



General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Hybrid (In-Person & Zoom)

Presiding: Catina Gordon-Oates, President

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order following brief technical difficulties. Members were welcomed to the first General Membership Meeting of 2026. A quorum was confirmed.

NODNA General Membership Meeting

2. Welcome & Mission Review

President Gordon-Oates welcomed attendees and reviewed NODNA's mission: to support and advocate for nurses through education, health policy, leadership, and the advancement of healthcare for all people. She highlighted the return to in-person meetings and encouraged member engagement and committee participation.

3. Executive Board Introductions

The following officers and directors were introduced:

- President: Catina Gordon-Oates
- Vice President: Mimi Gary
- Secretary: Monique Cornish
- Treasurer: Chantel Moffitt
- Immediate Past President: Dr. Berry
- Director of Membership Recruitment & Retention: Akeisha Allen
- Director of Events: Cherrette Thomas
- Director of Organizational Advancement: Reynecia Ricks
- Open Position: Director of Communications

4. Guest Speaker

Speaker: Sonya Norsworthy Marbley

Topic: *The Human Engine: Why Empathy Is the Core of Equity*

Ms. Marbley delivered a presentation on empathy, equity, bias, and their impact on patient outcomes and nursing practice. Key points included:

- Distinction between equality and equity
 - The role of empathy in reducing readmissions and improving trust
 - The “3-second pause” as a tool for mitigating bias and improving care
 - A case study demonstrating improved outcomes through addressing social determinants of health
- A QR code with resources and objectives was shared.

5. General Membership Business

a. 2026 Operating Calendar

The 2026 calendar is available on the NODNA Nursing Network website. Members were invited to submit community events (e.g., wellness walks, Black Maternal Health Science event on April 18) for inclusion.

b. Open Positions & Committees

Open roles include:

- Director of Communications
 - Committee opportunities: Awards & Scholarships, Nominating, Research
- Members were encouraged to volunteer.

c. Pelican News

No January submission was made. Members were encouraged to submit achievements, photos, and events for future editions to highlight NODNA activities and member accomplishments.

1-16-26 Update – January submission of Pelican news was sent by President to LSNA after deadline extended

d. Research & Program Updates

Reynecia Ricks announced:

- 2026 Research Grant Applications are open through March 31.
- No applications received yet; members were encouraged to share with students, faculty, and clinicians.

- A Google Form will be launched to streamline applications and committee interest.

e. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer – Chantel Moffett gave an update on the organizations fiscal status highlighting current balance in checking and savings accounts with Excellence Brunch expenses (occurring 5-9-26) as headwinds.

f. Membership Report

Vice President Mimi Gary reported:

- 453 active members
- 10 new members
- 9 grace-period members
- 31 members expiring within 30 days

Member engagement survey indicated preference for evening meetings and interest in rotating in-person locations.

g. Communications Report

- President – Catina Gordon-Oates discussed 2026 Excellence Brunch planning and other Key dates in 2026 as well as opened the floor for discussion around future fundraising and engagement initiatives. The group had a robust discussion with several ideas pushed forward. Executive board to review ideas generated and decide which are appropriate for implementation.

6. Future Meetings

Meetings will continue on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM, with plans to rotate in-person locations across healthcare organizations in the region.

7. Adjournment

The meeting concluded with appreciation expressed to the guest speaker and members.