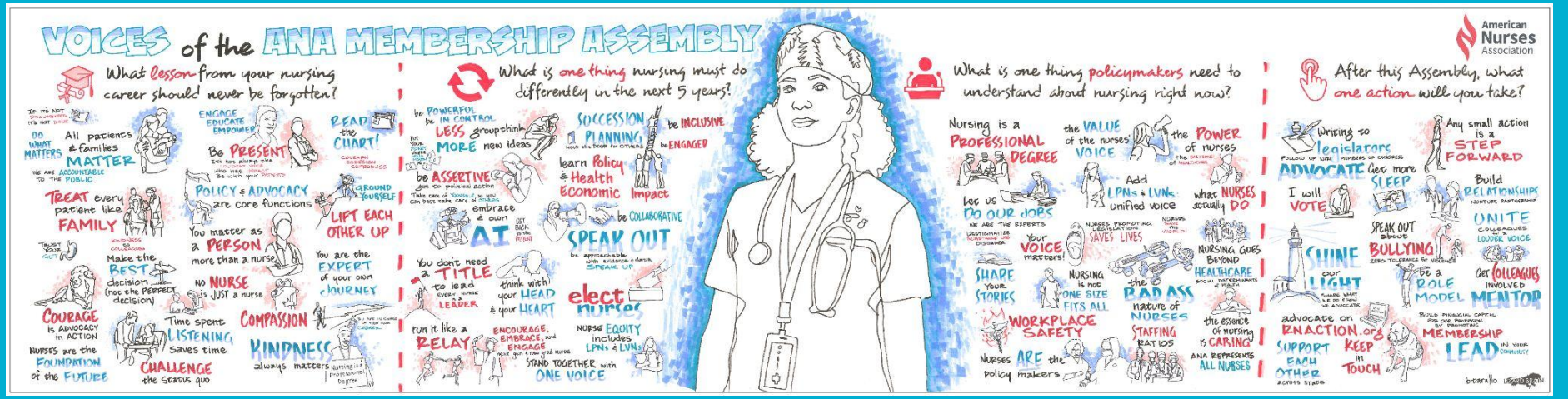
ANA Membership Assembly Report 2026



Objectives

At the conclusion of the presentation the participant will be able to:

1. Discuss key national health policy initiatives impacting nurses.
2. Review the ANA Bylaw Amendment process and 2026 outcomes.
3. Describe the outcomes of the policy dialogue forums.
4. Describe the process for ANA elections and know who was elected to serve ANA in the 2026 election.

Our Team

Dialogue Forums

Advancing the profession's agenda — three forums shaping ANA policy in its 130th anniversary year

What are Dialogue Forums?

Structured, member-driven discussions of critical practice and policy issues. The Professional Policy Committee brings proposals to the floor; representatives debate them, then vote to adopt recommendations that guide the ANA Board's work for the year ahead.

Proposals
Committee frames issues from the member Call for Proposals

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Dialogue
Representatives discuss & refine on the Assembly floor

›

Adopt
Assembly votes; recommendations direct ANA's action

2026 AT A GLANCE

3 Dialogue Forums adopted

400+ Nurse leaders convened

130th Anniversary of ANA

Adopted at the 2026 Assembly

- Incivility & Bullying Framework
- Health Care Sustainability
- Cannabis Nursing Competencies

FORUM 01

Civility & a safe culture

FORUM FOCUS

Incivility and bullying across nursing education and practice.

DIALOGUE FORUM

Establishing a Framework for the Prevention, Reporting, and Accountability of Incivility & Bullying Across Nursing Education and Practice Settings

Why it matters

Incivility and bullying drive burnout, turnover, and unsafe environments — hitting students and new nurses hardest. A consistent, system-wide response has been missing across education and practice settings.

What the forum advances

Prevention

Shared expectations and a healthy-culture standard across settings.

Reporting

Clear, safe channels to raise concerns without fear of reprisal.

Accountability

Follow-through that holds behavior to a common standard.

Submitted by: Erik Carter, PhD, MS, APRN-ACNS, CCRN-A PHN; Nicole Demeter, DNP, APRN-CNM, FACNM, CNE; Stefan Smolenski, DNP, APRN-AGPCNP-BC

Status: *Approved by the Assembly*

FORUM 02

Nurses leading sustainability

FORUM FOCUS

The nurse's role in environmentally sustainable health care.

DIALOGUE FORUM

Nurses Leading Health Care Sustainability

Why it matters

Health care is a major source of waste and emissions, and environmental harm is a health issue for patients and communities. Nurses — the largest part of the workforce — are positioned to lead practical change at the bedside and in policy.

What the forum advances

Reduce footprint

Cut waste and resource use in everyday clinical practice.

Protect health

Link environmental stewardship to patient and community outcomes.

Lead change

Equip nurses to drive sustainability in systems and policy.

Submitted by: Joan Widmer, MS, MSBA, RN CEN, and Michelle Bouchard, MPH, BSN, RNC-NIC
Status: *Approved by the Assembly*

FORUM 03

Cannabis nursing competencies

FORUM FOCUS

Safe, competent nursing care as cannabis use grows.

DIALOGUE FORUM

Integrating Cannabis Nursing Competencies Through Education and Policy to Advance Patient Safety and Compassionate Care in Practice

Why it matters

As medical and legal cannabis use expands, nurses increasingly care for patients who use it — often without formal preparation. Building competencies protects patient safety and supports nonjudgmental, compassionate care.

What the forum advances

Education

Embed cannabis competencies into nursing curricula and training.

Policy

Align organizational and practice policy with the evidence base.

Patient safety

Reduce risk and stigma through informed, compassionate care.

Submitted by: Deanna Collins Sommers, PhD, MSN, RN, Janice Putnam, PhD, RN, and Llewellyn Dawn Smith, MSN, RN, CNEcl
Status: *Approved by the Assembly*

From dialogue to direction

Adopted recommendations guide ANA's Board and staff over the coming year — with progress reported back at the next Membership Assembly.

01

Civility & safe culture

Prevention, reporting, accountability

02

Health care sustainability

Nurses leading environmental change

03

Cannabis competencies

Safer, compassionate practice

Source: American Nurses Association — 2026 Membership Assembly (NursingWorld.org), June 26–27, 2026, Washington, DC.

New Business

- **ANA-PAC concerns**
  - coalition of 16 C/SNAs in introducing a resolution on **Embracing Transparency and Engagement in ANA Political Action & Congressional Candidate Support** (PDF). The resolution called on ANA leadership to strengthen transparency, member engagement, and communication surrounding ANA-PAC activities while recognizing the value of visible political support and/or endorsement by the nursing profession.

  - ANA BOD unanimously voted to send recommendations to the Board of Trustees to address the concerns raised by 15 states

2026 ANA Elections

Board Officers

President
Dr. Anita Girard

Secretary
Dr. Heidi Sandberg

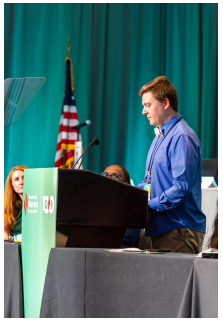
Board Directors

Directors at Large
Dr. Amelie Yell
Dr. Nelson Toussaint

Staff Nurse Director
Josephine Ijoma

Committee Members

Nominations & Elections
Jacqueline McEwen
Mavis Mesi
Seth Schweiger



The newly elected members will begin their terms on **January 1, 2027**.

2027 ANA Elections

Start thinking about it and planning now

The positions open for the 2027 election cycle will be:

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Director-at- Large
- Director -at-Large Recent Graduate
- (4) Nominations and Elections Committee

Please reach out if you are interested in running or have questions

Meaningful Moments

- First Time Experiences
  - Hill Day
  - Assembly
- Honors and Awards Ceremony
- Past Presidents Luncheon
- Nurse Connections
- Calm Room

Questions?