



ARKANSAS CENTER FOR NURSING, INC.

1123 S. University Avenue, Suite 800 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72204
Email: arcenterfornursing@gmail.com Web: www.arcenterfornursing.org

ACN Annual Membership Meeting

November 28, 2023

5:00 pm

Virtual Via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82617976073?pwd=QkpYZ3JyWDZ5VTZjdIZhTUIlWXFTUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 1797 6073

Passcode: 047396

PRESENT: Ashley Davis, Clinta Che Reed, Sue Tedford, Sarah Bemis, Pipere Brettell, Patty Cowan, Susie Marks, Julia Ponder, Emma Murray, Karen Reynolds, Nicole Ward, Hanna Renigar, Mike Stramiello, Becky Parnell, Brenda Trigg, Katelyn Singleton, Joanna Hall, and Brandon Foshee

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** Che' Reed called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.
- II. **APPROVAL OF 2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**
 - a. **MOTION:** Approve the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented
MOTION MADE BY: Sue Tedford
SECONDED BY: Sarah Bemis
 - b. **PASSED**
- III. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**
 - a. Ashley highlighted the accomplishments of the ACN over the past year. (See Presentation)
 - i. Strategic Initiative I: Promote academic progression, lifelong learning, and workplace transition among Arkansas nurses.
 1. Accomplishments
 - a. Poster presentations were presented at the 2023 40 Under 40 to highlight nursing innovation.
 - b. 2022 Workforce Report published updates on enrollment and graduation from prelicensure nursing programs as well as the diversity among the Arkansas nursing workforce.
 - c. Collaborated with nurse educators from around the State to propose legislation to address some of the challenges in nursing education.
 2. Priorities Moving Forward
 - a. Track capacity and qualified nursing applicants throughout the State
 - b. Identify barriers in the nursing pipeline
 - c. Track clinical experience capacity and demand throughout the State
 - d. Track retention in the Arkansas nursing workforce and conduct root cause analysis for attrition
 - e. Develop strategies to recruit and retain nurse educators
 - f. Identify areas of needed diversity within the nursing workforce
 - ii. Strategic Initiative II: Improve consumer access to high quality, cost efficient health care by removing practice barriers so nurses may practice to the full extent of their education, training, licensure and certification.
 1. Accomplishments
 - a. Several legislative wins were celebrated in the 2023 Legislative Session
 - b. The ACN was recognized as a data source and was invited to several decision-making tables

Promoting a culture of health for the citizens of Arkansas by advancing education, practice, leadership, and workforce development.



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- c. The ACN formed several new collaborative relationships with State and local entities
 2. Priorities Moving Forward
 - a. Track the APRN workforce and identify those with a certificate of full independent practice
 - b. Track supply and demand in various geographical areas of the State.
 - c. Identify care delivery models being used around the State and compare them with best practices from around the Country.
 - d. Identify opportunities to improve skill utilization and career transitioning.
 - e. Actively engage in the National effort to influence payment reform
 - iii. Strategic Initiative III: Empower Arkansas nurses to lead culture of health initiatives and guide redesigning health care to provide improved care for all populations.
 1. Accomplishments
 - a. Held our 9th 40 Under 40 Celebration
 - b. 8 BSN Students completed the BSN Young Leaders Program
 2. Priorities Moving Forward
 - a. Enhance engagement of our 40 Under 40 and BSN Young Leaders
 - b. Identify and support on-going education and training needs for Arkansas Nurses
 - c. Develop a data-driven nurse retention program
 - d. Continue to highlight nursing innovation around the State
 - e. Enhance our Social Media presence
 - f. Develop a nursing workforce curriculum package
 - iv. Strategic Initiative IV: Coordinate the collection, analysis and dissemination of statewide nursing workforce data.
 1. Accomplishments
 - a. 2022 Nursing Workforce Report published and utilized in 2023 Legislative Session
 - b. Partnered with Legislators and representatives from multiple entities (Office of Skills Development, etc) to secure \$25 million to address the nursing workforce crisis in AR
 - c. Made connections with several entities that are also collecting nursing workforce data and began the development of the Nursing Data Repository
 - d. Ashley was elected to a second term as a member of the National Forum Board of Directors
 2. Priorities Moving Forward
 - a. Continue to build a network of entities collecting nursing workforce data
 - b. Improve Social Media presence and sharing of data
 - c. Continue to partner with the National Forum of Nursing Workforce Centers
 - v. Strategic Initiative V: Develop a sustainability plan to include funding and marketing.
 1. Accomplishments
 - a. Raised \$9,550 during 40 Under 40 (almost double last year)
 - b. Published article in Healthcare Journal of Arkansas
 - c. Ashley presented on several expert panels at local conferences
 2. Priorities Moving Forward
 - a. Increase fundraising activities



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- b. Secure an additional state/federal grant to support the expansion of paid staff
 - c. Publish additional articles
 - d. Increase Social Media presence
 - b. Ashley also provided a Legislative Update from the 2023 General Session. In preparation for the 2023 General Session, the ACN was contacted by several legislators to help address the nursing workforce crisis in the State. From the 2022 State of the Nursing Workforce, the ACN identified 3 priorities and share them with the legislators. Those priorities were:
 - i. Increase faculty salaries to enhance our educational capacity and improve the nursing pipeline
 - ii. Improve clinical capacity and efficiency through transparency and enhanced communication
 - iii. Improve nursing workforce data collection through collaborative efforts from stakeholders
- From those priorities, the ACN worked with State Lawmakers to draft 5 pieces of legislation. From those 5 pieces of legislation, 3 laws were passed.
- 1. Act 674 established a statewide clinical nurse education portal
 - 2. Act 672 allows nursing students to earn money while also earning clinical education credit.
 - 3. Act 673 established a statewide nursing workforce data repository.

IV. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Administrative Committees:

- i. **Finance** The finance committee has created a defined procedure for reporting and financial oversight. The committee will need to appoint a new representative to the Board and a new treasurer will need to be elected by the Board. Ashley provided a financial overview of the past few years. Fiscal Year 2018 ended with a net gain of \$14,553.88; Fiscal Year 2019 ended with a net gain of \$12,659.88; Fiscal Year 2020 ended with a net gain of \$3,021.38; Fiscal Year 2021 ended with a net gain of \$1,955.57; Fiscal Year 2022 ended with a net gain of \$17,540.34; Fiscal Year 2023 started with \$49,731.02 in the bank; Fiscal Year 2023 ended with a net gain of \$2,173.44; Fiscal Year 2024 started with \$51,904.46 in the bank.
 - ii. **Nominating** No report
- b. **Leadership** Update was provided under the update for Strategic Initiative III. The Co-Chairs are Becky Parnell and Heba Sadaka. The committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 12:00pm. The next meeting will be 12/20/23 at 12:00 pm. Members interested in joining the Leadership Committee should email Ashley or one of the Co-Chairs.
- c. **Education** Update was provided under the update for Strategic Initiative I. The Co-Chairs are Brenda Trigg and Teresa Whited. The committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 12:00pm. The next meeting will be 12/13/23 at 12:00 pm. Members interested in joining the Education Committee should email Ashley or one of the Co-Chairs.
- d. **Practice** Update was provided under the update for Strategic Initiative II. The Co-Chairs are Pipere Brettell and Leonie DeClerk. The committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 4:30pm. The next meeting will be 12/14/23 at 4:30 pm. Members interested in joining the Practice Committee should email Ashley or one of the Co-Chairs.
- e. **Data Resource and Reporting** Update was provided under the update for Strategic Initiative IV. The Co-Chairs are Sue Tedford and Che' Reed. The committee meets on the 3rd Monday of every



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other month at 4:30pm. The next meeting will be 1/23/24 at 4:30 pm. Members interested in joining the Data Resources & Reporting Committee should email Ashley or one of the Co-Chairs.

- f. **Membership Update** Ashley provided a membership update. There are currently 532 members of the ACN. There are 98 (18%) of those members who are actively involved in the work of the committees. Ashley reported that an effort to increase the number of engaged members will take priority over increasing the total number of members. There are currently 11 Organizational Members.

- V. **STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2027** Ashley presented the Strategic Initiatives as written in the proposed 2024-2027 Strategic Plan.
 - a. **Voting Instructions** Members were instructed to watch for an email with a link that would allow them to cast a vote for or against adopting the new Strategic Plan as presented. The Strategic Plan was unanimously approved via electronic vote.
- VI. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES** Ashley introduced the 3 unopposed candidates for the open Board of Directors Positions. Those candidates were Joanna Hall (Representative from Organizational Member – UALR), Karen Reynolds (At-Large- Clinical), and Michael Stramiello (At- Large Non-Clinical).
 - a. **Voting Instructions** There was no need for a vote as the candidates ran unopposed.
- VII. **BYLAW AMMENDMENT** Ashley resented a proposed By-Law change that would add a Historian to the Board of Directors Appointed positions. There was discussion regarding the need and the benefits of adding the position.
 - a. **Voting Instructions** Members were instructed to watch for an email with a link that would allow them to cast a vote for or against the By-Law amendment as presented. The By-law amendment was unanimously approved via electronic vote.
- VIII. **NEXT STEPS** Ashley presented some priorities for the coming year. The next year’s priorities include:
 - a. Grow Individual & Organizational Membership
 - b. Increase engagement of membership
 - c. Prepare 2024 Workforce Report
 - d. Highlight and celebrate nursing innovation throughout the state
 - e. Publish data-driven recommendations to address the pressing issues in nursing
 - f. Diversify and increase our funding to support additional staff
- IX. **Thank You** Ashley recognized the 3 Board Members who were leaving the Board after serving their terms. Che’ Reed was a founding member and served as President from 2020-2024. Katelin Cooper was an At-Large member and served from 2021-2024, and Randi Mackey was an At-Large member and served as Secretary from 2020-2023.
- X. **MOTION:** To adjourn
MOTION MADE BY: Julia Ponder
SECONDED BY: Pipere Brettell
PASSED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm
Submitted by:

Clinta Che’ Reed, President

Date

Sarah Bemis, President-Elect

Date