2013-01 Resolution – Legislative Priorities for the 2014 Alaska Legislative Session

Be it resolved that the Alaska Nurses Association’s legislative priorities for the 2014 Legislative Session shall include but not be limited to:

   Maintaining the rights of Alaska’s workers to engage in collective bargaining;

   Insuring that patients with pain can access the care they need without the added burden of a requirement for an evaluation by a pain specialist not located in their community;

   Maintaining the funding for the operation of the Board of Nursing with licensing fees rather than general funds;

   Maintaining the independent practice of Alaska’s APRNs;

   Insuring that Alaskans have the ability to get their prescriptions filled by a local pharmacist, that their pharmacists are properly reimbursed for filling medisets, and that their pharmacists are not burdened by unregulated audits

   And, maintaining adequate funding for Alaska’s healthcare and public health services.

Passed 10/12/13

2013-02 Resolution - Advocating For and Promoting Health Insurance Coverage for All Alaskans

Whereas nearly 130,000 Alaskans are uninsured; and

Whereas under the affordable care act many of these individuals will have opportunities to obtain health insurance; and

Whereas if Medicaid coverage is not expanded the poorest of the uninsured will not have access to affordable insurance; and

Whereas many Alaskans do not know how to utilize the new health insurance marketplace for individuals;
Therefore be it resolved that the Alaska Nurses Association advocate for Medicaid expansion in Alaska and educate nurses on how to assist their patients in obtaining health insurance coverage through the health insurance marketplace for individuals.

Passed 10/12/13

2013-03 Resolution Adopting the National Advance Practice Registered Nurse Consensus Model in Alaska

Whereas there are nearly 800 Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in Alaska; and

Whereas over 40 national nursing groups have endorsed the national consensus model for APRN regulation, licensure, accreditation, certification & education; and

Whereas Alaska statutes are outdated in the terminology used to refer to APRNs; and

Whereas all of the advance practice nursing organizations in Alaska - nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, certified nurse anesthetists, and clinical nurse specialists - have formed the APRN Alliance to implement the recommendations of the national consensus model;

Therefore be it resolved that the Alaska Nurses Association will work with the APRN Alliance to bring Alaska statutes and regulations in alignment with the national APRN consensus model.

Passed 10/12/13

2013-04 Resolution Supporting “Mental Health First Aid” Legislation

Whereas, mental health issues touch all our lives on a personal, professional and community level and is an integral part of an individual’s overall health and well-being; and

whereas, an Alaskan is more likely to encounter an individual with mental health issues than they will encounter a person experiencing a cardiac arrest; and

whereas, there is limited funding for mental health care, and limited opportunities for lay education about mental health care; and

whereas there are many misconceptions/stigmatization of those suffering with mental health issues including substance abuse, dementias and autistic disorders; and

whereas one in five people suffers from mental illness;

whereas, the suicide rate in Alaska is among the highest in the nation and especially high in rural areas where providers are limited or unavailable; and

whereas, alcohol and drug use are epidemic fueling, suicide, homicide and disabling Alaska’s youth via fetal alcohol spectrum disorder;
Therefore be it resolved that the Alaska Nurses Association support efforts to develop a Mental Health First Aid program in Alaska including supporting state and federal legislation to fund these programs; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the Alaska Nurses Association will work to develop a CE for nurses to explain the concept of Mental Health First Aid.

Passed 10/12/13

2013-05 Resolution in support of Nurse Staffing Committee Legislation

Whereas, evidenced based research has shown that it is critical for patient safety that the appropriate number of registered nurses who are adequately trained in the necessary field to meet the ever changing fluctuations and demands of the acute care setting; and

whereas, Alaska routinely suffers from a shortage of registered nurses in specific geographic locations as well as in general nursing and specialty fields; and

where as strategies that help ensure quality and safe patient care also increase nurses satisfaction in the work environment, thereby reducing the shortage of nurses and turnover of adequately trained nurses;

Therefore be it resolved, the Alaska Nurses Association resolves to support and promote legislation that develops Nurse Staffing Committees for healthcare facilities, using as a model the state of Washington statute Nurse Staffing Committee RCW 70.41.420, and Oregon Staffing Committee guidelines codified as ORS 441.160 to 441.170.

Passed 10/12/13

2013-06 Resolution to Investigate Options for National Union Affiliation

Whereas, the Alaska Nurses Association Labor Program has enjoyed the benefits of a National Union in the past with the United American Nurses; and

whereas, the United American Nurses affiliation ended with the American Nurses Association in 2009; and
whereas, the Alaska Nurses Association Labor Program has completed the AFL-CIO constitutionally required 3-year waiting period before re-affiliation with another AFL-CIO National Union.

Therefore be it resolved, the Alaska Nurses Association Labor Program will develop a team to investigate the pros and cons of re-establishing affiliation with a National Union that represents nurses.

Passed 10/12/13

2013-07 Resolution – Working to Protect Alaskan’s From Harmful Chemicals and to Keep Alaska’s Food Supply Abundant and Safe.

Whereas scientific evidence shows that environmental contaminants are linked to a wide array of adverse health effects including cancer, diabetes, learning and intellectual disabilities, asthma, reproductive and developmental damage, birth defects and other serious illnesses; and

whereas, scientific studies including those by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, demonstrate that hundreds of these same chemicals are being found to be accumulating in human tissues, breast milk, and the cord blood of infants; and

whereas, in the United States chemicals are not required to be tested for their safety before they are brought to market; and

whereas, Indigenous peoples of the Arctic are highly exposed to persistent chemicals that are transported through atmospheric and oceanic currents. Alaska Native and other Arctic Indigenous communities are particularly at risk because of the biomagnifications of persistent organic pollutants and contamination of their traditional foods. In 2009, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) research studies found that PBDE concentrations in maternal blood serum of Yupik women with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta are the highest known human PBDE concentrations in the Arctic; and

whereas many Alaskans eat fish, wild game, and food products farmed in Alaska; and

whereas, The Toxic Substances Control Act was enacted in 1976 and has not been updated since then and has been found to be ineffective; and

whereas, Alaska’s Senators Begich and Murkowski have signed on to a bi-partisan bill (SB 1009) The Chemical Safety Improvement Act to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act;

Therefore be it resolved that the Alaska Nurses Association support Alaska Senators Begich and Murkowski in working for improvement and passage of SB 1009, The Chemical Safety Improvement Act; and

be it further resolved, that the Alaska Nurses Association advocates for meaningful chemical policy reform both nationally and on the state level that reduces the use of toxic chemicals and
requires that less harmful chemical be substituted whenever possible and ensures adequate information on the health effect of chemicals is available to the public before these chemicals are introduced on the market such as is the process outlined in SB 1009; and

be it further resolved, that the Alaska Nurses Association will encourage the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to update their aggregate statewide cancer data, which has not been done since 2004; and

be it further resolved, that the Alaska Nurses Association supports research efforts in environmental health to better understand the relationship between health and the environment, especially in the area of toxicology and vulnerable populations such as infants, children, pregnant women and the elderly; and

be it further resolved, that the Alaska Nurses Association will support efforts to monitor the safety of Alaska’s food and promote efforts to improve its safety.

Passed 10/12/13

2013-08 Resolution – Collective Bargaining Union Dues

Whereas bylaws require annual confirmation of union dues for labor program members;

be it resolved that the Alaska Nurses Association set the cap of possible union dues for 2014 at $930.50

passed 10/12/13