

Help Congress Hear the Voice of Nursing

The American Nurses Association is proud to announce the premier of the Nurse Political Action Leaders (N-PAL) program. This program is the heart of ANA's efforts to ensure that Members of Congress hear the voice of nursing. Along with our Nurse Strategic Action Team (N-STAT), N-PAL promotes grassroots action—nurses reaching out to their elected officials on the issues of concern to their profession and patients. Who better to advocate for quality health care than those who are on the front lines?

ANA members who are chosen as Nurse Political Action Leaders will be ANA's liaisons to federal legislators and legislative staff in assigned legislative districts. ANA and the Constituent Member Associations (CMAs) collaborate to appoint an N-PAL for each Congressional District and for each Senator. While any member of a CMA who has an interest in and commitment to nursing and public policy is eligible, CMA members with a personal connection with their legislator are especially encouraged to apply.

N-PAL Qualifications

The primary qualification to be an N-PAL is that you must be an ANA member as well as a member of your CMA. In addition, you must have the following:

- Interest in politics and the legislative process;
- Personal connections with a legislator or previous political experience;
- Passion and a vision for the future of nursing;
- Access to the Internet and e-mail capability;
- Good oral and written communication skills.

N-PAL Duties

As a N-PAL, you may:

- Communicate with the legislator or legislative staff via visits, letters, phone calls, and e-mails;
- Stay informed about important legislative issues through periodic conference calls, e-mail updates, and *Capitol Update*;
- Attend town hall meetings, forums, and coffee hours with the legislator;
- Assist ANA by attending political events or other duties as requested;
- Report any meetings or contacts with the legislator or legislative staff to the ANA.

HOW TO BECOME AN N-PAL

To become an N-PAL, please contact Chad Lennox, clennox@ana.org or 301.628.5088, for an application. Be sure to include any relevant political activities in which you have participated or any political connections with legislators in your district. Your membership status will be verified and then your application will be forwarded to your CMA. The selection process is a collaborative effort between the ANA and the CMA. After you have been selected as an N-PAL, the ANA will send a response letter to you.