

Jennifer Mascagni Manale, RN, BS, CNOR

Candidate for President Elect



Jennifer is currently serving on the Baton Rouge District Nurses Association Board in the Board Position – Professional Practice. She has been a registered nurse since 1988 and has specialized in the perioperative area. Throughout her career, she has served in a variety of leadership roles, including charge nurse, team leader, Unit Manager of the OR/Emergency Department, and Director of Perioperative Services. She is in her current position as Vice President and System Chief Nursing Officer at Baton Rouge General Medical Center.

Jennifer works collaboratively with the nurse executive team to assess patient care needs and implement evidence-based strategies aligned with federal and state guidelines, consistently driving quality and compliance. She specializes in supervising nurses and nursing leadership to ensure the highest standards of patient care are met. She

possesses excellent interpersonal and communication skills, which facilitate effective collaboration across multidisciplinary teams and foster a culture of excellence. As a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, Jennifer has led multiple process improvement projects, including initiatives to streamline perioperative workflows. Her commitment to continuous improvement and operational efficiency underscores her effectiveness as a healthcare leader

Sheralyn Long, MHI, BSN, RN-BC

Candidate for Corresponding Secretary



Sheralyn has demonstrated leadership through various board positions with the Baton Rouge District Nurses Association, the American Nursing Informatics Association (ANIA), and as a member of the Health Policy Committee for the Louisiana State Nurses Association

With 19 years of experience in nursing, I have built a robust career combining clinical expertise in psychiatric nursing with a strong foundation in nursing informatics. I am passionate about integrating technology with patient care to enhance clinical outcomes and streamline healthcare delivery. In addition to direct care, these roles have allowed me to advocate for nursing practice, policy, and the critical intersection of healthcare technology. As a lifelong learner and

innovator, I remain dedicated to shaping the future of healthcare improving nursing systems, and enhancing patient care through data-driven solutions and advocacy.

LaTeka Johnson DNP, RN, WCC

Candidate for Board Member – Membership



LaTeka Johnson is a dedicated nurse leader whose career reflects a steadfast commitment to advancing the nursing profession. With nearly two decades of progressive experience in acute and post-acute care, she is a strategic nurse leader and champion for professional excellence, committed to advancing the voice, growth, and impact of nurses across the care continuum. Beginning her career as a Certified Nursing Assistant, she has progressed through multiple levels of practice and leadership. She currently serves as Director of Nursing at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. LaTeka also serves as an adjunct clinical instructor at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University (FranU), where she mentors students and supports their transition into professional practice. Her commitment to nursing workforce sustainability is reinforced through her work on the Louisiana State Nurses Association Workforce Nursing Effectiveness

Initiative and her involvement as a member of multiple nursing program advisory councils.

Recognized as a 2024 LSNA “40 Under 40” Nurse Leader, LaTeka is known for her collaborative leadership style, her ability to bring people together to solve complex challenges, and her passion for elevating the nursing profession. She recently completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, further strengthening her capacity to influence systems, shape policy, and serve as a voice for nurses at the local and state levels. LaTeka brings experience, purpose, and a deep commitment to advancing nursing practice.

Renita Williams Thomas MSN-ED, RN

Candidate for Board Member - Membership



Renita is the Founder of In Loving Arms Pediatric Day Health Center (a daycare for medically fragile children). She has served as a Clinical Adjunct Instructor at Southern University School of Nursing, Program Manager at Early Childhood Supports and Services (Infant Mental Health), Early Phase Infrastructure Development Manager at Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, and Director of Health Services at the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired. Early Phase Infrastructure Development Manager

She has won numerous local and regional awards and has served in various capacities, including membership, committee, and board positions. Renita was the Past Vice President of Jack and Jill of America (Baton Rouge Chapter), 2022 Influential Women in Business honoree, Baton Rouge Business Report's

1997 40 under 40, Baton Rouge Community College Board of Directors, State Board of Directors for CASA, foster mother (respite care), and many others. She was most recently honored at the 2024 Essence Festival's Nurse Power Network as a *Lifetime Achievement Award* recipient.

Chenikica “Niki” Morrison, MSN, RN

Candidate Board Member - Professional Practice

Chenikica Martin, MSN, Instructor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences



Nikki has 17 years nursing experience. She is currently employed as faculty for Southeastern Louisiana State University School of Nursing. She is responsible for facilitating *Clinical Practice Competency Labs*, where she guides nursing students in translating theoretical knowledge into practical, hands-on skills. These labs are designed to build foundational clinical competencies in a controlled and supportive environment. Additionally, Niki supervises and mentors’ students in live clinical settings, where they are introduced to direct patient care. Her focus is on ensuring students provide care that is safe, therapeutic, and aligned with professional standards, while also fostering critical thinking

Mrs. Morrison holds a Master of Science in Nursing from Chamberlain University (October 2024) and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Southeastern Louisiana University (December 2008).

She is a member of AWHONN and is also involved with her church St Francis Xavier Parish School of Religion.

Michele Robins Nelson, DNP, FNP-C

Candidate for Board Member - Professional Practice



Michele has over twenty-five years of wide-ranging nursing experience from practitioner, nursing staff, coordinator, management, and adjunct faculty to name a few. Michelle earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Role and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Southern University Agricultural and Mechanical College with a focus on “Information Technology and Social Media among Nurse Practitioner Students in Accessing Health Care information: Impact on Patient Safety and Quality Health Care.” She is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner. Michele completed training with the Governor’s Office Train the Trainer Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness in 2022. Her expertise has been in Family Practice, Trauma Surgery Services and she is

currently with General Surgery Services with the Surgeons Group of Baton Rouge. She serves in a leadership role with Surgeons Group facilitating patient care across the continuum. She also works with the Graduate Medical Education Division spearheading providers education and patient continuity of care. She enjoys public speaking, including legislative health policy issues. Michele was nominated for the Nightingale Award APRN of the Year 2017 by the Louisiana State Nurses Association. She was awarded Nurse Excellence with Baton Rouge District Nurses Association May 2023. In addition, she was nominated as one of the Great 100 Nurses of Louisiana June 2023 and honored in 2024.

She is a member of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners. In addition, Michele serves as the chair of Human Trafficking for Our Lady of the Lake Health Systems Baton Rouge Region. She has served on the subcommittee for the Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Advisory Board with the Governor's Office of Human Trafficking from 2022 thru 2025, the Board for LA CaTS with Pennington Biomedical Research Center as chair 2024 and co-chair 2025. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and participates in several community outreach programs. Furthermore, she is a sustaining member with the Junior League of Greater Baton Rouge.

Weona Bell, PhD, RN

Candidate for Nominating Committee



Weona has over 26 years of nursing experience, including 16 years in academia at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University (FranU) where she taught in the School of Nursing for 14 years. She currently serves as Director of Simulated Clinical Education at FranU, supporting ten clinical programs and leads FranU to become Louisiana's first university designated as a Heart Safe Campus. She has and continues clinical practice in cardiac and vascular critical care at Our Lady of the Lake RMC and is a certified BLS and ACLS instructor. Dr. Bell holds a BSN and an MSN from Southern University with thesis research on preoperative anxiety in cardiac surgery patients, and she holds a PhD in Nursing Education and Administration from William Carey University, where her dissertation focused on leadership

support and its influence on nurse educator job satisfaction and retention. She is an active member of ANA and has served multiple terms on the BRDNA board as Secretary, Publicity Chair, and Nominating Chair. She also serves as Treasurer of Club Outreach Walker, a nonprofit supporting underserved communities

Patti Jackson,

Candidate for Nominating Committee



Patti is the Lead Behavioral Health Clinical Appeals Coordinator with Louisiana Healthcare Connections. She has responsibility for training, assigning, researching, and reviewing clinical appeals and coordinating outcomes with Medical Directors and Psychologist Reviewers. In this role it is important to have organizational and time management skills, leadership skills and customer service skills with teammates, providers, and members.

Ms. Jackson has been a registered nurse for fifty years with experience in managed care, care management, mental health, emergency medicine, orthopedic and medicine nursing. Ms. Jackson received her diploma in nursing from Our Lady of the Lake School of Nursing and her Bachelors of Science and Masters of Nursing from Chamberlain University.

One of her passions is quality care which led to becoming a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality. Memberships in professional organizations include the

National Association of Healthcare Quality, American Nurses Association, Louisiana State Nurses Association, and Baton Rouge District Nurses Association. Patti served two terms as Treasurer of the Baton Rouge District Nurses Association, currently serving on the Awards Committee for the Louisiana State Nurses Association and is a member of the Louisiana Nurse Honor Guard.

Keondria Drummer, BSN, RN, CCRN

Candidate for Nominating Committee



Keondria is Graduate from Southern University A&M College. She has been a nurse for nine years. She began her nursing career in critical care and continues to practice as a critical care nurse. Keondria is currently employed at LCMC Health. She is passionate about mentoring new nurses and getting them involved with programs that can serve as a resource for their career. She is a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, American Nurses Association, LA State Nurses Association and Baton Rouge District Nurses Association.

Kayla Rogers, BSN, RN-BC

Candidate for Nominating Committee



Kayla is a dedicated Director of Nursing with 16 years of experience at Ochsner Health System. She earned her BSN from Southeastern Louisiana University in 2009 and holds a Med/Surg Certification, along with a Green Belt in Lean Six Sigma.

Kayla has been recognized as one of LSNA's 40 Under 40 in 2024 and named a Great 100 Nurse in Louisiana for her commitment to excellence in patient care and nursing leadership. She is passionate about empowering clinical teams, improving outcomes, and driving innovation in healthcare. She is a member of the Pilot Club of Denham Springs, Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce, American Organization for Nursing Leadership, LA Organization for Nursing Leaders, American Nurses Association, LA State Nurses Association, and Baton Rouge District Nurses Association.

Kayla is also interested in serving on the BRDNA Committee to help highlight and support outstanding nursing professionals across the Baton Rouge region.