

AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION
2004 House of Delegates
Background Report

TO: Katheren Koehn, RN, ANA Secretary
The Delegates of the 2004 House of Delegates

FROM: Deanna S. Cross, PhD, RN
Chairperson, Committee on Bylaws

DATE: April 2, 2004

RE: Proposed ANA Bylaws Amendments

The ANA Committee on Bylaws is pleased to forward the attached proposed ANA Bylaws amendments for consideration by the House of Delegates in the special meeting on June 26, 2004 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In December 2003, the ANA Board of Directors submitted proposed bylaws amendments to the Committee on Bylaws in accordance with ANA Bylaws Article VI, Section 6.a.2. and also indicated its intent to call a special meeting of the House of Delegates for the sole purpose of acting on the proposed amendments. The rationale and urgency of the proposed amendments was described by the Board of Directors as follows: The proposed change “is in response to an ICN inquiry regarding whether our 2003 bylaws amendment that permitted “foreign” nursing organizations to become Organizational Affiliates served to disqualify ANA from membership in the ICN The purpose of permitting foreign nursing organizations to connect with ANA was to permit them to tap into our resources and network – not to put ANA in a position of speaking or acting on international nursing issues Nevertheless, it is important that ANA not lose its ICN membership status because of a misunderstanding.”

The Committee on Bylaws reviewed the proposed bylaws amendments and disseminated them to the CMAs for field review. Three CMAs responded, indicating support for the proposal as presented. The committee finalized the proposal on March 22, 2004.

The proposed ANA bylaws amendments are being forwarded for dialogue and action at the 2004 House of Delegates. The online reference hearing process is available to further assist in the discussion. Delegates will be able to share their thinking and to respond to each other’s ideas if they wish to. It is the Committee on Bylaws’ intent and hope that these steps will be helpful to all in articulating their views with respect to the proposed bylaws amendments.

The Committee thanks all those who participated in the first stages of this amendment process and looks forward to the work still ahead.

cc: ANA Board of Directors
Linda J. Stierle, MSN, RN, CNAA,BC, Chief Executive Officer