



2003 General Assembly

Resolution # 1

Resolution Creating a Workplace Support Committee

WHEREAS we have passed multiple resolutions regarding Safe Work Environment for Registered Nurses, the last one at HOD in 2001 and:

WHEREAS the board has put Health and Safety issues for consumers, as well as Registered Nurses, as a high priority and:

WHEREAS Nursing retention depends on healthy and safe Nurses in healthy and safe environments, and:

WHEREAS the board feels we can improve communication between the collective bargaining and non-collective bargaining members as well as other nursing organizations to promote and utilize ideas of actual health care workers i.e. inventions and improvements and:

WHEREAS we are a National and State organization that supports leadership development and promotion of safe Nursing Practice and:

WHEREAS we want to support individual Nurses, Nurse advocates and their representatives to identify issues and concerns that effect the Nurses ability to do the job and:

WHEREAS we are dedicated to consumer education and patient rights we must be ever watchful of Nurses rights in patient care issues and:

WHEREAS we need to help support nurses returning to the workplace with all the professional, social, emotional and legal assistance that we have:

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Alaska Nurses Association shall form a Workplace Support Taskforce with the personnel and structural support to advance this as a major priority.

Introduced by Fran Gibbs, RN, AaNA Board Member

X _____ Carried
_____ Failed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution # 2

Resolution Relating to Medicaid Funding for Healthcare Services in Alaska

WHEREAS Medicaid provides over \$800 million in funding for healthcare services in Alaska and;

WHEREAS 30-40% of the budgets of Alaskan hospitals comes from Medicaid funds and;

WHEREAS Medicaid is the only funding available to many low income people to pay for the services they need and;

WHEREAS the sharp increase in Medicaid costs is placing a strain on the budget of Alaska and the Federal Government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Nurses Association will work to find affordable health care insurance for all persons in Alaska, will work to make sure that healthcare services provided in Alaska are cost effective; and

THEREFORE ALSO BE IT RESOLVED that AaNA will promote the utilization of the cost effective services provided by Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives and Nurse Anesthetists; and

THEREFORE ALSO BE IT RESOLVED that AaNA will assist the government in finding ways that reduce Medicaid expenditures without reducing the quality of services available to individuals, and resist attempts to significantly reduce Medicaid coverage available to persons in Alaska.

Introduced by Patricia Senner, MS, RN, ANP, AaNA President

Moved By Patti Hong, 2dn Debbie Thompson

Carried
 Failed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution # 3

Resolution Concerning the Importance of Disaster Preparedness

WHEREAS there are continued threats of acts of terrorism, bioterrorism, and war against the citizens of the United States and;

WHEREAS Alaska's geography makes it is susceptible to earthquakes and other natural disasters and;

WHEREAS many Alaskan communities are geographically isolated and so have limited ability to call on outside assistance in times of disaster and;

WHEREAS nurses will play a vital role in response to any disaster and;

WHEREAS the State's preparedness for disasters needs considerable strengthening;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Nurses Association will continue to play a pivotal role in organizing nurses in being prepared for disasters and in making sure they have the training and resources necessary to respond in a time of crisis.

Introduced by Patricia Senner, MS, RN, ANP, AaNA President

Moved By Sandra Woods, 2nd by Sylvia Cowan

Carried

Failed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution # 4

Locally Based Mental Health and Substance Abuse Programs

WHEREAS the State of Alaska provides funding for private nonprofit corporations to support quality mental health and substance abuse services for the benefit of Alaska residents; and

WHEREAS a significant advantage of these nonprofit corporations is their ability through local oversight and support to uniquely tailor services to meet local needs; and

WHEREAS these services are an integral part of the health care system in rural communities; and

WHEREAS many communities in Alaska have limited medical personnel to serve all their residents; and

WHEREAS the loss or reduction of locally-based mental health and substance abuse services will directly impact the local medical personnel and emergency room staff; and

WHEREAS maintaining the standards of care for all patients will be increasingly difficult as the demand for psychiatric and chemical dependency treatment falls on the shoulders of local medical personnel; and

WHEREAS increased costs to local hospitals will be associated with providing emergency services to the population previously served on an outpatient basis by mental health and substance abuse agencies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Nurses Association urge the State Legislature and the Department of Health and Social Services to continue to allow local nonprofit organizations to provide mental health and substance abuse services under all FY05 budget scenarios so that local communities can best determine the manner in which services will be delivered to their residents.

Introduced by Patricia Senner, MS, RN, ANP, AaNA President

Moved By Wanda Katinszky, 2nd Patti Hong

Carried

Failed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution # 5

Resolution Regarding Efforts to Promote Healthy Weight Management

WHEREAS Alaskans of all ages are becoming increasingly obese due to excess caloric intake and lack of exercise and;

WHEREAS being over-weight is a critical factor in the increase of diseases such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes and arthritis and;

WHEREAS the cost of caring for individuals with these diseases is placing an enormous burden on individuals, their families and the health care system;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Nurses Association work with nurses and other health care providers to develop strategies for preventing and treating obesity, educate nurses about these strategies, and advocate for public policies that will assist in the effort to reduce excessive weight-gain in Alaskans.

Introduced by Patricia Senner, MS, RN, ANP, AaNA President

Moved by Sandra Woods, 2nd Patti Hong

Carried
 Failed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution # 6

Resolution Regarding the Importance of Public Health Nursing

WHEREAS over the last fifteen years there has been a significant increase in new infectious diseases for which we have no cure and;

WHEREAS there is concern about terrorist attacks, acts of bioterrorism, or acts of war occurring in the United States and;

WHEREAS there has been an increase in infectious diseases that were previously in decline and;

WHEREAS the State of Alaska is examining the reduction of public health nurses; and

WHEREAS the local health departments are anticipating cuts in funding and;

WHEREAS there are already too few public health nurses to meet the demand for their services and;

WHEREAS the ability of the public to access health care services is diminishing thus putting further pressure on services provided by public health nurses and;

WHEREAS public health nurses are on the front lines in protecting the people of Alaska from the spread of disease and the response to disasters and acts of war and terrorism:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Nurses Association considers it a top legislative priority for the coming year to educate politicians and the public about the vital role played by public health nurses in safeguarding the public from disease and fight diligently to withstand attempts to cut funds for public health services.

Introduced by Patricia Senner, MS, RN, ANP, AaNA President

Moved By Wanda Katinszky, 2nd Debbie Thompson

Carried
 Failed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution # 7

Resolution in support of efforts to defeat efforts to reduce women's access to healthcare and reproductive health services

Whereas there are decreasing financial resources available to fund healthcare services for women and;

Whereas certain individuals and groups believe that women should not have birth control and other reproductive control services available to them and;

Whereas current statistics state that one in four women are sexually assaulted during their lifetime and;

Whereas having unplanned children often leads to women living a life of poverty and not being able to raise their children in the supportive environment that they would desire;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Nurses Association strongly support the delivery of affordable healthcare for women and fight efforts to reduce women's access to these services.

Introduced by Patricia Senner, MS, RN, ANP, AaNA President

Moved by Sandra Woods, 2nd Debbie Thompson

Carried
 Failed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution #9

Resolution Relating to Professional Practice

WHEREAS, the Alaska Nurses Association is committed to the promotion and enhancement of public health and safety, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Nurses Association believes that, as professionals, nurses must promote / uphold ethical values and principles, act with integrity, and act within their scope of practice

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Nurses Association authorizes the Professional Practice Committee to:

1. Act as a resource regarding nurse practice issues
2. Responds to concerns regarding nurses acting within ethical frameworks, such as the ANA Code For Nurses
3. Refer reports of any non-nurse who represents him / herself as a Registered Nurse to the Alaska Board of Nursing
4. Refer reports on individuals who inappropriately engage in activities that fall into the RN scope of practice to the Alaska Board of Nursing
5. Respond to questions regarding RN scope of practice
6. Gather facts of events to ensure that nurses function within the legal boundaries of their practice (statutory, regulatory & case law)
7. Consult on any reports in which individuals who are not qualified to serve as Advance Practice Nurses, (Clinical Nurse Specialists and Nurse Practitioners), are representing themselves as Advanced Practice Nurses
8. Draft recommendations to be presented to the Alaska Board of Nursing

Submitted October, 2003
by Deborah M. Amos, RN, MN, CCRN
Director, AaNA Board of Directors
Alaska Nurses Association

Deb Amos, 2nd Debbie Thompson

Passed

Failed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution #10

Resolution Relating to Credentialing

WHEREAS, many national certification and credentialing programs are established and

WHEREAS, individual certification within a specific arena of nursing serves as an indicator of high standards of professional excellence and

WHEREAS, professional certification is one means of assuring continued knowledge and competence of the provider within their field of practice and

WHEREAS, individuals who have achieved and maintained certification status contribute greatly to achieving desired healthcare outcomes and raising the standards of care

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Nurses Association will promote and encourage nurses to achieve and maintain certification status; will also promote and encourage employer recognition of excellence through payment of differentials for certification.

Submitted October, 2003
by Deborah M. Amos, RN, MN, CCRN
Director, AaNA Board of Directors
Alaska Nurses Association

Moved by Deborah Amos, 2nd Sandra Woods

Passed

Failed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution Relating to the Media Representation of Nurses

WHEREAS, THE Alaska Nurses Association advocates accurate depiction of nurses as professionals

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Nurses Association will support efforts to promote an accurate, professional depiction of nursing in the media and to the community by:

1. Encouraging nurses to write local stations, networks and sponsors of programs regarding the portrayal of nurses on network or local television or media
2. Contributing to articles in public media
3. Engaging in discussions with the community regarding the profession of nursing at health fairs, school/job fairs and other public events.

Submitted October, 2003
by Deborah M. Amos, RN, MN, CCRN
Director, AaNA Board of Directors
Alaska Nurses Association

Moved by Deb Amos, 2nd Pat Ball

X___ Passed

___ Failed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution #12

Resolution in Support of the ANA 'Handle with Care' Ergonomics Campaign

WHEREAS, nursing personnel are among the highest at risk occupations for musculoskeletal disorders; and

WHEREAS, national estimates for the year 2000 show that the incidence for back injuries involving lost work days was 181.6 per 10,000 full-time workers in nursing homes and 90.1 per 10,000 full-time workers in hospitals; and

WHEREAS, lower back injuries are the most costly musculoskeletal disorder affecting workers; and

WHEREAS, research on the impact of musculoskeletal injuries among nurses reveals that 52 percent complain of chronic back pain, 20 percent transferred to a different unit, position, or employment because of lower back pain, 38 percent suffered occupational-related back pain sufficient enough to require leave from work, and 12 percent considered leaving the profession; and

WHEREAS, the American Nurses Association has launched a "Handle with Care" ergonomics campaign to promote safe patient handling and prevent musculoskeletal disorders;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Nurses Association support the American Nurses Association Handle With Care Campaign and assist nurses to collect and analyze data about workplace injuries and introduce safe patient handling and movement programs in patient care facilities across the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AaNA Legislative Committee research the feasibility of introducing legislation aimed at reducing work-related musculoskeletal disorders; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the AaNA facilitate a statewide administrative-staff task force to develop and implement safe patient handling and movement programs in all Alaskan health care facilities.

Submitted by the AaNA Board of Directors

Moved by Patti Hong, Second by Debbie Thompson

Copies of this resolution to be sent to:
Alaska Legislators



2003 General Assembly

Alaska nurse executives
AaNA Legislative Committee

Passed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution #13

Resolution to Create an AaNA Historian

WHEREAS, There are many nurses in Alaska who have worked hard to advance the practice of nursing and improve the health of Alaskans and

WHEREAS, it is important we document for future nurses the challenges faced by today's nurses and how those challenges were addressed;

BE IT RESOLVED that the AaNA Board of Directors will recruit a volunteer each year to act as a historian for the Association.

Offered by Pat Senner

Moved by Robin Burrell, 2nd Carole Edwards

Pass X

Fail



2003 General Assembly

Resolution #14

Resolution related to the Alaska RN Pin

I move that the AaNA Board of Directors research the cost of re-casting the Alaska RN pin and the copyright of the design.

Moved by Patti Hong, 2nd by Debbie Thompson

Passed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution #15

Resolution Relating to Healthcare Benefits for Retirees

WHEREAS most RNs working in the private sector, after working in the profession for as many as 30 years, do not have health care benefits following retirements, and;

WHEREAS many such RNs cannot afford the cost of private coverage from the time of retirement to eligibility of Medicare, and;

WHEREAS this problem is much larger than can be addressed through collective bargaining with individual employers,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AaNA develop and promote the passage of legislation on both the national and state level which provides a mechanism to fund health care benefits for retired nurses as a bridge between retirement and Medicare.

Moved by Robin Burrell, 2nd by Pat Ball

Passed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution #16

Resolution for the Addition of a Standing Health and Safety Committee to the AaNA Organization

WHEREAS Health and Safety Issues are being identified and addressed on the national level, and;

WHEREAS the average age of the working nurse is rising in the state, and;

WHEREAS there are known Health and Safety prevention practices that are not being accepted and/or implemented by employers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AaNA be actively involved in health and safety issues affecting the nursing practice by establishing a standing Health and Safety Committee within the organization.

Moved by Pat Ball, 2nd Donna Phillips

Passed



2003 General Assembly

Resolution #17

Resolution Relating to the AaNA Bylaws, AaNA Board of Directors – New Seat for AaNA’s Labor Council Chair

WHEREAS, the Alaska Nurses Association endeavors to represent the professional, political, and collective bargaining concerns of the Registered Nurses in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the AaNA Labor Council is an arm of the Alaska Nurses Association charged with overseeing the AaNA collective bargaining program; and

WHEREAS, approximately 75 percent of the AaNA annual revenue is received from nurses represented by the Association’s three collective bargaining units; and

WHEREAS, both the AaNA and its Labor Council believe it is to the benefit of the entire AaNA program if all facets of that program are aware of each other’s goals and priorities, within the appropriate restraints imposed by “insulation”;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Nurses Association General Assembly edit the AaNA Bylaws to establish an additional seat on the AaNA Board of Directors designated for the Chair of the AaNA Labor Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the seat designated for the Labor Council Chair carry full voting rights.

Background Information to Support

AaNA Collective Bargaining Full Members (as of 10/9/03): 519 (CPGH 64; KGH 29; and PRN 426)

AaNA Non-Collective Bargaining Full Members (as of 9/03): 257

Percent of CB members total AaNA Membership: 66.9%

Projected Non-Collective Bargaining Income 2003: \$201,355

Projected Collective Bargaining Income (including assessment fees) for 2003: \$606,083

Percent of CB income to total AaNA income: 75%

Introduced by Kathleen Gettys, RN, on behalf of AaNA Labor Council

Moved Donna Phillips, 2nd Debbie Thompson

Passed unanimously