

Biographies of Speakers

Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR President - American Nurses Association

Rebecca M. Patton MSN, RN, CNOR, of Lakewood, Ohio was elected to serve a consecutive two-year term as president of the American Nurses Association in June 2008.

A nurse since 1980, Patton has extensive inpatient and outpatient experience and has been responsible for the start up, and ongoing operations of ambulatory medical centers, and of an inpatient acute and a skilled nursing facility. Currently she is the Director of Perioperative Services for EMH Regional Healthcare System in Elyria, Ohio. Previously she has served as Director of Nursing, Director of Surgical Services and Director of Ambulatory Operations for hospitals in the University Hospitals Health System. She also has been a clinical instructor at the Case Western Reserve University Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing. A member of the Editorial Board of *OJIN: The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, she has written chapters for books on medical-surgical nursing and for nursing journals. She has also written for popular publications including an article on “What You Must Know Before You go to the Hospital” for *Redbook Magazine*.

Patton has a Bachelors of Science in nursing from Kent State University and a Masters of Nursing from Case Western Reserve University. She has held numerous ANA positions including treasurer (1998-2002), Board of Directors member (1994-1998), and delegate to the ANA House of Delegates (2003-2005). In addition, she has served in several Ohio Nurses Association (ONA) positions, including ONA first vice president (1990-1992), ONA delegate (2005-2006), ONA finance committee member (2003-2005), and on an Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses task force on competencies (1999-2000).

She received the “Community Involved Political Action Award” from the Sigma Theta Tau, Delta Xi Chapter at Kent State University in 2000 and the “Dorothy E. Cornelius Leadership Congress Award” from the Ohio Nurses Association in 1999.

Amy Garcia, RN, BSN Executive Director - National Association of School Nurses

Amy Garcia is the Executive Director of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) in Silver Spring, Maryland, where her primary responsibilities are to carry out NASN’s strategic plans and to oversee the operations of the organization.

Garcia comes to the position from USD #259 – Wichita Public Schools, where she served as the Risk Manager and Employee Benefits Supervisor, along with being the President of Self Insured Health and Disabilities Plans. While there, she successfully supervised the Employee Benefits and Risk Management staff, programs and budgets, and managed self-funded programs and budgets of the benefits programs. In the past, she has owned her own business, Performance Assessment Center, worked as a Senior Loss Control Specialist for Lockton Companies, a Safety Officer/Director Environment of Care for Via Christi Regional Medical Center, and an Education Coordinator for the Wichita Dialysis Center. A Kansas native, Garcia earned her undergraduate degree in Nursing/Adult Education and Masters of Science from Wichita State University.

Garcia has come to NASN with the desire to improve the health and educational success of children and youth. In that, she started her career in nursing with an emphasis on diabetes. For over 15 years, she was an active member of the American Diabetes Association, where in 1988, she was awarded the ADA-KS Outstanding Service to Youth, and in 1995, the ADA-KS Patient Educator of the Year. She was also the Program Chair of the local chapter of the American Association of Diabetes Educators. Along with being a member of these organizations, Garcia has put here knowledge to use by becoming a nationally known speaker on health care issues, including Diabetes.

Linda Groah, RN, MSN, CNOR, CNA, FAAN Executive Director - Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN)

Linda K. Groah, RN, MSN, CNOR, CNA, FAAN, is the CEO/executive director of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN). AORN is a membership organization representing 42,000 Registered Nurses in the US and abroad who facilitate the management, teaching and practice of perioperative nursing, or who are enrolled in nursing education or engaged in perioperative research. Its members also include perioperative professionals who work in related business and industry sectors.

A veteran perioperative nursing executive, Groah has devoted her entire career to perioperative nursing practice, education, and executive management. Groah's previous professional positions include international healthcare consultation, chief operating officer of Kaiser Foundation Hospital in San Francisco, CA, nurse executive for Kaiser Foundation Hospital-San Francisco and Kaiser Foundation Hospital-South San Francisco, CA; director of nursing OR-PACU-Surgery Center at the University of California San Francisco Hospitals and Clinics; and OR director at the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon, GA.

Throughout her career, Groah has focused on improving patient safety. As COO and CNO at Kaiser Permanente-San Francisco she was responsible for more than 1,000 staff and an operating budget of \$100 million providing strategic and operational leadership for nursing and related services. Groah has influenced clinical and administrative nursing practices worldwide through her work in developing advanced clinical practice models for perioperative nursing as well as surgical services' financial models that ensure quality health care for patients. The financial models link the cost of care and the quality of care for surgical patients and include cost benefit analysis for the purchase of capital equipment.

Linda Gural, RN, CCRN

ANA Board of Directors - Staff Nurse/Intensive Care Unit, Community Medical Center

Linda Gural graduated nursing school in 1983. She began her career at Community Medical Center in Toms River New Jersey as staff nurse on a medical surgical unit. She has held positions there as Assistant Head Nurse, Nursing Supervisor and Director of Patient of Care. Presently, Linda is a staff nurse in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit working 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM shift.

An active member of the New Jersey State Nurses she has held position as President, Vice President, and Director. Gural has served as Secretary and President for the New Jersey Institute for Nursing, the foundation of the New Jersey State Nurses Association. She is an active member of Region 6 NJSNA, a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses and the New Jersey League for Nurses. Gural is a resident of Ocean County, New Jersey along with two of her three children.

Susan E. King, MS, RN, CEN

Executive Director - Oregon Nurses Association

Susan King is a Certified Emergency Nurse with over 20 years in the specialty. She currently practices in a large urban medical center emergency department with 56 beds including specialty beds for psychiatric mental health patients experiencing acute episodes of their illness. Susan also is the Executive Director of the Oregon Nurses Association and in that role is actively involved in developing and implementing health care policy in Oregon. She is also a member of the American Nurses Association, the Organization of Nurse Executives, the Emergency Nurses Association and the American Society of Association Executives.

King has a Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of Oregon School of Nursing and a Masters of Science from the Oregon Health Sciences University School of Nursing. While studying for her Masters she did research on; "Measuring the Health Status of Persons with Chronic Illness: Use of the Duke-UNC Health Profile". She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, Beta Psi Chapter. King has held numerous appointments over her career including chairperson of the benefits committee, Oregon Health Fund Board (2007-present), Patient Safety Corporation member appointed by Governor Ted Kulongoski (2004-present), Nurses Services Organization Advisory Board member (2003-present), Board of Directors member, Oregon Center for Nursing (2002-present) and appointed to the Oregon State Board of Nursing by then Governor Neil Goldschmidt (1987-1989) serving as President for two terms.

King is committed to community service, serving as a volunteer nurse at the Lents Immunization Clinic and chairperson of the Hayhurst Neighborhood Association (1997-2001).