

Preface

This History is dedicated to the nurses that belong to the West Virginia Nurses Association because belonging is demonstrating leadership in the profession. I hope you enjoy it and that it will inspire others to continue to build upon it.

Special thanks to the Cultural Center Archives and History Library for maintaining and preserving information that was valuable in creating this document. Their staff was very helpful, kind and accommodating to help with this endeavor. Please visit this library and enjoy the excitement of the past as it comes alive before your eyes by reviewing the WVNA conference proceedings, early board minutes, past issues of the Weather Vane, pictures and other valuable historic documents. It is my hope that future generations of the West Virginia Nurses Association will continue to preserve the history of this organization through the use of their services.

Also special thanks to the WVNA office staff and Connie Caravasos, long time WVNA member, for giving me her summation of "A Century of Nursing in West Virginia 1907-1957" by Donovan H. Bond, Associate Professor of Journalism West Virginia University and published by WVNA.

It has been an honor to be involved with this important task. What an awesome organization with rich history. I regret the gaps in this document due to the unavailability of information for some years. To clear this void I hope additional nurse leaders will come forward and help make this document complete and continue it through our next 100 years. Please contact the Central Office or myself if you have an interest in this process or information to contribute.

Sincerely,

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Graduate Marshall University School of Nursing (AS 1970) and
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1903

- Miss Mary Gaule of Huntington, wrote Mrs. Harriet Camp Lounsbury to tell her registration in other states was of benefit and suggested a law setting forth standards for nurse registration in order for West Virginia to keep up with the times. In order to pass such a law it was felt there must be a State organization of nurses to back the law. This would be a concrete step to band nurses together and establish standards that made their calling more respected, better known and of greater service.
- Three nurses met in October in the home of Mrs. Harriet Camp Lounsbury and formed the West Virginia Graduate Nurses' Association. It was patterned after other states. Officers were: Mrs. Lounsbury, President, Miss Emma Auhring, Vice-President, Mrs. Margaret J. Steele, Secretary-Treasurer, and Mrs. Nell Stewart worked closely with them.
- The first few years were occupied with mailing descriptive material to nurses in West Virginia, telling of progress in neighboring states, discussing matters as an official pin, preparing for the day when acceptance would replace the apathy. It was hard to locate nurses in the state at that time or even to know where all the hospitals were.

1905

- Meetings were still being held at Mrs. Lounsbury's home. The nurses would strive for "social" status if official recognition via registration did not have sufficient support.
- "A social meeting and dinner were planned that fall in Charleston, and 14 nurses were present." The group included nurses from Hinton, Hansford, Huntington, and Charleston. "The little band resolved to organize without further delay".

1906

- The first state meeting of the association was held in the capital city in January. Admission to the American Nurses Association extended their vision. Mrs. Cook was the first delegate to ANA from West Virginia.

1907

- 183 members: The Registration act was passed by Legislature. The law was modeled after New York's act of the same period. The passage was publicized in all WV newspapers. The law established registration and examination of graduate nurses. The law also enabled nurses to get in touch with each other and helped to weed out incompetent nurses posing as graduates. The law also enabled MDs and patients to obtain nurses with the least possible delay.
- A second meeting of the association was scheduled in Wheeling, WV that fall to assess the outcomes of the long dreamed-of legislation.
- 1907 is recognized as the West Virginia nurses' birth year. This was the dawn of public recognition and credit.
- Mrs. Harriet Camp Lounsbury, 1 of the 3 founders of WVNA and WVNA's first President was an army nurse volunteer in 1898 and became Chief Nurse in Georgia before coming back to WV. Her first job paid \$10.00 a month plus her maintenance. She was a Graduate of Brooklyn Homeopathic Hospital.
- Miss Mary Gaule, Army nurse in Spain (1898), and a School nurse in Charleston during World War I. She moved to Huntington in 1923, and became the first editor of The

Weather Vane and a "Champion knitter" for Huntington's Red Cross chapter. She completed graduate work at Columbia and Western Reserve.

- Miss Emma Auhring - Graduate of Christ Hospital School of Nursing in Cincinnati, Ohio (1901). She was the Superintendent of Charleston General (1902-1903) and later moved to Boston in 1904; then to Louisville and Versailles, KY.
- Miss Margaret J. Steele graduated in 1900. An honorary member of WVNA since 1938. She was one of West Virginia's earliest nurse specialists in massage and mechanotherapy. Her home was in Charleston, WV.
- Miss Susan B. Cook – was WVNA's first delegate to ANA and Second President 1915-1924. She was a graduate of Ohio Valley General Hospital School of Nursing's (City Hospital of Wheeling) first class (1895), and the creator of the state's present 12 nursing districts. She was also Superintendent of Eastmont Sanitarium near Morgantown 1926-1945.
- Miss Mary E. Reid - founder of the state's first official nurses' registry and the original compiler of WVNA's rich history. In 1898 she graduated from Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing in Cincinnati. She opened Charleston's first school of nursing in 1898 at Thomas Hospital (later Charleston General). She was also the Author of "*Bacteriology in a Nutshell*", a first text in the nursing field.
- WVNA was first recognized at the Wheeling meeting as a member of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada. Beginning annual dues were a \$1.

1908

- One year later, the Annual meeting was held in Fairmont and dues increased to \$3, with \$2 earmarked for county societies. All new members present of WVNA resolved to work toward obtaining equal and fair pay for nurses from 1908 through 1916.

1909

- Annual meeting held in Parkersburg. This meeting was devoted to a special discussion of the problems associated with schools of nursing; the Board of Examiners took its first important part in WVNA discussions.

1910

- Annual meeting held in Charleston. The theme turned to the examination on age of students, the teaching of ethics, basic educational qualifications for students, and recommended course of study.

1911

- Wheeling was the annual meeting place. At that meeting nurses were urged to consider post-graduate courses.

1912

- Annual meeting was in Clarksburg. This was the association's first venture into the social nursing field. The "Associated Alumnae" had become the American Nurses' Association. The *Journal of Nursing* was adopted as the organization's official magazine.

1913

- Annual meeting in Huntington.

1914

- Wheeling meeting - convention theme "Mountain Motherhood"

1915

- Annual meeting in Charleston

1916

- Martinsburg meeting - all with similar programs - "public health nursing, the problem of equalizing instruction in schools of nursing, a stepped-up drive to seek legislative strengthening of the registration act, a growing interest in public health nursing.

1917

- Fairmont meeting - working conditions was the theme "Not having sufficient nurses for a 12-hour day, nurses will work 24 hours per day for \$25 per week. Nursing pay for one day's work will be \$4. Obstetrics cases will be \$30 per week." The nursing registry report notes demand exceeds supply.
- Began to work on the Nursing Shortage.

1918

- No meeting due to Army and Navy demands, influenza epidemic.
- The executives met in Charleston in May, voting to put almost all of WVNA's dwindling funds into War Savings Stamps; encouraged larger classes of students. The state divided into two districts: Ohio Valley General Hospital in charge of the Wheeling district, Harriet M. Phalen in charge; Charleston district with Elizabeth Oliver of Chesapeake and Ohio Hospital in charge.

1919

- Annual meeting in Bluefield - June (a first). Sent \$200 to help with lobby expenses for a movement to get permanent rank for military nurses.

1920

- Annual meeting in Elkins - voted another \$250 for lobby expenses.

1921

- Annual meeting in Parkersburg - considered working conditions and fee schedules, adopting a 12-hour day as official association policy; set a fee scale of \$40 per week for obstetric patients; \$42 per week for alcoholic patients; \$35 per week for general nursing; \$10 per home delivery.

1922

- Annual meeting Wheeling - returned to the original districting of 1906.

1923

- Annual Meeting in Huntington - devoted to further legislative reform

1924

- Annual meeting in Charleston – Proceeding published in Bound Books with addresses given by speakers, motions and actions, reports, etc. Need for Parliamentary discussed and legislative committee formed. Some discussion that nurses stepped over the boundary line to form the association and bring it to where it is. All felt it was built on a strong foundation and resolved to keep going. Speakers at annual meeting are top quality and bring state nurses vision. Suggested that dues be paid via case instead of checks due to the risk of non-sufficient funds. Discussion continued regarding the bonding of the treasure. Noted WVNA not paying for volunteer work and discussion on

paying workers. Supported Public Health in strengthening Health for "Colored People" so there was no difference in white and "colored" health programs.

- A review of the proposed revision of the registration law was completed and suggestions made to strengthen reciprocity so that any nurse who comes into the state should register after being here for a certain number of days and if she does not she should be fined or be required to leave the state.
- The law now regulates nurses trained in 15 bed hospitals- The Red Cross requires a daily average of 50 patients. During the war when nurses were scarce 15 were allowed, but 15 was not enough in the current environment. The state was not ready for 50 either so 25 was recommended. WVNA sees this as a public safety issue.
- Current law does not specify the composition of the board. The consensus is the board should be made up of 1 –2 doctors, some outsiders as they can give nurses criticisms and suggestions that nurses might not see, however the majority of membership must be nurses. It was also recommended nurses be given more time for the examination, the present is 3 hrs and most states give 2-3days.
- Finances were such that officers and Board of Directors were given their expenses while at state meetings.

1925

- Annual meeting in Clarksburg – Finance committee added. The constitution was amended and by-laws that limited the term of president of the association to 2 years and ANA approved the revision. Voted to hire a woman to work full time addressing high school students and clubwomen of WV to educate them about the profession of nursing and what the nursing profession stands for. This was done in cooperation with the Board of Examiners; set up a fund to employ a nurse to make contact with graduating classes in high schools to sell the profession of nursing. \$1,200 funded and employed Miss Katherine Jusilla in the position.
- WV has 6 delegates to ANA.

1926

- 673 members; 1000 RNs in state
- Annual meeting in Parkersburg discussed full-time secretary and the desirability of publishing its own periodical. Discussed the nurses relief fund that ANA administers, this fund tries to keep nurses out of poverty.
- WVNA is recognized for being the first state in the union to take action on ANA's tentative "Code of Ethics for Graduate Nurses".
- The Public Health Nurses form their own association but remain a section of WVNA. There are 115 public health nurses and 35 belong to WVNA. The Private Duty and Red Cross are sections of WVNA.

1927

- Annual meeting in Wheeling
- \$500 set aside for part-time secretary. WVNA's own periodical the Weather Vane established. Enlarged to publication to include the proceedings of the annual meeting in it.
- "A Weather Vane is useful, it outlines its scope, useful to show what direction the wind is blowing. A good vane it does not stay in one position sways with each breeze,

sways with each effort for the perfection never attained but always sought" (Author not identified.)

- Went on record as favoring annual re-registration and noted the need to increase membership.
- Discussed a uniform membership card with states and ANA, the need to transfer membership in the state associations when moving from state to state. Noted treasure needed to be bonded. Funds transferred from the Exchange Bank of Mannington to Kanawha National Bank.
- The State Hospital Association was formed and noted the state nurses' association and the state medical association as their big sister and big brother.
- ANA allows 1 delegate to ANA per 50 paid up members
- Board of WVNA made up of 4 officers and 8 directors. There are 3 sections (Superintendents, Public Health and Private Duty). Committees are Membership, Program, Arrangements, Publicity, Relief Fund, Revision, Finance, and Legislation.

1928

- Annual meeting in Martinsburg - Mary M. Roberts, editor of the *American Journal of Nursing*, chief speaker. Encouraged preparation of histories. Suggested to publish the History of Nursing in WV over the next 3 years(Past, Present, Future). Relief fund still in discussion and still unable to hire and Executive Secretary. Medical Association adopts resolution that majority of the members of the Board of Examiners for Registered Nurses by MDs. Dr. Hupp current member on the board does not support resolution. WVNA votes to fight against the resolution.

1929

- Depression
- Annual meeting in Bluefield - resolved to employ a full-time executive secretary. ANA notifies states that the nurses' relief fund is too much of a burden on them and asks states to support and fund themselves. Name of official publication to be the Weather Vane and decided to have District alumni reports in it, to have them uniform, and to publish what WVNA is doing with all committee reports and board proceeding, etc.

1930

- Depression
- Annual meeting in Fairmont Membership 559
- focus on Annuities for nurses, TB, Public Health Nursing, Service in the Armed forces, The Crippled Children's Council, activities of the Board of Examiners and possibilities of its development. Call for the writing of the history to be published next OCT.
- Decision made to dispense with regular year book and that the addresses and papers of meetings be given through the Weather Vane. Focus this coming year to be on membership and increasing it to 1000.
- RN code bill passes with successful decrease in proposed \$15. Cost will remain \$10.

1931

- Depression
- Annual meeting in Huntington - started a year long celebration of its 25th anniversary. 6 issues of the Weather Vane to be published instead of 4. The annual report will now be in the publication.

- 2899 nurses now in WV.
- Hupp Fund established in honor of the late Dr. Frank LeMoyne Hupp who was a Wheeling MD and did a lot for the improvement of nursing conditions and standards on the Board of Examiners of Registered Nurses. He was on the board since 1919 and remained on the board until his death in 1929. The fund was started with \$1025 donated by Dr. Hupp's widow, daughter, and brother. This fund was for post-graduate education which Dr. Hupp supported.

1932

- Depression; 700 members
- Annual Meeting in Clarksburg with focus on the Importance of TB Nursing and provision for affiliation in TB Sanitaria emphasized. The depression caused the closing of small schools. Noted there was an over production of nurses in the state and WVNA saw this as a profit opportunity and called on the Hospital Association for assistance in employing graduates instead of students for the betterment of patients.
- All Weather Vanes since the beginning of inception were sent to the WVU Library.

1933

- Depression
- Annual meeting in Charleston Membership 1385 on the books, 545 in good standing, which meant their dues were paid up, and 300 were in arrears.
- Districting plan approved, WVNA incorporated under state laws. "WVNA endorsed 10 general duty reforms including: a shorter working day (preferably 8 hours); a month's allowance annually for vacation and illness; a salary commensurate with the local costs of living'; the privilege of living in or out of the hospital; a provision for emergency'; courteous treatment on the part of other members of the staff; carefully selected head nurses and supervisors chosen for their skill in directing subordinates; reasonably good housing and food (if provided by the hospital); opportunity for advancement either in salary or position; and provision for enlarging one's educational background."
- Decided after the May issue of the Weather Vane was published the next issue would not be until Sept or Oct. due to the financial condition of the banks in the country.
- Nursing noted as a Woman's highest profession.
- Legislation and Publications noted as 2 of the most important accomplishment of the nursing organization.
- Mrs. M.J. Steele appointed to succeed Mary Reid as registrar for Charleston and vicinity. Mrs. Reid served as registrar since 1907.
- Katheryn Trent, President of WVNA honored for organizing camps for the underprivileged children in WV.
- Clarification of the National Recovery Act and its implications for nursing. WVNA published information from ANA for nurses in WV on the Act.
- Work bind done on encouraging State Hospitals to employ more graduate nurses and in future WVNA hoped to publish the names of the hospitals that did.
- Reported the White House Conference on Obstetric Education that noted nurses were not well trained in obstritrics and suggested nurses associations conduct institutes and refresher courses for all nurses doing OB care.

- Called for every eligible nurse in WV who was not yet 40 years of age to belong to her country's Red Cross, the only society that did not ask for a fee or yearly dues. Their focus was war and disaster relief.

1934

- Depression
- Annual meeting in Parkersburg; 444 Members –
- desired to hire a full-time secretary. During that year, the WVNA headquarters office opened in Charleston. A part-time secretary was paid \$600 per year.

1935

- Coming out of depression
- Annual meeting was in Wheeling; 965 members; 4000 nurses in the state. Focus on Care of the Insane, Post Graduate Education, The nurse preventing crippling emphasis on polio, Public Health, The need for the value of social science in nursing school curriculum, post graduate education on TB, the status of nursing in schools in WV and suggestions for improvement, the present economic situation and plans for meeting existing conditions.
- Suggested to superintendents that they only employ graduate nurses that belong to the association, a way to open the door to higher education, postgraduate courses only open to members, the Red Cross requires state nurses association membership
- Dues are \$5, recommended each nurse give \$1 to the Hupp fund.
- WVNA's office moved out of Library building to a room in Capital City Building, Employed a full-time secretary, Miss Maloney. WVNA has a headquarters at last. Approved disposal of the trunk and addressograph, and purchase of a steel file cabinet for the office.
- First Student group organized. Fund raising was through teas, bridge parties, sewing parties and dance parties. It was felt the legislative agenda was lost this year due to lack of understanding of Nursing Education by the medical profession and low membership in the association.
- Approved charging a fee of \$.50 to attend annual meeting to start in 1936.

1936

- Annual meeting in Bluefield; 971 membership
- Heard of the establishment of a pre-nursing course at WVU, in the interest of students having at least two years of college work before entering a school of nursing. Assisted ANA in a survey to show there were plenty of graduate nurses who would accept the institutional openings for adequate salary and an eight-hour day.

1937

- Annual meeting in Martinsburg; 1,206 members
- Legislative revision made a high school education a requirement of all candidates for nursing education. Sponsored and worked for the passage of the 3 day waiting law which controls "hasty" marriages.

1938

- Fairmont: membership 1,361 members; also record attendance at meeting; again supported 8-hour day; urged districts to set up 8 hour regulations for private duty nurses.

1939

- Annual meeting in Huntington; 1,521 members
- Adopted ANA's code of standards governing the selection of executive secretaries.
- Army nurse Ruby Brady sent to Philippines for active duty.
- Mary E. Reid long standing member of WVNA expires. District 8 is named after Mary.

1940

- Clarksburg - 1,601 members;
- Sent tea to English nurses at Christmas time; adopted the New League as its department of education; 450% in membership.

1941

Annual meeting in Charleston; 1,735 membership

- A full discussion of the state's role in National Defense; set up district committees to conduct refresher courses for nurses coming back into active professional work.
- Army nurse Ruby Brady captured by enemy in the Philippines and spent 37 months in captivity.

1942

- Annual meeting in Parkersburg; 1,900 members;
- all hotel facilities and public transport both greatly curtailed; all exhibits were eliminated and the association held a thoroughly businesslike session for one of the smallest groups in more than 15 years.

1943

- No meeting; 1,977 members; cancelled because of travel restrictions. (Gas and tires were rationed).

1944

- Annual meeting in Wheeling; 2,039 members;
- employers asked for "tolerance", nurses demanded "a fair deal". "The American Hospital Association had noted the need for adjustments in nurses' salaries, and had suggested an initial salary equal to the minimum rates then paid government stenographers and file clerks--about \$1,800 yearly without maintenance." A freeze on jobs and salaries; most hospitals requested nurses to live at home and take care of their own laundry; provide their own evening meals--without compensatory increases in salary. Industrial nurses received between \$175 -\$200 per month. WV orderlies were paid \$125 monthly, RN's \$90 monthly; 48 hour week; one hospital meal daily at \$10 per month; laundry \$5 per month; vacations with pay after employment 6 months, based on one day of vacation for each month worked, 14 day for 12 months of continuous service; \$155 monthly for general staff nurses with monthly increases of \$2.50 up to a maximum of \$170; \$172 - \$185 for head nurses; \$190 for supervisors; \$200 for teaching supervisors and instructors; and up to \$280 for directors of nursing; no mandatory overtime over 8 hour shift 48 hour week, time-and-a-half for overtime. Sick leave, health programs, staff relief, termination-of-employment practices and educational opportunities.

1945

- Annual meeting in Charleston; 2,231 members;

- small attendance, Established a counseling and placement program with a full-time counselor Miss Edna Groppe; post-graduate work in nursing education and modern specialties discussed.

1946

- Annual meeting in Clarksburg; 2,367 members – 262 RN's present, 80 students were among the 1946 delegates; discussed family health, child welfare

1947

- Annual meeting in Huntington; 2,201 members- focus on public attention and money on the worrisome problem of mental health.

1948

- Annual meeting in Fairmont; 2,402 members: devoted to Army needs.

1949

- Annual meeting in White Sulphur Springs; 2,438 members

1950

- Annual meeting in Wheeling; 2,508 members
- West Virginia's 1st military list created (63 nurses, 1 head nurse, 1 operating room nurse, 59 general duty nurses)

1951

- Annual meeting in Charleston; 2,363 members – attendance almost 450, voted a dues increase
- Economic security of the profession top priority
- Working hard on Civil Defense and learning about atomic warfare.

1952

- Annual meeting in Clarksburg; 2,264 members

1953

- Annual meeting in Charleston; 2,302 members;
- Rearrangement of sections designed along ANA-specified lines to give the state more stability and practicality. Discussions started regarding practical nurses, who they are; what they do; their education.
- The Women's National Press Club in Washington named the "Korean War Nurse" as symbolic "Woman of the Year" and selected WV nurse Ruby Bradley of Roane County Chief Nurse of the eight Army.
- Ruby also received a Legion Merit Award with the Army's honor guard salute, at that time the only woman to ever receive the tribute.

1954

- Annual meeting in Bluefield; 2,344 members, Redistricting suggested;
- WVU scholarship fund established. To be used for WVU nursing students when the school of nursing opened. The money for the fund was donated by Districts and invested by the WVU foundation.

1955

- Annual meeting in Parkersburg; 2,388 members; Nursing audits discussed.

1956

- Annual meeting in Wheeling; 2,352 members

1957

- 2139 members
- Carol Ann "Kay" Guthrie, Wheeling receives Heroism Award by the WV Association of Accident and Health Underwriters Carter R. Graley Heroism for Saving human life under hazardous conditions and confirmation of action beyond the call of civic duty. Kay rescued a drowning woman from the high icy waters of Wheeling Creek. She was further honored by being named the citizen of the month for January by the Wheeling Junior Chamber of Commerce.
- Practical Nurse Law passed; state had 6 one-year programs. Board of Examiners for Practical Nurses created.

1958

- 2775 members
- 70 WVNA members attend ANA convention in Atlantic City, NJ. WV had 18 delegates
- Dues increase suggested as there had been no increase since 1951.
- Eva N. Akpom, Nigerian nurse and Certified Nurse Midwife studies coal field nursing in WV in hopes of helping remedy some of the problems in her native country of Western Africa.

1959

- 2320 members
- American Journal of Nursing was added by ANA as a membership benefit.
- Hosted legislative conference with ANA speaker
- Successful legislative agenda
- WVNA member Frances M. McKenna, RN, MA publishes book Thresholds to Professional Nursing Practice.
- Motivation a topic of focus.

1960

- Executive Director of WVNA Juliann Ritter invited by President to participate in meetings of the Golden Anniversary White House Conference on Children and Youth.
- The Labor management Reporting and Disclosure act of 1959 noted to have application for WVNA.
- 1st male nurse graduates in WV
- Official emblem for WVNA chosen.

1961

- 2179 members
- 3rd legislative conference held
- District 7 has 1st nurse and woman as Elkins 1st city council woman.
- Legislature provides funding for Psychiatric Nursing Program, increase in Dept of health appropriation, creation of human rights commission.
- Executive Director attends ICN and ANA legislative conference.
- WVNA on honor roll for ANF

1962

- 2112 members
- 70 members attended annual meeting

- Consideration of mandatory licensure was begun. WVNA assisted with a study on the social integration of the “Negro” Nurse in WV.
- Nursing Activities Workshop was jointly sponsored by WVNA and the WV Hospital Association through cooperation with the Division of Nursing , USPHS. 100 attended.

1963

- Annual meeting at The Greenbrier the 50th annual meeting. Nurses are noted as becoming scarce. Nursing audits started to be discussed. Previous talks of this were in 1955.
- WV’s Centennial year
- Hosted another legislative conference.
- Successful passage of the State Dept of Civil and Defense Mobilization for Civil Defense Training-this is a 2nd legal protection for the nurse instructors and students during education program when expanded functions are taught for disaster preparedness.
- Awards presented to the first nurse to be commissioned in regular Army (Colonel Florence Blanchfield) and the Army’s most decorated nurse (Colonel Ruby G. Bradley) both native West Virginians and members of the association.
- Nursing activity study completed by General Duty and Occupational Health sections of the association.
- WVNA puts out a statement on IV therapy “A Policy on Intravenous Therapy for Registered Professional Nurses” that was accepted by 7 organizations and agencies.
- One of the 3 founders of WVNA expires on June 22nd at age 95. She was the last living founder.

1964

- 1859 members;16 delegates to ANA
- Member Madge Lee Duncan of Clarksburg selected by the National Red Cross headquarters in Washington, DC to receive the Estabrook Award in recognition of her outstanding service as a Red Cross Nurse.
- Redistricting put forth- current 10 proposed 17

1965

- 1913 members
- 4th legislative conference held; Mandatory Licensure bill passed
- Member Dr. Lonita Jenab was elected to outstanding young women

1966

- 1932 members
- Expectant mothers taught by TV
- Maxine Chamness receives an award for a urological nursing procedure from Point of View, a National magazine for surgical nurses.
- Representative for the US Public Health Service stated that the Public Health nurses in WV were further along in preparation for Home Care than nurses in other states.

1967

- 2226 members; 60th anniversary
- Mandatory licensure for practical nurses passes.

- Building fund committee appointed
- Mother M. Rosaria Robrecht, RN of Wheeling first woman elected President of the WV Hospital Association
- Nurses at Thomas Hospital form a local unit through WVNA to obtain improved working conditions and implementation of improved nursing practice.
- Dec. 15 collapse of the Silver Bridge on the Ohio River between Pt Pleasant WV and Kanauga, Ohio. 41 persons lost their lives and 5 persons missing and presumed dead. Professional Nurses from the area were active on a volunteer basis around the clock. Mason County nurses called upon by the Civil Defense to work at the National Guard Armory, which was set up as a temporary morgue. Nurses aided with proper ID and procedures pertaining to the care of the bodies and families. First aid was also administered to families.

1968

- 2316 members
- Nursing shortage noted. Large numbers of nurses noted as non-practicing.
- Nurses at Thomas withdrew their services on March 1 due to low pay.
- WVNA and Hospital Association cosponsor Understanding Hospital Economics for Nurses and Hospital Administrators.
- 3 WVNA nurses appointed to the 1st Comprehensive Health Planning Council.
- Talks continue about owning our own office as building fund grows.
- WVNA's oldest member dies at 95years (Jennie Fontaine Wilson). She promoted that WVNA hire a full time secretary in 1929.
- WVNA member Dr Lorita Jenab becomes dean of WVU School of Nursing
- WVNA member Elizabeth Leigh McAllister, RN retires after 54 years of service to WVNA.

1969

- 2281 members
- Helen Faso, PhD, RN Army Nurse Corps serves in Mash unit in Korea
- Call for dues increase none since 1958. Last ANA dues increase in 1962.
- Operating on deficit budget withdrew from saving to meet budget.
- District 8 donates \$500 savings bond and interest to WVNA building fund. \$2926.42 donated this year.
- Colonel Sheen awarded Commendation Medal after retirement from Army Nurse Core with 20years of service. She is a District 8 member.
- Member Damewood Doubly honored with a 25yr service award by the State Health Dept as a public health nurse.
- Member wins mink stole with donation ticket for WVNA Bldg Fund.

1970

- 1733 members
- Emphasis on Continuity of care.
- First President PIN awarded to Madge Duncan
- WVNA helps ANA with financial crisis
- Building fund grows to \$3547.20

- At ANA convention WVNA received an Honorable Mention Award from the American Journal of Nursing state nurses association magazine for excellence of total editorial content presented in the Weather Vane.
- Member Kathryn Henderson honored with a distinguished service award plaque at the WV Welfare Conference.
- Nurses in District 9 respond to plane crash carrying the Marshall University football team.
- Policy statement adopted on the role of the registered professional nurse in acute cardiac care.
- Nurse Practice Act amended to license Alien nurses.
- Nel Robinson mad life fellow by the American College of Hospital Administrators.
- Quota Club of Clarksburg honored Madge Duncan for her aide to the Red Cross and service to Harrison County Schools.

1971

- 1898 members; Celebrating 75 years

1972

- 1041 members
- Feb 26th nurses respond well to Buffalo Creek Flood Disaster: 118 known dead, 1000 or more injured, 16 communities battered, 400 or more families left homeless.
- Talk of building a headquarters.

1976

- 1800 members
- Building fund \$11,000

1978

- Building Fund \$12,000
- Bernice Vance public health nurse in Harrison Clarksburg Health Department, school nurse, and owner and president of West Virginia Carbon Company dies. The Vance Scholarship was set up in her memory, however the exact date of establishment was not found. This is actually a grant not a loan and requires no payback per benefactor's wishes. The principle of the gift is invested and only interest is used from the fund. One or more persons may be helped depending on fund availability. Recipients must be native of EV, accept employment for 1 year after passing boards, must be enrolled in an accredited nursing program and no accept anyone that is not accepted by enrolling in school, before renewal, proof needed that recipients remain in nursing program and are making satisfactory progress. Other requirements also required.

1979-1989: Data Missing

1990

- 827 members on ANA honor roll for increase in membership
- Voted \$10 dues increase
- Weather Vane contract not accepted by publishing company. Expenses are going up and they must be offset by advertising.
- WVNA represented in work group sponsored by Nurse Care Network. Group developed pilot project for chemically impaired nurse program.
- WVNA speaks out against Registered Care Technicians

- WV Nurse attends National Nurses Day Luncheon at the White House
- Rule proposed for recognition of APNs
- WVNA has member on Mental Health Advisory Committee and State Health Planning Committee
- Guidelines for accepting and rejecting and assignment reviewed.

1991

- Discussion starts about mandatory CE for RNs

1992: Missing Data

1993

- Annual meeting Pence Springs
- Changed conference groups to councils in keeping with ANA structure.
- Building Fund being looked at to see how it meets the strategic plan.
- Set up of P&P manual for the association
- New graduate nurses have trouble finding jobs in the state due to Medicaid funding cut backs to hospitals.
- Mandatory CE for relicensure, discussions continue.

1994

- 746 members
- Building Fund \$47,987 Withdrew \$5000 from the fund for expenses.
- ANA will now take over our membership billing to decrease expenses.
- The current investment market is a challenge to our investments.
- Senator Rockefeller invites WVNA member of the WV Reform Project for Health Care to a retreat in Washington, DC. Attending were Shelia Kyle District 9, Nancy Atkins and Janice Smith District 8.
- Nurses in advanced practice and nurse midwives to receive equal payment for services rendered by the WV Public Employees Insurance Agency under the proposed Resource Based Relative Value Scale.
- WVNA members attended the tribute to Nurses in Washington DC sponsored by ANA & President Bill Clinton along with other nurses from across the country. A breakfast reception in honor of National Nurses week was held. Attending were Barbara Koster, Janice Smith, Theresa Calhoun, and Rachael Byrd.
- Central Office moves to Pennsylvania Ave.
- WVNS nurses instrumental in legislative success by helping secure passage of an amendment critical to nursing's agenda for health care reform on Capitol Hill. The Medicare reimbursement to APNs.
- Hospital Licensure Rule and Professional Practice and Discipline legislation passed.
- WVNA members join ANA's NSTAT.

1995

- Building Fund \$53,236
- Experiencing decreased revenues and increased expenses. Request for dues increase and increased Institutional fee for the WV Nurse from \$15 to \$25 to offset increasing publishing costs and postage.
- Current management firm moves closer to Capital.
- Developed management firm assessment tool.

- Over 100 WV nurses attended the march on Washington to call attention to dangerous nurse patient ratios, unlicensed personal to replace RNS, and decreased hospital stays of patients.
- WVNA President serves on WV Hospital Association's Task Force on Nursing Issues in Clinical Redesign.
- WV Hospital Association proposes in its position statement introduction of legislation to combine the Board of Examiners for RNs and the Board of Examiners for LPNs. WVNA opposed any legislation of this nature.
- Pin contest initiated.
- Wrote history of Scholarship Funds.
- Completed surveys of Districts.
- Approver & Provider Unit self studies completed with success by Paula Staud and Joan Propst.

1996

- In order to cut expenses and improve efficiency sought new management firm and hire Charles Ryan and Associates, Inc.
- WV Nurse will now be sent to every nurse in the state a recruitment tool.
- WV managed care law blocks APNs from being primary care providers. Began to position the organization as a center for information regarding ANPs increasing public and legislative awareness.
- Focus on transition to new management firm, membership, and organization of the association.
- District reports will become application for District of the year awards.
- Bylaw changes: Rescinded Board from serving more than 2 consecutive terms in office.
- Revitalized the Professional Nursing Council.
- Considering shared service agreement with Kentucky for Nurses that are unionized at ARH facilities in WV.
- 400 attend unity day.
- Developed new WVNA logo
- Building Fund \$50,435
- 5 Delegates to ANA
- Talks again about redistricting
- Due to efforts of WVNA bills that would have allowed unlicensed personnel to administer certain medication dies in sub committees in both houses.
- Sales tax exempted for the association on membership, newsletters, CE sessions, Workshops, conventions, lectures, course materials.
- The diabetes Insurance Act that was supported by WVNA passed.

1997

- Dues increased
- Continued concern about declining membership, decreased revenues from annual convention and unity day and management firm expenses.
- No legislative successes
- WVNA member on Healthy WV Coalition

- Access to care limited to WV citizens by the HMO Act of WV which designated MD as the gatekeeper and limited access to APNS legislative focus. Testified against putting EMTs in the emergency rooms at the Board of Examiners for RNs.
- Betsy Neason awarded the 20yr Honorary Service Award from the National Health Service Corps for her devoted service to the Preston Taylor Community Health Centers Program.
- Elaine Naller awarded

1998

- APNs required to have a master's degree by Dec 31.
- Cheri Heflin-Montgomery hired as new executive director
- Postponed legislation to amend the nurse practice act and RN to delegate nursing duties in rural hospitals to emergency personnel in rural hospitals.
- Passed legislation to protect the liability of health professionals when prescribing or administering controlled substances in the management of pain.
- Success of Women's Access to Health Care bill opens path for APNs as health care providers.
- First friend of Nursing Award given to Delegate Margariette Leach D-Cable during Unity Day for her role in shaping health policy issues that impact health care in WV.
- WV Nurses go global (Linda Davis, MSN, FNP, Dr. Barbara Kupchak, PhD, RNC, Dr Mona Counts, PhD, CRNP, FNAP presented a paper at the 6th International Nurse Practitioner Conference in Australia.
- WVNA gets ready for telehealth.
- Emily McSowell, ED.D, MSN, BSN, RN:1st nurse hero award given
- Assisted in passage of Health Insurance Legislation for Children
- Shelia Anne Chandler Marshall University Huntington WV recipient of 1998 Field Fellow. The Field Fellowship Program was established in 1896 to promote the awareness of nursing as an international profession. This special grant within the Helen Field Health Trust is the largest private charitable trust in the U.S. devoted solely to supporting nursing education.
- Mandatory Overtime focus begins.
- A bill requiring hospitals to publish staffing ratios died.
- The legislature created an advisory committee regarding the recruitment of rural health providers. The committee will include an APN.

1999

- Arthur Davis Publishing takes over the publishing of the WV Nurse.
- Parish Nurse training starts in Wheeling.
- Dr. Giovanna Morton receives Distinguished Service Award by APNs.

2000

- 600 nurses attend Unity Day
- Needlestick Bill passes; Bill addressing end of life issues; Resolution honoring nurse veterans; Penalties for selling tobacco to minors were increased as well as for possession of tobacco by minors. Vending machines that sell tobacco banned except in establishments that cater to adults; Nurse Veterans Memorial Bridge named on 177

near Beckley mile marker 42; Bill relating to nurse patient ratios died after a poorly attended public hearing by staff nurses that was heavily attended by nurse managers.

- Successfully added nurse representative to the advisory Group of the WV Health Care Authority.
 - Nursing shortage grows
 - Long time member Dr. Giovanna L. "Jenny" Morton dies after a long battle with cancer. Jenny worked tirelessly to achieve and maintain the highest nursing standard in WV.
 - District 6 reactivated.
 - WVNA supports Wise for governor
 - WVNA supports PAC membership
 - Bylaw changes: Increase the number of elected BOD from 10 to 12 giving every district a seat at the table. Appointments will be made for inactive districts. Gives the board the power to redistrict after notifying members 3 months before annual meeting and voted on at the annual meeting.
- Restructuring committees, Deletion of old Congresses, Chair of the nominating will be the person receiving the highest number of votes.

2001

- 800 nurses attend Unity Day
- District 7 loses member Rachad U. Gochenour "Peg" Collins, 89 of Elkins.
- Signed Shared Service agreement with Kentucky Nurses Association for the purpose of providing collective bargaining to WVNA members.
- Call for all Nursing organizations to revitalize the Professional Nursing Council.
- WVNA nurse speaks to US Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs on looming nursing shortage impact on the Dept of Veteran Affairs.
- Passes Nurse study legislation to study the Nursing Shortage in WV.
- Passed Whistleblower Bill; Passes RN First Assist Bill for OR nurses; APN bill that allows direct reimbursement to APNs by HMOs passes; School nurse bill that would have increased the nurse pupil ratio fails.
- Glenice Q Cather, 85 of Grafton expires 9-22. She was a WVNA past president.

2002

- Eleanor Di Prosperis, RN, MSN invited to be part of US delegation to US/China Joint Nursing Conference.
- Jacqueline Riley, RN, MSN, ABD retires from WVU School of Nursing known for sporting "the Hat" and WVU colors at all WVNA nursing annual meetings and Unity Day
- WVNPAC endorses 2 nurses
- WVNA was there when Miss America visited Charleston.

2003

- Mandatory overtime bill sent to study commission
- Med malpractice bill passes
- Tobacco tax increased
- Bill to establish Center for Nursing passes
- WV has RN vacancy rate of nearly 1 in 5 and a turnover rate of 3 in 10.

2004

- Mandatory overtime bill passes
- Improvement of school nurse ratio
- Combining the 2 nurse licensing boards fail.
- Lower courts decision reversed by Supreme Court that male nurse cannot be excluded from OB practice.
- WVNA announces web site.

2005

- The by-laws were changed to incorporate Congresses for APRN's, Workplace Advocacy, EG&W, and Legislative Leaders. Discussion regarding affiliate membership to other specialty nursing organizations ensues in an effort to bring nurses together to empower the voice of nurses
- Institution of state only memberships.
- The APRNs reaffirm membership in WVNA. Discussion begins regarding improving the prescriptive authority law and Issues regarding malpractice. Malpractice Insurance attempted to restrain scope of practice for APRNs and APN Congress Chair, Janet Bennett addressed the Insurance Commissioner in collaboration with WVNA President, Pam Neal.
- President Neal beginning discussions to bring the collective bargaining nurses back to WVNA for union services.
- Discussion regarding 100 year Celebration of Nursing and development of Foundation with assistance from
- Member Lynne Welch worked with a tsunami medical relief team in February in Tamil Nadu India.
- Member Sam Cotton left for Iraq with the 167th Aromedical Evacuation Flight of the WV Air National Guard.
- Denise Ohlesn Koster, RN, BSN, NCSN, is school nurse of the Year.

2006

- Movement away from a management firm and to an executive director model. New executive director hired, Steve McElroy. Renting of own space to ensure permanent home for the organization and purchasing of office equipment and furniture.
- Development of interview process for Board Of Nursing Applicants with emphasis on direct patient care and the effects of the current workplace environment on care.
- Beth Baldwin becomes the new APN Congress Chair and the APNs join the AANP to improve strategies to increase prescriptive authority. Collaborative efforts with the BON, Nurse Midwives, and APN Congress to develop and promote legislation to increase prescriptive authority. APN Congress continues to grow in membership
- New website up and running.
- PAC Interviews across the state for endorsements
- Discussions with Collective Bargaining nurses continue with discussions to hire a labor director.
- President Neal elected to the ANA Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics. Efforts to increase collaboration with ANA and WVNA
- Continued work on the development of the WVN Foundation

2007

- ANCC Approver and Provider Unit accreditation completed successfully
- The West Virginia Nurse back in publication through Arthur Davis and layout by Monique Fortson.
- 38% increase in membership
- 750 nurses attend Unity Day
- Development of the Foundation Board of Trustees and By-Law Passage. The West Virginia Nurses Foundation becomes a reality. First Gala for the WVN Foundation and beginning of funding.
- WVNA Co-hosts the ANA Lobbyist Day in Washington, D.C.
- ANA files a lawsuit against JACHO for not upholding safe staffing in hospitals
- ARH nurses go on strike and WVNA hosts a rally on the Capital Steps to bring attention to unsafe staffing, mandatory overtime, and the end of disposable nurses in the midst of a state and national nursing shortage.
- 100 year celebration Conference: Keynote Speakers: ANA 2nd Vice President, Kathy Player and ANA Center for Nursing Representative: Topics include National Data Quality Indicators, Mature Nurse Initiatives, and Teaching IOM.
- Collective Bargaining nurses from ARH come back to WVNA for union services and New Labor Relations Program Director Dale Martin hired.

Presidents of WVNA

Date	Name	District/Area
1903	Harriett Camp Lounsbery	
1904		
1905		
1906		
1907		
1908		
1909		
1910		
1911		
1912		
1913		
1914	Harriett Camp Lounsbery	
1915	Susan B. Cook	Wheeling
1916		
1917		
1918		
1919		
1920		
1921		
1922		
1923		

1924		
1925	Katherine Trent	
1926	Katherine Trent	Charleston
1927	Nell Robinson	Wheeling
1928	Nell Robinson	
1929	Miss Louella Ross	Wheeling
1930	Miss May Maloney	
1931	Miss May Maloney	
1932	Katherine Trent	Charleston
1933	Katherine Trent	
1934	Katherine Trent	
1935	Helen M. Howell	Wheeling
1936	Helen M. Howell	
1937	Ora Campion	
1938	Ora Campion	
1939	Miss Alice Marsh	Clarksburg
1940	Miss Alice Marsh	
1941	Madge L. Duncan	
1942	Madge L. Duncan	
1943	Madge L. Duncan	
1944	Mary S. Turner	
1945	Mary S. Turner	
1946	Mary S. Turner	
1947	Martha Stark Wooddell	Clarksburg
1948	Martha Stark Wooddell	
1949	Martha Stark Wooddell	
1950	Leada L. Neininger	
1951	Grayce S. Hoke	Charleston
1952	Grayce S. Hoke	
1953	Christina M. Sinkula	Weirton
1954	Gladyce D. Garst	Beckley
1955	Gladyce D. Garst	
1956	Eleanor G. Cordray	Morgantown
1957	Eleanor G. Cordray	
1958	Sophia Yaczola	Fairmont
1959	Glenice Cather	Fairmont
1960	Glenice Cather	
1961	Glenice Cather	
1962	Mary M. Lemons	Beckley
1963	Mary M. Lemons	
1964	Josephine Fultz	Clarksburg
1965	Josephine Fultz	
1966	Josephine Fultz	

1967	Josephine Fultz	
1968	Cecilia Coyne	Wheeling Hospital
1969	Cecilia Coyne	
1970	Nancy Martin	Moundsville
1971	Nancy Martin	
1972	Frances Gracey	Parkersburg
1973	Frances Gracey	
1974	Hope Stewart	Charleston
1975	Hope Stewart	
1976	Rena Pitotti	Beckley
1977	Rena Pitotti	
1978	Jane Stout	Charleston
1979	Jane Stout	Charleston
1980		
1981		
1982		
1983		
1984		
1985		
1986		
1987		
1989		
1990		
1991		
1992	Trudy Forster	Wheeling
1993	Trudy Forster/Shelia Kyle	Wheeling/Huntington
1994	Shelia Kyle	
1995		
1996		
1997		
1998	Sheila Kyle	
1999	Barbara Banonis	Charleston
2000	Barbara Banonis	
2001	Paula Staud	Elkins
2002	Paula Staud	
2003	Paula Staud	
2004	Paula Staud	
2005	Pam Neal	Huntington
2006	Pam Neal	
2007	Pam Neal	

Executive Directors

1935-1954	May M. Maloney, RN
1954-1977	Juliann Ritter, RN
1978-1979	Jane Fotos
1980	Connie Mooney
1981-1989	No records
1990-1995	Carol Fulks
1996-2005	Cheri Heflin Montgomery
2006-current	Steve McElroy

Committee of the Year

- 1992 – Finance
- 1993 – Education
- 1994 – Program
- 1995 – Education
- 1996 – APN Council
- 1997 – Program
- 1998 – Approver/Provider Unit
- 1999 – All Committees
- 2000 - By Laws
- 2001 – Finance
- 2004 – Health Planning and Legislation

District of the Year

- 1988-10
- 1988 – 10
- 1989 – 10
- 1990 - 10
- 1993 – 3
- 1994 – 3
- 1995 – 3
- 1996 – 3 & 9
- 1997 – 12
- 1998 – 7
- 1999 – 3
- 2001 – 3
- 2002 – 9
- 2004 – 8
- 2005 – 7?
- 2006 – 8?

Nurse of the Year

- 1992 – Nancy Atkins, RNC, MS
- 1993 – Rochelle Boggs, RN, MS, CCRN, CS
- 1994 – Shelia Kyle, MSN, RN-C
- 1995 - Teresa Calhoun
- 1996 – Judith Osborne
- 1997 – Janice Smith, MSN, RNC
- 1998 – Shelia Kyle, MSN, RN-C
- 1999 – Sherrie Cowen
- 2001 – Paula Staud
- 2002 – Rachael Byrd
- 2003 – Joan Propst
- 2005 – Pamela Neal
- 2006 – Rachel Byrd

Politically Active Nurse of the Year

- 1991 – Nancy Atkins, RNC, MS
- 1992 – Janice M. Smtih, MSN, RNC
- 1993 - Cheryl Rae Brumfield, RN, MSN, CAN
- 1994 – Rachel Byrd
- 1995 – Shelia Kyle
- 1996 – Elaine Nailler, RN, MSN, CS
- 1997 – Paula Staud
- 2000 – Dave and Cindy Bougher
- 2001 – Pamela Neal
- 2002 - Bobbie Hatfield
- 2003 - Brenda Isacc
- 2006 - Pamela Neal
- 2007 – Beth Baldwin