

Your Voice, Your Vote:

NCBON Election 2020

CE 1 CONTACT HOUR

Licensed nurses will increase their knowledge related to board composition, duties and responsibilities of the Board, use of the candidate biographies, and the election process. Knowledge regarding the Election of Nurse Members will increase the number of nurses participating in the election annually.

Disclosure:

The authors and planners of this CE activity have disclosed that there are no conflicts of interest related to the content of this activity. See the last page of the article to learn how to earn CE credit.

Purpose: The purpose of this article is to provide North Carolina (N.C.) licensed nurses a historical overview of the North Carolina Board of Nursing's (NCBON) establishment of an election system whereby the nurses elect the majority of the board members. Additionally, this article will provide information regarding the Board's major duties and responsibilities, Board composition and positions, reflections from current and past Board members and past voters. Lastly the information in this article will provide licensees information regarding qualifications to become a candidate, and instructions to access slate of candidates to assist.

Outcome: Licensed nurses will increase their knowledge related to board composition, duties and responsibilities of the Board, use of the candidate biographies, and the election process. Knowledge regarding the Election of Nurse Members will increase the number of nurses participating in the election annually.

We stand alone!

North Carolina is the only state in the nation that elects its nurse members. Eleven of the fourteen members are elected by nurses holding N.C. nursing licenses. This is a unique process and opportunity for the licensed nurses of N.C. In other states, the board members are appointed by government officials. Election of Nurse Members provides the licensed nurses of N.C. a voice in the selection process, and provides licensed nurses the opportunity for leadership on a state level. This could be an opportunity for N.C. licensed nurses to be at the table during discussions to raise questions, dialogue, and develop the policies that impact the profession of nursing.

But wait. . . in order to know where you are going, you have to first look at where you have been.

Founded in 1903, the N.C. Board of Examiners, now known as the NCBON, was the first board of nursing in the nation. Mary Lewis Wyche, recognized as the first registered nurse in the United States, was the first individual appointed to the N.C. Board of Examiners. At that time there were only 35 nurses licensed. Of those 35 licensed, Josephine Burton from Craven County was the first state-registered nurse and Annie Lowe Rutherford, a graduate of Freedman's Hospital in Washington, DC, was the first African American Nurse. In 1929, the first male registered

nurse endorsed into North Carolina from Pennsylvania. From those early years, the Board has grown to license over 160,000 registered nurses and licensed practical nurses statewide. Today, your board of nursing is recognized statewide and nationally for its leadership in healthcare regulation and innovation. For more information on the NCBON's rich history, visit our website at <https://www.ncbon.com/board-information-historical-information>.

Present Day Mission and Vision!

The NCBON's ("Board") mission to "protect the public by regulating the practice of nursing" and vision "exemplary nursing care for all" drive the work of Board members as they set policy regarding nursing practice in the state. The Board's values of professionalism, accountability, commitment and equity drive Board members and staff in carrying out the Board's daily responsibilities. In addition to focusing on our present, the Board also serves as visionaries to project the Board's growth in an everchanging healthcare and regulatory environment. The Mission, Vision and Values are a driving force for the Board's 4-year Strategic Plan. The components of quality improvement, effective communication, and utilization of relevant technology are integral to the plan and inherently woven into each of the strategic initiatives. Learn more about the Board's vision by accessing the current Strategic Plan at <https://www.ncbon.com/board-information-governance-strategic-plan>.

Oh, the possibilities!

"You're off to Great Places!

Today is your day!

Your mountain is waiting,

So. . .get on your way!" (Seuss, 1990)

Why not follow Dr. Seuss' lead

to climb the mountain and consider running as a candidate for the Board of Nursing?

When reflecting on her service with the Board, Martha Ann Harrell, 2020 Chair, wrote: "The responsibility of being a NCBON board member is one that should be approached with the utmost respect and attention, but is also one that provides the highest personal reward along with professional growth and development. I would encourage any interested person to pursue this opportunity and, along with their fellow board members, build upon the great tradition of enhancing public protection and nursing practice in N.C. Your experience on the NCBON will further enrich your understanding of nursing regulation and healthcare practice while providing the greatest insight into how nursing practice is vital to our communities across the state" (personal communication, May 15, 2020).

Why are public members important to the Board's composition?

You might be asking yourself "what does it mean to be a public member?" The NCBON has three public members. One public member is appointed by the Governor and the remaining two are appointed by the General Assembly. Public members bring different perspectives and expertise to the discussions. Public members are eligible to serve on all committees, serve as chair or vice-chair of the NCBON, and discuss and vote on all decisions coming before the NCBON for consideration.

Martha Ann Harrell, a public member and NCBON 2020 Chair, reflected on her service: "Through my experiences and interactions with the members of this board and with the North Carolina Health Care Community as a whole, I have

grown to understand and know that policies and procedures are in place to protect the public. I see today how the public's healthcare experiences, including my own personal experiences, have been positively impacted by decisions and programs enacted by this board and the health and safety of our community is better for it. Additionally, through the multiple roles that I have served within this board, I have gained valuable leadership skills and the unique ability to engage and encourage all thoughts and opinions from others to access situations through an objective lens and with the collective best interest as a goal" (personal communication, April 7, 2019).

Additionally, Martha Ann Harrell reflected: "Serving as a public member to this board, allows me to be a voice of the general public, and my voice is valued by all members and within all decisions to ensure that our mission and our focus is never lost" (personal communication, April 7, 2019).

Let's look at how your professional climb up the mountain begins. . .

Are you qualified for a Board Position?

The Board, in accordance with the Nursing Practice Act and Administrative Rules Chapter 36, defines the minimum requirements for nurses to both seek election to the Board and maintain the position once elected. Minimum requirements include:

- Hold a current unencumbered license to practice in North Carolina;
- Declare North Carolina as the primary state of residence;
- Have a minimum of five years of experience in nursing; and
- Have been engaged continuously in a position that meets the criteria for the specified Board position, for at least three years immediately preceding the election.

In addition, licensees must have continuous employment equal to or greater than 50% of a full-time position that meets the criteria for the specified Board member position.

You meet the minimum qualifications to run for a position. Now let's review the individual position requirements.

REGISTERED NURSES (8)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nurse Administrator employed by a hospital or hospital system (1)• Advanced Practice Nurse (1)• Staff Nurse (2)• At-Large Registered Nurse (1)• Nurse Educator (3)
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES (3)
Any practice setting
PUBLIC MEMBERS (3)
Appointed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governor• Senate• House

Positions on the Board are defined within the Nursing Practice Act (G.S. 90-171.21) as follows:

- Nurse Administrator employed by hospital or hospital system must be a Chief Nurse Executive or director of nursing services for a major service division that includes inpatient care. The Nurse Administrator is accountable for administration of nursing services and not directly involved in patient care.
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse may be a Nurse Practitioner (NP), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Certified Nurse Specialist (CNS) or a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).
- Staff Nurses are primarily involved in direct patient care regardless of practice setting. The legislative intent is that staff level RNs, not those in APRN roles, fill this position.
- At-Large Registered Nurse is defined as any currently licensed RN other than a nurse eligible for a nurse educator position. This position permits a retired nurse if the minimum requirements are met to include a current, unencumbered license.
- Nurse Educator is any nurse who teaches in or directs a Board approved nursing program.

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The individual must meet the minimum education requirements as established by the Board's education program standards for nursing faculty. A nurse educator is not eligible to run in the At-Large position as there are 3 Nurse Educator positions on the Board: Practical Nurse Educator, ADN/Diploma Nurse Educator and BSN/Higher Degree Nurse Educator.

- Licensed Practical Nurses in any practice setting may run for a position on the Board if they meet the minimum requirements.
- Public Members shall not be a provider of health services, employed in the health services field or hold a vested interest at any level in the provision of health services. In addition, no public member or person in the public member's immediate family (spouse or dependent's minor child) shall be currently employed as a licensed nurse or been previously employed as a licensed nurse.

Once the nomination process is complete, nominees for each of the nurse positions complete and submit a candidate packet which provides information related to licensure and employment. Board Staff then determines if the nominee qualifies to run in the selected Board position. Once the qualification process is complete and a slate of candidates is determined, the rest is up to the candidates to engage the licensed nurses in N.C. to participate in the election process!

Congratulations! You have been elected to the Board! Now let's get started!

If elected to the Board, nurses serve a 4-year term. Newly elected and appointed Board members are sworn into office at the January Board meeting following the election and serve through December 31st of the 4th year. At the end of the 4-year term, a nurse may choose to run for re-election. No Board member shall

serve more than 2 consecutive 4-year terms or 8 consecutive years.

It is estimated an average of 30 days per year is required to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Board. The time commitment for Board members is based on the number of committee assignments. In addition to the three full Board meetings held in January, May and September of each year and the five scheduled Administrative Hearings, Board members serve on additional NCBON committees. These committees are assigned yearly and are based on the Board member's area of interest or expertise. The various NCBON committees include Education and Practice, Licensure Review Panel, Finance, Board Governance, Settlement, Hearing Committee, Joint Sub and Midwifery Committee. Each of these committees support the work of the Board and are driven by mission of public protection. In addition to attendance at meetings, there is time required to prepare for meetings by reviewing any documents provided pertinent to the meeting. The documents are provided electronically and in advance of meetings. Preparation is key to efficient, productive, mission-driven decisions and dialogue.

Anne Marie Milner, NCBON 2020 Board member, provided the following insight regarding service on the Board: "North Carolina is the only state that allows nurses to elect their board members and I am honored to currently serve as an elected member. The experience I have had serving on the board has been amazing and I have grown both professionally and personally. Serving also is a way to give back to the profession I love. If you want to influence change, I highly recommend becoming a board member. You will have a chance to advocate for nursing practice and set policy regarding nursing practice all while protecting the public. Because it is not what happens to you in your practice, it is what you do about it!" (personal communication, May 18, 2020).

As a Board member, what are the major duties and responsibilities of my position?

The major duties and responsibilities of NCBON Board members are defined in the Nursing Practice Act (GS 90-171.23). A portion of the duties are listed below:

- Issue its interpretations of the Nursing Practice Act (i.e. position statements and decision trees). These can be found on the NCBON website www.ncbon.com;
- Adopt, amend or repeal rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Nursing Practice Act (NPA);
- Establish qualifications of, employ, and set the compensation of an executive officer who shall be a registered nurse and who shall not be a member of the Board;
- Examine, license, and renew the licenses of duly qualified applicants for licensure;
- Investigate and take appropriate action for violations of NPA;
- Establish standards and monitor nursing programs that lead to initial licensure;
- Implement and monitor continuing education of nurses;
- Appoint advisory committees;
- Appoint and maintain a subcommittee of the Board to work jointly with the subcommittee of the North Carolina Medical Board to develop rules and regulations to govern the performance of medical acts by registered nurses;
- Recommend and collect such fees for licensure, license renewal, examinations and reexaminations;
- Implement the interstate compact;
- Establish programs for aiding in the recovery and rehabilitation of nurses who experience chemical addiction or abuse or mental or physical disabilities and programs for monitoring such nurses for safe practice; and
- Establish programs for aiding in the remediation of nurses who experience practice deficiencies.

Now that you've learned more about your Board, why is voting so important?

Participating in the election is a significant way to influence the decisions that affect your nursing practice in N.C. Just like in governmental elections, you have the ability to elect candidates you feel are best qualified to carry out the duties and responsibilities related to your nursing practice. The Slate of Candidates, which contains biographical information, is available on page 12 of this issue. Take the time to get to know your candidates prior to casting your vote!

Speaking of voting, the process is quick and easy! In fact, the process is even more streamlined this year! Licensees will access the electronic election system through their individual Gateway accounts. Licensees are no longer required to provide a license number or year of birth in order to vote. Simply log into your individual Gateway account, locate the logo for the electronic election system and you're on your way! Before you cast your vote, be sure to review the Slate of Candidates which will be posted on your Gateway account. For more information on the new voting system, see the article Gateway to Voting on page 11 of this issue.

Voting is open from July 1st through August 15th annually.

Still not convinced your vote has any value to the patients of North Carolina and the nursing profession? Let's see what licensed nurse voters say about their experience participating in the NCBON election process.

"Being a nurse is a true honor. Being allowed to vote on an annual basis helps further empowerment for all those in our profession. We should all embrace and participate in this election." - Janis P.

"It is a part of my professional duty and it gives me the opportunity to have some influence on the decision-making process that affects the practice of nursing in North Carolina." - Hope Y.

"It gives me a voice in the selection of a candidate. I love being a nurse and I want to be involved in every aspect of the profession." - Dot T.

"I am honored to have a voice in selecting each position that is open. Reading backgrounds lets me know what they have accomplished in their career and how each has made a difference in the practice of nursing." - Hutch A.

"Nurses in many states don't have this important right - it's a way of making my voice count in my profession." - Pamela B.

"It is a professional obligation to ensure qualified persons are selected to make decisions about professional behavior and protect the public from irresponsible practice." - Susan R.

"As a registered nurse, I (now) understand the importance of having highly qualified board members who are charged with making policy changes that will affect my practice. Having a diverse group at the table for decision-making is vital." - Carlene C.

"The NC Board has been extremely successful and is viewed by many state boards across the country as one of the most progressive high performing boards. It is imperative that we maintain ability to vote our members in as I feel that is a major success factor for the NCBON." - Jan W.

"It's quick, the process gives you information needed to select from the candidates. It is the first step in getting involved as a leader in your profession." - Cathy L.

"Voting on the NCBON site is an easy process with bio's that allows you to quickly read about the nominees and make an educated decision. It is a quick simple process so why not have your voice heard." - Peggy T.

"Your voice is important in selecting our NCBON leaders. I want a voice in my government leaders, and I want a voice in my state nursing leaders directing my profession! NCBON provides easy to locate details on the candidates." - Anonymous

"I tell others, including my students, that it is a privilege that we can elect

BON members! If not used, we may lose it one day. Also, we know that there are people on the Board who truly understand nursing "in the trenches!" - Anonymous

Are you ready to climb that mountain?

Each year in the Fall and Winter issues of the Bulletin, the magazine published by the NCBON, a nomination form is published seeking licensed nurses in N.C. who are interested in running for a position on the NCBON. The nomination form includes the guidelines for submitting a nomination along with the positions available for the upcoming election. Keep in mind:

- RNs nominate RNs; LPNs nominate LPNs
- Petitioners provide certificate number and signature
- Information is verified with the records of the Board to validate each nominee and petitioner holds appropriate N.C. licensure
- Nomination forms must be postmarked on or before April 1st to be considered for candidacy
- For detailed information regarding the nomination process and to view a 3-minute video titled "Being a Board Member," visit the Board's website at <https://www.ncbon.com/board-information-election-general-information>.

Pam Edwards, NCBON 2020 Vice-Chair, reflected on her Board service: "This is my fourth term on the board, and I have learned more with each year of service. The NCBON protects the public through the regulation of nursing, but it also supports our profession overall. The board supports the new graduate RN or LPN, being licensed for the first time in our state, or the nurse relocating to NC. The board supports the practice of all nurses in NC through the Nursing Practice Act, and lastly the board supports nurses in a very unique and distinct way through the discipline process, where the goal is to inform, align practice to recommended levels, and mentor and support those nurses

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wanting to return to our profession while providing protection to the public” (personal communication, May 10, 2020).

Nomination forms are due April 1st each year.

Positions available for the 2021 elections are....

- At Large Registered Nurse
- Licensed Practical Nurse

Are you still unsure about running for a Board position? Perhaps our current and past Board Members can convince you to start climbing the mountain.

Yolanda M. VanRiel, NCBON 2019 Vice-Chair, provided the following advice for a nurse considering seeking nomination to serve on the Board: “NCBON is the only board of nursing in which members are elected to serve on and it is a great honor to be a board member. Additionally, I would say that being a member of the NCBON sets you apart from other BONs and that you are looked upon as a leader. I would tell them to research the position that they are interested in and make sure that they fulfill the requirements. Lastly, I would tell them that it is a rewarding experience” (personal communication, April 5, 2019).

As a public member who is appointed, Martha Ann Harrell provided the following advice for anyone seeking an appointment: “I would tell them that their time, their

experience and their learnings will be invaluable and irreplaceable. I underestimated the time I anticipated to spend working with board-related activities, however, I found that much of the time spent was driven by my own personal desire to learn and understand better the board’s role and how I could best be an asset to it. The colleagues I interact with through this board are truly some of the most talented, knowledgeable, and respected persons I have had the pleasure of working with in my professional career. Learning from those I was partnered and engaged with, in combination with the robust training and education provided to board members made my time and my efforts more than worth it. This is a very strong working board, and for anyone seeking an appointment to this board, they will greatly benefit from their experiences” (personal communication, April 7, 2019).

Former Board member Frank DeMarco, NCBON 2019 Chair, provided the following advice to nurses considering nomination to serve on the Board: “I would strongly encourage anyone that is interested in becoming a board member to do so. It is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. At the same time, you will grow professionally. It provides one the opportunity to impact nursing practice in a unique way while obtaining a better understanding of

nursing regulation and practice. It is an amazing experience that only enhances your practice as a nurse” (personal communication, April 5, 2019).

Questions?

Contact Chandra Graves at election@ncbon.com or visit our website at <https://www.ncbon.com/board-information-election-general-information>.

We hope to see you as a future nominee for a Board Member position!

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Required Reflective Questions:

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|---|--|
| 1. What is the mission of the NCBON? | 6. What are the overall responsibilities for NCBON Board members? |
| 2. Where are the candidate biographies located? | 7. What is the composition of the NCBON Board members? |
| 3. Why are the candidate biographies important in the election process? | 8. What are the qualifications to be a NCBON Board member? |
| 4. Where is access to the Electronic Election located? | 9. How are public members appointed to the NCBON? |
| 5. When does the Election take place? | 10. Locate and review the position statements and decision trees on the NCBON website. |

EARN CE CREDIT

“Your Voice, Your Vote: NCBON Election 2020” (1 CH)

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the article, online reference documents (if applicable), view the 3-minute video, and reflect on the 10 questions listed under the “Required Reflective Questions” section of this article.

RECEIVE CONTACT HOUR CERTIFICATE

Go to www.ncbon.com and scroll over “Nursing Education”; under “Continuing Education,” select “Board Sponsored Bulletin Offerings,” scroll down to the link, “Your Voice, Your Vote: NCBON Election 2020.” Register. Be sure to write down your confirmation number, complete and submit the evaluation, and print your certificate immediately.

If you experience issues with printing your CE certificate, please email practice@ncbon.com. In the email, please provide your full name and the name of the CE offering (Your Voice, Your Vote: NCBON Election 2020).

Registration deadline is 8-15-2020.

PROVIDER ACCREDITATION

The North Carolina Board of Nursing will award 1 contact hour for this continuing nursing education activity. The North Carolina Board of Nursing is an approved

provider of nursing continuing professional development by the North Carolina Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

NCBON CNE CONTACT HOUR ACTIVITY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The following disclosure applies to the NCBON continuing nursing education article entitled “Your Voice, Your Vote: NCBON Election 2020.”

Participants must read the CE article, online reference documents (if applicable), view the 3-minute video, and reflect on the 10 questions listed under the “Required Reflective Questions” section of this article in order to be awarded CNE contact hours. Verification of participation will be noted by online registration. Neither the author nor members of the planning committee have any conflicts of interest related to the content of this activity.

Gateway to Voting!

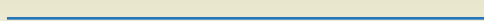
“Every election is determined by the people who show up”

- Larry J. Sabato, “Pendulum Swing”

It’s time to vote and the Board has opened your “Gateway” for easier access!

But wait! Before you vote, take the time to read the CE election article on page 6 to learn more about your Board and the importance of voting as well as review the Slate of Candidates on page 12 to learn more about your candidates.

Once you’re ready, it’s as simple as 1 – 2 – 3!

1. Log onto your Gateway account on the Board’s website at www.ncbon.com
2. Locate the election logo 
3. To the right of the logo click ‘View Candidates’
4. Review the Bios and responses to Candidate questions
5. Once you review the Bio of each Candidate and have made your decision, you are now ready to cast your vote.
6. Click on the photo of the candidate you would like to select
7. There will be a pop-up asking you to confirm your selection
8. Click ‘OK’ to cast your vote



It’s that simple! Voting is open from July 1st through August 15th.
Exercise your right to vote today!

Questions?
Contact the Board of Nursing at election@ncbon.com