

Letter from the WIACNS President

January 2026



Dear Wisconsin, Clinical Nurse Specialists:

Let me introduce myself – my name is **Joe Liggett**, and I am extremely excited to be your **2026 WIACNS President**.

My presidential theme is “**Stronger Together**”. I chose this theme because I believe there is incredible power in unity. According to the Wisconsin Center of Nursing (2022), there are 397 CNSs across the state of Wisconsin. When we all come together as CNSs, we amplify our impact, strengthen our voice, and achieve meaningful progress—not only for our profession but for the patients we serve. Together, we are capable of achieving more than any one of us could accomplish alone.

Let Us Connect

I want to hear from you! Your insights, ideas, and feedback are invaluable.

- What is working well?
- What could we be doing differently?
- What would you like to see from WIACNS?

Please feel free to reach out to me directly at joeliggett220@gmail.com.

Are You a Current WIACNS member?

WIACNS members need to renew annually. If you are not a current member, it is free and easy to renew at: [Membership / Join Now! | The Wisconsin Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists | Nursing Network](#)

Staying Informed

Visit our updated website for updates, resources, and meeting links at <https://wiacns.nursingnetwork.com/>

Stay Connected



2026 WIACNS Board

Joe Liggett
President

Allison Wier
President-Elect

Matthew Beier
Past President

Melisa Babin
Secretary

Kristina Strupp
Treasurer

WIACNS Bylaw Revision

This year, we will be revising the **WIACNS Bylaws** – and we need your input! Stay tuned as more information will be sent out.

ACT 17 and APRN-CNS

This is an exciting time for Wisconsin CNSs. With the signing of ACT 17 by Governor Evers in August last year, there is a lot of work by the Board of Nursing (BON), WNA and the APRN organizations (Maryann Moon is representing WIACNS) to put into place new rules that support title protection and full practice authority for APRNs. These are to go into effect September 1, 2026. More updates to follow.



2026 General Meetings

There are four General Meetings in 2026 – two in person and two virtually.

- **February 11, 2026** – Virtual
- **April 24, 2026** – In-person (after the CNO/CNS/Collaboration Breakfast)
- **September 2026** – TBD In-person (during the Annual Conference)
- **November 11, 2026** – Virtual

Meeting links and details will be available on the WIACNS website.

WIACNS Events

We're proud to support and participate in several professional events throughout the year:

- WNA Nurses Day at the Capital (February 24, 2026) – WIACNS is a Bronze Sponsor
- Annual Building Bridges Conference (April 17, 2026)
- WIACNS CNO/CNS/Collaboration Breakfast (April 24, 2026)
- WIACNS Annual Conference (September 2026, TBD)
- November General Meeting (November 11, 2026) – has an educational offering.

Getting Involved: WIACNS Committees

*** We are looking for someone to chair the **Scholarship Committee** ***

Are you interested in joining a WIACNS committee? There are many opportunities.

- **WIACNS Annual Conference** – Chair: **Anne Putzer**
- **CNS/CNO/Nursing Breakfast** – Chair: **Allison Wier**
- **Legislation/Regulation** – Chair: **MaryAnn Moon**
- **CNS Visibility/Next Gen** – Chair: **Joe Beiler**
- **Scholarship Committee** – Chair: **Vacant**
- **Website/Social Media** – Rep: **Samantha Gall**
- **Student Representative** – **Adedoyin "Doyin" Adewale**

Reach out to the committee chair or contact me to get connected.

NACNS Annual Conference

This is a fantastic conference and an opportunity to connect with CNS colleagues nationwide.

- **Monday March 9 – Thursday March 12 in San Diego, CA.**

If you plan to attend, let me know so we can coordinate a WIACNS meet-up.

Do You Have Your NPI Number?

The **National Provider Identifier (NPI)** number is a unique number only available to qualified healthcare providers (i.e., CNSs).

- It is essential for CNS recognition at the federal level.
- It is *free* and *easy* to obtain at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>.



Are You a Member of the NACNS?

Consider joining to stay informed and engaged.

- [Become a Member | NACNS :: National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists](#).

Are You on a NACNS Committee?

If you are serving on a national committee, please let me know so we can recognize your contributions.

Applying to Become a CNSI Fellow

Are you credentialed as a CNS who has significant past/current contributions as a CNS?

- Consider applying to become a Clinical Nurse Specialist Institute (CNSI) Fellow.
- There are mentors available to help you in the application process.
- The application is from June until September 30, but you can start planning now.
- Apply at [Fellow Program | NACNS :: National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists](#).

Best regards,

Joe Liggett
2026 WIACNS President
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