

**2018-2019 WNA Professional Policy Committee  
Report and Recommendations on Benefits for Specialty Nursing Associations to Join WNA's Organizational  
Affiliate**

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**Report of WNA Professional Policy Committee Town Hall Meetings: Benefits for Specialty Nursing Associations to Join  
WNA's Organizational Affiliate**

The Professional Policy Committee offered two Town Hall conference calls on January 10 and 14, 2019 to provide WNA members information on the three Professional Policy Report and Recommendations based on the input received at the October 26, 2018 Dialogue Forums. This included the *Report and Recommendations on Benefits for Specialty Nursing Associations to Join WNA's Organizational Affiliate*.

#### Report

The materials were presented. Responses were positive. There was no opposition to the recommendations.

#### **The WNA Professional Policy Committee moves for adoption of the following recommendation:**

**Membership as a WNA Organizational Affiliate beyond what is provided for in the WNA Bylaws will include the following benefits:**

1. **Increase professional nurse unity.**
  2. **Two meetings per year with agreed upon white paper development between meetings.**
  3. **Special pricing on conference registration for specific educational or informational offerings.**
  4. **Members access to WNA's official publication, The Wisconsin Nurse.**
  5. **Provide a column/article in each issue of The Wisconsin Nurse. (Content to be provided by the Organizational Affiliate)**
  6. **Access to member-only section of the WNA website related to legislative and regulatory issues.**
  7. **Access to password protected Organizational Affiliate section on the WNA website. (Content to be provided by the Organizational Affiliate)**
  8. **WNA maintain Organizational Affiliate electronic distribution member listing.**
  9. **Explore membership to Wisconsin Student Nurses Association, voice no vote.**
  10. **Explore designating a seat for the Organizational Affiliate representative, voice no vote.**
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#### **Report Summary**

##### Background

ANA and other State Nursing Associations have created a membership structural unit called, **Organizational Affiliate**. **Organizational Affiliates** are specialty nursing organizations that hold organizational-level membership of ANA or the SNA. The goal of the relationship is to increase communication for the purposes of working together, share information and collaborate in finding solutions to issues that face the nursing profession, regardless of specialty. While each organization maintains its autonomy, the nursing profession and the patients we serve benefit from a shared voice that speaks on health care issues from a position of unrivalled experience and expertise. For WNA, we have been the convener of the Wisconsin Nursing Coalition (WNC). The membership and the participation of the WNC continue to decline. The WNC has been meeting to identify if a new relationship model could be developed. At the May 2018 WNA Board of Directors Meeting it was decided to form a Task Force to conduct a feasibility study to determine the benefits of WNA developing an Organizational Affiliate structure. The members of the Task Force were Linda Gobis, WNA President, Beth Markham, WNA Vice President, Pam Macari Sanberg, WNA Treasurer and Wendy Cray, WNA Board Director-at-large.

At the July 20, 2018 meeting, the WNA Board of Directors accepted the report of the Task Force which included the following information:

1. Summary of the structure, bylaws and benefits of ANA Organizational Affiliate membership..
2. Summary of the common elements contained in the seven ANA Constituent/State Nursing Associations Midwest Regional States related to structure, bylaws and member benefits.
3. A draft of proposed changes to the WNA Bylaws that develop an Organizational Affiliate membership structure.
4. Recommend that the proposed bylaw changes be forwarded to the WNA Bylaw Committee to prepare for the WNA Annual Membership Meeting.
5. Recommend that the October 2018 WNA Dialogue Forum include WNA member input regarding the benefits that should be afforded the WNA Organizational Affiliate member.

The WNA Board of Directors accepted the report and approved the recommendations.

### Report of the October 26, 2018 WNA Dialogue Forum

There were 85 participants that attended the October 26, 2018 WNA Dialogue Forum. Fifty-eight (58%) of the participants were undergraduate nursing students. The participants were provided an overview of the purpose and process for developing a **WNA Organizational Affiliate**. Following the presentation the participants were asked that at each table to reviewed and discuss specific questions.

Summary is as follows:

Overview: WNA is interested in supporting and advancing a more unified and visible voice for nursing in Wisconsin. WNA would like to add a new membership category, **WNA Organizational Affiliate**, to its current structure. Other nursing associations in Wisconsin would pay membership dues to belong to the **WNA Organizational Affiliate**.

### Question 1. What benefits should be offered? Please describe benefits and rationale.

The following table provides the suggested membership benefits by priority and supporting information.

Priority 1 = most important	Member benefit	Supporting Information
1	a.) One unified voice for nurses in Wisconsin b.) Cohesive voice of nursing. c.) Unified voice with specialty groups. d.) Mutual sponsorships/support and attention to organization priorities	Identified these member benefits at the October 26, 2018 WNA Dialogue Forum.
2	Reduced membership rate.	WNA is prohibited per ANA policy to offer a reduced membership fee. WNA currently has a ANA/WNA member fee of \$15.00/mo.
3	a.) Open communication b.) Two meetings per year	It is assumed that O.A. members will develop task forces/subcommittees to create white papers in between the twice a year meetings.
4	Continuing education opportunities/discounts	WNA member pricing for select programs, events, and materials
5	Increase WNA membership numbers when seeing what WNA does for WI nurses.	
6	Opportunity for having a voice to present concerns to all association	Regular O.A. updates/reports to the WNA Board

	boards via 1-2 affiliates per O.A.	
7	Dual membership in WNA/ANA	WNA is prohibited per ANA to offer dual organizational membership.
8	a.) Complimentary subscription to <i>The Wisconsin Nurse</i> and b.) Article related to O.A. will be in each issue.	WNA will include article. O.A. is responsible for content.
9	Recognition (Listserv, email, website link) Website access	A. WNA will create a password protected section on the WNA website for the Organizational Affiliate members. B. WNA staff will post O.A. related information/content that is developed by the O.A. members. C. WNA will maintain a Distribution List of the two representatives from each organization. The individual O.A. representative would be responsible for forwarding of any messages to their Specialty Association members. D. Access to WNA Member Only information related to legislative advocacy and lobbying
10	Liaison at WNA board meetings	Is addressed in proposed WNA Bylaw changes
11	Paid travel expenses	Each O.A. is responsible for travel expenses for its representatives.

**Question 2. Other comments**

Comment	Supporting Information
What about offering colleges/private schools at a reduced rate to encourage involvement and student enrollment?	There will be representation. All of the Deans and Directors of the WI Schools of Nursing belong to the Administrators in Nursing Education in Wisconsin Association (ANEW).
What are the mutual benefits to WNA and the Organizational Affiliate member?	Benefits to WNA and the O.A.: A. WNA will include the members of the OA as part of WNA's total membership. This supports professional nursing's voice in the legislature and other policy related settings. B. Both WNA and O.A. membership increases as purpose, goals and activities will become more visible. C. WNA-related administrative work for the O.A. will be covered through O.A. membership fees. D. Support for WNA and O.A. legislative advocacy. This may include lobbyist time with an additional paid lobbying fee for those issues on which the two organizations share platform priorities.
Can there be representation that is not on the board?	WNA can reach out to the O.A. members that have the expertise needed to support responses to issues or creating policies. Could a seat be provided for an O.A. member representative on the WNA Board of Directors?

<p>Include nursing programs as OAs to involve and promote to nursing students</p>	<p>These are not established specialty nursing associations. Could a seat be provided for two representatives from the Wisconsin Student Nurses Association?</p>
<p>How does this structure differ from the Wisconsin Nursing Coalition (WNC)?</p>	<p>WNA and some of the specialty nursing associations have a 35+ year experience of WNC membership. WNA has been the administrator and convener of the WNC. This would replace WNC by establishing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A clear and measurable purpose, goals and outcomes.</li> <li>2. A membership fee structure.</li> <li>3. WNA provides the infrastructure.</li> <li>4. Meetings called by the WNA President with collaboration on the agenda.</li> </ol>

**Question 3. Please list any Wisconsin Nursing Associations that you think WNA should contact.**

Response: There were 41 nursing-related associations identified.

**Professional Policy Committee Recommendations for Town Hall Discussion:**

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3. Special pricing on conference registration for specific educational or informational offerings.
4. Members access to WNA's official publication, *The Wisconsin Nurse*.
5. Provide a column/article in each issue of *The Wisconsin Nurse*. (Content to be provided by the Organizational Affiliate)
6. Access to member-only section of the WNA website related to legislative and regulatory issues.
7. Access to password protected Organizational Affiliate section on the WNA website. (Content to be provided by the Organizational Affiliate)
8. WNA maintain Organizational Affiliate electronic distribution member listing.
9. Explore membership to Wisconsin Student Nurses Association, voice no vote.
10. Explore designating a seat for the Organizational Affiliate representative, voice no vote.