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1. **POLICY PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the overall North Carolina Emergency Nurses Association (NCENA) awards process.

1. **POLICY BACKGROUND:**

NCENA awards are intended to promote member and community leader engagement and contribution to the successful implementation of the NCENA Strategic Plan. NCENA values its members and community leaders and believes they should be recognized for their hard work, volunteerism and contributions to the emergency nursing practice.

1. **PROTOCOL:**
   1. The NCENA Awards committee will be appointed in by the NCENA President and approved by the NCENA Board of Directors annually.
   2. The NCENA Awards Committee will actively solicit qualified applicants annually for the following NCENA awards:
      * 1. **Lifetime Achievement Award:** This award honors a nurse whose career achievements reflect dedicated service, accomplishments and/or contributions to emergency nursing that have value to emergency nursing beyond the recipient’s lifetime.
        2. **Nursing Practice and Professionalism Award:** Recognizes a nurse who exemplifies outstanding nursing practice as demonstrated through clinical skills, care, and compassion. This nurse is recognized by their peers as an expert in emergency nursing and consistently exhibits traits associated with professional behavior and commitment to professional values. This individual may demonstrate outstanding commitment to a specialty population such as pediatrics or older adults within the specialty of emergency nursing.
        3. **Nurse Manager Award:** Recognizes a nurse in an emergency nursing management role who has consistently demonstrated excellence in the profession of emergency nursing and has made significant contributions to the profession.
        4. **Pediatric Readiness Award:** Recognizes a nurse who has demonstrated outstanding efforts to improve readiness in caring for children in the emergency care setting.
        5. **Behind the Scenes Award:** Recognizes an NCENA member who has made significant contributions, behind the scenes, to promote NCENA’s mission of advocating for patient safety and excellence in emergency nursing practice through their support of ENA member(s); acts as an NCENA advocate who is often seen, but not heard and who donates countless hours to assist ENA member(s) in achieving state or chapter goals.
        6. **Rising Star Award:** This award recognizes a new NCENA member (member less than five years) who has made a significant contribution to NCENA as exhibited by the promotion of ENA as the professional organization for emergency nurses at the state and chapter level.
   3. The NCENA President may choose to give one or multiple President’s Awards:
      * 1. **President’s Award:** This award will not have a specific criteria or nomination process, but it intended to recognize individuals who have contributed to the overall success of the NCENA during the President’s term. This award is given solely at the discretion of the President.
   4. The NCENA Awards Committee will review the application and award criteria for each award annually and make recommendations for edits to the NCENA Board of Directors prior to the award solicitation period. The NCENA Board of Directors will approve the final application and award criteria each year.
   5. The NCENA Awards Committee will establish procedures to review each application/nomination package thoroughly and fairly. After all packages are review, the committee will submit the recommended slate of awards to the NCENA Board of Directors for approval.
   6. With the exception of the President’s Award, award recipients may not receive the same award more than once.
   7. With the exception of the President’s Award, current NCENA Board members are not eligible for NCENA state awards.
   8. Approved awardees will be notified by the NCENA President or their designee, such as the NCENA Awards Committee Chair.
   9. The NCENA Awards Committee will purchase the physical awards and plan an appropriate awards ceremony to recognize the achievements of the awards within the confines of the NCENA annual budget.
   10. The NCENA Awards Committee is responsible for promoting and advocating for applications/nominations for the national ENA awards. Applications/nominations received by the committee for NCENA awards may be submitted on the member’s behalf for an ENA award at the discretion of the committee.