



2016 National Awards

Distinguished Membership Award

For recognition of outstanding leadership and participation in and contributions to the purposes of the American Nurses Association.

Judith Huntington, MN, RN Washington State Nurses Association

Judy Huntington has more than 45 years of board and staff-level association experience and a career dedicated to strengthening relationships with other state nurses associations, individual nurses, and leaders in health care, business and government.

She began her career as a staff nurse on the pediatric surgical unit at Seattle Children's Hospital and eventually became the head nurse of the hospital's pediatric intensive care unit.

Over the years, she served as the assistant administrator for patient care services at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis, OR, and joined ANA in 1989 as the director of governmental affairs. At ANA, she initiated the development of a comprehensive health care reform policy and was the first to staff an executive position directly responsible for the planning, administration and implementation of all field services activities with constituent and state nurses associations.

Huntington was among the founding members of the Washington Committee for Affordable Health Care, a coalition of leaders in health care, business and public policy responsible for crafting and lobbying for the successful passage of the Washington State Basic Health Plan. She was appointed by the Executive of King County to the Harborview Medical Center Board of Trustees in the mid-1980s, and also served as a member of the Executive Board of Directors of the Washington Health Foundation.

In December 1998, Huntington was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Kent State University for her work in health policy and advancing distance learning through electronic communications and the development of OJIN: The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing.

In January 1999, she became the executive director of the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA), after working for nearly 10 years on the executive staff at ANA. Under her leadership, WSNA has nearly doubled its membership, with close to 14,000 registered nurse members in Washington State, and transformed an organization near bankruptcy into one with no debt and more than six months of operating reserves.

