

Arkansas Nurses Association

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NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ARKANSAS NURSES ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPROVES ORGANIZATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

LITTLE ROCK, AR – Nurses participating in the Arkansas Nurses Association’s (ARNA) House of Delegates (HOD) took action to update and streamline governance of the association to more quickly address pressing issues and better meet the needs of nurses. These decisions represent significant change in the association’s governance structure.

An ARNA Structure Task Force was appointed in July, 2012, to examine various governance structures that would enhance the association’s ability to truly become the “voice for Arkansas’ nurses”. ARNA leaders have been in extensive dialogue for months about how to clarify the association’s purpose and functions, simplify governance and streamline policy development. The changes are aimed at making ARNA a stronger advocate for registered nurses and creating an organization that is relevant and responsive to members.

Nurse delegates at the Called HOD in August and the Regular HOD in October, voted to:

- **Dissolve the District governance structure and move to a Regional governance Structure:** The 13 district nurses associations were inactivated and a five regional governance structure was created. The five regions are: Region 1-Northwest, Region 2-Northeast, Region 3 – Southwest, Region 4 – Southeast, and Region 5 – Central. Each region will have a Regional Director who will serve as a member of the ARNA Board.
- **Move to a smaller Board of Directors:** The Board of Directors was reduced from 18 members to nine members, including four officers, i.e., President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer; and the five regional directors. The HOD also voted to add, as a non-voting member, a recent RN graduate (5 years or less from graduation).
- **Create Chapters within regions:** The HOD voted to allow chapter formation within regions to accommodate the needs of members who live and work in rural areas of Arkansas.

ARNA HOD APPROVES CHANGES/page 2

- **Change all references in the ARNA Bylaws to the Membership Assembly:**
ARNA Bylaws must mirror the American Nurses Association's (ANA) in as much as possible. ANA has replaced "HOD" terminology with "Membership Assembly" in its 2012 bylaws.

All bylaw changes became effective as of October 13, 2012.

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The Arkansas Nurses Association (ARNA) is the organization for professional nurses in Arkansas. ARNA represents and facilitates the advancement of the state's 35,000 registered nurses by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting professional development, and advocating for the profession of nursing.