

American Nurses Association  
8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3492  
Tel (301) 628-5000  
Fax (301) 628-5001  
www.NursingWorld.org

**NEWS RELEASE**



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**CONTACT:**

**Mary McNamara, 301-628-5198,**  
[mary.mcnamara@ana.org](mailto:mary.mcnamara@ana.org)  
**Mary Stewart, 301-628-5038,**  
[mary.stewart@ana.org](mailto:mary.stewart@ana.org)  
[www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org)

## **ANA's House of Delegates Passes Bylaws Amendments Opening Up Additional Membership Options and Strengthening the Nursing Profession**

Washington, D.C., July 2, 2008 - Over 600 nurse delegates attending the American Nurses Association's (ANA) 2008 House of Delegates passed a series of historic bylaws including establishing a designated seat on the ANA Board of Directors for a recent graduate of a nursing program.

"We've always believed that there is strength in numbers when it comes to RNs having a positive impact in the workplace, in patient care and in public health policy – whether it's pursuing safe staffing levels or consumer access to high quality health care. On behalf of our nation's 2.9 million RNs, I urge all nurses to keep looking ahead so that together we can reach our shared goals of achieving desirable workplaces, an even stronger profession, and high-quality, safe, affordable health care for the public we serve," said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

"The bylaws amendments are designed to create the preferred future for the association, while strengthening and providing additional choices for constituent member associations (CMAs) at the state-level. With the leadership demonstrated by our delegates at our House, it is clear that ANA will continue to build upon its rich, 100-plus year history of advocating for the rights of all nurses, whether they choose to engage in collective bargaining or whether they choose to advocate individually for a better workplace," said Linda J. Stierle, MSN, RN, CNAA, BC, Chief Executive Officer, ANA.

The bylaws amendments passed are:

- **Affiliates:** ANA has the freedom to enter into relationships with workforce advocacy groups and with labor organizations as affiliates; these affiliates could potentially include both the United American Nurses (UAN) and the Center for American Nurses (the Center.) These new affiliate opportunities will expand the association's relationships to nurses in every type of nursing organization.

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- Associate Organizational Members (AOMs): This amendment provides broader opportunities for connections with ANA and deletes the unnecessary reference to AOMs in ANA's bylaws. CMAs can stay affiliated with the independent and autonomous organizations, the UAN and the Center, and will be able to engage in those relationships directly.
- Multi-State Associations: ANA's delegates supported state CMAs retaining their voting status on a state basis if they chose the existing bylaws option of combining into a multi-state CMA. This amendment goes into effect at the close of the 2008 House of Delegates, which occurred on June 27, 2008.
- Electronic Media: Acknowledging the changing technology and the potential for cost-efficient, appropriately handled electronic voting, ANA's delegates voted to permit electronic balloting for CMAs holding their secret ballot elections for delegates to the HOD. This amendment specifies that electronic balloting is permitted only if it preserves the integrity of the vote and takes effect at the close of the 2008 House of Delegates, which occurred on June 27, 2008.
- Board of Directors: Ensuring that there are avenues through which newer RNs may assume leadership roles, ANA's delegates established a designated seat on the ANA Board of Directors for a recent graduate of nursing program. This Board seat, which goes into effect at the close of the 2010 House of Delegates, is reserved for someone who has graduated within five years of taking office.
- The Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics (CNPE): In order to keep the CNPE at a reasonable number, while offering seats to nursing colleagues from affiliate groups, ANA's delegates voted for a majority of CNPE members to be elected by the House of Delegates and the remainder appointed by the Board from affiliate organizations. Additionally, in unifying the profession, Labor and Workforce Affiliates and individual national organizations will each have a position on the Congress. The new configuration on the CNPE goes into effect with the close of the 2010 HOD.
- CMA: Responding to some CMAs' request that they have more flexibility to meet their own needs and that ANA not be so prescriptive about state structure, ANA's delegates voted to add language that states that CMAs have articles of incorporation and constitution and bylaws that govern its individual members that are "harmonious with ANA bylaws."

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*The ANA is the only full service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 54 constituent member nurses associations. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, protecting 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.*