Message from the OONL President

Dear OONL Members,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues and 2020 comes to an end, we can say it has been the worst of times as well as the best of times. Today, I am reflecting on our best moments as our profession and our leadership have been catapulted into the limelight for showing courage, compassion and sheer toughness. No doubt exists that the COVID-19 pandemic has showcased the many talents and skills of nurse leaders; however, it has also tested our ability to lead in a crisis.

The best moments include leading or being a vital member of our hospitals' and health systems' incident command structures. For many of us, orchestrating a multidisciplinary team to assess, plan, implement and evaluate all facets of caregiving has showcased our leadership competencies of effective communication and knowledge of the health care environment. On short notice, we have been tasked to develop strategies to increase bed capacity and to solve workforce shortages only to re-evaluate these strategies as the second and third wave of COVID-19 came crashing at us. As always, our true grit...
propelled us to figure out the nearly impossible.

The pandemic has elevated our professionalism, not only toward each other but also outwardly to others in our communities. Nurse leaders have become role models and spokespersons for safety practices as we have appeared in news media outlets, webinars and board meetings to discuss our daily challenges. On numerous occasions, nurse leaders addressed elected officials, regulatory boards and national councils to advocate the need for change and to convey reasons to change.

Many more examples exist for best moments—we all have experienced at least one. This pandemic cast a bright light on the importance of being a strong nurse leader. Our ability to innovate and to influence will allow us to reign over this pandemic, and that will be our next best moment!

Thank you for your continued support and involvement with OONL. You ensure that the voice of nursing leadership remains strong.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Anne Gunther, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, CENP
President
Ohio Organization For Nursing Leadership

**OHA COVID-19 UPDATE**

James Guliano, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, FACHE
Vice President, Quality Programs
Ohio Hospital Association

**OHA Facilitated Several Actions, Programs to Combat COVID-19 in 2020**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ohio Hospital Association has been working in collaboration with Gov. Mike DeWine’s office and with various state departments to
address timely planning and response. At the Governor’s request, OHA convened the Executive Advisory Group to advise on pertinent issues and this group continues to meet weekly. OONL, President-Elect Jayne Gmeiner and OHA vice president, Quality Programs, James Guliano serve and represent nursing and leadership on the advisory group.

OHA has facilitated ongoing actions, including, but not limited to:

- Convening a surgery/procedure group to provide input on the deferring/resuming of elective surgeries and procedures
- Coordinating a hospital PPE stockpile
- Development of a daily Resource Tracker (PPE, staffing, ventilators, beds, census, etc.)
- Collaboration on tiered testing strategies
- Identification of hospital leads for congregate care facility support
- Administration of ASPR funding to eligible subrecipient hospitals
- Nightly written newsletter communications
- Weekly CEO briefings
- Formulation of guidance documents (ex. Allocation of Scarce Resources)
- Monitoring of CARES Act Relief funding
- Facilitation of required HHS data submission
- Collaboration with AHA
- Collaboration with professional organizations
- Convening infectious disease physicians for input into therapies/treatments (ex. monoclonal antibodies)
- COVID-19 vaccination planning

Nurse leaders from throughout the OHA membership provided valuable input into many of the above listed efforts. In particular, nurses from OONL chapters participated in a behavioral health focus group with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, facilitated by OHA, on Oct. 27 and cited common themes related to care of behavioral health patients in acute care hospitals. On Nov. 23, chief nursing officers participated in a staffing resource focus group with the Ohio Department of Health to cite pandemic surge staffing challenges.

Your collaboration and engagement in the OHA initiatives is greatly appreciated!

James Guliano, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, FACHE
Vice President, Quality Programs
Ohio Hospital Association
There were many unanticipated Ohio House leadership changes this year, and with 2020 being an election year, things were relatively quiet from the House Health Committee. However, that did not stop the Legislative and Practice Committee from staying busy. The coronavirus pandemic brought many challenges to everyone’s schedules. Despite the pandemic, the committee moved to virtual meetings to keep members’ engagement at an all-time high, and enthusiasm continued as we moved forward to having our voices heard.

Ohio SB 341 (Nurse Licensure Compact) was introduced in July by Sen. Kristina Roegner. The Bill would enable Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses to work in multiple states with one license. Legislative and Practice Committee members and several Board Members met with Sen. Roegner to introduce OONL, demonstrate how nursing leaders represent health care delivery and show support for the bill.

The bill was heard in front of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee for the first time on Nov. 17 and a second time Dec. 1. Several organizations, including Cleveland Clinic, Akron Children’s Hospital, University Hospitals, Mount Carmel Health System, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center Joan Sevy-Majers, a member of OONL and Board Director of the Southern Ohio Valley Case Management Society of America for Cincinnati and Cleveland, and OHA Vice President, Quality Programs, James Guliano, on behalf of OHA, provided written proponent testimony supporting the bill.
The Legislative and Practice Committee is also working with Guliano to finalize a legislative considerations document for consistent tracking of legislative issues. More information to come.

Finally, OONL will endorse a Nurse Leader interested in applying for a seat on the Ohio Board of Nursing. The committee reviewed and finalized the nomination form that will be distributed to local chapters this month.

Diane Sprankle MSN, MHA, RN, NE-BC
Legislative and Practice Committee Chair

WELCOME NEW OONL MEMBERS

OONL is thrilled to welcome the following new members:

**October**
- Pamela Mintz, UH Elyria Medical Center
- Elizabeth Powers, UH Cleveland Medical Center
- Dana Riffel, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
- Veena Vangari, Institute for Orthopaedic Surgery

**November**
- Karen Gates, MetroHealth Medical Center
- Kristina Mattmuller, UH MacDonald Women's Hospital
- Ellen Mead, UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital
- Karen Sloboda, Knox Community Hospital

CHAPTER UPDATES

**SOONL- Southeastern Ohio Nursing Leadership**

The SOONL chapter nominated Paige Smith for Nurse Leader Award OONL

The chapter also held elections for the 2021-2022 officers:
President elect- Melissa Montgomery, RN, MHA BSN, Chief Administrative Officer Memorial Health System
Secretary- Sarah Oldaker, RN, MSN, Director Medical Surgical Services Memorial Health System
Treasurer- Amy Hockenbrocht, RN, MSN, Director Education Services Memorial Health System

DOONL- Dayton Ohio Nursing Leadership

A year in review:

- January and March meetings held In Person
- May meeting cancelled, but July, September and December meetings were held virtually
- Nursing Network Program initiated - Electronic Dues; Membership Maintenance
- President-Elect and Treasurer Elections
- Aspiring Nurse Leaders - 3 nominations
- Education Committee - 3 members, Social Media - Chair person; Engagement Committee - co-chair persons
- 1 CEU on Legislative; 1 Presentation on eNLC and Public Policy updates; 4 CEUs for 2020
- Membership increase - Total: 53 paid members with an additional 43 followers/past members

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Jayne Gmeiner, MS, RN, NEA-BC
President-Elect
Ohio Organization for Nursing Leadership

I am very excited to join you as the OONL President in January 2021. We have had fantastic leadership with Anne Gunther, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, CENP who guided us through
this turbulent year of 2020. I thank Anne so much for her leadership and inspiration during her presidency and all nursing leaders who served in this role in the past. Special thanks to Anne for her intentional leadership during a very challenging 2020!

Our goal as a team will be to continue to refine our strategies to help support nursing practices and all nurses in our state. We will continue to focus on the COVID-19 planning and demonstrating our creativity and agility to do our best to meet the needs of all patients in Ohio. We will also continue our goals to influence legislation and our unique recognition of our practice and impact to the health care system. In addition, we will begin new strategies to improve our plans for equity, inclusion and overall wellness of our profession and workforce.

As a nursing leader for over three decades in the Southwest Ohio region, I have had the opportunity to serve in progressive nursing leadership roles in both the adult and pediatric acute care environments. My clinical experience evolved as an adult cardiovascular and intensive care Clinical nurse and provided a great foundation for future leadership roles. My current responsibilities for patient care leadership include strategic planning for the nursing division in a Magnet Designated organization. I also support the patient and family experience performance improvement and providing oversight of financial management for the nursing and respiratory therapy divisions. I provide operational oversight for all inpatient units including general pediatrics, hematology/oncology, pediatric intensive care and intermediate care units, newborn intensive care unit, hospitalist service, two emergency departments, two urgent cares, retail clinics, nursing excellence, Magnet Sustainment, IV therapy, Respiratory Therapy Service and Children’s Home Care of Dayton.

I am a strong supporter of creating a practice environment that supports patient and staff advocacy, shared leadership foundations, interprofessional collaboration and a constant goal for performance and process improvement. I have had the privilege to be a nursing leader guiding Magnet practice in two organizations that were successful in 4 Magnet Designations/Redesignations at both Dayton Children’s Hospital and Miami Valley Hospital.

I have also served on the OONL Board since 2009 and was the past president of the Dayton Chapter and was the OONL liaison to the Ohio Nursing Association Summit.

We have a fantastic board with talented leaders that represent all areas of Ohio. I look forward to their partnership and creativity driving our role as nursing leaders!

Jayne Lachey Gmeiner, MS, RN, NEA-BC
President-Elect
Ohio Organization for Nursing Leadership
Annual OONL Fall Conference

Join OONL members from around the state for the annual fall conference set for Oct. 6-8, 2021 at the Renaissance Westerville-Polaris. More information will be forthcoming.

AWARDS

2020 Ohio Organization for Nursing Leadership Awards

OONL each year recognizes emerging nurse leaders who demonstrate outstanding leadership, possess a desire to advance and progress professionally, inspire others and support projects and initiatives outside the clinical realm.

Click here to view the nominees and recipients of the 2020 OONL Awards. Congratulations!

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Questions and comments can be directed to OHA Communications at Communications@ohiohospitals.org.

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Our mailing address is:
155 East Broad Street, Suite 301, Columbus, Ohio 43215

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