing is the professional journal of the ANA.

ARTICLE X REGION 4 BYLAWS

Section 1. AMENDMENTS WITH NOTICE

All proposed amendments shall be referred to the Committee on Bylaws for study and recommendation. The Committee shall see that all proposed amendments with the Committee’s recommendation shall be in the possession of the Secretary at least two months before the date of the annual meeting and shall be appended to the call of the meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting.

Section 2. AMENDMENTS WITHOUT NOTICE

These bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting by 75 percent of the members present and entitled to vote and voting without previous notice, provided the proposed amendments(s) has (have) been referred to the Bylaws Committee for study and recommendation.

ARTICLE XI FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this Region shall run from June 1 to May 31.

ARTICLE XII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Robert Rules of Order - Newly Revised, shall govern meetings of this Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

Revised 11/03