

Special Edition

# NATIONAL BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION

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National Black Nurses Association



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*the most popular Nurse news and "What You Need to Know!" topics*

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# NBNANEWS

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# The Intersection of Social Injustice and Health Disparity: A Call for Health Equity and Unity

## *NBNA 50th Anniversary Institute and Conference*

Martha A. Dawson, DNP, RN, FACHE  
President, National Black Nurses Association

**M**embers, colleagues, corporate partners, sponsors, and friends, it has been two years since our last face-to-face conference. The world has changed in so many ways. Many things have stayed the same, a few things have gotten better, and yet some things are worse. It is amazing how we as humans had to step up and be our best selves to protect life while witnessing some of the most painful moments from others. We have seen people survive the COVID-19 virus and all its different variants only to have their life taken, not by the unseen, but by hate, war, and evil hearts of human beings. We no longer practice “I am my brother’s keeper.”

We have seen failure from the highest level of elected leaders on the international, national, state, and local stages. Due to their failures to act, to protect and to lead with integrity and heart first, we have more images of death than we do of love etched into our conscious for perpetuity. Our nation is not at the edge of chaos. We are standing on the tip of the chaos cliff. Images of children being slaughtered, an adult calling for his mom as he takes his last breath with a knee on his neck, one less future nurse because someone did not knock, and murder of my brothers and sisters because of the color of their skin where they worship, live and play; we are no longer safer.

Our leaders are destroying our history and removing books and denying certain theories from being taught in schools. Many state and national leaders are pushing laws designed to spread mis- and disinformation. It is not these leaders that I am most concerned about, but the ones that are so comfortable with giving up their rights to think and do the right thing. They are giving up their rights to think for themselves.



Yet, I remain committed to change, encouraged by hope, and energized to lead and serve our great profession and NBNA. I will continue to use the voice that this membership has afforded me to speak for social justice, health equity and racial healing. Thank you for working, supporting and elevating NBNA to address education, food, housing, environmental, transportation, and economic injustices. I am so proud to say that our community service and engagement is equal to and surpasses other professional organizations. We are working to address and eliminate health inequities in our families, schools, churches and gathering spaces. Your

actions demonstrate the commitment of NBNA to be the change that we want to see in our communities.

We are working for workplace equity and equality to promote inclusivity at the decision table, not just a count on organizations' scorecards. We are leading the work to address racism in nursing education, practice, advocacy, and research. This transforming work is occurring in collaboration with other leading nursing organizations.

NBNA is working and leading the way for the nursing profession to become known as not just the "most trusted", but the most compassionate and concerned for all humans. My challenge to nurse leaders is to become vulnerable to change and take the risk to authentically change yourself and then your policies, processes, and practices to participate in the healing art that our profession need to survive. NBNA members I respect, salute, honor and thank you.

**Martha A. Dawson**, DNP, RN, FACHE,  
FAAN; Dr. Dawson was inducted last month  
NBNA President/CEO  
Associate Professor University of Alabama at Birmingham  
School of Nursing

SAVE THE DATE

51<sup>st</sup>

Annual

**NBNA Institute & Conference**

Atlanta

Hilton Atlanta Hotel | Atlanta, GA  
August 1-6, 2023

NATIONAL BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION

[www.nbna.org/conf](http://www.nbna.org/conf)



# NBNA—50 years of Service, Advocacy, Education, & Research

**T**he National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) 50th Annual Institute and Conference in Chicago was an outstanding event. After a 2-year hiatus, with virtual collaborations, the week of in-person celebrations was well appreciated. The Chicago Chapter NBNA and all the Illinois chapters were gracious hosts. The educational presentations, inspiring messages, concurrent sessions, varied symposia and workshops, and networking opportunities made our gathering a top shelf event. A huge thank you and recognition go to our NBNA President Martha Dawson, and the impressive NBNA office staff, Dianne Mance, Estella Lazenby, Keisha Ricks, Tracy Rudd, and Keaonia Shaw. The office staff was “everywhere” taking care of us and ensuring the success of the conference.

An unprecedented, and long overdue, session was the American Nurses Association (ANA) reception on Wednesday evening where ANA discussed their recently published racial reckoning statement and offered a formal apology for the years of exclusion and moral suffering of America’s Black nurses because of the organization’s practices of structural and institutional racism. ANA’s Loressa Cole offered the organization’s apology and discussed four pillars moving forward: education, practice, research, and advocacy in its efforts to advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of the nursing profession.

Thursday’s opening ceremony was an impressive event with the formal procession of the NBNA chapters’ delegates into the meeting room. Two new chapters, Chattanooga Black Nurses Association and Ann Arbor National Black Nurses Association, joined the NBNA family. President Dawson’s opening address challenged us to educate and advocate for change and to continue to be a trusted presence in our communities. A record number of scholarships in excess of \$257,000 was presented during the awards program. Available for the first time were the DAISY Health Equity Awards for individuals and the chapter team award. Thank you to the DAISY foundation for your recognition of the extraordinary work of NBNA nurses. The NBNA exhibit hall featured an abundance of vendors and partners to assist us in our important work. An unexpected highlight was the NBNA Knowledge Bowl on Friday. Teams included nursing students and nurses, and the competition provided a refreshing and enjoyable examination of knowledge of nursing related topics.

The presidential awards were presented on Saturday night, and we ended the evening with dinner, dancing, and 50th anniversary gifts.



The closing ceremony on Sunday morning was equally as impressive as the speaker challenged us to continue to speak up and make a positive difference.

The NBNA 50th Annual Institute & Conference was an amazing success. I challenge all chapters to be inspired and energized to continue the important work of the NBNA. Our communities depend upon us to advocate, educate, and to serve as trusted advisors.

Join us in Atlanta for the NBNA 51st Annual Institute & Conference next year, August 1-6, 2023. Be there! Start planning now!

**Jennifer J. Coleman, PhD, RN, CNE, COI**  
Co-editor

# From Invisibility to Visibility: The Evolution of the National Black Nurses Association

Janice Phillips, PhD, RN, CENP, FAAN

## *Yesterday's Vision*

**D**r. Gloria Smith's 1975 message "From Invisibility to Blackness: The Story of the National Black Nurses Association," still resonates today and in some instances, even more. The need to promote the visibility of Black nurses in improving the health and wellbeing of black communities and advancing the profession has never wavered.

Dr. Smith shared some concerning observations in 1975 while outlining the historical underpinnings of the National Black Nurses Association's (NBNA). Although the National Association for Colored Graduate Nurses had been in existence since 1908, Black nurses were still fighting for equitable representation and membership within the American Nurses Association (ANA). Encouraged by ANA's action to rectify these discriminatory practices, Black nurses voted to dissolve the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurse in 1951. Sadly, the struggle for professional parity was far from being over and the full integration of Black nurses into the ANA was still problematic. The lack of leadership roles and opportunities for Black nurses to help shape policies and procedures within the organization further stifled the visibility of Black nurses in advancing the nursing profession (Smith, 1975).

Concurrently, issues of discrimination were a common day occurrence for Black nurses. Black nurses experienced discrimination in the workplace as well as when seeking promotions or equitable work assignments. Committed to the delivery of culturally responsive health care delivery, Black nurses often assumed responsibility for educating their peers about cultural issues and caring for black patients with dignity and respect (Smith, 1975).

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*We can only know where we are going  
when we know where we have been.*

---

MAYA ANGELOU

Determined to proceed in a more intentional and meaningful manner, during an ANA convention in 1970, 200 Black



**Janice Phillips** is the Director of Nursing Research and Health Equity at Rush University Medical Center and an Associate Professor at Rush University College of Nursing. She serves as a system-wide leader in supporting health equity as a shared goal by integrating health equity across the Rush Health system's education, research, and clinical spaces.

nurses proceeded to establish the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA). In 1971, a group of Black nurses established NBNA in Cleveland, Ohio at the home of Dr. Mary Harper (Smith, 1975). Dr. Betty Smith Williams and others spearheaded the formation of the organization. Dr. Lauranne Sams, then Dean and Professor of Nursing at the School of Nursing, at Tuskegee University Tuskegee, Alabama served as the organization's first President (Smith, 1975). Dr. Smith Williams was the 7th NBNA president (1995-1999).

## *Today's Reality*

Over the years, the NBNA has grown in membership, stature, and influence. Since this earlier call to action, NBNA has remained relentless in uplifting Black nurses, advocating for culturally responsive health care delivery, and fighting for racial and social justice on behalf of communities of color.

In 2021, many Black nurses would agree that while we have experienced some progress since those earlier days, the struggle for equity in the profession and in health care is far from being over. Today 46 years later although Black nurses are still confronting similar issues outlined in Dr. Smith's 1975 message, NBNA members are more front, and



center working to combat racism and ensure equity in the profession and in health care. Issues such as racism and social inequities have received increased national and local attention especially considering the tragic killings of Trayvon Martin, Brianna Taylor, and George Floyd and others. The injustices associated with these deaths have resulted in numerous protests and collective outcries to end the racism in this country. Leaders across the country have declared racism a public health crisis and are looking to accelerate efforts to advance racial equity and justice. This clarion call to action is of great importance given the growing body of evidence linking racism and the persistent racial/ethnic inequities in black communities.

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*Our lives begin to end  
the day we become silent  
about things that matter.*

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REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Many nurse leaders, professional organizations, health care institutions, as well as numerous schools and colleges of nursing have issued statements denouncing all forms of racism (AACN, 2021). In 2021, the American Nurses Association launched the National Commission to Address Racism in Nursing (ANA, 2021). The Commission will examine issues of racism in nursing and health care and its impact on nurses, patients, communities, and health care systems. A major objective is to motivate all nurses to confront systemic racism. Leaders from the American Nurses Association (ANA), National Black Nurses Association (NBNA), National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations (NCEMNA), and National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) are leading this initiative. Prominent and influential NBNA nurse leaders Drs. Martha Dawson and Deborah Toney are at the helm leading this initiative along with ANAs' first elected African American male president, Dr. Ernest Grant. This type of representation is long overdue and represents an historic milestone especially considering our history.

Concurrently during this time of heightened awareness regarding racial issues, the poor health status of black has become more prominent especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is ample evidence that blacks have suffered the greatest burden of disease and death from this deadly virus. The convergence of racism, social unrest and the COVID-19 pandemic demands even stronger nursing leadership. Black nurses have long stayed the course in rectifying the long-standing disparities that have plagued our communities for decades. This time is no different. These longstanding disparities and inequities in health care access, delivery, and health outcomes are a stark reminder that American needs to solve its health care crisis now.

Unlike in 1975, some 114 chapters strong, NBNA and its members are better poised to inform the discourse around racism, health disparities, and inequities through their leadership in diverse roles and practice settings. Members of the NBNA now serve on numerous committees or hold influential positions in some the nation's leading organizations and institutions where they can amplify their voices in support of eliminating health disparities and achieving health equity. More Black nurses are prepared at the masters and doctoral level further strengthening their ability to and visibility in leading transformational change in the health care delivery system and nursing education. Black nurses sit at influential policy tables, embracing an upstream approach when seeking solutions to improving the health and well-being of black individuals, families and communities. Notably, NBNA has intensified their advocacy efforts bringing key concerns to their elected officials during NBNA's annual Capitol Hill Day. In 1988, the Honorable Louis Stokes, former Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and other NBNA members launched Capitol Hill Day paving the way for NBNA's increasing advocacy efforts and political visibility. This platform has always centered on ameliorating the leading cause/conditions adversely affecting the health and wellbeing of black communities. Notably, we now have three Black nurses who serve in the United States House of Representatives where they have a front row seat in advocating for equity in legislation.

### *Looking Back but Moving Forward*

As we commemorate NBNA's 50th year anniversary, we pause to reflect on our historical underpinnings mindful to acknowledge the many Black nurse leaders whose shoulders we stand on today. Dr. Gloria Smith was one of those pioneering leaders who laid a rich foundation on which we continue to build upon. I believe Dr. Smith would take note that we have moved from invisibility to increased visibility in all areas of nursing and health care since her earlier message. Clearly, we have more work to do. However, we can take pride in what Black nurses have accomplished since NBNA was established.

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*“Change will not come if we wait for some other  
person, or if we wait for some other time.  
We are the ones we've been waiting for.  
We are the change that we seek.”*

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BARACK OBAMA

Today we continue to leverage our expertise, resources, and partnerships to achieve equity and improve the health and well-being of black communities. From the bedside to the boardroom, Black nurses are leaders in advancing all specialties and areas within nursing and health care. The

vision to move from invisibility to blackness has come full circle to becoming today's reality for the National Black Nurses Association. Our leadership and contributions are no longer invisible, but transformative. Our commitment to our founding principles remains strong propelling us further out of the darkness into the light. For this, we celebrate!

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Selected Milestones</b>
1908-1951	National Association for Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN)
1971	National Black Nurses Association Established
	The Journal of the National Black Nurses Association (JNBNA) the official publication of the National Black Nurses Association Launched.
1971	Barbara Nichols Elected First African American President of the American Nurses Association
1972	American Nurses Association House of Delegates passed resolution to establish an Affirmative Action Task Force
1978-1979	Dr. Elizabeth Carnegie, First African American Nurses elected President of the American Academy of Nursing  Author "The Path We Tread", Black Women in the Nursing Profession Garland Publishing, Inc.
1985	
1988	First NBNA Capitol Hill Day
2015	Dr. Eric Williams Elected First African American Male President of the National Black Nurses Association
	Dr. Ernest Grant Elected First African American Male President of the American Nurses Association
2021	ANA Establishes the Commission to Address Racism in Nursing
2021	50th Anniversary of the National Black Nurses Association

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# My Journey with the National Black Nurses Association

Judy Jourdain-Earl, BSN, MA in Nursing

**M**y journey with the National Black Nurses Association has spanned over fifty years. I will share some reflections about how NBNA impacted my life and provided a vehicle for me to impact others' lives.

I graduated from Boston University School of Nursing in 1970. At BU, I was involved in the Black student movement on several levels. One aspect was as a member of the Umoja leadership council, our Black student organization. I also organized a group of Black nursing students and our one Black faculty member. We met with the Dean of the School of Nursing to advocate for a more culturally responsive curriculum that would help us address the needs of our community. Before my senior year, my summer job was with the Student Health Organization. My assignment was teaching first aid to members of the Boston Black Panther Party. These experiences were a backdrop for me becoming a co-founder of NBNA.

In December of 1971, while working as a staff nurse at Hough Norwood Community Health Center in Cleveland, Ohio, I attended a forum on increasing diversity in the School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve. I remember standing up in the audience to challenge/question one of the Dean's comments. At the end of that session, Dr. Mary Harper, whom I did not know, came over to me and tapped me on the shoulder. She introduced herself and asked if I would be interested in joining a group of Black nurses who were going to meet at her home to discuss the formation of a Black nurse's organization. I immediately agreed. That is how I got to Dr. Mary Harper's home in the company of Black women who would become the founders of the National Black Nurses Association.

Looking through my former student activist lens, I remember being genuinely surprised and impressed that this group of accomplished, middle-aged Black nurse leaders were willing to challenge the status quo and take a radical step to form their own organization. Of course, when the vote to form a new organization occurred, I eagerly raised my hand and voted "yes!"

From that point on, the work of the organization intensified. It was a total volunteer board, and there was lots of work to do. Half of the group of women who were in the room at



**Ms. Jourdain-Earl** specializes in training and facilitation with an

emphasis in diversity, equity, and inclusion/cultural competence. Her extensive experience in health care administration, education, and clinical practice frames her consulting philosophy. She has facilitated cultural competency, diversity/inclusion, conflict management and EEO law training with a variety of organizations in the private, not-for-profit, and government sectors.

Dr. Harper's home became part of the first NBNA board of directors. The other half of us became part of the second board of directors. I had never served on a board, so it was immensely helpful to me to have mentors in the organization. Some of those mentors included Dr. Lauren Sams who was so supportive and nurturing. Dr. Betty Smith Williams helped me as I followed her in my newly assigned role as the chairperson of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Over the years, I have been a member of five different local Black Nurses Association chapters. These included chapters in Cleveland, New York, Los Angeles, the Bay Area, and Washington, DC. The first was in Cleveland as part of the founding group. As I moved to different cities, members of the local Black Nurses Associations and NBNA served as sources of professional networking, mentoring, as well as social connections. It also gave me an opportunity to easily get involved in the work of the chapters.

A couple of examples stand out to me. For instance, when I moved to New York to attend graduate school at NYU, I worked with Phyllis Jenkins and others in the New York BNA. After graduate school, I worked as a clinical nurse instructor at Medgar Evers College of Nursing in Brooklyn under the tutelage and direction of Dr. Hilda Richards. While visiting Los Angeles, I connected with Ophelia Long and Dr. Linda



Burnes Bolton. Ophelia graciously drove me to an interview with the Director of Nursing Education at Cedar Sinai Hospital. The Director made me an offer to join their nursing Education department to start their quality improvement program if I could return to LA in four weeks. I went back to New York, packed up, and relocated to LA.

Many years later, I moved back to my birth roots in the Washington DC area and started doing independent contracting/consulting. One of those assignments was working for Dr. Barbara Hatcher, who headed the Healthy Start Infant Mortality Demonstration Project for Washington DC. That led to doing site visits for other Healthy Start Projects across the country as a contractor for the Maternal Child Health Bureau.

I have always maintained my membership in NBNA and the local chapters. Although, over the years, my level of involvement has fluctuated as my consulting work expanded

beyond health care settings. However, to this day, whenever I meet a Black nurse—RN, LPN, or nursing student, I ask them if they know about BNA/NBNA and then encourage them to become involved.

I also encourage folks to never hesitate to raise their voice. It only takes one voice to start a movement for change and attract other like-minded folks to the cause, case in point, Dr. Sams.

NBNA and the local organizations have been influential in my career and more importantly, have provided a community and vehicle to help make this world more equitable and just. NBNA will always have a special place in my heart. It is still my belief that a majority white nursing organization will never fully meet the needs of Black nurses and Black people. The need to have our own organization to address the needs of our nurses, as well as address the needs of our community, has remained, and will continue to remain a vital necessity.

# Supporting Black Nurses During Taxing Times

Courtney George, BA

Nursing is a demanding job, and being black adds another value, and barrier, to the assignment. This admirable profession has become even more arduous during the pandemic-era. It is important for nurses, especially Black nurses, to be uplifted and protected, considering all of the pressures they face and the benefits they bring. Although lately nurses have been seen as resilient healthcare heroes, these care providers need to be supported much further, and NBNA has been in the forefront of advocating for Black nurses.

Nursing can take a toll on one's mental health and wellness, and COVID-19 has significantly exacerbated mental health issues among nurses. In fact, recent studies by *Incredible Health* have reported that 66% of nurses don't feel adequately appreciated by their local communities for their role in battling COVID-19. Specifically, 44% of nurses note burnout and the high-stress environments as factors for wanting to quit their jobs, and 27% of nurses are dissatisfied with the benefits and pay that their taxing positions offer.

Alongside these issues that nurses generally face, Black nurses and other nurses of color tend to face discrimination in the workplace. This commonly entails being demeaned by coworkers and supervisors, racist remarks from patients, or white counterparts showing skepticism over the accuracy of their work. These issues are pervasive. The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) tweeted a quote from Juüdi-Hope, a member of the RNAO Black Nurses Task Force, "It dehumanizes you as a person and makes you feel inferior." Consequently, Juüdi-Hope has gone on to work with indigenous communities in Canada where she is respected for who she is and her expertise. Unfortunately, it has been surveyed that more than half of nurses who challenged such behavior received futile outcomes. In addition, Black female nurses are notably overrepresented in lower-wage positions, along with working in overcrowded and under-resourced environments with hazardous conditions. The *Health Affairs* twitter page states "Within the health care sector, Black women are disproportionately concentrated in low-wage, high-risk positions. Black women comprise 24.9 percent of licensed practical nurses and 23.0 percent of the long-term care workforce." Researchers say the legacy of such undervalued treatment dates back to slavery, as black women were forced to be unpaid servants with more labor-intensive work. The evident racial disparities in the



**Courtney** focuses her research on minority health through the lens of behavioral sciences, mental health, and media communications. She aims to help vulnerable populations gain access to essential resources so they can live to their fullest potential.

workforce leaves many of these black healthcare workers in unjust, impoverished, and vulnerable situations. Such extenuating circumstances are contributing factors to the nurse shortage, which has become much more dire since the pandemic.

With many inequities in the healthcare workforce being highlighted, it is a great time to focus on improving matters for nurses. An effective method that is being emphasized is diversifying various sectors of the nursing profession and attracting more minority youth to the profession. NBNA contributes to this effort as the organization focuses on bringing awareness of nursing opportunities to elementary schools that consist primarily of minority and low-income students. NBNA also provides students scholarships and mentorships with nurses – especially important as diversity among health professionals is critical, along with increasing the number of professionals who can identify and connect with patients from various ethnicities. Similarly, RNAO's Black Nurses Task Force supports building diversity in nursing. This group, made up of Black nurses and nursing students, created a report to help fight the systemic racism within nursing, *Acknowledging, Addressing and Tackling Anti-Black Racism and Discrimination Within the Nursing Profession*. their needs should be widely heard and met. Some of their ideas include implementing inclusion training at all levels of the workplace and academic settings, career mobility opportunities, holding staff accountable for addressing discrimination, creating safe and supportive spaces for Black nurses, collecting and disseminating race-based data,

etc. Overall, there are many ideas that can help to improve working conditions and morale, from increasing pay to offering more breaks and scheduling options. It is hoped that the higher profile of nurses during the COVID-19 crisis will help them to be better heard, respected, and compensated.

NBNA's Annual Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill, which brings together elected officials, partner organizations, and nurses from around the country, is an initiative that has long sought to positively influence the welfare and career satisfaction of Black nurses through national public policy. Individuals can help by bringing attention to the issues nurses face to policy makers at the state and community levels as well. Considering how much we depend on these frontline workers at our most vulnerable times, promoting equity for nurses is in the best interest of our citizens, communities, and nation.

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# National Black Nurses Association Selects 60 Nurse Recipients

*for BAND-AID® Brand OURTONE™  
Nurses Recharge Fund Program*



**Funds will support nurses on the frontline to help alleviate the stress of everyday tasks and responsibilities that await them at home #NBNaNurseRecharge**

**T**he National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) selected 60 nurse recipients for the **BAND-AID® Brand OURTONE™ Nurses Recharge Fund Program**. The funds will support nurses on the frontline to help alleviate the stress of everyday tasks and responsibilities that await them at home.

NBNA selected 60 recipients to receive \$2,500 stipends to be used across several categories:

- Childcare
- Grocery / Meal Delivery Services
- Laundry Services
- Cleaning Services
- Fitness / Wellness Services
- Utility Bills

Congratulations to the following winners:

Lucille Woodard . . . . .Acadiana BNA  
 Beatrice Ngozi Mbaocha . . . . . Alliance of BNA, Illinois  
 Vivian Enyo Dzata . . . . . Alliance of BNA, Oregon  
 Kendra T. Greene . . . . .Atlanta BNA  
 Pauline Chapman . . . . . Bay Area BNA  
 Tanisha Leonard . . . . . Birmingham BNA  
 Tarsha M. Wynn-Scott . . . . . Birmingham BNA  
 Alicia Marie Fielder . . . . .North Shore  
 Jamesia Fransaw . . . . . BNA of Greater Houston

Arnita Pitts . . . . . BNA of Greater St. Louis  
 Bianca Mone' Little-McLemore . . . . . BNA of Greater St. Louis  
 Danielle Landers . . . . . BNA of Greater St. Louis  
 Naellah Naja Johnson . BNA of Greater St. Louis  
 Valeda Keys . . . . . BNA of Greater St. Louis  
 Aron A. King . . . . . Capitol City NBNA  
 Charde L. Vance . . . . . Capitol City NBNA  
 DaJanae Greshem-Ryder . . . Capitol City NBNA  
 Sandra Boykin . . . . . Capitol City NBNA  
 Charmaine L. Duckie . . . . . Central Carolina BN Council  
 Monica Q. Akins . . . . . Central Florida BNA  
 Markeeta Sharese Evans . . . . . Direct Member  
 Fallon M. Flowers . . . . . Chicago Chapter BNA  
 LaTanya T. Battle-Wherry . . . . . Columbus Metro BNA  
 Gloria Bivins . . . . . Concerned BN of Central New Jersey  
 Walter A. Perez . . . . . Council of BA, LA  
 Joan Gordan . . . . . Detroit BNA  
 Jasmine D Mason . . . . . Direct Member  
 Danielle N. Hurd . . . . . Eastern Oklahoma BNA  
 Wendy Williams . . . . . Eastern Oklahoma BNA  
 Chinyere G. Onuorah . . .Fort Bend County BNA  
 Kendrick T. Clack . . . . .Fort Bend County BNA

Shantel Monique Woods . . . . .Fort Bend  
County BNA

April Elizabeth Brooks . . . . . Grand Rapids BNA

Leslie Y. Redmon . . . . . Grand Rapids BNA

Desiree Elizabeth Banton . . . . .Greater Fort  
Lauderdale Broward Chapter NBNA

Audrey G. Ramsey . . . . . Greater Illinois BNA

Alicia Nebblett-Roberts . . . . . Greater New York  
City BNA

Janelle D. Lee . . . . .Greater New York City BNA

Jennifer Jeanne Noel . . . . . Greater New York  
City BNA

Julius Johnson . . . . .Greater New York City BNA

Tjwana Dennis . . . . .Greater New York City BNA

Rochelle McFerguson . . . . . Little Rock BNA

Tara Grenea Hamer-Boddy . . . . .Memphis-  
Riverbluff BNA

Brenda Ross Swilley . . . . . Metroplex BNA

Judith Laguerre . . . . . New England Regional BNA

Connie Brider . . . . .New Orleans BNA

Jasmin E. Waterman . . . . .New York BNA

Stacey E. Johnson . . . . .New York BNA

Tiffany Nicole LaSister . . . . .New York BNA

Veronica LaPlante Rankin . . . . .Queen City NBNA

Bryanna U. Patterson . . . . . Rochester BNA

Celia A. McIntosh . . . . . Rochester BNA

Sheniece L. Griffin . . . . . Rochester BNA

Wilhelmina Sizer . . . . . Rochester BNA

Yvette Nicole Conyers . . . . . Rochester BNA

Saunjii J. Jacobs . . . . .South New Jersey  
of the BNA

Bridgette J. Medley . . . . .Southeastern  
Louisiana BNA

Angel Amaura McCullough . . . . .Southeastern  
Pennsylvania Area BNA

Latoya N Dickens Jones . . . . .Stark County BNA

Kaila M. Barnett . . . . .Western Massachusetts BNA



# When A Small Cry is Worth It

Theresa Flint Rodgers, DNP

Pamela H. Bryant, DNP

No parent wants to see their child wince in pain or hear their baby cry. Yet enduring the undesirable for just a minute – as the child is vaccinated – can save heartache down the road.

Most newborns receive their first vaccine before leaving the hospital. Then, they get a series of shots at well-child visits over the next few years.

Getting all the recommended vaccines according to the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization keeps babies and children protected from infectious diseases, including common conditions such as hepatitis and HPV and less common conditions like polio, measles, and mumps.

## *Vaccines Are Still Needed*

Some parents think their child doesn't need vaccine protection from less common diseases. "My child is at low risk because there's not much of that disease around," they think. But "out of sight, out of mind" is a dangerous mentality, especially when it comes to preventing disease.

After all, the uncommon vaccine-preventable diseases became uncommon because of widespread vaccination.



But when vaccines lag, outbreaks can occur. That's what happened with the measles in 2014 and again in 2018. In 2014, the first cases were detected in California, but more than 660 people in 16 states, Mexico and Canada ended up getting sick. Nearly 350 people were infected in the 2018 outbreak. Even though measles had been considered eliminated, experts warned outbreaks could become more common if vaccination rates continue to decline.

## *Overcoming Hesitancy*

Hesitation about vaccinating children also arose during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Questions about the development of new COVID-19 vaccines fueled broader mistrust about vaccine safety – even for shots that have been effectively used for decades. That concern has led some parents to question if they want their children to get any vaccines.

This is particularly alarming because pandemic disruptions caused millions of young children worldwide to fall behind on routine vaccines. Aside from being exposed to preventable illnesses, unvaccinated children can also encounter delays getting into school. Most districts require kids to be up to date on immunizations before enrolling in elementary school. Most colleges and universities have a similar requirement.

## *Making Up Missed Shots*

This National Infant Immunization Week – April 24-30 – is more important than ever. Even though the week emphasizes vaccinations for infants, it's important for parents to know that it's not too late to get their children – no matter the age – caught up on missed shots.

Parents who have questions should consult their health care provider, county health department or a reputable internet source, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Getting fully vaccinated is a series of small actions that yield a huge benefit – for the individual and for the greater community. Skipping shots isn't worth the risk.





**Theresa Flint Rodgers** is a pulmonary nurse practitioner at

the Children's Hospital of Alabama. Pamela H. Bryant, DNP, CRNP-PC/AC is an assistant professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a pediatric nurse practitioner at UAB Hospital Newborn Nursery. Both are members of the National Black Nurses Association, a member organization of the National Coalition for Infant Health.



**Dr. Pamela Harris Bryant** is an Assistant Professor and Board-Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing (UAB SON). As a 10-year faculty member, she served as the Specialty Track Coordinator for the UAB SON's Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program (2019-2021), and she practices at UABs

Newborn Nursery.

Dr. Bryant serves in various leadership roles and is a member of several professional organizations, including the National League for Nursing (NLN), National Black Nurses Association (NBNA), and the Association of Faculties of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (AFPNP). She is also a member of NBNA's Population Ad hoc Committee and is Chair for NBNA's Pediatric Population focus group. She received the Lamplighters Award in 2020 from The Alabama League of Nursing for her leadership.

# Helping to Improve the Health of Seniors Through In-Home Clinical Care

Kanela Booker

I am a nurse practitioner in UnitedHealth Group's HouseCalls program, offering in-home clinical care to support Medicare Advantage (MA) beneficiaries along their health care journey. I am honored to be part of a health care and well-being company that works to provide compassionate and equitable care for everyone. As part of a diverse workforce who is helping to build a modern, high-performing health system, I work every day to improve health access, affordability, outcomes, and experiences for seniors.

UnitedHealth Group serves approximately six million Medicare Advantage (MA) seniors and individuals with disabilities through a proactive care model that delivers a high-quality experience and better clinical outcomes for MA seniors. The MA program overall provides holistic care to meet the needs of a diverse and low-income population with:

- More than half of all MA seniors living on less than \$24,500 a year.<sup>1</sup>
- 53% of Latino beneficiaries and 49% of Black beneficiaries choosing MA.<sup>2</sup>
- Enrollment growing by 125% among seniors dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid since 2013.<sup>3</sup>

We offer an array of health and wellness benefits to serve our members and connect seniors to primary care, including through HouseCalls. I am one of approximately 2,600+ licensed Advanced Practice Clinicians (APCs) across 50 states who conducts a comprehensive clinical assessment for MA beneficiaries lasting approximately 45 to 60 minutes. HouseCalls' clinical approach ensures continuity of care by collecting data on social determinants of health, providing coordinated primary care, directly addressing any urgent health care needs, sharing the assessment results with seniors' primary care physicians, and directly referring seniors to support services including social workers, behavioral health, pharmacists, and longitudinal care management programs.

The HouseCalls visit is a unique experience for beneficiaries to receive an in-person review of their health care picture within the setting where they feel most comfortable – in their home. The above average time spent with beneficiaries



**Kanela Booker** is a Nurse Practitioner for UnitedHealth Group's HouseCalls program. Her nursing career has evolved over the last 20 years from first being an LPN to now a nurse practitioner and DNP. She has had several previous years of active involvement within the Chicago chapter of NBNA since age 16 and now resides in the San Antonio area.

allows us to better understand their clinical situation in the context of their daily circumstances and develop personal relationships with them. In my experience, the beneficiaries feel engaged, supported, and have a better health care experience.

As a nurse who thrives on compassionate and meaningful engagement with my community, I believe this personal connection is what distinguishes in-home care from other clinical environments. HouseCalls has a 99% satisfaction rate and 91% of seniors receiving a visit welcome a follow-up visit the next year. In 2021, HouseCalls closed 2.1 million gaps in care and made over 323,000 social determinants of health referrals, including 158,000 referrals for low-income support, 85,000 for transportation needs, 37,000 for medication affordability, and 43,000 for food insecurity. Research has also shown that HouseCalls has been found to result in in up to a 14% decrease in hospitalizations and 6% increase in physician visits .

Additionally, amid COVID-19 HouseCalls provided virtual visits as well as adapted in-person visits to meet the unique needs of seniors during the pandemic, ensuring COVID-19 signs and symptoms were clinically addressed and COVID-19 vaccination information and access options were provided.

In fact, UHG’s Chief Medical Officer Dr. Margaret-Mary Wilson recently spoke to the impact of COVID-19 on how and where care is delivered, saying,

The historic model of delivering care—where we have been constrained by buildings, by brick and mortar—is no longer adequate, as we saw during the pandemic. We must begin to think outside traditional care settings, and that’s where virtual care models and in-home services become significant. Not only does it ease access for the person, it

also improves the provider’s ability to engage people in their natural home environment.

We, as nurses, play an indispensable role in the health care system and meeting the needs of Medicare patients. I see the meaningful impact my fellow nurses and I have every day on our patients – especially the most vulnerable – and am proud of the work nurse-led programs like HouseCalls are doing to improve the lives of seniors.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bettermedicarealliance.org/news/better-medicare-alliance-unveils-2021-state-of-medicare-advantage-report-showing-high-satisfaction-greater-consumer-savings-and-better-outcomes-in-ma/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://bettermedicarealliance.org/news/report-half-of-latinx-black-medicare-beneficiaries-choose-medicare-advantage/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://bettermedicarealliance.org/news/new-report-shows-significant-increase-in-medicare-advantage-enrollment-among-minority-and-dually-eligible-beneficiaries/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2015.0583>



## *Dr. Dawson Featured on Chicago's Fox 32 News: Examining How Public Policy has Impacted Health Care in the Black Community*

Full Interview:

<https://www.fox32chicago.com/video/1096906>

Dr. Martha Dawson, president of the National Black Nurses Association, delves into the most important public policy concerns facing the Black community and how to go about eliminating racial disparity in healthcare.



## NBNA Featured in Ebony Magazine!



### *The National Black Nurses Association Holds its 50th Annual Conference in Support of Black Healthcare Professionals*

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Full Interview:

<https://www.ebony.com/the-national-black-nurses-association-holds-its-50th-annual-conference-to-support-and-empower-healthcare-professionals-%EF%BF%BC%EF%BF%BC/>

### *Director of Nursing Research and Health Equity Receives Lifetime Achievement Award*

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Wednesday, August 3, 2022

Original Article:

<https://www.rushu.rush.edu/news/director-nursing-research-and-health-equity-receives-lifetime-achievement-award>



### *BMA Offers Solutions to Protect More than 29 Million Seniors & People with Disabilities in RFI Response to CMS*

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*Coalition of 180+ stakeholder organizations and over 600,000 grassroots advocates delivers recommendations to build on health equity, affordability gains in Medicare Advantage*

Original article: <https://bettermedicarealliance.org/news/bma-offers-solutions-to-protect-more-than-29-million-seniors-and-people-with-disabilities-in-rfi-response-to-cms/>

## NBNA 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Institute and Conference 2022 Takes Over Chicago!

NBNA celebrated a long-awaited reunion in Downtown Chicago, Illinois at the historic Hilton Chicago on Tuesday, July 26 through Sunday, July 31.



It was a time to remember! From special social gatherings to invigorating sessions, we really showed out and showed Chicago that no matter how much time goes by, we are still serving strong. Despite the pandemic shutting down our last conference, NBNA picked right back up.

**Our conference was centered around our theme: Bridging the Gap of Social Injustice and Health Disparities through Excellence in Nursing, Practice, Education, and Research**

**You can go [here](#) to view an electronic version of the 2022 Program Book.**

The NBNA mission is “to serve as the voice for Black nurses and diverse populations ensuring equal access to professional development, promoting educational opportunities and improving health.” NBNA chapters offer voluntary hours providing health education and screenings to community residents in collaboration with community-based partners, including faith-based organizations, civic, fraternal, hospitals, and schools of nursing.

Thank you to our sponsors, exhibitors, distinguished guests, and members for your participation, time, and support. We could not make this the exceptional time it was without you!

Following is just a small snapshot of how educational, entertaining, and impactful the 2022 NBNA 50th Annual Institute and Conference was in Chicago. While you are here, tell your colleagues and friends to get ready to join us in Atlanta for the 51st Annual Institute and Conference to be held on Tuesday, August 1 through Sunday, August 6, 2023!



*NBNA Past Presidents Luncheon*



*Chicago Chapter Health Fair and NBNA Board Members*





*NBNA Conference Buddy Meet-UP Mentoring in the Moment (MIM)  
Sponsored by: VITAS Healthcare*



*NBNA Leadership Institute (Chapter Presidents & Vice Presidents)  
Breakfast sponsored by: Atlantic Health Systems*



Atlantic Health System sponsored the speaker Blake Miller, who is Director, Talent Acquisition | [Atlantic Health System](https://www.atlantichealth.com)

*Gospel Aerobics Class Workout & Praise The Lord!™*



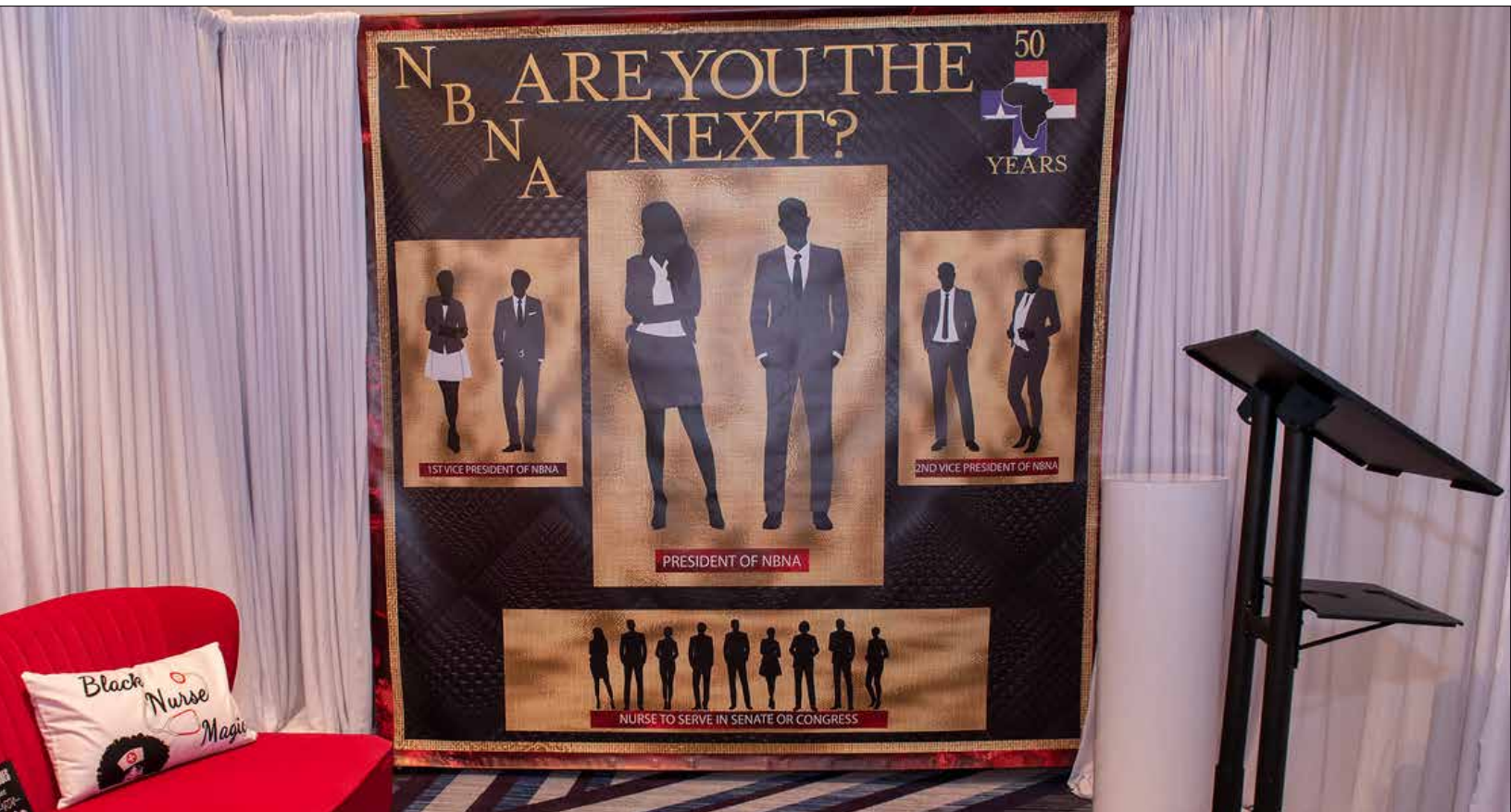


*NBNA Under 40*





NBNA Under 40





*NBNA Under 40*



*Red Dress Day*





**Plenary Session I**

**Sponsored by: American Nurses Association (ANA), AMN Health, and Loyola Trinity Health  
The Journey of Racial Reconciliation and Reckoning**





**Plenary Session I (cont.)**

**Sponsored by: American Nurses Association (ANA), AMN Health, and Loyola Trinity Health  
The Journey of Racial Reconciliation and Reckoning**





Opening Ceremony





*Opening Ceremony*



**Keynote Address By Kim Ribeiro, MLS (ASCP)CM, MS Head, Diversity & Patient Inclusion, AbbVie Inc.**



**Cynthia Bell  
Shares Breonna Taylor Tribute**







NBNA Business Session



NBNA Luncheon Sponsored by Gilead Sciences

***NBNA Summer Youth Enrichment Institute  
Supported by: Malcolm X Community College Sponsored by: ANA-Illinois***





*Band-Aid Brand*



*NBNA Mini Nurse Academy*





## Career Fair / Exhibit Hall NBNA Knowledge Bowl: Knowledge is Power!





*Fund Development Event – Malcolm X College  
Sponsored by: New Orleans East Hospital and Novartis Pharmaceuticals*



*Second Annual Men's Bow Tie Breakfast Institute  
Sponsored by: Novavax, Inc. and Novartis Pharmaceuticals*





*Installation of New Officers, New Board Members and Nominating Committee*



*NBNA Awards Ceremony Continental Ballroom  
Sponsored by: American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN), Novartis  
Pharmaceuticals and VITAS Healthcare*





*NBNA Awards Ceremony Continental Ballroom (cont.)*

*Sponsored by: American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN), Novartis Pharmaceuticals and VITAS Healthcare*



*President's Gala*





President's Gala (cont.)





*President's Gala (cont.)*





*Ecumenical Service*





## DAISY Foundation Health Equity Award

There is evidence that demonstrates health disparities exist in the United States and across the globe, impacted by the social determinants of health. There is also evidence that shows racism to be a public health issue. The DAISY Award for Nurses Advancing Health Equity was created to honor nurses whose work advances health equity, mitigating health disparities that are caused by social determinants of health.

This new extension of The DAISY Award may be given by health care organizations, schools of nursing, and DAISY's Supportive Associations that partner with DAISY to honor their nurses. This award recognizes individual nurses or nurse-led teams, who go above and beyond in caring for patients and families who are disadvantaged demographically, psychosocially, or economically.

Honorees may be selected for their contributions within the healthcare facility or their academic setting or in vulnerable communities at large. Nurses in any practice setting or role whose work contributes to improving health equity and providing compassionate, quality healthcare are eligible for consideration. Honorees will be chosen by DAISY Partner organizations using specific criteria that align with their particular culture and values.

### **Selection Criteria:**

It is important that the criteria for selecting DAISY Nurses Advancing Health Equity Honorees be consistent with the

values and culture of each organization and The DAISY Foundation. Each DAISY Partner organization's DAISY Committee will develop specific criteria for selecting these Honorees from among those nominated.

The package for the DAISY Award for Nurses Advancing Health Equity includes:

- Award certificate (this is a Power Point slide that will be emailed)
- DAISY Foundation portfolio for the award certificate
- DAISY Lapel Pin
- Healer's Touch sculpture
- Team Honorees will receive a plaque and team pin.

The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) mission and programming have been rooted in Advancing Health Equity since inception. In 2022, NBNA partnered with the DAISY Foundation to recognize some of its members for their tireless efforts; oftentimes, outside of their paying jobs to address health equity issues. We are thrilled to recognize and award some of our members for all of the work and contributions they provide for patients and their families from historically and medically underserved communities whose health is affected by social determinants of health.

Congratulations to the 2022 **NBNA Daisy Health Equity Award** recipients!

## NBNA Daisy Health Equity Award for Frontline Registered Nurse



To recognize excellence of a Frontline Registered Staff Nurse who goes over and beyond to address health equity and work to mitigate one or more of the social determinants of health.

**Carla K. Keith, BSN, RN**  
Registered Nurse  
Aya Healthcare  
San Diego, CA  
Birmingham Black Nurses Association



## ***DAISY Foundation Health Equity Award (cont.)***

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### **NBNA Daisy Health Equity Award for LPN / LVN Nurse**

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To recognize excellence of an LPN/LVN in clinical practice who goes over and beyond to address health equity and work to mitigate one or more of the social determinants of health.

Renee L. Hickman, LPN  
Triage Nurse  
Smyrna Primary Care  
Smyrna, GA  
Atlanta Black Nurses Association

### **NBNA Daisy Health Equity Chapter President Leadership Award**

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To recognize excellent leadership by a chapter president who exemplifies extraordinary leadership to advance the mission and vision of NBNA by addressing health equity while meeting the needs of the community.

Carol Jenkins Neil, PhD, RN  
Professor of Nursing  
Florida State College Jacksonville  
Jacksonville, FL  
First Coast Black Nurses Association

### **NBNA Daisy Health Equity for the NBNA Chapter (Team) Award**

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To recognize a chapter for their team efforts and activities that address health equity by going above and beyond caring for patients and family members who are from historically, medically, and underserved populations that bear the burden of health disparities.

Birmingham Black Nurses Association  
Birmingham, AL



*"We Say Her Name"*



Honorary Membership presented posthumously to:

**Breonna Taylor, EMT**

*"Whose dream was to become a nurse"*

On the occasion of the  
50<sup>TH</sup> NBNA Annual Institute and Conference

July, 2022

# Chapter Development: “Strengthening and Enhancing Your Local Chapters”

Debra Mann, DNP, RN

Ora D. Williams, MSHCA, BSN, RN-DHA (c)

Marcia Lowe, PhD, RN, GERO-BC

Chapter Development Sessions have been initiated by the NBNA Membership Committee to help chapter presidents, vice presidents, membership chairmen, and leaders. This committee's goal is to provide chapters with suggestions for how to recruit, engage, and retain all members. The first occurred in September 2021. On January 10, 2022, the committee convened their second session, which was a huge success, with over 100 people in attendance. Here are some of the session's highlights.

On the Zoom meeting, all new participants were warmly greeted. Carter Todd, NBNA board member, Dr. Jennifer Coleman, Mentorship chair, Co-editor of the NBNA newsletter, Kim Scott, NBNA Mentorship ad-hoc committee chair and co-chair Kendra Green, Cindy Bell, NBNA historian, and board member, Deborah Thedford-Zimmerman, co-chair chapter development, Tammy Woods, and Estella Lazenby, NBNA membership services was among the speakers.

Some of the discussion highlights are as follows, there were many good suggestions and ideas shared:

## I. Welcoming new members

- Properly welcome new members, by contacting them as soon as possible
- Give them information regarding meeting times and location
  - » Send the link to NBNA- so they can see the benefits and learn the history
  - » Provide welcome packet-name tags, swag bag,

- something that represents your chapter
- » Connect them with a mentor/buddy, invite them to be a mentor
- » Host a meet and greet—an outdoor event twice a year
- » Invite them to be engaged at the National level, annual conference
- » Don't be afraid to “Think Outside the Box”—make them feel welcome
- » Leads to higher retention rates

## II. Membership Campaign

- Reminders were given to use the form from NBNA as a check off that was sent out in September by the membership services manager as a guide for all chapter deliverables

## III. NBNA Publicity

- Important to communicate with members and to recruit new members
- Develop a Chapter website, Facebook page, and Instagram/snapchat
  - » Press releases via news, radio etc., communicate upcoming programs
  - » Send contacts
  - » Identify Representatives

## IV. NBNA Male Nurses

- Participation is increasing in NBNA
- Male nurse population is less than females
- Bringing forth topics of importance to male nurses
- Events are increasing in NBNA involving the male nurse members Bow tie Breakfast, Community Activities Barbershop discussion in California and New York
- More male nurses taking on leadership roles in their chapters
- NBNA is looking to recruit more male nurse members

## V. Ad-Hoc Committee on Mentorship

- January is National Mentoring month
- Chapter Mentorship Ambassadors, Chapter Membership Ambassador Role (CMA). One person desired from each chapter to be a mentor
- Three different levels of mentoring
  - » Approaching Careers
  - » Acknowledging Careers
  - » Aspiring Leaders

Looking for active members to be CMA's, participants will need to be responsive and committed to 1 hour a month, 1st Thursday of each month.

## VI. Membership Benefits

- NBNA offers many benefits to the membership
- Benefits be found on the NBNA website at NBNA.org

- Participate community activities such as Breast Cancer walk, Diabetes walk, Alzheimer’s walk, etc.

**VII. Partnerships**

- Develop partnerships in your local areas
- Partners can be home health organizations, the City Council, churches, nursing schools, etc.

The membership committee of NBNA wants you to be inspired and given the tools you need to recruit, engage, and retain members in your chapter.



**Dr. Mann** currently serves as the Middle Georgia Black Nurses Association (MGBNA) Chapter President and the NBNA Membership Committee Members Benefit co-chair and has been employed at the Carl Vinson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Dublin, Georgia for 21 years.



**Ora D. Williams** is a member of the Atlanta Black Nurses Association, Inc., a previous president, a past member of the NBNA Board of Directors, and currently serving on the membership committee. She is retired.



**Dr. Marcia Lowe** a member of the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) where she is currently serving as 2nd Vice-President and membership chair. Dr. Lowe is a nurse educator in staff development at the Birmingham VA Health Care System.



# The NBNA End-of-Life Care (EOL) Ad-hoc Committee: A Year in Review

Marcia Lowe, PhD, MSN, BSN, RN, GERO-BC

National Hospice and Palliative Care Month is observed in November, and the theme for 2022 is "Meeting you where you are." By attempting to understand where someone is in their journey, we may meet them where they are by putting aside our own desires for them. And that is precisely what the End-of-Life Care Ad Hoc Committee (EOL) of the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) is doing. Dr. Martha A. Dawson approved the committee in September 2021 with the goal of removing obstacles through raising awareness concerning palliative and hospice care in the black community. The EOL committee is dedicated to use its chapter champions to help to spread knowledge on hospice and palliative care within NBNA. Several barriers, including education, have historically prevented the Black community from utilizing hospice and palliative care to its full potential. Eliminating these difficulties may increase enrollment.

Dr. Marcia Lowe, the second vice president of the NBNA was appointed as the committee's chairperson and peers voted Dr. Alma Dixon a member of the Volusia Flagler chapter as co-chair. The committee established its charter, goals, objectives, and deliverables during its initial meeting in October 2021. The membership received an invitation to join the committee and identify champions during that month.

An article about the hospice experience from a caregiver's perspective was written by Dr. Lowe. The article was published in the November 2021 special edition of the NBNA newsletter. The special edition was published in honor of Hospice and Palliative Care Month. The committee took part in a webinar on grieving over the holidays in December with VITAS Healthcare, and was represented by Ms. Trilby Barnes-Green, a member of the New Orleans chapter.

In January 2022, the group re-assembled to discuss additional plans for the year. Mid-January, Dr. Helen Bhagwandin a member of the EOL committee, Diane Deese of VITAS Healthcare, and Dr. Lowe took part as subject matter experts in a health equity blog interview with the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC). Dr. Bhagwandin was credited as the main author for the blog titled, "Acknowledging Barriers and Implementing Strategies to Reach Black People



**Dr. Marcia Lowe** a member of the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) where she is currently serving as 2nd Vice-President, Membership and End of life ad-hoc committee chairs. Dr. Lowe is a nurse educator in staff development at the Birmingham VA Health Care System, Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Lowe believes nursing is not just a profession, but a passion

with Serious Illness". The blog was updated and is featured on CAPC's website. Mark Slobodien, VP for Public Affairs at VITAS Healthcare gave a presentation on hospice and palliative care during the NBNA Day on Capitol Hill on February 3, 2022. The committee met in April 2022 to talk through preparations for the NBNA national conference held in Chicago, Illinois, from July 1–August 1, 2022.

Dr. Lowe, Diane Deese, and Ottamissiah (Missy) Moore, attended the End-of-life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) summit in Pasadena, California, in April 2022. The End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) newsletter featured Missy as a national trainer. In June 2022, it was decided that the committee would participate as an exhibitor at the NBNA conference. The booth was placed close to City of Hope and our sponsor, VITAS Healthcare. Many thanks to Dr. Betty Ferrell of City of Hope and Diane Deese of VITAS Healthcare, with whom NBNA has enjoyed a collaborative partnership for more than 20 years. We spoke with so many amazing nurses, who had experienced hospice and palliative care on a personal level. To all the committee members who attended the conference and helped at the booth, I want to convey my appreciation. In August 2022, Dr. Betty Ferrell honored the NBNA EOL committee in the

ELNEC newsletter, which is published in the United States, plus 101 international countries.

In honor of Hospice and Palliative Care Month this year, the committee teamed up with VITAS Healthcare to plan an End-of-life Care summit held on November 12, 2022. The national speakers and CEUs were provided by VITAS Healthcare.

The work of the NBNA End-Of-Life Care Ad-hoc committee is highlighted in this year in review. We anticipate an incredible year and expect to keep growing as a committee. We greatly appreciate the support of Dr. Martha A. Dawson President of NBNA, the Board of Directors, staff, members, chapter leaders, committee members, champions, and advocates.

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## Central Florida Black Nurses Association of Orlando

### CFBNA: A Provider for Community Health Worker Classes

With intentionality, the Central Florida Black Nurses Association of Orlando, Inc. (CFBNA) expanded its services platform to make a more significant impact in the community. In July 2022, CFBNA was awarded Community Health Worker (CHW) provider status by the Florida Certification Board, allowing its members to teach the 30-hour initial class to prepare participants for the CHW certification and to offer continuing education classes for CHWs. On August 3, 2022, the members of the CFBNA held the first CHW class in partnership with the Christ the King Episcopal Church, Orlando. At the inaugural class, there were 34 participants in attendance, many of which Spanish-speaking requiring the CFBNA trainer to have a translator.

Having the CHW provider status allows CFBNA to teach community residents how to communicate, educate, facilitate resources, and advocate for health equity to help individuals in need within our communities. According to Dr. Jennifer Sankey, CFBNA President, “We are excited to offer this program to the residents of Central Florida and to have them partner with us as we strive to have a healthier community.” When the CHW students complete the class and 500 hours of volunteering or working in a clinical setting, they will be eligible to take the certification exam.

### CFBNA Promotes a Heart Healthy Community

Orlando Health awarded the Central Florida Black Nurses Association of Orlando, Inc. grant funds to promote heart

health. Through education and cardiovascular screenings via questionnaires, the CFBNA members have served more than 2,000 people in Orange County and Seminole County. The funding is a vehicle by which CFBNA aims to improve health equity through prevention, early detection, and offering services for managing cardiovascular disease. At all health events, the cardiovascular risk assessment is conducted followed by education.

### 40th Anniversary Celebration

On September 24, 2022, the Central Florida Black Nurses Association of Orlando, Inc. will host a Scholarship and Award Luncheon and 40th Anniversary Celebration. The event will be held from 11 AM – 2 PM at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, 5780 Major Blvd., Orlando, Florida 32819. All are welcome to attend. For ticket and sponsorship information write to [cfbnaoforlando@gmail.com](mailto:cfbnaoforlando@gmail.com).

Members of the Central Florida Black Nurses Association of Orlando, Inc. – Bernedine Fair, Health Policy Leader, Connie Brown, CFBNA Grant Chair, NBNA Board Member, and Dr. Jennifer Sankey, CFBNA President met with the South Apopka Ministerial Alliance (SAMA) under the leadership of Pastor King, to introduce the CFBNA Chapter and to offer support to the pastors in the areas of health and wellness. This partnership is designed to help extend our reach and strengthen our voice in advocating and promoting health equity.



## Central Florida Black Nurses Association of Orlando (cont.)

### CFBNA Celebrates 40th Anniversary and 38th Scholarship and Awards Luncheon

On September 24, 2022, the Central Florida Black Nurses Association of Orlando celebrated its 40th anniversary and 38th Scholarship and Awards Luncheon at the DoubleTree Hotel near Universal Studios – Orlando. There were over 341 guests in attendance at this first-class event. Co-founders Mrs. Bernice Edwards and Mrs. Susie Forehand were present and recognized, with acknowledgement given to Mrs. Mercerdese Clark (deceased) for their vision and courage to the start organization during a time in history when Black nurses needed a forum to network and to be advocates for the underserved. Over the last 40 years, thousands of people have been served in the surrounding communities of Orange, Seminole, Osceola, and Lake County by nurses of the CFBNA. County Clerk Tiffany Russell was the keynote speaker. She emphasized the importance of self-management of one's health to prevent diseases. A total of nine CFBNA members were awarded scholarships to assist them in their academic pursuits, and a total of 5 CFBNA members were given the VIPP (Vision, Initiative, Purpose, Passion) award to show appreciation for their extraordinary dedication to the organization. The recipients of the VIPP award were, Constance Brown, Christa Clark, Juanita Green, Dorothy Jackson, Gail Parker, and Dr. June Robinson. This event was organized under the leadership of Eloise Abrahams, Ingrid Philpot, Denise Brown, with the assistance of several members – Natalyne Smith, Gail Parker, Bernice Edwards, Susie Forehand, and more who did an outstanding job.

### CFBNA teaches Community Health Workers

On August 3, 2022, Nurses of the Central Florida Black Nurses association taught its first Community Health Workers' (CHW) class at the Christ the King Church – Orlando, under the leadership of Dr. Jose Rodriguez. The 30-hour CHW class, consisting of lectures and hands on activities, were taught by trainers Juanita Green, Lea Turnbull, Dr. June Robinson, and Dr. Jennifer Sankey. A total of 35 students graduated from the class and are eligible to take the CHW exam after the completion of 500 volunteer hours. This training was sponsored by the RISE grant and the 100 Black Women Coalition. It was an enjoyable experience that allowed the nurses to form a partnership with like-minded individuals and organizations who also are advocates for health equity and volunteer in the community to promote health and wellness and provide resources.

### CFBNA and The Mini Nurse Academy

The Central Florida Black Nurses Association of Orlando has been approved by the National Black Nurse Association to implement a Mini Nurse Academy in Orlando, Florida. Judith Clark, a two-time President of the CFBNA is leading the project. The Mini Nurse Academy will begin in the Fall at the Ivey Lane Elementary. Monica Akins attended the open house at the school to introduce the project to the parents and students. Teachers, parents, and students expressed excitement to participate in this project.





## *New England Regional Black Nurses Association*



**Gloria Harris Cater, PhD, FNP, MDiv**, Honored as a "Living Legend" by the ANA on April 8, 2022 a wonderful evening.

The tall man is Gov. Charlie Baker, Governor of Massachusetts pictured with the other Living Legends that were honored that night, three years' worth because of the pandemic.

## *Midlands of South Carolina Black Nurses Association, Inc.*



Jessica Tillman, PhD, MPH, RN, member, Midlands of South Carolina Black Nurses Association, Inc., was a recipient of the 2022 Palmetto Gold Award, which recognizes registered nurses in South Carolina who exemplify excellence in nursing practice and commitment to the nursing profession.

One hundred nurses are selected each year for this prestigious award and are honored at the annual Palmetto Gold Gala. Dr. Tillman is a Nurse Consultant for the STD/HIV & Viral Hepatitis Division at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.



Coretta Jenerette, PhD, RN, AOCN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN, founding member, Midlands of South Carolina Black Nurses Association, Inc., nursing professor, and Angela Liese, public health/epidemiology professor will lead a \$13.2 grant from the [National Institutes of Health's Common Fund](#) to UofSC. The UofSC's

FIRST FIIRRE (Faculty Initiative for Improved Recruitment, Retention, and Experience) program is designed to recruit diverse early-stage faculty who are committed to inclusive excellence and whose work focuses on health disparities and equity. The overall goal is to enhance the infrastructure and co-create an environment that offers inclusive support and a sense of belonging that will improve everyone's experience at UofSC.

## ***Birmingham Black Nurses Association***

Congratulations to Icy Hale, MSN, RN, a lifetime member of the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) and a member of the Birmingham Black Nurses Association (BBNA). She was recently featured in the seventh edition of the textbook *Healthcare Careers Today*. This textbook is offered across the country and examines the many healthcare occupations available today. Ms. Hale discusses her reasons for choosing to pursue a profession as a nurse and how it has allowed her to have the chance to change people's lives. Ms. Hale is the program coordinator for the following; Post-Baccalaureate Registered Nurse Residency (PB-RNR), the Veterans Affairs Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR), Registered Nurse Transition-to-Practice Program (RNTTP), and the Student Nurse Technician program (SNT), at the Birmingham VA Healthcare System in Birmingham, Alabama.

Michelle Walker, RN, MSN, a Birmingham chapter member, received the Unsung Hero Award for the 2022 Nurse's Month event at the Birmingham VA Health Care Facility. Ms. Walker



was recognized for her work with Global Measures' alcohol and tobacco cessation program. She has been the facility's inpatient Global Measures nurse for the past six years. Ms. Walker's responsibilities include conducting chart audits, providing counseling, and documenting her interactions with all patients who have tested positive for alcohol and/or tobacco usage. Ava Grant, the chief nurse for the program, wrote the following: An unsung hero is a person who has

accomplished great things yet has gone unnoticed. We at the Birmingham VA are proud to honor, celebrate, and congratulate one of our own. The Birmingham chapter is proud of Ms. Walker's accomplishments.

Several BBNA students earned their nursing degrees recently. Sheena McCloud received her practical nursing degree from Bevill State Community College. Lonnitria Keenan, Tiara Williams, and Marvell Granville received their BSN from Samford University.

BBNA student Lonnitria Keenan received the Florence Nightingale Award at Samford University's pinning ceremony in December. She is currently a registered nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham.

Tanisha Irvin-Leonard was appointed by the American Nephrology Nurses Association as an Emerging Nephrology Nurse Professional Fellow for 2022. She will be inducted at the organization's national symposium May 22-25, 2022. The Emerging Nephrology Nurse Professional Fellow is a non-voting board position providing an avenue for a rising member to learn about board roles and functions through learning, working, and traveling with board members.

Carolyn Etheridge was recently inducted into Upsilon Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. She is a student at the University of North Alabama, earning her BSN on May 7, 2022.

Dr. Felesia Bowen was a keynote speaker at the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners 43rd National Conference in Dallas, Texas in March. Dr. Bowen is the inaugural associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing.

Dr. Tedra Smith presented "Utilizing a Video Interactive Simulated Clinical Experience to Prepare PNP Students for Entry to Advanced Practice" at the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners 43rd National Conference in Dallas, Texas in March. Dr. Smith is associate professor and director of pediatric partnerships at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing.

Ardenia Norris was inducted into the Kappa Omega chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing on April 7. Ardenia is the current NBNA Student Representative.

Kim Campbell-Rutley DNP, MSN-Ed, MAE, BA, CRRN, CNL, CHES presented her DNP scholarly project as a poster presentation at the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses 2022 Nursing Conference in San Diego, California, and the DNPs of Color (DOCS) 2nd Annual Hybrid Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Assessing interruptions and distractions during medication administration processes (MAP) became the focus of her DNP scholarly project. Dr Rutley-Campbell is a recent graduate of West Coast University. She has amassed a wealth of professional nursing experience working in various specialties which include adult and geriatric behavioral health, physical rehabilitation, blind rehabilitation, palliative care, addiction medicine, clinical nurse leader (CNL), travel and registry nursing, unit-based nursing leadership, mental health theory instruction for Bachelor of Nursing (BSN) students, mental health clinical instruction for Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN), Associate Degree Nurses (ADN), BSN students, and medical-surgical clinical instruction for Master of Nursing (MN) students on the



## ***Birmingham Black Nurses Association (cont.)***

pathway to Master of Science in Nursing, and LVN students. It was during her role as a clinical instructor, that she observed the magnitude of interruptions and distractions nurses experienced during MAP. She is acutely aware of processes that influence patient safety and patient outcomes because she is a certified Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL). She

aims to raise awareness of the most globally interrupted nursing tasks and the need to implement processes to minimize unnecessary interruptions and distractions during the high-risk and often high-volume nursing task of MAP. Dr. Rutley-Campbell is a lifetime member, and a member of the Birmingham Black Nurses Association (BBNA).

## ***The Council of Black Nurses-Los Angeles, Inc.***

They celebrated the chapter's first class of the NBNA Mini Nurse Academy at St. Eugene Catholic School in Los Angeles, CA.

Dr. Stephanie A. Patterson, JD, DNP, MBA, MPA, MSN, RN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC, NBNA board member, presented on behalf of the NBNA Collaborative Mentorship Committee on the topic of "Nurse Suicide, Prevention, Healing, and Resiliency." This webinar event was held on Saturday, October 1, 2022 and it was a CEU course offering with 1 contact hour provided by the Bay Area Black Nurses Association, Inc. We received much positive feedback from our NBNA members who attended and the participants represented a cross-section of chapters.

Dr. Stephanie A. Patterson, JD, DNP, MBA, MPA, MSN, RN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC, NBNA board member, gave a mental health talk at the BHERC's 1st Annual Health Conference: "SUPPLEMENTALLY" Mastering Mental and Brain Health After the Pandemic Across the Globe: Recovery, Healing, Hope, Reimage. This amazing event was held on Saturday, August 27, 2022 in partnership with the Council of Black Nurses-Los Angeles, Inc. and it included a CEU course offering. Nurse participants earned 4 contact hours. Dr.

Patterson's talk focused on the mental health needs of those who are age 40 and under.

Mentoring In the Moment (MIM) Café at the NBNA 50th Anniversary Conference in Chicago, Illinois. This workshop event was highly successful and we received a significant amount of positive feedback from our conference attendees



## *The Council of Black Nurses-Los Angeles, Inc. (cont.)*

who were present. We celebrated the dedication and leadership of the National Black Nurses Association Collaborative Mentorship Committee.

Dr. Stephanie A. Patterson, JD, DNP, MBA, MPA, MSN, RN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC, NBNA board member, was selected to receive the highly competitive NHSC Students to Service Loan Repayment award in 2021. In exchange for agreeing to provide behavioral health services in under-served

communities for 3 years, Dr. Patterson will receive \$120,000 toward student loan repayment.

Dr. Stephanie A. Patterson, JD, DNP, MBA, MPA, MSN, RN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC, NBNA board member, gave a mental health talk on Saturday, March 26, 2022. Dr. Patterson's talk was part of a continuing education course offering sponsored by the Council of Black Nurses-Los Angeles, Inc. and her talk addressed "Suicide in Nursing."



## *Central Virginia Chapter National Black Nurses Association*



**Dr. Vivienne McDaniel** from Central Virginia Chapter National Black Nurses Association at the 2022 Congressional Black Caucus.



**Marcia Lowe**, PhD, MSN, BSN, RN, GERO-BC, 2nd Vice-President of the NBNA, attended the Legends in White event of the Birmingham Black Nurses Association on Saturday, September 10, 2022. Dr. Lowe brought greetings on behalf of Dr. Martha A. Dawson, the NBNA president, and the board of directors, and introduced the speaker, Dr. Ernest J. Grant. On Friday, October 21, 2022,

Dr. Lowe attended the "Rights to Health: Where do we move from here?" 2022 Community Engagement Institute Symposium held in Birmingham, Alabama by the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) on Friday, October 21, 2022. The interactive session covered issues such as how communities can work together to create momentum for long-lasting change and obstacles to health care equity. Dr. Lowe participated in the Stop the Violence Walk and Summit on Saturday, October 22nd at the Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Alabama.

The event was organized by the Birmingham Black Nurses Association and Attorney Carthenia Jefferson, chair of the NBNA ad hoc committee on non-violence. On Monday, October 24, 2022, the membership committee chaired by Dr. Lowe presented the inaugural Chapter Development Session for 2022–2023. Dr. Angelo Moore, chair of the scholarships and awards committee was the speaker. Dr. Lowe attended the American Academy of Nursing's induction ceremony on Saturday, October 29, 2022. At this time, Dr. Martha A. Dawson became a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. On Saturday, November 12, 2022, the End-of-life Care Ad-hoc committee of which Dr. Lowe is the chair hosted an End-of-Life Summit in honor of Hospice and Palliative Care Month. The event was in collaboration with VITAS Healthcare who provided the National speakers and CEUs.

## ***The Miami Chapter-Black Nurses Association (Miami-BNA)***

The Miami Chapter-Black Nurses Association (Miami-BNA) hosted the 41st Annual Scholarship and Awards Luncheon on May 14, 2022, at the beautiful Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay Hotel. This year's event theme was Nursing Resilience: Disruptions in Practice, Research, Education, Policy and Entrepreneurship. The theme was quite fitting due to the current environment as the nursing profession faces the critical challenges to navigate its way through COVID-19 pandemic of epic proportion, said Dr. Sharon Rogers, President of Miami Chapter-BNA. The esteemed Keynote Speaker, Dr. Catherine Alicia Georges eloquently spoke to these challenges including Social Determinants of Health: Poverty, Homelessness,

Issues of mental health, Workforce development, social justice - Health & Wealth, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI). The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed how fragile the nursing workforce is and how it has affected Nurses on the frontlines with devastating consequences, also throughout the world.

Miami Chapter - BNA awarded \$10,500 in scholarships to deserving nursing students this year. We are happy to report that two new scholarships have been named after Dr. Phyllis Rhymes-Johnson & Dr. Linda Washington-Brown for their stellar contributions to the community, Miami Chapter-BNA. We also awarded beautiful Plaques of Appreciation to several outstanding members and community partners.



**Miami-Black Nurses Association 41st Annual Luncheon Scholarship Recipients**



**Miami-Black Nurses Association 41st Annual Luncheon Award Recipients & Members**



## ***Birmingham Black Nurses Association***

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Birmingham Black Nurses Association (BBNA) kicked off the celebration of Nurses' Week on Monday, May 9 with their annual wreath laying ceremony. Chapter members laid a wreath at the monument of Pauline Fletcher, the first African American nurse in Alabama. After the wreath laying, chapter members were treated to dinner by BBNA sponsor Dr. D'Andrea Skipwith.

Tuesday, members sponsored a booth in the Nurses Week fair at UAB Hospital. Thursday, BBNA sponsored an educational session on Mentorship and Patient Advocacy, presented by member Dr. Loretta Lee. Nurses' Night Out at Railroad Park on Friday concluded the week's activities as BBNA celebrated with all Birmingham area nurses. Other events in May included the Birmingham Community Mental Health Awareness Fair and the Community Health Fair Expo. BBNA members collaborated with Milestone Barber Shop & Grooming Lounge to host a COVID-19 information and vaccine clinic that included prediabetes and hypertension screening. The Brother Let's Talk™ Initiative provided a counselor to lead a discussion on mental health and emotional wellness for men of color.

Michelle Walker was recognized with the Unsung Hero Award for her achievements with the Global Measures alcohol and tobacco cessation program at the Birmingham Veterans Administration Medical Center. As the facility's inpatient Global Measures nurse, Ms. Walker is responsible for all audits, documentation, and counseling on all patients who have a positive screen for alcohol and/or tobacco use.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Nursing hosted BBNA chapter members for a private tour of the school's Florence Nightingale collection and nursing museum. BBNA members enjoyed recognition and portraits of several chapter members who are alumni of the UAB School of Nursing. BBNA member Dr. Delois Skipwith-Guy was recognized as the school of nursing's first African American faculty member. After the tour, chapter members were treated to lunch with museum directors and officials from the nursing school.

BBNA immediate past president, Deborah Thedford-Zimmerman, and Jennifer Coleman were panelists at a Miles College networking event. The event, *Preparedness and Planning towards a Future in STEM and Allied Health*, provided information to Miles' students interested in health careers. BBNA students, JoLisa Bumpers and Sharterica Bridget, current Herzing University nursing students and Miles College graduates, were also members of the panel.

BBNA members were table sponsors and attendees at the annual Pink Hat & Tie Luncheon sponsored by Brenda's Brown Bosom Buddies, an organization that sponsors education sessions on breast cancer awareness and prevention.

On May 20, BBNA immediate past president, Deborah Thedford-Zimmerman and BBNA mentorship chair, Jennifer Coleman, were special guests at the Herzing University pinning ceremony for May graduates. Several BBNA student members received their nursing pin and celebrated success on NCLEX.

BBNA member, Deborah Grimes, vice president and chief diversity officer at Ochsner Health, was recently recognized with the New Administrative Leader – Executive Leadership Award.

BBNA members attended the Booker T Washington K-8 Stakeholders Tea and health fair. Students at the school presented their STEM projects.

BBNA treasurer, Victoria Smith, has been selected for the USAgainst Alzheimer's Center for Brain Health Equity Nurse Fellowship 2022 in partnership with NBNA and NAHN.

A sampling of BBNA's June community events include a health fair and blood drive sponsored by Omicron Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Sickle Cell Walk; numerous COVID-19 vaccine clinics; Family Fun Day at Daniel Payne Community Plaza; and Juneteenth Freedom Celebration with Beta Mu chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The sponsor of the Juneteenth health screening and education event was the *Lifting as We Climb Foundation*. Members also collaborated with UAB School of Nursing in an experiential learning activity for nursing students at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

On June 25, BBNA and the West Alabama BNA held its second annual Men's Bowtie Breakfast on the campus of Samford University. "Mental Health of the African American Male" was the focus of the event.

BBNA conducted a pop-up NBNA Mini Nurse Academy during June and July at the Birmingham Parks & Recreation Memorial Park Summer Camp. Young participants enjoyed guest presentations, hands-on nursing related activities, and networking opportunities with professional nurses. The program concluded with the students' presentation of their research activities that had been completed during the Academy.

## Birmingham Black Nurses Association (cont.)

The World Games were held in Birmingham in July, and BBNA members served at many events during the 2-week competitions. Participating in the international multi-sport event were 110 nations and 3,600 athletes.

BBNA assistant secretary, Melanie Wren, was featured in the American Hospital Association video of frontline nurses sharing their commitment to the community's well-being and experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Melanie is a registered nurse at UAB Medicine on the Mother/Baby Unit.

BBNA member JoLisa Bumpers, a student at Herzing University, was installed to the NBNA Board of Directors as the 2022 national student representative. Thirty members of BBNA accompanied her to the NBNA 50th Annual Institute and Conference in Chicago.

In July Tarsha Wynn-Scott was featured in *SHOUTOUT ATLANTA*, a publication that profiles small business owners within the local community. Mrs. Wynn-Scott is co-owner of Brighton Christian Memorial Funeral Home in Bessemer, Alabama. She is a licensed funeral director and embalmer,





## Birmingham Black Nurses Association (cont.)

nurse educator, and community activist. As a member of BBNA, she serves as co-ambassador of BBNA's Mini Nurse Academy.

BBNA held a congratulatory celebration for Dr. Lindsey Harris on August 6. Dr. Harris has been selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2022 Health Policy Fellow. The year-long fellowship period includes relocation to Washington, DC where Fellows receive an intensive three-month orientation and are then placed in varied positions for a nine-month appointment in the federal legislative and executive branches of government.

Photos Include:



- Nurses Week
- Booker T. Washington Stakeholders Tea
- June events
- Juneteenth
- Civil Rights Institute
- Community Health fair
- Mini Nurse Academy
- World Games volunteers
- BBNA at NBNA Conference
- Tarsha Wynn-Scott
- Lindsey Harris celebration



Birmingham Black Nurses Association (cont.)





*Birmingham Black Nurses Association (cont.)*




## Birmingham Black Nurses Association (cont.)





# New Paid Fellowship Opportunity! Apply by Jan 1st!



**FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

**APPLY TODAY!**

- Gain brain health knowledge
- Develop leadership & health promotion skills
- Network with experts

*Special consideration will be given to early career candidates!*

**DEADLINE: JAN 1, 2023**

US AGAINST ALZHEIMER'S CENTER FOR BRAIN HEALTH EQUITY

**NBNA**

We are proud to partner with UsAgainstAlzheimer's to launch a new nurse fellowship to train a cohort of our members to be brain health ambassadors. Fellows will gain national exposure and earn a stipend while learning how to promote brain health in their communities. The fellowship will run from February - August 2023, require a commitment of approximately 25 hours total, and will include a \$2,000 stipend. We encourage early career candidates, including nursing students, to apply!

## **The Fellowship program is designed to achieve the following objectives:**

- **Improve Knowledge:** Provide you with tailored continuing education on Alzheimer's and related dementias to address brain health knowledge gaps.
- **Cultivate Leadership:** Provide you with the leadership skills and content needed to promote tailored brain health education among your peers and in your community.
- **Facilitate Networking and Linking:** Connect you to a national network of nurses and experts working at the intersections of brain health, public health, and health equity to create opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and linking of local resources.

## **Eligibility Requirements:**

- Be a registered nurse or a student enrolled in an accredited nursing program
- Be a current member of the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) or National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN)
- Special consideration will be given to early career candidates, including nursing students!

## **Application Requirements:**

- Fill out an online application by Jan. 1, 2023. No late applications will be accepted.
- Submit your current resume/CV
- Optional letter of endorsement from your local NBNA chapter

Learn more [here](#) and apply today!

# Chapter Presidents

## ALABAMA

Birmingham BNA (11)	Alean Nash	Birmingham, AL
Montgomery BNA (125)	Katherine Means	Montgomery, AL
Tuskegee/East Alabama NBNA (177)	Dr. Cordelia Nnedu	Tuskegee Institute, AL
West Alabama Chapter of the NBNA (184)	Dr. Johnny Tice	Tuscaloosa, AL

## ARIZONA

BNA Greater Phoenix Area (77)	Rosa Norris	Phoenix, AZ
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## ARKANSAS

Little Rock BNA of Arkansas (126)	Lauren Banks	Little Rock, AR
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## CALIFORNIA

Bay Area BNA (02)	Norma Faris-Taylor	Oakland, CA
Capitol City BNA (162)	Carter Todd	Sacramento, CA
Central Valley BNA (150)	Joy Alexander	Fresno, CA
Council of Black Nurses, Los Angeles (01)	Barbara Collier	Los Angeles, CA
Greater Inland Empire BNA (188)	Amanda Jean Madrid	Corona, CA
San Diego BNA (03)	Dr. Sharon Smith	San Diego, CA
Stanford Medicine National Black Nurses Association (190)	Dr. Michelle Williams	Stanford, CA

## CONNECTICUT

Northern Connecticut BNA (84)	Marlene D. Harris	Hartford, CT
Southern Connecticut BNA (36)	Andrea Murrell	West Haven, CT

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BNA of Greater Washington, DC Area (04)	Dr. Pier Broadnax	Washington, DC
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## FLORIDA

Big Bend BNA (Tallahassee) (86)	Katrina Rivers	Tallahassee, FL
BNA, Tampa Bay (106)	Rosa Cambridge	Tampa, FL
Central Florida BNA of Orlando (35)	Jennifer Sankey	Orlando, FL
First Coast BNA (Jacksonville) (103)	Dr. Carol Jenkins-Neil	Jacksonville, FL
Greater Fort Lauderdale Broward Chapter of the NBNA (145)	Cynthia Eugene-Joseph	Plantation, FL
Greater Gainesville BNA (85)	Rachael Drayton	Ocala, FL
Miami Chapter - BNA (07)	Sharon Rogers	Miami, FL
Palm Beach County BNA (114)	Rochun McCray	West Palm Beach, FL
St. Petersburg BNA (28)	Bonita Clark	St. Petersburg, FL
Treasure Coast Council of BN (161)	Ruth Davis	Port Saint Lucie, FL
Volusia Flagler Chapter of the NBNA (187)	Dr. Alma Dixon	Palm Coast, FL

## GEORGIA

Atlanta BNA (08)	Arkeelaua Henderson	College Park, GA
Columbus Metro BNA (51)	Gwendolyn McIntosh	Columbus, GA
Concerned National BN of Central Savannah River Area (123)	Romona Johnson	Martinez, GA
Middle Georgia BNA (153)	Dr. Debra Mann	Dublin, GA
Okefenokee BNA (148)	Connie Bussey	Waycross, GA
Savannah BNA (64)	Pam Cummings	Savannah, GA



# Chapter Presidents

## HAWAII

Honolulu BNA (80) . . . . . Theresa Bowick . . . . . Aiea, HI

## ILLINOIS

Alliance of BNA of Illinois (178) . . . . . Beatrice Mbaocha . . . . . Chicago, IL  
BNA of Central Illinois (143) . . . . . Dr. Elaine Hardy . . . . . Bloomington, IL  
Chicago Chapter NBNA (09) . . . . . Ethel L. Walton . . . . . Chicago, IL  
Greater Illinois BNA (147) . . . . . Patricia Roberts . . . . . Bolingbrook IL  
Illinois South Suburban NBNA (168) . . . . . Dr. Carol Alexander . . . . . Matteson, IL  
North Shore BNA (172) . . . . . Susan Bailey . . . . . Waukegan, IL

## INDIANA

BNA of Indianapolis (46) . . . . . Katherine Bates . . . . . Indianapolis, IN  
Lake County Indiana BNA (169) . . . . . Michelle Moore . . . . . Merrillville, IN  
Northwest Indiana BNA (110) . . . . . Mona Steele . . . . . Gary, IN

## KANSAS

Wichita BNA (104) . . . . . Peggy Jones-Foxx . . . . . Wichita, KS

## KENTUCKY

KYANNA BNA, Louisville (33) . . . . . Cynetha Bethel-Jaiteh . . . . . Louisville, KY  
Lexington Chapter of the NBNA (134) . . . . . Dr. Lovoria Williams . . . . . Lexington, KY

## LOUISIANA

Acadiana BNA (131) . . . . . Dr. Iris Malone . . . . . Lafayette, LA  
Bayou Region BNA (140) . . . . . Salina James . . . . . Thibodaux, LA  
New Orleans BNA (52) . . . . . Dr. Mary Kelly . . . . . New Orleans, LA  
Shreveport BNA (22) . . . . . Bertresea Evans . . . . . Shreveport, LA  
Southeastern Louisiana BNA (174) . . . . . Rachel Weary . . . . . Abita Springs, LA

## MARYLAND

BNA of Baltimore (05) . . . . . Dr. Vaple Robinson . . . . . Baltimore, MD  
BN of Southern Maryland (137) . . . . . Kim Cartwright . . . . . Clinton, MD  
Greater Bowie Maryland NBNA (166) . . . . . Dr. Jacqueline Newsome-Williams . . . . . Chevy Chase, MD

## MASSACHUSETTS

New England Regional BNA (45) . . . . . Sasha DuBois . . . . . Roxbury, MA  
Western Massachusetts BNA (40) . . . . . Dr. Khadijah Tuitt . . . . . Springfield, MA

## MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor NBNA (193) . . . . . LaToya Freeman . . . . . Ann Arbor, MI  
Detroit BNA (13) . . . . . Nettie Riddick . . . . . Detroit MI  
Grand Rapids BNA (93) . . . . . Aundrea Robinson . . . . . Grand Rapids, MI  
Greater Flint BNA (70) . . . . . Dr. Juanita Wells . . . . . Flint, MI  
Kalamazoo-Muskegon BNA (96) . . . . . Dr. Birthale Archie . . . . . Kentwood, MI  
Lansing Area BNA (149) . . . . . Meseret Hailu . . . . . Lansing, MI  
Southwest Michigan BNA (175) . . . . . Deborah Spates . . . . . Berrien Springs, MI

# Chapter Presidents

## MINNESOTA

Minnesota BNA (111) . . . . . Dr. Sara Wiggins . . . . . St. Paul, MN

## MISSOURI

BNA of Greater St. Louis (144) . . . . . Dr. Leonora Muhammad . . . . . St. Louis, MO  
Greater Kansas City BNA (74) . . . . . Iris Culbert . . . . . Kansas City, MO  
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