

Vice President



Melody Eaton, PhD, MBA, RN, CNE

Associate Director of Graduate Programs
James Madison School of Nursing
Chapter 9

Professional/Work:

2014 – present: James Madison University School of Nursing, served roles of Associate Director of Graduate Programs and Undergraduate Program Director.

2008 – present: Certified Nurse Educator (CNE), National League for Nursing

2009 – 2014: Longwood University Department of Nursing, Founding Program Director/ Department Chair

1998 – 2009: James Madison University Department of Nursing, served roles of Undergraduate Program Director and Academic Counselor

2011- 2013: American Association of Colleges of Nursing, served as Virginia State Government Liaison.

Community/Civic/Other:

2016-present: Virginia Action Coalition - VNA Liaison. Promote programing for RWJF's Culture of Health Initiative, and state nursing progression collaborative.

2004–2017: Legislative Coalition of Virginia Nurses - Chairman 2004-08. Led a coalition of nursing groups to support nursing education funding, nursing practice, and public health/safety. In 2007, we joined VNA, the Virginia Partnership for Nursing and nursing schools to successfully achieve state budget passage to increase nursing faculty salaries and develop a scholarship fund for graduate education.

Candidate Statement:

My leadership experience, advocacy work, and track record with the Virginia Nurses Association (VNA) have prepared me to successfully fulfill the role of Vice President for VNA. I have collaboratively worked to achieve VNA's strategic goals. As VNA Commissioner on Nursing Education I have contributed to a robust and accessible continuing education plan for the state, education related to the health and safety of Virginia citizens, membership engagement, and I have worked directly with legislative advocacy initiatives. I possess the breadth and depth of knowledge and skill necessary to move VNA's strategic objectives and agenda forward. In concert with VNA strategy, I believe we must "be the change." Throughout my past, current and emerging work, I strive to lead change for healthcare and the nursing profession through advocacy, education, and active leadership in both VNA and ANA. I am prepared to be a productive, engaged Vice President.

Secretary



Ronnette Langhorne, MSN, RN

Director of Nursing
Riverside Behavioral Health Center
Chapter 4

Professional/Work:

I have been a RN for 20 years. I have worked as a staff nurse on a neuro-step down unit, pediatrics, emergency, psychiatric unit and home health. I have also worked as nursing faculty (ADN and BSN) for several educational institutions. I have served as a manuscript reviewer. I have worked in administrative roles in behavioral health, acute care and a local health department. Currently, I am a Director of Nursing for a Behavioral Health Center.

Community/Civic/Other:

I am an active member of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated. I am also an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

I work with my church to provide education of health related needs and services.

Candidate Statement:

This position requires a person to be dedicated, understanding and a good listener. There is more involved than just taking minutes during a meeting, but it also the ability to understand the dialogue during the meeting along with clarify and anticipate the needs of the participants before, during and after the meeting or event occurs. As the state Secretary, the person has to have resources available to serve the needs of the group as a whole.

I feel I am the ideal the candidate for the position not only because I am currently serving in this role, or that I have previously served as the state Secretary but I am methodical, organized, I am objective, able to work well with the team, and knowledgeable of policies and procedures.



Nicole Reasor, BSN, MBA, RN, CNOR

Nurse Manager
Ballad Health
Chapter 1

Professional/Work:

I've been working in healthcare for the past 18 years primarily in the ER and O.R. I've held various leadership roles over the past 10 years to include specialty services coordinator, 2nd shift charge nurse, assistant nurse manager, manager and director.

Community/Civic/Other:

I currently serve as the Moderator/President for Rock Springs Women of the Church. I assist with Children's Church and Vacation Bible School, as well.

Candidate Statement:

The chance to work alongside very talented and driven healthcare professionals will always inspire me because they give seemingly at every opportunity. Giving time, giving efforts, giving comfort. Being a member and leader within the Virginia Nurses Association (VNA) allows me to give back. It affords me the opportunity to engage my fellow nurses and create real change for the future of nursing. I feel very blessed for the opportunity to serve and further grow my experience within VNA. It would give me great satisfaction to serve as Secretary.

Commissioner on Nursing Education



Catherine Cox, PhD, RN, CEN, CNE

Associate Professor
School of Nursing, George Washington University
Chapter 8

Professional/Work:

In 2016 I joined the faculty of the School of Nursing at George Washington University (GWU). Prior to GWU, I was the Director of Programs for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). At AACN, I spearheaded an annual operating budget of \$2.0 million while planning, implementing, and evaluating over 30 national events for faculty who teach at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels, along with the deans and administrators responsible for those programs.

Community/Civic/Other:

My previous community involvement has been as a: 1) Girl Scout leader, 2) Parent liaison for my daughter's cross country/track/field team, and 3) When my spouse was on active duty, I began the Family Readiness Group at Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune, NC. I am also a retired Navy nurse. More recently I became a Key Volunteer for Wreaths across America at Arlington National Cemetery and am a Faculty Volunteer for GWU's Veterans Day of Service.

Candidate Statement:

Thank you for this opportunity. For the past two years I've been honored to work as a planner with the current Commissioner and committee. This required attending monthly conference calls, planning/attending the fall/spring meetings, contributing to the education plan, and formalizing the poster presentation review process. Additionally, not only do I reside in Virginia but I am Virginia-trained: I received my BSN from Radford University, my MSN from Marymount University, and my PhD (Nursing) from George Mason University. Because I've worked in the field of nursing higher education for over 15 years – including at the national level whereby I executed an annual budget of \$2.0 million while spearheading 30 national conferences, culminating in stellar outcomes with 11,500 participants obtaining 4,764,450 continuing education hours and 97% of attendees attesting to future practice changes – I know I have the knowledge and experience to serve as the Commissioner on Nursing Education.



Jackie Daniel, DNP, FNP, WHNP, RN

Assistant Professor
Longwood University
Chapter 11

Professional/Work:

Currently work full-time with Longwood University as the RN to BSN program director and Assistant Professor. I also work part-time with VCU-CMH as an NP in health and wellness. My leadership background includes working as a program director at the community college and university level. I have also managed a hospital clinic for a short period of time.

Community/Civic/Other:

I am very active in my community and with our local hospital. I work as an NP in health and wellness with a focus on improving health outcomes in three underserved counties in Southside Virginia. I also work with local churches and our public school system to promote healthy behaviors and health outcomes.

Candidate Statement:

I would like to take this opportunity to submit my candidacy for the position of Commissioner of Nursing Education. I have been in nursing since 1992 and continue to be passionate about the future of nursing. My background includes working as a WHNP, FNP in rural health clinics in Southside Virginia from 1999 until present (full-time 1999-2008 and part-time from 2008-present). I started working as an adjunct nursing professor the summer of 2008 and fell in love with educating nurses. My leadership roles include managing a health and wellness clinic and as a program director at the community college and public university levels. I am committed to advancing the profession of nursing and believe I would make positive contributions to the VNA organization/board. I would welcome an opportunity to serve as a VNA board member and appreciate consideration of my application for Commissioner of Nursing Education.



Sabrina Gregory, DNP, RN, CNML

OR Education Coordinator
HCA Henrico Doctors Forest
Chapter 5

Professional/Work:

Leadership experience includes serving as the Nurse Manager for Education and Same Day Surgery for nine years at VCU Health.

Community/Civic/Other:

Chair of community outreach program sponsored by Perioperative Surgical Services call SHINE.

Candidate Statement:

During my tenure as a nurse, I have dedicated my practice to providing safe and effective care to all patients served to ensure positive outcomes. I am committed to being a change agent and improving practice throughout the country. I believe that I am an excellent candidate for this position due to my dedication, passion, and that person who is able to think outside the box. I am innovative and creative and will do due diligence if given the opportunity to fulfill this role. I would be honored to serve in this role because I believe that it is a privilege to work within the nursing profession and alongside some of the best individuals in the world because we are lucky enough to call ourselves nurses.

Commissioner on Workforce Issues



Sean Albert, BSN, MIS, RN-BC

Director Application Development
Hospital Corporation of America
Chapter 5

Professional/Work:

My career as a nurse continues to be rewarding. I served our community as manager and charge nurse in emergency, critical, and peri-operative care areas in Roanoke, Richmond, and Virginia Beach, along with California and Denver. In IT&S, I continued in the service of others by leading early adoption of computerized physician order entry, electronic health record deployments, advanced clinicals, barcode medication administration, and a plethora of other technologies at new hospitals and emergency departments.

Community/Civic/Other:

My history of community outreach began with volunteering at two pre-hospital care organizations. The first was Manchester Volunteer Rescue Squad. I became an Emergency Medical Technician and helped patients and their loved ones through some of the worst events I could never have imagined. The experience enlightened me to the value of healthcare and serving others. I later served with Lakeside VRS. Recently, I am engaged with food drives, Hope fund, and other outreach programs.

Candidate Statement:

I am thrilled at the possibility of serving our nurses, patients, and community as Commissioner of Workforce Issues. I have dedicated my career to improving the lives of our patients. The blend of clinical and information technology experience has afforded me a unique perspective on the challenges facing our clinicians. I have the passion, energy, and perseverance to be an effective team member. I have the experience to implement VNA's Strategic Plan and continue its mission. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to our conversation.



Linda Burnette, BSN, MSA, RN, CENP

Chief Nursing Officer
Southern Virginia Regional Medical Center
Chapter 4

Professional/Work:

I have 41 years of nursing experience in a variety of specialties and in hospitals from 64 to 310 beds. I am currently the Chief Nursing Officer at Southern Virginia Regional Medical Center in Emporia where we face the challenges of healthcare in a rural community. I work closely with colleges and universities in the preparation of nursing students and have had the privilege of serving as a guest lecturer.

Community/Civic/Other:

Immediate Past President of the Riparian Woman's Club in Emporia, Vice-Chair of the Community Health Action Team, Core Team Member for RAM, Serve on the Medical Advisory Committee for WIC

Candidate Statement:

My position and interests have given me the opportunity to be involved in many areas of workforce issues. We know that it is imperative to look at our workplace environments and make them safe and healthy for all that enter. There continues to be problems with staffing and matching the staffing to the needs of our patients/clients/customers regardless of the setting. It is up to us as nurses to take care of each other, strengthen our profession, and develop the strategies that will lead us into the future. We must consider the diversity of our communities but work toward unity of purpose.



Jennifer Shepherd, MSN, MHA, RN, BC, NEA-BC, CHPN, CCRN-K

Director, Educational Services
Community Health Accreditation Partner
Chapter 8

Professional/Work:

I am a Registered Nurse leader dedicated to improving healthcare services by process and quality improvement, research, advocacy, information access and knowledge expansion by using innovative and advanced ideas.

In my most recent role, my operations management and professional development capabilities provided significant influence, driving decision making to improve outcomes.

Community/Civic/Other:

Founder and past president of the Mid-Atlantic Nursing Staff Development Organization, an affiliate of the Association for Nursing Professional Development (ANPD).

Serves as lead appraiser for the ANCC for the Practice Transition Accreditation Program.

Candidate Statement:

The VNA Board is a collaborative environment where members bring expertise working towards goals. My past experiences and now having served as a Board member since November have prepared me for this team environment as well as this role. I started this role last year to serve out a partial term and the work is not done. It is just beginning and I am excited to be able to continue working on such an important aspect of how we deliver care.

As I predicted when I first sought out this opportunity, I have been able to serve my profession directly. I have learned so very much about how nurses across the Commonwealth are impacted by workplace violence, nurse abuse and unhealthy environments. I have even more knowledge required for effective decision making and leading subgroups which I believe makes me the ideal candidate for this important VNA board position.

Commissioner on Nursing Practice



Caryn Brown, MSN, MHA, RN-BC, NEA-BC

Magnet Program Coordinator
Centra
Chapter 3

Professional/Work:

I have been an RN for 23 years and have a Masters of Science in Nursing and a Masters in Healthcare Administration. I have held the positions of Clinical Nurse, Nurse Educator, Lead Nurse Planner, Continuing Medical Education Coordinator and Nurse Manager. I am currently the Magnet Program Coordinator for Centra Lynchburg. I am certified in Nursing Professional Development and Nurse Executive Advanced. I have experience in Nursing Professional Development, conference planning, and continuing education.

Community/Civic/Other:

I have been active in the Xi Upsilon chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. I have held the offices of Secretary, Vice President and President. I am an active member of the Junior League of Lynchburg and actively volunteer at local organizations such as Miriam's House (a women's shelter) and the Boys and Girls Club and Kids Haven. I am the Chair of the Virginia Magnet Consortium awards for 2018.

Candidate Statement:

The work of VNA is vital to ensure that Virginia nurses have a voice and that nursing's priorities are heard at the local and state level. I am committed to working tirelessly to ensure that each of Virginia's 109,000 registered nurses are well represented. I am an ideal candidate to hold the position of Commissioner on Nursing Practice because of my professional work history which spans the nursing care continuum from hospital care to ambulatory care, including acute care and perioperative care lead me to have insight to be able to advocate for nurses in all care settings. My patient care experience combined with my leadership experience make me an ideal candidate for this position. I will work hard to ensure Virginia Nurses are well represented!

I am motivated to engage with VNA to advance the profession of nursing. The desire to make a difference drives me in both my work life and my personal life. The opportunity to serve VNA in this role will allow me to make a difference for all registered nurses in the Commonwealth.



Kristi Hall, DNP, RN-BC, CHEC, CLNC

Manager Nursing Administration
Carilion Clinic
Chapter 10

Professional/Work:

I am currently a Nursing Administrative Manger for the Progressive Care Unit, Clinical Administrators, and the Resource Pool.

Community/Civic/Other:

Currently a member of the Carilion Foundation.

Candidate Statement:

My desire to lead and impact nursing at a state level and to collaborate with others with this same passion, drives me to apply for a position within this impressive organization. I feel my leadership skills, excellent organizational and communicative skills will empower me to be the best voice for nursing throughout our state.

Director-at-Large



Jennifer Bath, MSN, RN, AGSNC-BC, CEN, TCRN

Clinical Nurse Specialist
Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital
Chapter 2

Professional/Work:

I am the Clinical Nurse Specialist for Trauma at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. In 2017 I was awarded the VNF Magnet Consortium award for Excellence in Advanced Practice Nursing. I was awarded Carilion's Healthcare with a Human Touch this year. I have presented nationally several times this year. My abstract won for best abstract at the Society of Trauma Nurses conference and best clinical abstract for American College of Surgeons.

Community/Civic/Other:

I volunteer on the Roanoke Area Brain Injury Connection. I am an active board member and have helped organize fundraisers to support brain injury survivors and their families. I was a volunteer as a medic with Roanoke Emergency Medical Services until recently. I am a co-founding member of the Roanoke Valley Regional Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. I volunteer my time to teach Stop the Bleed to community members, teachers and students.

Candidate Statement:

I am so honored to currently be serving as your VNA Director-at-Large. I have been working on a project to engage our 40 under 40 award winners, but due to unforeseen injuries this past year, I was not able to complete my work. I am hoping to get re-elected so I may finish the work I started. I am committed to being a voice for nurses locally, regionally, and nationally. As a Clinical Nurse Specialist, I hope to continue to advocate and educate about the role of the CNS in efforts to help the CNS practice to the full extent of their licensure and training. I hope you will consider re-electing me so I can continue the good work of the VNA as your representative.



Melissa Earley, BSN, NDHP-BC, QMHP-C

Mobile Crisis Response Counselor
National Counseling Group
Chapter 5

Professional/Work:

- Assault On Healthcare Providers Workgroup Co-Chair
- Virginia Action Coalition- Leaders and Partners Mental Health Access to Care Workgroup

Community/Civic/Other:

- SAARA of Central Virginia Member Board of Directors- Substance Abuse & Addiction Recovery Alliance
- Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services- Instructor - REVIVE! - Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education.
- Group Facilitator at Henrico CSB
- Paramedic at Lakeside Volunteer Rescue Squad- Life Member.
- Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance BOD
- Recipient of The President's Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service- Awarded by President Barack Obama

Candidate Statement:

I have come to realize that my passion lies in helping people with a skill set that I have cultivated over many years that allows me to focus on the humanness of those I encounter and draw on my natural ability to empathize and meet people where they are, in the moment with compassion and without judgment. I find that I am most effective and get more satisfaction from the instances where simply being present with an individual is the best intervention I can give. I still very much value my hands on clinical skills and I will always keep them sharp; I just believe my calling is to fall back on my ability to connect with people and to combine that with my passion as an advocate, and my commitment to my profession to facilitate implementing the latest EBP and foster interprofessional collaboration to improve patient outcomes.



Tamara Mitchell, MSN, RN

Unit Director
Carilion Roanoke Memorial
Chapter 2

Professional/Work:

Currently, I am the unit director of a 26 bed Medical Surgical Unit at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital where I have 50+ staff members. Last year, my unit turnover rate was 5% and our Employee Engagement Scores were in the top 25% for CMC. My passion is making Med/Surg Nursing a priority in our hospitals and helping to elevate Med/Surg nursing to the prominent role it is.

Community/Civic/Other:

Currently, also a member of the Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses, a Task Force committee chair for AMSN's Healthy Practice Environment team. I have also been on the AMSN's convention program planning committee for two years and I am a reviewer for poster and podium content for the AMSN.

Candidate Statement:

I believe that Medical Surgical Nursing is the foundation of all other nursing and I want to represent the large med/surg nursing population as a specialty. I believe that all other nursing builds upon Medical Surgical Nursing and our specialized field is due respect and input into the global nursing decision making.

Committee on Nominations Member



Shannon Brackett, DNP, MBA, CCRN, NEA-BC

Nurse Executive
Chapter 5

Professional/Work:

25+ years of nursing experience from bedside to leadership.

Community/Civic/Other:

Meets with legislators to advocate for public health and nursing issues.

Volunteers with Enrichmond and FeedMore.

Works to bring VNA activities to areas traditionally under served and under represented.

Candidate Statement:

I am a strong, dedicated advocate for the nursing profession and for the patients we serve. The workforce issues faced by the healthcare industry, and nurses in particular, are unique. I would appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the solution as the Commissioner on Workforce Issues.



Olayinka Majekodunmi, BSN, MSc, RN-BC

Clinical Consultant
Aetna Medicaid
Chapter 8

Professional/Work:

I am currently a utilization management clinical consultant for Aetna Medicaid in Virginia, where I review inpatient admissions and inpatient stay for medical necessity, for both behavioral health and medical cases.

I am board certified in ambulatory care nursing (ANCC).

Community/Civic/Other:

I am an active member of zeta phi beta sorority, incorporated. I have held offices on the local level (served as secretary for the District of Columbia) and currently serve as one of the undergraduate advisors to the local chapter at George Washington University, in Washington, DC.

Candidate Statement:

I am looking for new opportunities to grow within nursing, and participate more administratively with VNA, and I think that being on the nominations committee will give me a better understanding on how we can be better advocates for each other as nurses, as well as help identify potential nurse leaders in our communities and ensure a viable succession plan within the VNA.



Sherri Wilson, DNP, MPA, RN

Asst. Director of Patient Care Services
Fairfax County Public Health
Chapter 8

Professional/Work:

I serve as a nursing leader for Fairfax County Public Health. I am the May 2016 recipient of the Washingtonian's Excellence in Community Nursing Award. I have served in a variety of roles, the most common thread being my work to improve quality and access to healthcare for vulnerable populations. Witnessing health disparities in multiple aspects of care, has driven my progression as a change agent on the community, state, and systems levels respectively.

Community/Civic/Other:

I am the founder and CEO of The Wilson Initiative for Health & Social Equity, Inc. which is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Our purpose is to reduce health and social disparities and improve the equity of vulnerable and underrepresented populations through educational opportunities. To that end, our current focus is on raising scholarship funds for minorities and underrepresented persons in Nursing, STEM, and Public Service fields.

Candidate Statement:

My nursing journey has been an exciting one: each assignment providing an opportunity for me to grow personally and professionally, while helping others along the way. Having practiced in various settings over the past 20 years, I feel a tremendous responsibility to continue to advance the nursing profession by improving nursing standards; fostering professional development; and excellence in nursing practice. To that end, I have made significant investments in my education and professional development, which have prepared me to serve in various leadership roles impacting the delivery of care within complex health care environments. My leadership experiences and commitment to the nursing profession is well demonstrated throughout my career, which I believe, would prepare me to serve and contribute to the role as a member on the Committee of Nominations.



Tiffany Lyttle, BSN, BS, RN

Resource Pool Nurse, Administrative Supervisor LGH Campus
Centra
Chapter 3

Professional/Work:

I am a level IV Resource Pool RN at Centra. I serve on the Nurse Research Council & currently the PI for a project to decrease infection rates & a another targeted to understand RP RNs. I serve as Co-chair of the Resource NRC & on the leadership team as chair of the education/safety subcommittee. I have cross-trained to Supervision & serve as limbo supervisor.

Community/Civic/Other:

I volunteer through the American Red Cross as a pillowcase project coordinator, and on the disaster teams. I also serve at our local free clinic.

Candidate Statement:

I believe its our duty to serve in our community as nurses and to be active in legislation and our local and state level organizations which represent us. After serving in 2016-2018 on this Committee, I am aware of the duties of the Committee on Nominations and I would look forward to approaching this position with experience and creativity. I would be proud to continue to serve on the Committee for Nominations if elected.