

## President's Message

# Challenges



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Hello colleagues! I hope your holiday season was filled with happiness and blessings for all. The polarizing campaigns and the election results have created the perfect arena for intense discourse. Now we must rise from the political ashes and utilize passion and energy to advance health care via ANA-New York.

Is the glass half empty or half full? One's outlook can have Elisa (Lee) A. a tremendous impact on how an issue is perceived and then approached. President Donald Trump has proposed numerous changes regarding healthcare that potentially affect our most vulnerable populations. I am asking all ANA-NY nurses to be proactive and innovative risk takers, promoting patient advocacy in every practice venue.

ANA sent a letter on December 5, 2016 to President-elect Trump offering the expertise of 3.6 million Registered Nurses while explicitly stating four main requests:

- Insure all Americans and residents have access to essential health care services.
- Promote the efficient use of preventative, primary care when appropriate.
- Drive economical use of healthcare without compromising coverage.
- Commit to federal funding to ensure the supply of nurses can meet the demand.

We know Nurses have the knowledge, expertise and holistic mindset to facilitate this new administration to appropriately address healthcare issues. There are diverse ways ANA-NY nurses can be part of the solution by utilizing our unique talents either behind the scenes or in the front row. Every nurse and every effort is vital and we must assertively identify obstacles, concerns, and solutions to enlighten the new administration. Collaboration is the key and we need a seat at the table.

Initially it can be daunting, however ANA-NY nurses have a professional obligation to take on these challenges. ANA-NY reflects the voice of our members, but we need your input, talents, and engagement in the process. Consider becoming involved in one of our committees: Annual Meeting, Audit, Awards, Bylaws, Education, Evidence Based Practice, Legislation, Membership or Social Media. All members are welcome and we need to hear from our new graduates!

Personally, invite a colleague to join ANA-NY because there is strength in numbers. If every current member "recruited" one member, ANA-NY would have over 8,500 members! Imagine the power and impact of such a unified voice.

In the coming months, the ANA-NY board members and I will be "On the Road" traveling to the different geographical regions to connect with our members, listen to your concerns and empower you to become actively engaged in making a difference. I believe this directly reflects our vision statement:

***Building a community of empowered registered professionals as the preeminent voice of nursing in New York State.***

Let us begin locally and think globally. I am energized to work with my dynamic colleagues, share our collective knowledge and ignite our respective creative juices to embrace these challenges as opportunities and be the positive influence for healthcare and humanity.