

## WNA 2018 Dialogue Forum Topic #1

Topic: Supporting Membership in WNA Organizational Affiliate  
Introduced by: WNA Board of Directors Organizational Affiliate Task Force

### Description

ANA and other State Nursing Associations have created a structure called, Organizational Affiliate. Organizational Affiliates are specialty nursing organizations that hold organizational-level membership of ANA or the SNA. The goal of the relationship is to increase communication for the purposes of working together, share information and collaborate in finding solutions to issues that face the nursing profession, regardless of specialty. While each organization maintains its autonomy, the nursing profession and the patients we serve benefit from a shared voice that speaks on health care issues from a position of unrivalled experience and expertise. For WNA, we have been the convener of the Wisconsin Nursing Coalition (WNC). The membership and the participation of the WNC continue to decline. They are currently in the process of looking at a new relationship model. At the May 2018 WNA Board of Directors Meeting it was decided to form a Task Force to conduct a feasibility study to determine the benefits of developing an Organizational Affiliate structure. The members of the Task Force were Linda Gobis, WNA President, Beth Markham, WNA Vice President, Pam Macari Sanberg, WNA Treasurer and Wendy Crary, WNA Board Director-at-large.

### Task Force Work

The WNA Board of Directors Task Force identified the surrounding Midwest states that have created organizational affiliates. Seven of Midwest states: ANA – Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio and South Dakota have created a structure. The bylaws from each state were reviewed to determine common sections and language content. The most common sections of the bylaws related to membership rights and qualifications e.g. harmonious mission and values, type of nurses association, association membership is comprised of a majority of RNs; rights related to the WNA Annual Meeting that includes type of voting, number of representatives, and allowed to present reports of position statements, submit nominees for appointments, disqualification and reinstatement criteria.

Rationale for why this topic should be discussed by the WNA members during the WNA Membership Assembly Dialogue Forum

The Task Force and the WNA Board of Directors has agreed that there is value in WNA offering a structure that provides a platform for the nurses associations of Wisconsin to dialogue and provide unified voices that create or respond to emerging trends and issues related to nursing practice, education, workforce, policy and leadership. The discussion questions for the Dialogue Forum are:

1. Do the proposed WNA Bylaws address the new Organizational Affiliate structure?
2. What should be the benefits offered to an organizational affiliate member?

Recommendations for action to be taken by WNA (be specific)

1. Adopt the proposed WNA Bylaws that call for a new membership structure.
2. WNA Board of Directors will develop the membership benefits as recommended by the membership at the 2018 WNA Dialogue Forum