2016 GNA Legislative Day
First, who is GNA?

- The Georgia Nurses Association (GNA) is a full-service professional nursing association.
- For over 100 years, GNA has effectively created a better environment for nurses in Georgia.
GNA’s mission and vision statement - “Nurses shaping the future of professional nursing for a healthier Georgia.” The mission statement reflects GNA’s role in the legislative and public policy arena. Through GNA, NURSES can become active in influencing and shaping the future public policy and legislation that affects the nursing profession; not physicians, legislators, attorneys, lobbyists and others. GNA also helps nurses to advocate for quality health care for all at the state and federal levels.
GNA focuses on providing valuable experiences and opportunities for our members to advance the profession of nursing and alleviate demanding nursing issues, such as the nursing shortage and the need for better workforce data.

GNA’s promise to our members is what sets us apart from other associations in that it conveys a common bond to our members, the thread the binds us all—a true passion for improving our community in positive, meaningful ways. That’s why we are the largest and the only full-service professional nursing association in Georgia.

The GNA promise is about what matters most to us, our people—the members, employees, patients, potential members and neighbors in the community.
The Georgia Nurses Association is a constituent/state nurses association of the American Nurses Association.
GNA's volunteer leadership guides the work of the association and makes key decisions related to program areas, such as nursing practice, workforce advocacy, legislative/public policy, etc.
Political Action Resulting in Change

GNA is the recognized source for accurate, comprehensive health care and public policy information
In the last decade, GNA’s legislative advocacy efforts have resulted in several positive outcomes for the nursing profession in our state. This includes a successful lobbying effort to have funds included in the state budget for RN data collection, the creation of a special nurse license plate with a portion of the revenue derived from the plate directed to the Georgia Nurses Foundation, the passage of Nurse Title Protection and APRN Prescriptive Authority becoming law.

Prior GNA advocacy efforts have resulted in...

- Funds in FY ‘13 budget for update to RN Survey
- Passage of Nurse Title Protection in Georgia
- Creation of the GNF Special Nurse License Plate (2012)
- Nurse Protocol statute & APRN Prescriptive Authority
- Funding of Legislation implementing Mandatory Reporting
- Continuing Competency for nurses without burdensome requirements
- Statewide school nurse program funded by tobacco settlement monies
- Successful passage of Whistleblower Legislation in 2007

...to name a few
Legislatively active volunteers & professionals

- Richard Lamphier
  - GNA Director, Legislation/Public Policy

- GNA Members
  - GNA Ad Hoc Committee on Legislation (COL)

- GNA CEO and Staff
  - Legislative updates during the Session

- Wendi Clifton & Cindy Shepherd
  - GNA’s Professional Lobbyists

While you’re at work caring for patients or at school preparing for your clinical exams, GNA’s network of volunteer advocates and professional staff members are working on your behalf. GNA’s Director of Legislation/Public Policy Richard Lamphier chairs GNA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Legislation, which meets regularly during the Legislative Session to identify and advocate for the priorities of the profession. GNA staff keeps members informed of the issues in the Legislature that could affect their practice, while our professional lobbyists follow legislation that
Though not always visible, GNA members are legislatively active year round. For example:

- GNA & its members are the “go-to” group when legislators want information on nursing & health care issues
- GNA meets regularly with state leaders, legislators, Board of Nursing members and other decision makers
- Campaigning for/lobbying with legislators prior to/after the session
- Collaboration with other nursing/health care groups to advance legislation (Coalition of APRNs – includes GNA & other APRN specialty groups), Georgia Association of School Nurses, Georgia Hospital Association and many other partnerships.
- Involvement with GN-PAC – the Georgia Nurses Political Action Committee.
Legislative Resources from GNA

Our web site: www.georgianurses.org
Resources from GNA

- Legislation/Public Policy Program
  - Legislative Platform
  - Legislative Priorities
  - Ad Hoc Legislative Committee
  - Georgia Nurses Political Action Committee (GN-PAC)
  - GNA Legislative Day event
  - GNA Legislative Update E-mails
- Full-time professional staff
- Full-time professional lobbyists
- *Georgia Nursing*, our quarterly newsletter
- *Members-Only Listserv Messages*
- Press Releases & Media Exposure
- Website resources

There are many resources that support the GNA legislative work and other programmatic areas. GNA’s dues-paying members support the effort to keep all nurses (even non-members) informed—via our newsletter, *Georgia Nursing*. Increasing GNA membership will allow us to continue to offer great benefits and protect nursing practice in our state.
2016 GNA Legislative Platform
http://www.georgianurses.org/?page=GNAPlatform

CONSUMER ADVOCACY

We endorse programs and funding which promote and enable all individuals to achieve optimal quality of life across the continuum. This includes comprehensive health care, education and a safe environment, as well as the basic needs of nutrition and shelter.

- Appropriateness of nurse staffing as provided in the American Nurses Association’s Recommendations for Safe Nurse Staffing.
- The ability of all patients to select a health care provider of their choice.
- Continued funding for services provided by the State of Georgia to patients, families and achievable populations.
- An appropriately prepared public health system for response to disasters, pandemics and other statewide emergencies.
GNA sends frequent legislative updates to its members during the session. It has become one of our most popular member benefits!
GN-Political Action Committee (GN-PAC)

The Georgia Nurses Political Action Committee (GN-PAC) promotes the improvement of health care for Georgia citizens by raising funds to contribute to worthy candidates for state office who believe, and have demonstrated their belief, in the legislative objectives of GNA.

GNA's members' dues are NOT used to support candidates running for office. Contributions to candidates' campaigns must be made by individuals or through the Georgia Nursing Political Action Committee.
Resources from ANA

American Nurses Association
www.nursingworld.org
The American Nurses Association (ANA) is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation’s 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent and state nurses associations and its organizational affiliates. ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.

**ANA's Mission Statement:** Nurses advancing our profession to improve health for all.
Resources from ANA

- Governmental Affairs at the Federal level (GOVA)
  - Nursing Policy Resources online
  - Advocacy Resources & Tools
  - Advocacy Leadership Institute
  - Capitol Update
  - ANA-PAC

Nurses can also visit ANA’s web site www.nursingworld.org for a plethora of legislative & advocacy resources.
Resources from ANA
www.rnaction.org

House Spending Deal Includes Title VIII Program Funds

Under the announced agreement, Title VIII, which includes funds for advanced education, loan repayment, and scholarship programs for nurses, would receive just under $300 million. This represents an overall decrease of $3.15 million compared to 2015. The deal would mean an increase of $1 million for the Advanced Education Nursing Program and of $1.25 million for the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment and Scholarship programs. See here for more details (PDF).

Hot Issues
ANA’s Federal Agenda

- Nurses’ Scope of Practice
- Health Care Innovation
- Safe Staffing

For more detailed information on ANA’s federal agenda, visit www.rnaction.org
ANA’s Federal Agenda

- Work Environment & Health Nurse
- Quality
- Other Issues

For more detailed information on ANA’s federal agenda, visit www.rnaction.org
Released in 2010, the IOM’s *Future of Nursing* Report is a thorough examination of the nursing workforce, which offers eight recommendations focused on the critical intersection between the health needs of diverse, changing patient populations across the lifespan and the actions of the nursing workforce. Since its release, the report has served as a framework for changes in the nursing profession and the health care delivery system.
Four key recommendations came from the IOM report. The eight recommendations offered in the report are centered on these four main issues.
New Graduate Program

- GNA & ANA have launched a new graduate membership recruitment program in 2014.
- Current NSNA members can sign up for an ANA student subscription at no cost.
- Subscription includes benefits you can use right now, like Career Center updates, ANA publications, members-only tools and more!
In collaboration with the American Nurses Association (ANA), GNA is pleased to announce the launch of the new Welcome to the Profession Toolkit. This compilation of resources is a one-stop shop for new nurse graduates and first-year nurses who are seeking knowledge and guidance as they enter the profession.
After years of legislative efforts, GNA was successful in the 2006 General Assembly in passing an APRN* prescribing bill. However, Georgia’s Composite Medical Board, despite strong objections voiced by nursing, public health, hospitals and physicians, passed rules governing the way APRNs prescribe that placed limitations on APRN prescribing. These limitations have negatively impacted APRN practice and care for their patients. GNA continues to work with APRN organizations, such as UAPRN & CAPRN of Georgia, in an effort to reach the legislative intent of SB 480. These efforts are ongoing.

*APRNs are Advanced Practice Registered Nurses— in Georgia that includes nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, psychiatric-mental health clinical nurse specialists and certified registered nurse anesthetists.
THE ISSUES

2016 Session of the Georgia General Assembly
A key to being an effective advocate is understanding the Legislative Process at each level.
Federal – Congress
State – Georgia General Assembly
Local – County Commissions, Board of Commissioners, Boards of Education

Detailed information is available on the GNA web site in the legislative section for those of who would like to review the process of how a bill becomes law. It is important that nurses understand the lawmaking process in order to be effective advocates.
Nursing Practice & Regulation

**Removing the Barriers that limit access to quality health care**

The Institutes of Medicine’s landmark 2010 Future of Nursing report offers a thorough examination of the U.S. nursing workforce. The IOM Report recommends stemming the tide of inadequate access to primary health care services by allowing nurses to “practice to the full extent of their education and training.” This could significantly improve access to care in Georgia, especially in rural areas of the state. **GNA continues to support efforts to remove regulatory barriers to APRN and all Registered Nurses scope of practice in Georgia.**

**Autonomy for the Board of Nursing’s Utilization of Nurse License Fees**

**Nursing is the largest licensed profession in Georgia**

Georgia’s Board of Nursing has improved its processes of RN licensure and discipline in recent years. As a result of GNA’s advocacy efforts, $1.6 million was allocated in FY 2015 state budget to implement mandatory reporting and hire 9 new GBON staff positions. **GNA seeks autonomy for the Board of Nursing over the licensure fees paid by nurses to improve levels of responsiveness, constituent services and adequate technology resources.**
Ensuring Nursing Workforce Safety

*Registered nurses are on the front lines of the health care delivery system*

There are many risks to nurses and all health care workers involved in the delivery of quality patient care. Nurses must have access to adequate personal protective equipment, and hospitals must have adequate protocols in place to handle cases of infectious disease and/or violence against nurses while caring for patients. **GNA supports initiatives to strengthen protection for Georgia’s nursing workforce in every practice setting.**

Addressing the Nursing & Primary Care Shortage

*A shortage of registered nurses and other primary care providers is looming in the state of Georgia*

Recent studies by the Kaiser Foundation and the Georgia Health Policy Center suggest that Georgia has a significant shortage of registered nurses, which will worsen as demand continues to increase. In 2014 Senate Bill 391 passed creating tax incentives for physicians who train/precept physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners through the Georgia AHEC. **GNA supports extending a similar tax credit to APRNs who precept, as well as new incentives to attract students to the nurse faculty career path.**
How to follow Legislation

To follow a bill during the Legislative Session, visit the Georgia General Assembly’s web site – www.legis.ga.gov – click “Search Legislation” and type in the bill you’re looking for.
10 Reasons to join GNA!
Reason #1: Because information is power

We provide the info you need to know.
- Members Only E-News
- Quarterly newsletter, *Georgia Nursing*
- ANA Publications: *The American Nurse, American Nurse Today* journal

A photo from GNA’s Legislative Day at the Capitol
Reason #2: Because leaders have an advantage

We’ll help you take the lead in your profession!

- Statewide elected leadership positions
- National elected leadership positions
- Local leadership positions
- Committees and task forces

GNA President Aimee Manion
Reason #3: Because its all about who you know

We connect you to people you want to know.

- Local and shared interest chapters
- GNA Biennial Conference
- Annual Legislative Day
- Committee & Task Force meetings
- National meetings & conferences

Reason #4: Because we have proof

We know what works after 100 years.

Our goals remain the same today: Create excellence in nursing through our nurses.

GNA members attend the GNA Professional Development Conference
Reason #5: Because we all want a great deal!

We know everyone likes great discounts...

- Discounts on ANCC certifications
- Discounts on ANA webinars and CEUs
- Free publications – TAN and OJIN
- GNA MasterCard
- National Nurses Week gifts & much more!
Reason #6:
Because you strive for excellence

There is always room for professional development, and GNA provides those opportunities!

- Low-cost & some free continuing education offerings, including free ANA webinars and more!
- GNA’s Career Center
Reason #7: Because your opinion matters

What our members think & say matters!

- GNA provides a face and voice to your concerns, through year-round advocacy at the state and local levels

- GNA professional staff supports & responds to all members

- GNA staff lobbyists work at the state level on issues that affect all professional nurses
Reason #8: Because we have solutions

We have a seat at the tables that produce answers.
- Regular meetings with Governor, HHS chairs, other legislators
- House PLB Study Committee
- Partnerships with Georgia Nursing Leadership Coalition, USG, GANS, CAPRN
- More...

House HHS Chair Rep. Sharon Cooper is pictured with attendees of GNA’s Legislative Day.
Reason #9: Because action creates change

We mean what we say and produce results for RNs in Georgia...

- 2013 Advocacy for BON Funding
- 2012 RN Survey Funding
- GNF Nurse License Plate
- 2011 Nurse Title Protection
- 2006 Prescriptive Authority Law for APRNs
Reason #10: Because we work for you!

Simply put...we know your issues and meet your needs.

GNA is motivated by a single purpose – to fulfill our promise to our members.

Energizing experiences, Empowering insight, Essential resources
In an attempt to connect with RNs in all communication arenas, GNA has a Facebook page! If you are already a member of Facebook we encourage you to follow GNA's Facebook page. Just go to www.facebook.com/ganurses and "LIKE" us today! Follow us on Twitter - @GeorgiaNurses!
The Georgia Nurses Foundation (GNF) special nurse license plate is available now at tag offices across the state. Show your support for the nursing profession in Georgia by purchasing a special nurses license plate today! Details on how to get your plate are available at http://www.georgianurses.org/?page=LicensePlate
GNA Membership Options

- Nurses can join as:
  - State-only member – State/local benefits ($185/$15.92 per month)
  - Full GNA/ANA member – ($325/$27.59 per month)

- Students have two special options in joining GNA:
  - New Grad Rate – $162.50/year for new graduates ($14.04 per month)
  - Licensed RN Student – $85.00/year for licensed RNs who are currently enrolled, actively pursuing an RN-BSN, Masters or Doctorate

- Specific benefits for students/new grads:
  - GNA Legislative Day, Nursing’s Future Leaders (NFL) Chapter, Access to ANA members-only resources

For information on GNA membership, visit:
http://www.georgianurses.org/?page=JoinToday