

# NHNA 2011 ELECTION – CANDIDATE BIOS

(MEMBERS: Please review before opening the electronic ballot being sent to your email address.)

## PRESIDENT ELECT

### JUDITH JOY, RN, PhD

**Yrs in Practice:** 38

**Field:** Education, Geriatrics, Palliative Care

**Position:** Assistant Professor, Nursing – Colby Sawyer College

**Current or Past NHNA and related Service:** Current Chairperson Government Affairs Commission, 2nd Term; Board of Directors. In New York State: Past President of District 1, New York State Nurses' Association, Member Legislative Committee, Appointed to NYS Nurses Association Education Commission, Elected Co-Chair.

**Qualifications:** I strongly believe that nurses should be directing the future of our profession and we cannot do that without an organized voice. My involvement with the Government Affairs Commission (GAC) as its Chairperson for the past 4 years and engagement with the Board of Directors for that length of time has prepared me to coordinate and mobilize our resources to shape that future. The GAC during my tenure successfully proposed and then supported passage of legislation to protect the title "nurse" in NH. We have worked closely with the Board of Nursing to challenge budget cuts to the Board and reduce unfair licensure fees. In collaboration with other state organizations including NH Organization of Nurse Leaders, we developed a Safe Staffing Toolkit with standards requiring at least 50% representation by direct care nurses. I am proud to have been involved with the dedicated nurses of this organization and believe that I can continue to offer my skills as your president.

## TREASURER

### PEGGY (Margaret) LAMBERT, MS, MBA, CCRN

**Yrs in Practice:** 31

**Field:** Critical Care

**Position:** Director, Critical Care Services – Catholic Medical Center

**Current or Past NHNA or related Service:** Current NHNA Treasurer – appointed to vacancy in 2009; Current Board of Trustees - Child and Family Services; Manchester Advisory Board Child & Family Services; SNH AACN Past President; Past Member at Large; Past Member of the Horizons Planning Committee

**Qualifications:** I have always been involved in volunteer work for nursing and community organizations. For the past 2 years I have found my work as the Treasurer of NHNA both challenging and rewarding. At this time I would like to continue to contribute as Treasurer & impact professional nursing at the state level. My educational and management background provides me with a good understanding in regards to budgeting and understanding finances.

## DIRECTOR AT LARGE (two vacancies)

### FRANCIS JOSEPH DESJARDINS, M.Ed., BSN, RN-BC

**Yrs in Practice:** 26

**Field:** Nursing Prof. Devel / Trauma Nursing

**Position:** Nursing Professional Development Specialist – Dartmouth Hitchcock

**Current or Past NHNA or related Service:** I have not served on the NHNA at any time. However, I am currently the Technology Director for the National Nursing Staff Development Organization (NNSDO) Board of Directors. I have been the Treasurer, President-Elect, and then President of the Air Force Affiliate of the NNSDO; and have served as a member and Chair-person of the NNSDO Informatics Committee.

**Qualifications:** As I have completed my military career, I would like to become more involved in my community and the direction nursing is taking. I have been involved in nursing professional development at the local and national level for over 11 years. I would like to expand my horizons and help lead nursing in a direction that reflects the IOM report, and the current "Nurse of the Future" initiatives the state of New Hampshire has embarked on. To do this I need to become further involved in my states' nursing activities and advocate for our nurses in both the state and national legislative areas. I hope that this opportunity will further expand my knowledge and skills in leadership, but will also allow me to help current and future nurses in their roles as clinicians and leaders.

### JOAN HUBBARD, RN

**Yrs in Practice:** 5

**Field:** Telemetry / Respiratory

**Position:** Staff Nurse – Concord Hospital / Adjunct Nursing Faculty - NHTI

**Current or Past NHNA Service:** n/a

**Qualifications:** Prior to joining the ranks of nursing professionals, I received my certification in Leadership in Management from the national Association of Realtors in Washington, DC, as well as an Accreditation for Association Executives from the University of Delaware. For many years I worked for several non-profit organizations in the state, during which time I managed internal operations, as well as organized and implemented educational programs for members. Becoming a nurse fulfilled a lifelong dream, which I was able to realize later in life, and I feel it is a privilege to hold that credential. While a nursing student I received the NHTI Goldie Crocker Award; was a member of Phi Theta

Kappa, and co-secretary of the Student Nurses' Association. I am now on the NHTI Nursing Advisory Board. As a nursing professional, I was nominated for and received the Clint Jones NH Nursing Award in 2009. I believe my passion for nursing and background in organizational systems and internal structure would make me a positive addition to the NHNA Board of Directors.

**MICHELLE PELLETIER, BSN, RN, BC**

**Yrs in Practice:** 13      **Field:** Gerontology

**Position:** Asst. Director of Nursing / LEDU Program Manager – NH Veteran's Home

**Current or Past NHNA Service:** n/a

**Qualifications:** Having worked for the State of NH for over 6 years, I understand the importance of being current in political arenas and the effects of politics and policies on my daily nursing practice. I would like to take this knowledge statewide to those nurses that may not be as aware of this and provide them with the information they need. I would be a good candidate for this position because I have been in leadership roles for over 10 years and have developed skills that would aid me in this role such as providing information through education and recruitment. I would also be interested in being a social media volunteer as I use Facebook and Twitter. I see these sites as ways to get information to the newer face of nursing which is always changing and developing. It is a forum to get the NHNA message out to thousands more. I also use blogs and forums for information in healthcare and could use these skills to educate nurses about NHNA and upcoming conferences / policy changes, etc.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMISSION CANDIDATES:**

**AMY GUTHRIE, MS, RN, CAGS**

**Yrs in Practice:** 35      **Field:** Education; Maternal-Child Health

**Position:** Director, Continuing Nursing Education – St. Anselm College

**Current or Past NHNA Service:** Current member of CCE – 2009-2011

**Qualifications:** Experience as a nursing educator, planner and currently serve on the CE Commission. I am seeking re-election in order to continue my involvement.

**SANDRA McBOURNIE, RN, BS, M.Ed.**

**Yrs in Practice** 21      **Field:** Education

**Position:** Nursing Faculty/Program Coordinator for the Center for Nursing Prof. Development – NHTI

**Current or Past NHNA and related Service:** Current CCE Chairperson and member of the NHNA Board of Directors; Program Coordinator for the Center for Nursing Professional Development at NHTI; Network Leader for the NH Chapter of the American Holistic Nurses Association

**Qualifications:** Healthcare is changing so fast and with fiscal crunches, nurses have to be more resourceful than ever in finding ways to educate themselves to maintain competency. In general I am committed to assisting nurses in that overall effort and specifically I would like to: support nursing education in the state and region, stay abreast of the American Nurse's Credentialing Center's requirements for continuing education, and serve area providers of continuing education in their efforts.

**RAE MELLO-ANDREWS, RN-BC; BSN, MS, VA-BC**

**Yrs in Practice:** 23      **Field:** Education

**Position:** Clinical Educator – Lakes Region General Healthcare

**Current or Past NHNA and related Service:** Current CCE member; NNSDO member

**Qualifications:** Experience on the Commission. Certified in staff development. Responsible for educational opportunities for more than 15 years of my nursing experience.

**DENISE NIES, MSN, BC**

**Yrs in Practice:** 35      **Field:** Medical Surgical

**Position:** Director of Professional Development – Portsmouth Regional Hospital

**Current or Past NHNA Service:** Currently a member of CCE; past member and Chair of the Nursing Practice Commission.

**Qualifications:** Experience outlined above. I feel my strength is in collaboration and communication - working within a group setting or independently.

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMISSION CANDIDATES:**

**MARY BIDGOOD-WILSON, MSN, APRN**

**Yrs in Practice:** 38      **Field:** Family Practice / Midwifery

**Position:** APRN – Moultonboro Family Health Center / E.D. NH Nurse Practitioner Association

**Current or Past NHNA or related Service:** New to NHNA. Board member NH Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Assoc; 6 yrs on NH Endowment for Health Advisory Committee; past rep to Joint Health Council and Liaison to the Committee of Advanced Practice – NH Board of Nursing; MCH Physician Advisory Committee to the NH Dept of Health.

**Qualifications:** In addition to above – legislative / political affairs experience through involvement with the American College of Nurse Midwives and NH Nurse Practitioner Association as well as various community based organizations.

**GINNY BLACKMER, MSN, APRN, Anp-BC, CWCN****Yrs in Practice:** 34    **Field:** Med-Surg**Position:** Nurse Practitioner / wound care - Lakes Region General Hospital**Current or Past NHNA Service:** Current GAC member / past Chair; NHNA Board of Directors / past President; Commission on Nursing Practice – past member and co-Chair.**Qualifications:** I believe the nursing profession needs to be a part of health policy and legislative affairs as one avenue to influence the health and well being of our community. I have participated on the GAC for many years and would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve.**Laurie Brown, BS, RN****Yrs in Practice:** 12    **Field:** Home Care**Position:** Clinical Manager – Amedisys Home Health Systems**Current or Past NHNA Service:** n/a**Qualifications:** I became interested in governmental affairs after attending NHNA Policy Day. I was very inspired after hearing the several representatives, who are nurses, speak to us that day. I was also influenced by Rep. Laurie Harding, RN, who joined the smaller group I was in; Jane Leonard, RN, who was also in the smaller group I was in for the State House tour - we spoke quite a bit; and by Judy Joy, RN. I have never been involved in or paid much attention to politics; however, the Policy Day was an eye-opener that as a nurse I need to be more involved in the politics and laws that are shaping my profession. Nurses, to have a voice, need to be involved. I am currently a Clinical Manager with Amedisys Home Health Services. The CEO of my company is very involved in the legislation that guides the nursing profession, and regulations imposed on home health agencies. He is an RN, as well, and has also influenced me indirectly to become involved in government affairs. I am presently enrolled in an online MSN - Health Care Systems Management program through Loyola University, New Orleans.**Paul A. Mertzic, MS, BSN, RN****Yrs in Practice** 30+    **Field:** Community Health**Position:** Director, Community Health Services and Urgent Care – Catholic Medical Center**Current or Past NHNA Service:** Current member of GAC seeking re-election**Qualifications:** Completing first two year term with GAC. Interested in supporting healthcare and nursing issues through the legislative process.**ORGANIZATIONAL & MEMBERSHIP AFFAIRS COMMISSION CANDIDATES****DIANE DAVIS, RN, BSN****Yrs in Practice:** 7+    **Field:** Primary Care**Position:** Clinical Process Manager – Concord Hospital Medical Group**Current or Past NHNA Service:** n/a**Qualifications:** I would like to take a more active role in promoting and involvement with NHNA and the benefits of being part of our state nurses' association. I am assertive, optimistic, have a number of years in leadership / management, and really enjoy working with nurses at every level.**SHEILA FITZGERALD, BSN, MSN candidate****Yrs in Practice** 9.5    **Field:** Cardiology**Position:** RN – Cath Lab – Exeter Hospital**Current or Past NHNA and related Service:** This will be my first experience as a committee member with NHNA. Currently at Exeter Hospital, I sit on the Professional Nurse Development Council and Best IV Practice Committee.**Qualifications:** I have a strong believe as a nurse that it is my obligation to be active in and supportive of my professional association. In order to have influence on my practice and be an agent of change in nursing, I must be involved. This is why I would like to become a member of the Commission on Organizational and Membership Affairs.**NURSING PRACTICE COMMISSION CANDIDATES****BONITA KERSHAW, MSN, RN****Yrs in Practice:** 40+    **Field:** Education; Home Care & Hospice**Position:** Nursing Instructor – St. Joseph School of Nursing**Current or Past NHNA Service:** Commission on Nursing Practice 2008-present; Chairperson, Commission on Professional Affairs, 1999-2003 (Commission member 1997-2003); NHNA member since 1993**Qualifications:** I feel that I can use my years of experience to help work on issues that involve the nursing profession and would like to be actively involved in helping shape the future of the profession.**CYNTHIA C. McDONALD, MS, RN****Yrs in Practice:** 32    **Field:** Ambulatory Nursing (Office Practices)**Position:** Clinical Nurse Specialist – Elliot Health System / Elliot Physician Network / Elliot Professional Services**Current or Past NHNA Service:** I have participated for two terms on the Professional Affairs Commission in the past and have been on the current Commission for the past year.**Qualifications:** I am a dedicated professional with 32 years of nursing experience with a varied background in healthcare. I have worked mainly in acute care as a staff nurse, clinical educator, clinical nurse specialist and informatics nurse specialist. During the past 12 years, I've worked in Information Technology to assist with the implementation of an electronic medical record and currently work as a Clinical Nurse Specialist/Informatics Nurse in the ambulatory primary

care and specialty office practice settings. I am currently responsible for informatics support to the ambulatory care setting and for project support which involves clinical practice and EMR use. I believe my work ethic and commitment to my profession are evident daily in my practice and in the products I'm involved in. I appreciate your consideration of my continued intent to service on this Commission.

**ANN McLAUGHLIN, RN, BSN, MBA, NE-BC**

**Yrs in Practice:** 35 **Field:** Professional Development

**Position:** Professional Development Educator; Magnet Program Director – Southern NH Medical Center

**Current or Past NHNA Service:** ANA-NHNA member

**Qualifications:** As the Magnet Program Director for both the initial designation of SNHMC in 2006 and re-designation in 2011, I am very familiar with the components of professional nursing practice. In this rapidly changing healthcare environment it is essential that the standards of quality nursing care and the work environment continue to be maintained. The ANA Scope of Standards and Practice, the Code of Ethics for Nurses, the Principles of Nurse Staffing and the Principles of Delegation will be challenged in the future by the political and economic climate. Safe patient handling is a must to protect our patients and our nurses from injury. As a member of the NHNA Nursing Practice Commission I will work to uphold the rights of the nursing in NH to be in compliance with the ANA Bill of Rights for Registered Nurses. I received my BSN from Salem State College and my MBA from Bentley College. I have ANCC certification as a Nurse Executive. My clinical nursing background is in Emergency and CC nursing. My experience includes ED, Med-Surg and ICU staff nursing; nurse manager of an E.D., and Dir. of Emergency and Maternal Child Health Services. I have worked in hospitals in NH, VT, MA and Ireland. In my current position as a nurse educator at SNHMC, I support nurses in developing competencies needed for their roles. This can include clinical as well as leadership development. My experience in nursing education will be an asset to the committee in program and activity development. I am also the facilitator for our shared governance Nurse Practice Council. I mentor direct care nurses in chairing this council to empower the nurses to make decisions regarding changes and improvements to their practice. As chair for our Integrated Clinical Practice Council, I am involved in reviewing practice guidelines for evidence-based updates and changes. Exceptional patient outcomes are a result of a professional, educated, passionate, and satisfied nursing workforce. I am committed to recognizing the contributions made by nurses and celebrating their successes through local, regional, and national awards and media. Through my leadership, many of our nurses are recipients of the DAISY award and a number of them have been named as finalist for the Nursing Spectrum Nursing Excellence awards. I believe that I have the commitment, motivation, knowledge, and experience to make a difference in nursing practice in the State of New Hampshire.

**ANA DELEGATES - (to be voted on by full ANA-NHNA members – will not be on NH-only ballot)**

**AMANDA CALLAHAN, BSN, MBA**

**Yrs in Practice:** 3.5 **Field:** Critical Care, Orthopedics, Emergency

**Position:** Staff RN – Emergency Dept. – Concord Hospital

**Current or Past NHNA Service:** Organizational & Membership Affairs Commission; Board of Directors

**Qualifications:** I would like to represent NH nursing at the ANA House of Delegates. I have a new found interest in politics and how politics can shape the nursing of today, tomorrow and the future. I am dedicated to reviewing current nursing issues facing the profession. Furthermore, I want to be a voice for NH nurses. If elected, I plan to represent you, the NH nurse, and vote on behalf of the profession of nursing in NH. Through knowledge and support (from each other) our profession can move mountains.

**SUSAN FETZER, RN, PhD** **Yrs in Practice:** 36 **Field:** Critical Care, Med-Surg, Post Anesthesia Recovery, Educ-Res.

**Position:** Professor - UNH

**Current or Past NHNA Service:** Commission on Continuing Education, Member and Chair; Past VP and President

**Qualifications:** I believe that I am able to accurately articulate a position and provide testimony on nursing issues when called upon in front of the Senate or House Committees. I am also well versed in the past 10 years of legislative issues affecting nursing including multistate licensure, background checks and nurse practice act. I am very interested in promoting the voice of nurses in upcoming issues including medical assistant scope of practice, implementation of nurse staffing committees, legal remedies for violence against nurses and educational preparation for nursing.

**JUDITH JOY, RN, PhD**

**Yrs in Practice:** 38 **Field:** Education, Geriatrics, Palliative Care

**Position:** Assistant Professor, Nursing – Colby Sawyer College

**Current or Past NHNA and related Service:** Current Chairperson Government Affairs Commission, 2nd Term; Board of Directors. In New York State: Past President of District 1, New York State Nurses' Association, Member Legislative Committee, Appointed to NYS Nurses Association Education Commission, Elected Co-Chair.

**Qualifications:** I am deeply involved in the work of the organization and, having attended the last two ANA House of Delegates, am prepared to share our experience with national leaders as well as learn from them. The nursing profession is at a critical juncture, struggling not only with economic pressures threatening the quality of practice, but political opinions threatening licensure itself. It is a time to initiate change rather than be reactive to change forced upon us. We can only hope to have the knowledge and support to take positive action with strong national and state relationships. The House of Delegates is an opportunity for us to refresh those connections and return prepared for a challenging year.

**JANE A. LEONARD, RN BSN, MBA**

**Yrs in Practice:** 38    **Field:** Med-Surg; Academia

**Position:** Adjunct Faculty – St. Anselm College

**Current or Past NHNA and related Service:** Current President Elect; Commission on Organizational and Membership Affairs; recent attendance at ANA Constituent Assembly; formerly on NHONL Legislative Committee

**Qualifications:** My lifelong experience as an RN has afforded me many nursing opportunities. I have practiced as a Critical Care nurse; managed and/or directed various Med-Surg nursing units; managed both licensed and unlicensed staff; consulted in long term care and taught at both the Community College level and in traditional BSN and RN-BSN nursing programs. My vision and goals are in Leadership Development and new-nurse mentoring. I have a personal passion for cultivating aspiring nurse leaders from novice and new grad RNs. I believe the face of nursing is changing within the climate of rapid, influential healthcare delivery system(s). In serving in the capacity of an NHNA delegate, I intend to bring my many years of nursing experience, nursing leadership, and my passion for professional development to a higher level for myself personally, and for all nurses in NH.

**DELEGATION ALTERNATE:**

**CONSTANCE MORRISON, JD, DNP, MBA, ARNP, CNS-PMHNP BC, FAANP**

**Yrs in Practice:** 40

**Position:** Owner – Morrison International Educational Associates, Plymouth, NH

**Past NHNA or related Service:** Previous experience as a legislative delegate; serves on many Boards.

**Qualifications:** Attorney, Nurse Practitioner, Psychotherapist, nursing educator, international lecturer. Full CV at [www.camorrison.com](http://www.camorrison.com)