

Letter from the WIACNS President Midterm - June 2026



Dear Wisconsin, Clinical Nurse Specialists:

As summer is in full gear, I hope you are taking some time to recharge. With being half-way through the calendar year, I wanted to update you on what has been happening with WIACNS and Wisconsin CNSs.

Stronger Together, we are capable of achieving more than any one of us could accomplish alone. We amplify our impact, strengthen our voice, and achieve meaningful progress—not only for our profession but for the patients we serve.

2026 is WIACNS 20TH year as an affiliate of NACNS. Join us in celebrating this milestone at our annual conference on September 25, 2026.



Lets Connect

Let us know what is working well, what we could be doing differently, or what you would like to see from WIACNS. Your insights, ideas, and feedback are invaluable. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at joeliggett220@gmail.com.

Your 2026 WIACNS Board

Joe Liggett
President

Allison Wier
President-Elect

Matthew Beier
Past President

Melisa Babin
Secretary

Kristina Strupp
Treasurer

There will be two positions opening up for 2027: the *President-Elect* and *Secretary*. Stay tuned for nominations this fall.

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 and resources at <https://wiacns.nursingnetwork.com/>

Stay Connected

You likely have seen an increase in social media posts this year, to communicate with our members.



CNS Students

Congratulations to *Jennifer Mutz* and *Emily Vanstone*, both who are recipients of a WIACNS CNS Student Academic Scholarship.

Thank you to Adedoyin “Doyin” Adewale who served as the WIACNS Student Representative this past year and who graduated in May - good luck.

Congratulations to *Anita Bennett*, who has been selected as the WIACNS Student Representative.

WIACNS Meetings and Events

There are four General Meetings in 2026 – two in person and two virtually. The remaining dates are:

- **September 25, 2026:** WIACNS Annual Conference at Waukesha County Technical College
 - Theme: Amplify Influence – Accelerate Outcomes
 - Keynote speaker: Jackeline Iseler, NACNS President
- **November 11, 2026:** General Meeting (virtual) - has an educational offering

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

ACT 17 and APRN-CNS

A lot of work has been done by the Wisconsin Board of Nursing, Wisconsin Nurses Association and the four APRN organizations (Maryann Moon is representing WIACNS) to place new rules for Act 17. These will support title protection and full practice authority for all APRNs in Wisconsin. These changes will go into effect September 1, 2026.

- Current Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers (APNPs) will be changed to APRNs on September 1.
- CNSs will be licensed as “APRN-CNS”.
- The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services will still accept APNP applications prior to August 1, 2026. If the application is approved prior to August 31, 2026, the credential will automatically convert to an APRN on September 1, 2026.

Visit the WIACNS webpage devoted to this work <https://wiacns.nursingnetwork.com/>.



WIACNS Bylaw Revision

We have been revising the WIACNS Bylaws, with the first comment period February 2026. In July, voting members will be able to review a draft of the revised WIACNS Bylaws for a second comment period. A final draft will be sent out and a vote of approval in September 2026. Stay tuned as more information will be sent out.

Getting Involved: WIACNS Committees

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: **Matthew Beier (2027)**
- **Website/Social Media** – Rep: **Samantha Gall**
- **Student Representative** – **Anita Bennett**

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

Get 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>.

NACNS Annual Conference

This year’s annual conference was held March 9-12, in San Diego, CA. There were over 700 people in attendance, with Wisconsin being well represented. Congratulations to the following for their contribution:

2026 **CNSI Fellow** inductee

- **Matthew Beier**, MS, RN, CNS-BC, APNP, CNOR, FCNS

NACNS Conference 2026 **CNE Panel**

- **MaryAnn Moon**, MSN, APRN, APNP, ACNS-AG

NACNS Conference 2026 **Podium Presentation**

- **Jeri Smith**, MSN, RN, ACNS-NC, ANP
- **Nicole Jandron**, MSN, RN, NPD-BC
- **Carrie Bennett**, DNP, RN, APNP, GCNS-BC
- **Di Wu**, MSN, RN, APNP, AGCNS-BC, CMSRN
- **Juliet Mock**, MS, RN, ACNS-BC
- **Alyson León**, MSN, RN, AGCNS-BC
- **Joseph Liggett**, MSN, RN, APNP, ACCNS-AG, CCRN, FCNS

NACNS Conference 2026 **Poster Presentation**

- **Samantha Gall**, MSN, RN, APNP, AGCNS-BC, CCRN-CMC
- **Katherine Walczak**, DNP, RN, APNP, AGCNS-BC, CMSRN, OCN
- **Keri Olson**, MSN, RN, AGCNS
- **Darcy Dwyer**, DNP, RN, APNP, ACNS-BC
- **Jennifer Welter**, MSN, RN, APNP, AGCNS-BC

Are You a Member of the NACNS?

Consider joining to stay informed and engaged.

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

Become a CNSI Fellow

Are you credentialed as a CNS who have 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.
- CNSI Fellow applications are accepted until September 30.

→ Apply at [Fellow Program | NACNS :: National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists](#).



Best regards,

Joe Liggett
2026 WIACNS President
joeliggett220@gmail.com