



2016 National Awards

Honorary Recognition Award

For distinguished national or international service to the nursing profession.

Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR, FAAN Ohio Nurses Association

Rebecca M. Patton has built her career strengthening and improving relationships with individual, national, international and state nurses associations, and elevating nurses' voices in the national policy arena.

Patton launched her life's work as a nursing advocate by joining the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA) in 1980, the year she began her career as a staff nurse. Over the years, she has served as a clinical nurse and instructor, assistant head nurse and director of nursing and surgical services at hospitals and health care systems in the Cleveland, OH, area. In addition to her extensive inpatient and outpatient experience, she also served as the treasurer and first vice president of the ONA Board of Directors.

Patton currently serves in the nation's only Perioperative Endowed Professorship as the inaugural Atkinson Scholar of Perioperative Nursing at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, in Cleveland. The goal of perioperative care is to provide better conditions for patients before, during and after surgical intervention.

Patton's work at the national level began as a delegate to the ANA convention. She served on the ANA board, first as a director and then as treasurer, from 1998 to 2002. As ANA treasurer, Patton provided crucial leadership to restore ANA's financial viability, realigning its budgets with its priorities and successfully boosting revenue through an ambitious membership dues campaign.

Patton later served as ANA president, from 2006 to 2010. Under her leadership, ANA became the prominent nurses association at the table in the discussion of health care reform and its resultant legislation, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. She ensured that ANA priorities and nurses' voices were heard by policymakers on topics such as reimbursement, patients' rights, staffing, nursing education funding, and the role of registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses in our national health care system. She also facilitated an agreement with the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) that resulted in massive growth in ANA's membership and the capacity for legislative advocacy, adding the voices of more than 40,000 nurses to ANA's membership. In addition to being a 2014 recipient of ANA's Distinguished Membership Award, Patton has authored dozens of presentations and articles on health policy and nursing workforce issues.

