

National Awards Program Guide

Revised: August 2, 2017

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.¹

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.

¹Provisions 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.

Award Categories

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

[Hildegard Peplau Award](#), for significant contributions in the field of psychiatric nursing

[Honorary Nursing Practice Award](#), for significant contributions to the advancement of nursing practice through outstanding direct patient care

[Pearl McIver Public Health Nurse Award](#), for significant contributions to public health nursing

[Staff Nurse Patient Advocacy Award](#), for excellence in patient advocacy for staff nurses providing patient care

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

[Luther Christman Award](#), for contributions made by an individual male registered nurse to the profession of nursing

[Mary Mahoney Award](#), for significant contributions to increasing diversity and inclusion within the profession of nursing

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 lifelong commitment of individual nurses to the profession of nursing and their impact on the health and/or social history of the United States

[Honorary Recognition Award](#), for distinguished national or international service to the nursing profession

Awards for Nurse Leadership recognize excellence in the areas of national nursing leadership, academic leadership (nurse education/research), community leadership, innovation, or entrepreneurship.

[Distinguished Membership Award](#), for outstanding leadership in and contributions to the purposes of ANA

[Jessie M. Scott Award](#), for outstanding accomplishments that demonstrate the interdependent relationships among nursing education, nursing practice, and nursing research

[Mary Ellen Patton Staff Nurse Leadership Award](#), for significant contributions to the professional advancement of staff nurses

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

[Barbara Thoman Curtis Award](#), for significant contributions to nursing practice and health policy through political and legislative activity

[Honorary Human Rights Award](#), for outstanding commitment to human rights and exemplifying the essence of nursing's philosophy about humanity

[Shirley Titus Award](#), for outstanding contributions that have empowered frontline nurses and effected positive changes in the work environment

Nomination Process

General Guidelines

1. Each nominee must meet all of 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

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 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 Honorary Recognition 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 Staff Nurse Patient Advocacy 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.

Visit the [ANA National Awards Program](#) page for a [description of and criteria for each award](#), a link to the nomination form, and key dates.

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 a decision on the award recipients

The decision of the ANA Board of Directors is final

4. The ANA President:
 - a. 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

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.

Below are the questions that the nominator will be asked to respond to in the online nomination form.

HALL OF FAME

1. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated leadership in affecting health and/or social/political history of the United States through sustained lifelong contributions in nursing practice, education, administration, research, working conditions, or literature.
2. Describe the nominee's achievements that have enduring value to nursing beyond the nominee's lifetime.

BARBARA THOMAN CURTIS

1. Describe how the nominee promotes the nursing profession in political and health care arenas through political activities (i.e. campaign work, fundraising, or lobbying).
2. Describe how the nominee educates nurses, politicians, and policy makers concerning the role of nursing in the health care field.
3. Describe how the nominee promotes the effectiveness of nursing's role in the provision of health care services through political and/or legislative leadership activities at the state and/or national levels.

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERSHIP AWARD

1. Describe the nominee's service: (a) in an elective national office; (b) as an appointed chairperson or member of a national standing or special committee, former cabinet, congress or council; or (c) on a former national selection committee.
2. Describe the nominee's demonstrated leadership in, and contributions to the purposes of ANA.

HILDEGARD PEPLAU AWARD

1. Describe how the nominee advances knowledge of biopsychosocial concepts of human behavior and nursing care through research and/or theory development.
2. Describe how the nominee develops innovative nursing practices which improve a patient's quality of life, either directly through clinical practice or through leadership/influence on nursing practice, evidenced by clean and measurable outcomes.
3. Describe how the nominee impacts the delivery of care for vulnerable populations in need of psychiatric nursing services through leadership at the state and/or national level.

HONORARY HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

1. Describe the nominee's contributions and accomplishments that are of national significance to human rights.
2. Describe how the nominee's contributions have influenced health care and/or nursing practice.

HONORARY NURSING PRACTICE AWARD

1. Describe how the nominee applies their nursing knowledge to assist patients in maintaining and functioning at optimum levels of health during activities, as persons, as members of families, and as members of their communities.
2. Describe how the nominee provides innovations that help and encourage peers in their nursing practice and acts as a role model to inspire peers to improve their quality of practice.
3. Describe how the nominee has improved the quality of direct patient care.
4. Describe how the nominee meets other considerations, including participation in community affairs, recognition of peers, participation in organizational affairs, ability to work with others, and an innovative outlook.

HONORARY RECOGNITION AWARD

1. Describe how the nominee's contributions, on a national and/or international level, are representative of distinguished service or valuable assistance to the nursing profession.

JESSIE M. SCOTT AWARD

1. Describe how as a registered nurse the nominee has demonstrated the interdependent relationships of nursing practice, nursing education, and nursing research.

LUTHER CHRISTMAN AWARD

1. Describe the nominee's commendable and substantial contribution to nursing in areas that include, but are not limited to: practice, research, education, public policy, and/or community service.
2. Describe the nominee's advocacy on behalf of the nursing profession at the local, regional, national, and/or international levels.

MARY ELLEN PATTON STAFF NURSE LEADERSHIP AWARD

1. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated leadership at the local, district, state, and national levels.
2. Describe how the nominee has significantly contributed to the professional advancement of staff nurses.
3. Describe the ways in which the nominee has provided high-quality care and professional nursing practices at the patient's side.

MARY MAHONEY AWARD

1. Describe how the nominee contributed to providing and advancing opportunities in nursing to members of minority groups.
2. Describe other significant contributions the nominee has made to nursing.
3. Describe how the nominee's contributions increased diversity and inclusion within the nursing profession as evidenced by retention and advancement of minorities in nursing and nursing in general.
4. Describe how the outcomes of the nominee's contributions have influenced the profession of nursing and the advancement of intergroup relations.

PEARL MCIVER PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE AWARD

1. Describe how the nominee has participated in activities at ANA.
2. Describe the nominee's significant contributions to the field of public health on a national level.
3. Describe the nominee's expertise in professional and technical performance.
4. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated national leadership in the field of public health nursing.

SHIRLEY TITUS AWARD

1. Describe how the nominee has advocated for a healthy and ethical work environment; improved the retention and engagement of nurses; and effected positive changes in nursing practice.
2. Describe the nominee's contribution to the improvement of quality patient care.

STAFF NURSE PATIENT ADVOCACY AWARD

1. Describe the ways in which the nominee has demonstrated the provision of excellent direct patient care in all practice settings.
2. Describe how the nominee has advocated for patients in a clinical setting at the staff nurse level.
3. Describe why the nominee is a role model and mentor to other staff nurses.

Tips for Submitting a Strong Nomination

- **Review** the description and criteria for each award
- **Ensure** that the nominee meets **all** of the award's criteria
- **Make** note of the submission deadline and plan accordingly
- **Solicit** a letter of support for each of the award's criteria, if possible, and **include** the award description and criteria with the request
- **Request** that each letter of support:
 - cites a different contribution or achievement
 - demonstrates the relationship between the nominee's contributions and achievements and the award's criteria
 - 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 OPENS
October 2	Call for Award Nominations CLOSES
October 9 – 27	Award nominations reviewed by the Awards Subcommittee
October 30	Committee on Honorary Awards convenes to discuss the Subcommittee's review of award nominations and to develop a list of recommended award recipients for consideration by the ANA Board of Directors
November 6	Committee on Honorary Awards submits list of recommended award recipients to the ANA Board of Directors for consideration
December 1	ANA Board of Directors considers the recommendations of the Committee on Honorary Awards
December 8	The ANA President communicates the decision of the ANA Board of Directors to those who submitted an award nomination