2011 ANA Annual Report

As the leading professional association representing the nation’s 3.1 million nurses, the American Nurses Association (ANA) takes seriously our mission to advance the profession to improve health for all. In 2011 we focused our work in three areas and our progress throughout the year reflected the commitment to excellence, support, and engagement of our members.

Please take some time to review our new, interactive Annual Report for some insight into our activities during 2011 and how your support helps to advance your chosen profession.

Advocacy

Our work advocating for nurses and the profession included bringing nursing’s perspective to Capitol Hill and to the regulators and policy makers charged with implementing the Affordable Care Act. Many people do not realize that getting legislation passed is only half the battle. After the president signs a new law, the detailed work of implementation begins. ANA is closely monitoring the myriad rules and regulations that translate the vision of the law into implementation.

Throughout the year, ANA took the lead in providing comments on key provisions of the law, such as how nurses are represented in Accountable Care Organizations and in the revision of the Conditions of Participation in Medicare and other proposed regulations. In addition, ANA organized lobby days, including its first successful “virtual” lobby day. Through our American Nurses Advocacy Institute, ANA mentored 50 nurses in how to effectively communicate with and influence their members of Congress.

Also on the advocacy front, ANA worked tirelessly in 2011 to ensure that Advanced Practice RNs (APRNs) received reimbursement for their services equal to physicians. ANA pressed to ensure, for example, that APRNs who provide mental health services receive appropriate payment. As the nation’s health care delivery system continues to evolve, removing barriers that prevent the public from benefiting from the full capacity of nurses’ knowledge and skill will remain a priority and ANA is at the fore to champion nurses’ and patients’ rights.

Leadership

Leadership is nothing new to nurses. Every day, nurses face daunting challenges in patient care, yet find creative and inspiring ways to overcome them, demonstrating true leadership. Still, in light of the IOM’s 2010 report: The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health, the importance of tapping the full leadership capacity of nurses, from the bedside to the boardroom, has taken on greater prominence. ANA is committed to helping nurses reach their potential head on, with the addition of member tools such as the research tool kit and social media principles to help lead in the Web 2.0 environment. Additionally, ANA has been very involved in efforts to improve patient care, such as our commitment to the Partnership for Patients, a coalition of hospitals, providers, patient advocates, employers and state and federal officials dedicated to creating a safer, higher quality health care system.

ANA’s National Center on Nursing Quality® led the way in quality performance measurement and pay for quality. In 2011, ANA hosted Tipping Point 2, the premiere gathering on Health IT, which provided a unique opportunity for the nursing profession to devise strategies for including nursing-sensitive quality measures in health IT—with the ultimate goal of improving patient safety and raising awareness about the contributions of nurses.

As inter-professional teams begin to proliferate, ANA has taken the lead on nurses’ behalf to insist on provider-neutral language that puts nurses on equal footing with their professional counterparts in other areas of health care. By empowering nurses to lead, ANA is helping to bring down barriers to practice and ensure that nurses are respected for the professionals we are.

Patient-focused, quality care

ANA knows, as do all nurses, the reason we are here: our patients, clients, and communities. Nurses are the most trusted profession in America because our standards and dedication to patient care are unsurpassed. In 2011 we provided valuable, cutting edge clinical information for patient care through our journals, American Nurse Today and the Online Journal of Issues in Nursing, as well as our award-winning books, which provide guidance on all aspects of nursing practice.

ANA’s National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators® remained the leading source for nursing quality research in 2011. ANA’s Annual Quality Conference in 2011 had the highest attendance to date, and we continued to provide quality information to nurses through many educational events held throughout the year.

Through ANA’s work in the vaccination area—our Bringing Immunity to Every Community project—we have helped protect the health of the public by educating nurses and the public on the importance of immunization. As a part of this work, ANA led a coalition of health care providers to work with maternal and child health organizations to increase the use of the pertussis vaccine in an effort to stem a worrying resurgence of whooping cough deaths in America’s children.
ANA is uniquely positioned to represent America’s nurses, and we take that responsibility seriously. While we at ANA are proud of these accomplishments, we acknowledge that all this would be impossible without our members and leaders. It is your dedication to your profession, to excelling in practice, and to those for whom we provide care that continues to make nursing and ANA forces for positive change in our shifting health care landscape. Thank you.

Karen A. Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN
ANA President

Marla J. Weston, PhD, RN
Chief Executive Officer

ANA Leadership

Below you will find information on ANA’s volunteer leadership.

ANA Board of Directors
Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics
ANA-PAC Board of Trustees
Center for Ethics and Human Rights Advisory Board
Minority Fellowship Program Advisory Committee

Financial information

The ANA Enterprise includes the American Nurses Association, the American Nurses Foundation, the American Academy of Nursing, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and the American Nurses Association Political Action Committee.