2019 Resolutions
Passed by the General Assembly | October 12, 2019
 Resolution 2019-1
Affirming Association Membership Dues

 Resolution 2019-2
Affirming Collective Bargaining Dues

 Resolution 2019-3
Affirming Affiliate Member Organizations of the Alaska Nurses Association

 Resolution 2019-4
2020 Advocacy Priorities

 Resolution 2019-5
2020 Continuing Education Program Priorities

 Resolution 2019-6
Against Human Trafficking and Sex Trafficking of Children

 Resolution 2019-7
Educating Alaskans to Stop the Bleed

 Resolution 2019-8
Supporting Just Culture in Healthcare to Improve Patient Safety

 Resolution 2019-9
Building Union Power and Winning Contract Campaigns

 Resolution 2019-10
Expanding Professional Membership to LPNs

 Resolution 2019-11
Opposing Nurse Licensure Compact Legislation in Alaska

 Resolution 2019-12
Improving Care and Opposing Privatization of Alaska Psychiatric Institute

 Resolution 2019-13
Addressing the Student Debt Crisis
Resolution 2019-1
Affirming Association Membership Dues

WHEREAS, the Alaska Nurses Association (AaNA) bylaws require the annual confirmation of membership dues for AaNA Professional Association members:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the association dues for Professional Members of AaNA will not exceed $196.50 for 2020.
Resolution 2019-2
Affirming Collective Bargaining Dues

WHEREAS, the Alaska Nurses Association (AaNA) bylaws require the annual confirmation of union dues for AaNA Labor Program members:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the dues for the nurses represented by the AaNA Labor Program will not exceed $930.50 for 2020.
Resolution 2019-3  
Affirming Affiliate Member Organizations of the Alaska Nurses Association

WHEREAS, the AaNA bylaws require the annual confirmation of affiliate member organizations of the Alaska Nurses Association;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the current affiliate member organization of AaNA is the Alaska School Nurses Association.
Resolution 2019-4
2020 Advocacy Priorities

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following are advocacy priorities for the Alaska Nurses Association in 2020:

- Maintaining the collective bargaining rights of Alaska’s workers and safeguarding worker protections including those related to workplace safety, worker privacy, and labor rights; and
- Opposing Alaska’s participation in the Nurse Licensure Compact and working to maintain a strong and independent Alaska Board of Nursing; and
- Campaigning to end workplace violence in healthcare settings; and
- Supporting strong, fully-funded state health programs, which include Medicaid services, public health services, preventative dental care, behavioral health and mental health care, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and assisted living facilities for Alaska’s elders; and
- Opposing efforts to undermine Alaska’s Medicaid system such as underfunding, limiting eligibility or covered services for Alaskans, eliminating Medicaid expansion, or implementing a block grant program; and
- Ensuring every Alaskan student has daily access to a professionally-prepared school nurse; and
- Protecting Alaskans from harmful chemicals and educating nurses on the impacts of climate change and other environmental health issues affecting Alaskans; and
- Standing up for improved staffing and safe workplaces for all Alaskan nurses and healthcare workers; and
- Supporting proposals for debt-free higher education and advancing policies to alleviate the student loan debt crisis; and
- Mobilizing our members to register to vote and elect pro-worker, pro-health care, and pro-public service candidates in the 2020 elections; and
- Addressing the healthcare workforce shortage and increasing recruitment and retention of nurses and healthcare professionals; and
- Engaging in active solidarity with Alaska’s labor movement, allied organizations, and our communities to resist all attacks on working people and to build union power across our state.
- Supporting the “Crisis Now Model” by educating members and encouraging letters of support for funding to be sent to the Governor’s office and state legislators.
Resolution 2019-5
2020 Continuing Education Program Priorities

BE IT RESOLVED that the following are priorities for the Alaska Nurses Association’s Continuing Education program for 2020:

- Establishing as a focus for 2020 to promote awareness of nursing volunteerism; and
- Maintaining continuing education activities for nurses throughout the state of Alaska through in-person education, online webinar opportunities, and The Alaska Nurse magazine; and
- Continuing to jointly provide continuing education activities with community partners; and
- Promoting goals of lifelong learning amongst Alaskan nurses; and
- Ensuring the sustainability and progress of the Alaska Nurses Association’s Continuing Education program.
Resolution 2019-6
Against Human Trafficking and Sex Trafficking of Children

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a global phenomenon that traps millions in cycles of exploitation for sex or labor and is often called "modern slavery." Human trafficking jeopardizes community health and is a direct affront to individual human rights; and

WHEREAS, worldwide, human trafficking generates about $36 billion each year and approximately one of every four of those dollars circulates in the United States, where freedom is an inalienable right; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking frequently affects highly vulnerable populations including, but not limited to, the economically vulnerable, persons with disabilities, and runaway youth, with disproportionate vulnerability for youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning (LGBTQ);

WHEREAS, prevention programs addressing human trafficking and re-trafficking are needed for those in health care and in schools, and in other community venues to educate the public;

WHEREAS, every year, hundreds of thousands of children, mostly girls in early adolescence, are at risk of being trafficked. They are subject to physical, verbal and sexual abuse. Specifically, they face social isolation, lack of care, manipulation and severe health concerns, including HIV. Getting out of the life isn’t easy—many are trauma-bonded with those who exploit them and must overcome stigmatization and post-traumatic stress. In some states, they also face the threat of a criminal record; and

WHEREAS, with the right training, nurses and healthcare workers can be first responders in this national emergency. Healthcare professionals can be part of the frontline to combat the marginalization, criminalization and exploitation of our most vulnerable:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Nurses Association (AaNA) support the fight to end human trafficking and especially condemn the ongoing exploitation and profit from sex trafficking with children; and

RESOLVED that AaNA commit to promote awareness of human trafficking to nurses and healthcare professionals and to the general public, particularly to those professionals working with at-risk populations; and

RESOLVED, that AaNA help prevent child trafficking by providing training and appropriate resources to ensure members have the skills to identify indicators of children at risk and to identify signs of child trafficking; and
RESOLVED, that AaNA combat child trafficking by providing training and appropriate resources to ensure members have the skills to safely report suspicious activity to the right authorities and agencies such as the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; and

RESOLVED, that AaNA address the consequences of human trafficking by supporting programs that counteract victims’ criminalization and stigmatization, educate victims about their rights and opportunities, facilitate social reintegration, advance educational opportunities, and assist in obtaining sustainable employment; and

RESOLVED, that AaNA reclaim the promise of healthy communities by supporting legislation to protect the human rights of trafficked persons and to eradicate human trafficking in the United States and abroad.
Resolution 2019-7
Educating Alaskans to ‘Stop the Bleed’

WHEREAS, In April 2013, just a few months after the active shooter disaster on December 14, 2012, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT, the Joint Committee to Create a National Policy to Enhance Survivability from Intentional Mass Casualty and Active Shooter Events was convened by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) in collaboration with the healthcare community and representatives from the federal government, the National Security Council, the U.S. military, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and governmental and nongovernmental emergency medical response organizations, among others; and

WHEREAS, the committee’s recommendations are called the Hartford Consensus, and the overarching principle is that in intentional mass-casualty and active shooter events, no one should die from uncontrolled bleeding; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma is to train every American in basic bleeding control techniques through its ‘Stop the Bleed’ curriculum and to work tirelessly toward placing bleeding control kits in every public venue, including schools, community centers, places of worship, and stadiums; and

WHEREAS, trauma is the leading cause of death for children and adults under age 44 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, accessibility to trauma care for many Alaskans is even more challenging than most of the lower 48 states;

BE IT RESOLVED, that AaNA supports the goals and national implementation of the principles contained in the Hartford Consensus; and

RESOLVED, that AaNA supports the federal Prevent Bleeding Loss with Emergency Devices (BLEEDing) Act, which would provide grant funding to states for bleeding control kits and training; and

RESOLVED, that AaNA encourages all nurses, regardless of practice area or employment status, to complete the Stop the Bleed curriculum; and

RESOLVED, that AaNA encourages nurses statewide to take a leadership role – up to and including becoming instructors for the Stop the Bleed curriculum – to help deliver the course to every member of the public in Alaska in order to stop life-threatening bleeding and save lives in our communities.
Resolution 2019-8
Supporting Just Culture in Healthcare to Improve Patient Safety

WHEREAS, a former Vanderbilt University Medical Center nurse has been charged with reckless homicide and impaired adult abuse after mistakenly administering the wrong medication that resulted in patient harm in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the criminalization of errors in healthcare represents a step backwards from the tremendous progress made in healthcare safety since the release of the groundbreaking report “To Err Is Human: Building a Safer Health System” in 1999; and

WHEREAS, the National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention (NCCMERP), the American Nurses Association (ANA) and virtually every other professional body involved with patient safety has taken a strong stance against the criminalization of errors in healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the preponderance of research evidence indicates that the best strategy for mitigating errors in healthcare is through a process of “just culture” – a fair and open learning culture oriented toward constant improvement and recognition of system failings in order to improve patient safety; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that AaNA supports the concept of “just culture” with respect to reporting and addressing errors in healthcare; and

RESOLVED, that AaNA opposes the criminalization of errors in healthcare; and

RESOLVED, that AaNA supports a full and confidential peer review process in which errors can be examined so that both system improvements and corrective and educational interventions can be established to mitigate errors in healthcare.
Resolution 2019-9

Building Union Power and Winning Contract Campaigns

WHEREAS, our union gives us a unified voice in our workplaces and communities, and the right to speak up and to bargain collectively for safe work, fairness, and opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS, for decades, unions and all working people have sustained coordinated, vicious attacks, and we can expect ongoing efforts to undermine our collective power; and

WHEREAS, these attacks are waged by the powerful corporate elite, anti-labor politicians, and wealthy special interests who want to silence our voices in the workplace and destroy our influence on public policies and decisions that determine the health and vitality of our families and our communities; and

WHEREAS, throughout history, the labor movement’s triumphs over these challenges have proved the truth of a principle we all embrace – that when we rise up and stand together, our members answer that call, our neighbors and those we care for stand with us, and our community allies will join our fight; and

WHEREAS, membership engagement and action is crucial to creating a strong, democratic union which has an effective voice, protecting workers’ rights, and building power to continually improve working conditions for all;

WHEREAS, a strong organizing culture encourages our members to unite around issues, grievances, and goals to collectively enact change and build better working conditions and a stronger union; and

WHEREAS, during our next contract campaigns beginning in 2020, these organizing efforts will be absolutely pivotal in winning strong collective bargaining agreements that protect patients and respect nurses; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, AaNA, with each of our bargaining units, will pursue the following member engagement goals leading up to, during, and following our contract campaigns: 1) increase our number of union activists to 10 percent, 2) increase the number of members who engage in a union activity to 70 percent, 3) reach out and speak to 100 percent of our members each year, 4) encourage all non-members we represent to stand with us by joining our union; and

RESOLVED, AaNA and its bargaining units will collaborate to track membership involvement in union activities to ensure we achieve our goals for member engagement; and

RESOLVED, AaNA bargaining units will prepare proactive and effective contract campaigns by developing and utilizing Unit Contact networks and Contract Action Teams which provide the framework for engaging our members and standing together through collective action; and

RESOLVED, AaNA bargaining units will develop comprehensive and strategic campaign plans and timelines with goals, activities, tactics, milestones, and benchmarks in order to achieve the necessary leverage and pressure to win strong collective bargaining agreements; and
RESOLVED, AaNA will provide the resources to our bargaining units, and to all staff, leaders, and structural units, necessary to accomplish this plan, including: staff support, research, communications tools, skills trainings, and educational materials; and

RESOLVED, AaNA will develop model contract language that addresses key issues our members care about, including paid family leave, workplace violence, safe staffing, and student debt; and

RESOLVED, AaNA commits to double down on our effort to deepen and expand our membership, with a focus on developing leadership and increasing activism in support of our values and priorities, and we will provide opportunities to participate in our union community and our advocacy efforts so that together, we will fight to win.
Resolution 2019-10
Expanding Professional Membership to LPNs

WHEREAS, in Alaska there are 805 LPNs, and these devoted professionals make a difference every day in the lives of Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, AaNA fully recognizes the vital role of LPNs in providing quality patient care to Alaskans, particularly to some of our most vulnerable populations in a wide-variety of practice areas such as long-term care and community-based settings; and

WHEREAS, one of the core tenets of AaNA is that we are stronger together; and

WHEREAS, the rapid corporatization of healthcare amplifies the need for LPNs, RNs, and APRNs to work collectively to maintain our ability to bring about meaningful change in our workplaces and provide safe and effective care for our patients; and

WHEREAS, expanding our professional association membership to LPNs will allow them to fully participate in our association, which will better enable Alaska’s nurses to speak with a unified voice and advance our shared interests; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that AaNA expand our professional association membership to LPNs and work to actively recruit LPN members in order to build a stronger nursing community.
Resolution 2019-11
Opposing Nurse Licensure Compact Legislation in Alaska

WHEREAS, AaNA is the recognized leader and voice of nurses in Alaska and works with the Alaska Board of Nursing on issues that affect nurse licensure and practice in our state; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Nursing is responsible for protecting the health and safety of the Alaskan public by regulating nurse licensure and the practice of nursing in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), a private, non-regulatory, non-governmental trade association, has created a Nurse Licensure Compact for multistate nursing practice; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is not a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact, and Alaska currently enjoys complete autonomy over the regulation of the profession of nursing, allowing local experts to make local decisions that are best for our state; and

WHEREAS, joining the Nurse Licensure Compact would erode Alaska’s state sovereignty and pose significant new complications for regulating nursing practice in our state; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Nursing would be forced to comply with the protocols, rulings, and regulations adopted by the Compact, which may impact practice standards and licensing standards established in the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact undermines the mission of the Alaska Board of Nursing by hindering the Board’s ability to protect the health and safety of the Alaskan public; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact allows nurses to circumvent Alaska’s rigorous and necessary standards regarding nursing education, continued competency, and safe conduct and practice; this ultimately lowers nursing standards and diminishes the quality of patient care that Alaskans receive; and

WHEREAS, joining the Nurse Licensure Compact would affect a significant loss of revenue to the Alaska Board of Nursing, and the NCSBN has determined this would require an increase in the cost of licensing fees and licensing renewal fees to Alaskan registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, advance practice registered nurses, and certified nurse aides who already pay some of the highest licensing fees in the nation; and
WHEREAS, any member state discovering that the Nurse Licensure Compact overrules the state at excessive cost, will find it difficult, expensive, and perhaps impossible to extricate itself from the Compact; and

WHEREAS, there are other regulatory solutions to providing for telehealth and allowing expedited licensing processes, and these solutions do not require the State to cede its authority to an unaccountable and amorphous bureaucracy, nor do these solutions undermine standards for nursing nor jeopardize the health and safety of Alaskan patients; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact presents barriers to all nurses, including obstacles to advancing practice authority and advocacy through collective bargaining, and by potentially suppressing wages, undermining worker and safety protections, and deteriorating working conditions through generalized –instead of community– standards; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Alaska Nurses Association affirms our position that licensure for nurses working in Alaska should be under the jurisdiction of the Alaska Board of Nursing; and

RESOLVED, AaNA affirms our unequivocal opposition to Nurse Licensure Compact legislation in the state of Alaska; and

RESOLVED, AaNA will intensify our efforts to educate Alaskan nurses, legislators, and the public on the dangers of joining the Nurse Licensure Compact and will mobilize our members in opposition to Nurse Licensure Compact legislation in Alaska.
Resolution 2019-12
Improving Care and Opposing Privatization of Alaska Psychiatric Institute

WHEREAS, the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) is the only state psychiatric hospital in Alaska that provides inpatient psychiatric and primary care to patients who are in crisis; and

WHEREAS, historical plans for API called for fewer beds with greater community resources which arguably, have failed to materialize; and

WHEREAS, funding for API has remained relatively flat between FY 2013 and FY 2019; and

WHEREAS, numerous reports and assessments have found serious operational issues along with both patient and staff safety issues at API; and

WHEREAS, API’s reduced capacity to receive and care for patients coupled with the opioid epidemic has created a statewide mental health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has contracted with a private management organization to operate API, which is inconsistent with data and recommendations from the State’s own consultants; and

WHEREAS, efforts to privatize API put Alaska’s most vulnerable citizens at risk by placing a profit motive before compassionate care for patients, and these efforts also harm Alaska’s tireless public employees by undermining labor contract provisions and procurement law; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that AaNA supports limiting the term of the private management organization at API with return to State operational control as soon as possible; and

RESOLVED, that AaNA encourages the State of Alaska to enact legislation to appoint a Board of Directors (separate from the Alaska Mental Health Board) to assume oversight of API in the future; and

RESOLVED, that AaNA encourages the State to provide adequate funding to safely operate API to its full capacity indefinitely with state-employed staff while at the same time working to address the recommendations of the Alaska Behavioral Health Systems Assessment Final Report of 2016.
Resolution 2019-13

Addressing the Student Debt Crisis

WHEREAS, 45 million Americans collectively owe more than $1.6 trillion on their student loans; and

WHEREAS, wages for the typical recent college graduate working full-time have risen just 1 percent over the last 25 years, after adjusting for inflation, while student debt burdens for the typical bachelor’s degree recipient who borrowed for college have increased about 163.8 percent; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the typical college student graduated with debt equivalent to 28.6 percent of his or her annual earnings and, by 2015, that number had shot up to 74.3 percent; and

WHEREAS, decades of state government disinvestment in public institutions of higher education has drastically increased the share of college costs borne by students and families, and has eroded support services that enable students to access, persist in and succeed in college; and

WHEREAS, a college education is one of the most important vehicles for economic and social mobility in the United States, for preparing students to fulfill their civic responsibilities, and for enabling students to achieve their dreams for themselves and their families, and most AaNA members must finance their professional education by taking out student loans; and

WHEREAS, the existence and growth of this debt benefits banks, student loan servicers, for-profit education companies and other predatory actors, but is an insuperable obstacle to the financial stability of student loan borrowers and their families; and

WHEREAS, the student debt crisis is felt widely and deeply by AaNA members and their families, with over half surveyed reporting they currently have student loan debt;

WHEREAS, 91 percent AaNA members with student loan debt surveyed report that this debt is a major burden on their household, 85 percent report that their student debt has caused them increased stress, nearly two-thirds say they cannot save enough for retirement, 1 in 4 members are working additional jobs to supplement their income, and over 20 percent of our members report not being able to afford needed medical care due to their student debt; and

WHEREAS, Public Service Loan Forgiveness – designed to relieve student loan debt for borrowers who work in public service for government agencies and in the nonprofit sector – is a program for which nearly all AaNA members should be eligible, yet less than 15 percent of members report that they have applied for debt relief through this program, and over 75 percent of members who applied had their applications denied; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, AaNA commits to support AFT in its fight for debt-free high-quality public higher education and for debt relief for student loan borrowers and will work with our members, student groups, and allies in an effort to address the student debt crisis; and
RESOLVED, AaNA will prioritize combatting the student debt crisis to help our members, their families, and communities through methods including providing student debt clinics to educate our members about income-driven repayment plans and Public Service Loan Forgiveness, bargaining for student debt relief and tuition assistance, supporting policy and programs that reduce and eliminate student loan debt, and advocating for the protection of expansion of federal student loan debt relief programs.