

# National Awards Program Guide

*Revised: July 2019*

## Background

Since the early 1900s, the American Nurses Association (ANA) has presented awards to prominent registered nurses to recognize their outstanding contributions to the nursing profession and the field of health care.<sup>1</sup>

ANA pays special tribute to those individuals who, through distinguished service to the nursing profession:

- work for the improvement of health standards and the availability of health care services to all people;
- foster high standards of nursing; and/or
- stimulate and promote the professional development of registered nurses.

ANA's awards are bestowed biennially. The board-appointed Committee on Honorary Awards Subcommittee is responsible for reviewing nominations for all awards and for making recommendations regarding award recipients to the Committee on Honorary Awards.

The Committee on Honorary Awards is charged with recommending award recipients for consideration by the ANA Board of Directors. The ANA Board of Directors approves all national awards recipients and the decision of the ANA Board of Directors is final.

---

<sup>1</sup>Provisions have also been made to honor, on special occasions, individuals who are not members of the nursing profession who have made significant contributions to health and/or nursing care.

## Section 1: Award Categories

**Awards for Distinguished Practice in Nursing** recognize excellence in nursing research, nursing education, or nursing practice, and outstanding professional contributions of an ANA member in the areas of research, education, clinical care, direct patient care, or public health.

***Distinguished Direct Patient Care Award***, for providing exemplary direct patient care and contributing to the advancement of nursing practice.

- This award is inspired by **Mary Ellen Patton** who exemplified the qualities of a staff nurse leader through her service as an officer at the local, district, and state levels, and served as a mentor to staff nurses across the country.

***Foundations of Nursing Practice Award***, for outstanding accomplishments in nursing research, nursing education, or nursing practice and promoting the interdependence of these three elements as vital to enhancing nursing education and evidence-based nursing practice.

- This award is inspired by **Jessie M. Scott**, who administered the nurse training acts and was instrumental in directing federal programs of support for nursing education that improved the quality of both education and practice.

***Public Health Service Award***, for exceptional leadership and outstanding professional contributions to shaping the role and advancing the practice of public health nursing.

- This award is inspired by **Pearl McIver**, who dedicated her career to promoting and protecting the health of people and communities in her role as a public health nurse.

**Award for Diversity in Nursing** recognizes significant contributions by an individual nurse or a group of nurses to enhanced integration/inclusion within the nursing profession.

***Diversity Award***, for long-standing commitment and significant contributions to the advancement of diversity and inclusion within the nursing profession

- This award is inspired by two forward thinking nurse leaders – **Luther Christman and Mary Mahoney** – who through their courage and pioneering spirit, advanced diversity and inclusion in the nursing profession.

**Awards for Nurse Exemplars** promote and underscore ANA's continuing dedication to the principles of nursing ethics and the highest standards of nursing practice.

***ANA Hall of Fame**, for extraordinary contributions to the nursing profession over a sustained period through distinguished service, steadfast leadership, exceptional mentorship, effective advocacy, and innovative efforts that have had an enduring impact on the health and/or social/political history of the United States.*

***Leadership in Ethics**, for demonstrating the highest standards of ethics and leadership in his/her daily practice, serving as an ethical role model, and promoting ethical dialogue and/or scholarship.*

**Awards for Nursing Champions** recognize outstanding accomplishments in the area of advocacy for the profession of nursing and for ANA.

***Advocacy Award**, for making significant contributions through political, professional, and/or social advocacy on behalf of individual registered nurses, the nursing profession, and/or ANA.*

- *This award is inspired by three exceptional nurses – **Barbara Thoman Curtis, Hildegard Peplau, and Shirley Titus** – who made lasting and positive impact on the nursing profession by working tirelessly for the causes in which they believed.*

***Champion of Nursing Award**, for an individual who is not a member of the nursing profession who had demonstrated a commitment to ANA's mission through distinguished service and valuable assistance to the nursing profession as well as recognition of and support for registered nurses.*

## Section 2: Nomination Process

### General Guidelines

1. Each nominee must meet all the specific award's criteria. Nominees who do not meet the award criteria will not be considered.
2. Current members of the ANA Board of Directors, Committee on Honorary Awards, Awards Subcommittee, and ANA staff may **not** be nominated for any honorary award.
3. Award nominations will be accepted from:
  - Constituent/State Nurses Associations (C/SNAs)
  - Organizational Affiliates (OAs)
  - Individual C/SNA-ANA members or Individual Member Division (IMD) members

*Nominations submitted by other sources will not be considered*

4. Letters of support and other forms of validation should accurately describe how each of the nominee's professional achievements or contributions meets the specific award's criteria.
5. Nominators may be required to verify the accuracy of the information included in the nomination.
6. Current members of the ANA Board of Directors, Committee on Honorary Awards, Awards Subcommittee, and ANA staff may **not** provide letters of support.

## Nomination Submissions

A complete award nomination consists of the following:

- a. Submission of an online nomination form that includes responses for all required fields.
- b. A copy of nominee's most recent curriculum vitae (CV) uploaded within the online nomination form.
  - For deceased nominees: If a CV is not available, the nominator should include as much information on the nominee's education, work experience, and professional accomplishments as is available along with a note that the CV is not available.
  - The CV requirement may be waived only for a non-nurse nominee for the Champion of Nursing Award.
- c. Supporting documentation should be uploaded within the online nomination form as follows:
  - Up to five letters of support **OR**
  - Up to three letters of support **and** up to two print validations (e.g., articles published in professional journals, books, newspaper articles on nominee) of a nominee's achievements and contributions
    - For the ***Distinguished Direct Patient Care Award***, supporting documentation must include a maximum of three supporting letters from the nominee's patients, peers, medical staff, co-workers, or the community
  - Supporting materials received in excess of the five-document limit will not be considered.
  - Supporting materials will be counted in the order in which they are uploaded into the online nomination form.

Nominators are encouraged to check each nomination for completeness and accuracy as incomplete nominations will not be considered. Additionally, nominations will not be accepted after the deadline. Nominators will receive confirmation of receipt of the nomination.

Collaboration amongst C/SNAs, ANA-related entities, and other interested parties in the submission of a nomination is highly encouraged.

## Section 3: Review of Nominations

1. The ANA Committee on Honorary Awards Subcommittee:
  - a. screens award nominations to verify eligibility;
  - b. evaluates each award nomination against the award's specific criteria; and
  - c. recommends award recipients for consideration by the Committee on Honorary Awards.
  
2. The Committee on Honorary Awards:
  - a. reviews the recommendations submitted by the Subcommittee; and
  - b. recommends award recipients for consideration by the ANA Board of Directors.

*The Committee on Honorary Awards has the authority to withhold a recommended recipient for any award category if the nominations received do not meet the criteria*

3. The ANA Board of Directors:
  - a. reviews the award recipients recommended by the Committee on Honorary Awards; and
  - b. makes decisions on the award recipients.

*The decision of the ANA Board of Directors is final*

4. The ANA President communicates the decision of the ANA Board of Directors to the nominator via hard copy and electronic communication.

*The C/SNA president/IMD Chair and chief staff executive are copied on this communication*

## Section 4: Award Nomination Form

All nominations for ANA National Awards must be submitted via the online nomination form. A [tutorial](#) on the nomination process may be accessed on ANA's website. See Nomination Process on pages 5-6 of this *Guide* for a list of what comprises a complete award nomination.

See Appendix A for a description of and criteria for each of ANA's National Awards.

See Appendix B for the questions that the nominator will be asked to respond to for each of ANA's National Awards.



## Tips for Submitting a Strong Nomination

- **Review** the description of and criteria for each award in Appendix A.
- **Ensure** that the nominee meets **all** the award's criteria.
- **Make** note of the submission deadline and plan accordingly.
- **Solicit** a different letter of support for each of the award's criteria, and **include** the award description and criteria with the request.
- **Request** that each letter of support:
  - addresses a different contribution or achievement,
  - demonstrates the relationship between the nominee's contributions and achievements and the award's criteria, and
  - describes what sets the nominee's contributions or achievements apart from the contributions or achievements of others.
- **Ensure** that print validations clearly demonstrate the relationship between the nominee's contributions and achievements and the award's criteria.
- **Compile** all nomination materials **prior to** initiating the online nomination process.
- **Check** that the nomination materials are complete and accurate before submitting.

## Timelines

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| August 7:       | Call for Award Nominations <b>OPENS</b>   |
| October 7:      | Call for Award Nominations <b>CLOSES</b>  |
| October 9 – 21: | Award nominations reviewed by the Awards Subcommittee   |
| October 28:     | Committee on Honorary Awards convenes to discuss the Subcommittee's review of award nominations and to develop a list of recommended award recipients |
| December 3:     | Committee on Honorary Awards submits a list of recommended award recipients to the ANA Board of Directors for consideration                           |
| December 9:     | The ANA President communicates the decision of the ANA Board of Directors to those who submitted an award nomination                                  |

## Appendix A: Award Descriptions and Criteria

### ADVOCACY AWARD

#### Inspired By

*ANA's Advocacy Award is inspired by the following exceptional nurse leaders who made lasting and positive impacts on the nursing profession by working tirelessly for the causes in which they believed. And they did so not for personal gain but rather to right a wrong; to create balance.*

- **Barbara Thoman Curtis** who was a catalyst for political awareness and activity within the nursing profession. Thoman Curtis developed the model of the political nurse, helped to pioneer ANA's involvement in politics and legislation, and educated nurses on the political and legislative processes and nursing's role in the formation of health care policy.
- **Hildegard Peplau** who transformed the nursing profession by developing the role of the psychiatric nurse, helping to pioneer the development of the Clinical Specialist in Psychiatric Nursing, and providing the impetus for the integration of psychosocial concepts into the practice of nursing. Peplau also contributed to the development of ANA's Social Policy Statement and set the stage for the development of standards for psychiatric nursing.
- **Shirley Titus**, who advocated for a healthy and ethical work environment and pioneered nursing education during her tenure as the Director of Nursing Services and Director of the School of Nursing at the University of Michigan. While at the University of Michigan, Titus established one of the first systems of general duty nursing, acting on her belief that general duty nursing would improve nursing education and patient care. Titus dedicated her life to the progress of nursing in what she described as its "tortuous evolution from the status of a craft to the status of a profession."

#### Description

The Advocacy Award recognizes the individual registered nurse who embraces the role of advocate as part of his/her professional identity; is collaborative, committed, compassionate, and knowledgeable; and has made significant contributions by engaging in political, professional, and/or social advocacy.

#### Number of Awards Bestowed

Two individual registered nurses may receive the Advocacy Award each award cycle.

**Criteria**

1. Current C/SNA-ANA or IMD membership.
2. Advocated on behalf of individual registered nurses, the nursing profession, and/or ANA by:
  - a. Promoting the nursing profession and the effectiveness of nursing's role in the provision of health care services through political or legislative activities at the state and/or national levels;
  - b. Improving the delivery of care and the quality of life for vulnerable populations through direct patient care, innovative nursing practices, and/or influencing patient care at the state and/or national levels; or
  - c. Empowering frontline registered nurses, facilitating positive changes in the work environment, and improving the quality of patient care through the promotion of a healthy and ethical work environment at the state and/or national levels.

Click [here](#) to submit a nomination for the Advocacy Award.

## CHAMPION OF NURSING AWARD

### Description

Formerly known as the Honorary Recognition Award, the Champion of Nursing Award recognizes an extraordinary leader who is not a member of the nursing profession. The individual has demonstrated a commitment to ANA's mission, *Nurses Advancing our Profession to Improve Health for All*, through distinguished service and valuable assistance to the nursing profession as well as recognition of and support for registered nurses.

### Number of Awards Bestowed

One individual who is not a member of the nursing profession may receive the Champion of Nursing Award each award cycle.

### Criteria

1. Demonstrated commitment to and genuine interest in the nursing profession.
2. Advanced the nursing profession through contributions of national or international significance.
3. Facilitated the development of policy or the advancement of nursing practice, nursing science, or nursing education.

Click [here](#) to submit a nomination for the Champion of Nursing Award.

## DISTINGUISHED DIRECT PATIENT CARE AWARD

### Inspired By

*ANA's Distinguished Direct Patient Care Award is inspired by, **Mary Ellen Patton**, who exemplified the qualities of a staff nurse leader. Through her service as an officer at the local, district, and state levels, Patton demonstrated that it is important and possible to be involved as a staff nurse. Patton served as an inspirational role model and mentor to staff nurses across the country and inspired community involvement through her work on various projects for children with disabilities.*

### Description

The Distinguished Direct Patient Care Award recognizes an individual registered nurse who provides exemplary direct patient care and contributes to the advancement of nursing practice by demonstrating a commitment to personal leadership development and serving as an inspirational role model for others.

### Number of Awards Bestowed

Four individual registered nurses may receive the Distinguished Direct Patient Care Award each award cycle.

### Criteria

1. Current C/SNA-ANA or IMD membership.
2. Provide direct patient care.
3. Meet the definition of a staff nurse per ANA's Bylaws:
  - a. A staff nurse is defined as one who is non-supervisory, non-managerial, and includes one or more of the following:
    - i. Employed by a health care institution or agency;
    - ii. Primary role is a provider of direct patient care; and
    - iii. Collective bargaining eligible under applicable labor law.
4. Contributed significantly to the advancement of professional staff nurses.
5. Improved the quality of direct patient care.
6. Recognized by peers for demonstrating professional behavior in the provision of direct patient care.

Click [here](#) to submit a nomination for the Distinguished Direct Patient Care Award.

## DIVERSITY AWARD

### Inspired By

*ANA's Diversity Award is inspired by two forward thinking nurse leaders who, through their courage and pioneering spirit, advanced diversity and inclusion in the nursing profession. By challenging the foundations of traditional thinking, they introduced diverse perspectives, fostered creativity, and made a positive impact on the profession and practice of nursing.*

- **Luther Christman**, who after being refused a commission in the military nursing corps during World War II, enlisted in the Merchant Marines and served as a Pharmacist's Mate. After working in the area of mental health, Christman became Dean of Nursing at Vanderbilt University where he developed his integration model of nursing education and practice before being named as Founding Dean of Nursing at Rush Medical Center and Rush University in Chicago. Christman was the first man in nursing to be inducted into the ANA Hall of Fame and founded the National Male Nurses Association, which is now known as the American Association of Men in Nursing.
- **Mary Eliza Mahoney**, who was the first African American graduate nurse in the United States, graduated from the Training School for Nurses, New England Hospital for Women and Children, in 1879. During her 40 years in nursing, Mahoney provided exemplary patient care and made outstanding contributions to nursing organizations. She gave the address at the inaugural conference of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN) in 1909. In 1936 NACGN established the Mary Mahoney Award in recognition of her example to nurses of all races.

### Description

The ANA Diversity Award recognizes an individual registered nurse or a group of registered nurses for long-standing commitment and significant contributions to the advancement of diversity and inclusion within the nursing profession.

### Number of Awards Bestowed

Two individual registered nurses or **one** group of registered nurses may receive the Diversity Award each award cycle.

**Criteria**

1. Current C/SNA-ANA or IMD membership for all individual registered nurse nominees and for all individual registered nurses nominated as a group.
2. Contributed significantly through education, outreach, service, or other initiatives that enhanced access, integration and retention and advancement opportunities in the nursing profession for members of minority groups, including men and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) community.
3. Contribution(s) or the impact of the contribution(s) toward the integration, retention, and advancement of minority groups in nursing and the nursing profession in general, must be current and demonstrated.
4. Contribution(s) must have influenced nursing and advanced intergroup relations.

Click [here](#) to submit a nomination for the Diversity Award.



## FOUNDATIONS OF NURSING PRACTICE AWARD

### Inspired By

*ANA's Foundations of Nursing Practice Award is inspired by **Jessie M. Scott**, former assistant surgeon general and director of the Division of Nursing, Health Resources Administration, Public Health Service, of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Scott administered the nurse training acts and was instrumental in directing federal programs of support for nursing education that improved the quality of both education and practice. Under Scott's directorship, research efforts were intensified to expand the scientific base of nursing practice and incorporate the results of research into practice and education.*

### Description

The Foundations of Nursing Practice Award recognizes an individual registered nurse for achieving outstanding accomplishments in nursing research, nursing education or nursing practice; and for promoting the interdependence of these three elements as vital in order to effectively integrate scientific findings into enhanced nursing education and evidence-based nursing practice, and ultimately, to better quality health care and improved patient outcomes.

### Number of Awards Bestowed

Two individual registered nurses may receive the Foundations of Nursing Practice Award per award cycle.

### Criteria

1. Current C/SNA-ANA or IMD membership.
2. Significant contribution to expanding nursing's foundational knowledge, addressing challenges in nursing education, or influencing nursing practice.
3. Sustained commitment to encouraging collaboration among nursing researchers, nursing educators, and practitioners.
4. Significant contribution to the integration of scientific findings to innovations in nursing education or nursing practice.

Click [here](#) to submit a nomination for the Foundations of Nursing Practice Award.

## HALL OF FAME AWARD

### Description

The Hall of Fame Award, ANA's most prestigious award, honors an individual registered nurse who has made extraordinary contributions to the nursing profession over a sustained period of time through distinguished service, steadfast leadership, exceptional mentorship, effective advocacy, and innovative efforts—contributions that have had an enduring impact on the health and/or social/political history of the United States.

### Number of Inductees

Four individual nurses may be inducted each award cycle. The Committee on Honorary Awards has the discretion to recommend more than four inductees for consideration by the ANA Board of Directors if more than four nominees are found to be highly-qualified.

### Criteria

1. Nominee's ANA-C/SNA membership spanned their entire career.
2. **Self-nominations will not be accepted.**
3. Nominee may be living or deceased.<sup>1</sup>
4. Outstanding contributions in each of the following areas:
  - a. **Distinguished service** that spans an entire career as demonstrated by a strong commitment to ANA and active involvement in local, state, national, and/or international nursing organizations and other health-related organizations through elected office, committee service, contributions to program development and cited publications.
  - b. **Exceptional leadership** in nursing practice, nursing education, nursing administration, or nursing research that positively impacted the health and/or social/political history of the United States and that have had an enduring value to nursing.
  - c. **Sustained commitment to mentoring** as demonstrated by a commitment to guiding, supporting, and promoting the development of others.
  - d. **Long-standing engagement in advocacy** on behalf of the nursing profession and registered nurses that has advanced the nursing profession domestically and/or globally.
  - e. **Future-oriented leader** that prepared for the evolution of the nursing profession and nursing practice by embracing technology, fostering innovation, developing partnerships, and encouraging collaboration across disciplines and settings.

<sup>1</sup> Per action of the ANA Board of Directors – April 1994

Click [here](#) to submit a nomination for the Hall of Fame Award.

## LEADERSHIP IN ETHICS AWARD

### Description

The Leadership in Ethics Award recognizes an individual registered nurse who has authentically demonstrated the highest standards of ethics and leadership in his/her daily nursing practice; served as an ethical role model; and promoted ethical dialogue and/or scholarship.

### Number of Awards Bestowed

Two individual registered nurses may receive the Leadership in Ethics Award per award cycle.

### Criteria

1. Current C/SNA-ANA or IMD membership.
2. Exemplified and modeled ethical behavior by fulfilling their nursing responsibilities in a manner consistent with quality in nursing practice and the ethical obligations of the profession as outlined in *ANA's Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements*.
3. Contributed significantly to a strong ethical culture via a specific accomplishment or a lifetime of achievements.

Click [here](#) to submit a nomination for the Leadership in Ethics Award.

## PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AWARD

### Inspired By

*ANA's Public Health Service Award is inspired by **Pearl McIver**, who dedicated her career to promoting and protecting the health of people and communities in her role as a public health nurse. McIver held various positions during a 35-year career with the U.S. Public Health Service including, child hygiene nurse assigned to the Missouri State Board of Health and chief of the Office of Public Health Nursing. McIver received the first Public Health Nurse Award from the Public Health Nurses Section of ANA in 1956.*

### Description

The Public Health Service Award recognizes the exceptional leadership and outstanding professional contributions of a public health nurse in shaping the role and advancing the practice of public health nursing.

### Number of Awards Bestowed

Two individual registered nurses may receive the Public Health Service Award each award cycle.

### Criteria

1. Current C/SNA-ANA or IMD membership.
2. Recognized as a national leader in the field of public health nursing.
3. Contributed significantly to the field of public health at the national level.

Click [here](#) to submit a nomination for the Public Health Service Award.

## **Appendix B: Nomination Questions by Award**

### **ADVOCACY AWARD**

1. Describe how the nominee's significant contributions in political, professional, and/or social advocacy has (*NOTE: A response to only one of the following three is required*)
  - promoted the nursing profession and the effectiveness of nursing's role in the provision of health care services; **or**
  - improved the delivery of care and the quality of life for vulnerable populations through direct patient care, innovative nursing practices, and/or influencing patient care at the state and/or national levels; **or**
  - empowered frontline registered nurses, facilitated positive changes in the work environment, and improved the quality of patient care.

### **CHAMPION OF NURSING AWARD**

1. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated a commitment to and genuine interest in the nursing profession
2. Describe how the nominee has advanced the profession of nursing through significant national or international contributions
3. Describe how the nominee has facilitated the development of policy or the advancement of nursing practice, nursing science, or nursing education

### **DISTINGUISHED DIRECT PATIENT CARE AWARD**

1. Describe how the nominee's contributions and commitment to personal leadership development led to the advancement of professional staff nurses
2. Describe how the nominee's contributions and commitment to personal leadership improved the quality of direct patient care
3. Describe how peers have recognized the nominee for demonstrating professional behavior in the provision of direct patient care

### **DIVERSITY AWARD**

1. Describe current and significant contributions the nominee has made that enhanced access, integration and retention, and advancement opportunities in the nursing profession for members of minority groups, including men and members of the lesbian,

gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) community

2. Describe how the nominee's contributions influenced nursing and advanced intergroup relations.

#### **FOUNDATIONS OF NURSING PRACTICE AWARD**

1. Describe how the nominee's significant contributions in nursing research, nursing education, or nursing practice have:
  - expanded nursing's foundational knowledge,
  - addressed challenges in nursing education, or
  - influenced nursing practice
2. Describe how the nominee demonstrated a sustained commitment to encouraging collaboration among nursing researchers, nursing educators, and practitioners
3. Describe how the nominee has contributed to scientific findings being integrated into innovative approaches to nursing education or nursing practice

#### **HALL OF FAME**

1. Describe the nominee's outstanding and lifelong contributions to ANA
2. Describe the nominee's outstanding and lifelong involvement in local, state, national, and/or international nursing organizations and other health-related organizations
3. Describe how the nominee's outstanding contributions to leadership in nursing practice, nursing education, nursing administration, or nursing research positively impacted the health and/or social/political history of the United States and provided enduring value to nursing
4. Describe the nominee's outstanding contributions and commitment to mentoring
5. Describe how the nominee's outstanding contributions and long-standing engagement in advocacy on behalf of the nursing profession and registered nurses advanced the nursing profession domestically and/or globally
6. Describe how the nominee leveraged technology, fostered innovation, established partnerships, and encouraged collaboration across disciplines and settings

**LEADERSHIP IN ETHICS AWARD**

1. Describe how the nominee has exemplified ethical behavior in fulfilling his/her nursing responsibilities
2. Describe the nominee's contributions to a strong ethical culture, either via a specific accomplishment or a lifetime of achievements

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AWARD**

1. Describe the nominee's outstanding contributions to shaping the role and advancing the practice of public health nursing
2. Describe the nominee's contributions to advancing the field of public health at the national level