

Dear VONL Members,



I'm excited to welcome you to the inaugural issue of the Virginia Organization for Nurse Leaders Newsletter! This newsletter will serve as a regular touchpoint to share updates on our strategic initiatives, highlight the incredible work of our members across the state, and spotlight opportunities for leadership development, advocacy, and collaboration. Our goal is to ensure you feel informed, supported, and empowered in your leadership journey.

In this first issue, you'll find a brief introduction to our VONL committees — the heart of much of our organization's work — along with a spotlight on the dynamic keynote speaker from our most recent conference. It's a small preview of the meaningful content we plan to share with you regularly moving forward.

As nurse leaders, we are navigating complex challenges and leading transformational change across healthcare. This platform will allow us to celebrate our collective impact, elevate important voices, and stay united in our mission to advance nursing leadership throughout the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence and to each other. I'm excited about what lies ahead and look forward to growing stronger together.

With gratitude and in partnership,

Amber Egyud DNP, RN NE-BC FAONL  
Virginia Organization for Nurse Leaders  
President





# Meet your 2025 VONL Board Members

**VONL President :**

**Amber Egyud, DNP, RN, NE-BC**

**Chief Nursing Officer/Chief**

**Operating Officer**

**Chesapeake Regional**

**Healthcare**

**Executive Committee**

**VONL President Elect :**

**Sonia Cooper**

**MSN, RN, NEA-BC**

**VP and Chief Nursing Officer**

**Southeast Market, Sentara VA**

**Beach General Hospital**

**Co-Chair Finance Committee**

**VONL Secretary:**

**Stacey Vaught**

**MBA, MSN, RN, NEA-BC**

**Hospital President**

**Centra Bedford Memorial**

**Hospital**

**Legislative Committee**



**VONL Treasurer:  
Vacant**



**VONL Executive Director:  
Kristie Burnette  
MSN, RN, CPPS, CPHQ  
Sr. Director of Quality and  
Patient Safety  
Virginia Hospital & Healthcare  
Association (VHHA)**



**At-Large Board Member:  
Tara Talbert  
MSN, RN, NEA-BC  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Spotsylvania Hospital  
Legislative and Policy  
Committee**



**At-Large Board Member :  
Joyce Yearout  
BSN, MBA  
Chief Nurse Executive  
Catawba Hospital DBHDS  
Membership Committee**



**At-Large Board Member:  
Theresa Trivette  
DNP, RN, CENP  
System Chief Nurse  
Executive  
Valley Health  
Fall Program Committee  
2024**



**At-Large Board Member:  
Jeannine Simon  
DNP, RN, CCRN, NE-BC  
Associate Chief Nursing Officer  
Chesapeake Regional Medical  
Center  
Scholarship & Nominating  
Spring Program 2025**



**At-Large Board Member:**  
**Barbara Seymour, DNP, RN, NE-BC**  
**AVP Member Networks**  
**Vizient**



**At-Large Board Member:**  
**Tonja Thigpen**  
**DHA, MSN, NEA-BC, CCRN, LSSGB**  
**Senior VP & Chief Nursing Officer**  
**Mary Washington Healthcare**  
**Social Media Committee**



**At-Large Board Member:**  
**Carrie White**  
**DNP, RN, CAPA, NEA-BC**  
**Chief Nursing Officer**  
**Centra Bedford Memorial**  
**Hospital**  
**Fall Program 2025**



**At-Large Board Member:**  
**Joanne Williams-Reed**  
**DNP, RN-BC, CNS**  
**Director of Professional Practice,**  
**Education, Diabetes, & Wound**  
**Care Service**  
**Sentara Norfolk General Hospital**  
**Scholarship & Nominating**

# VONL 2025 Spring Nurse Leader Workshop

## **“Fostering A Culture Of Trust In Nursing”** **Dennis McIntee**

“Dennis was engaging  
and gave thought  
provoking commentary  
that is applicable to  
leaders.”

“It was the best  
conference I have  
been to in a long  
time”



“This was such  
good material it  
could be a  
series”

“Great speaker!”

## **104 attendees at the 2025 Spring Nurse Leader Workshop**

# **Virginia Organization for Nurse Leaders Committees**

## **Committee Highlights: Strengthening the Backbone of VONL**

**At VONL, our standing committees play a vital role in advancing our mission and supporting the nursing profession. Here's a closer look at the dedicated teams behind the scenes and what they're working on:**

**Governance & Bylaws Committee**

**Legislative & Policy Committee**

**Membership Committee**

**Programs Committee**

**Social Networking & Communications Committee**

## **Governance & Bylaws Committee**

**Sponsor: Past President**

This committee ensures VONL remains aligned with best governance practices.

### **Key Initiatives:**

Reviewing and updating VONL's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws  
Maintaining our conflict-of-interest policy  
Reporting regularly to the Board and Executive Committee



## **Membership Committee**

**Sponsor: At-Large Board Member**

Focused on the heartbeat of our organization—our members—this committee manages recruitment and retention.

### **Key Initiatives:**

Overseeing the application and membership status process  
Building our membership through outreach and integration  
Supporting new members and helping them get involved  
Recommending ways to grow and strengthen the VONL community



## **Programs Committee**

**Sponsor: At-Large Board Member**

Responsible for delivering quality educational opportunities to our members throughout the year.

### **Key Initiatives:**

Planning Fall and Spring conferences, webinars, and events  
Coordinating logistics, speakers, and venues  
Developing and updating the VONL event playbook for consistent execution

## **Legislative & Policy Committee**

**Sponsor:** At-Large Board Member

Advocating for the nursing profession at both state and federal levels.

### **Key Initiatives:**

- Developing VONL's annual legislative agenda
- Partnering with VHHA and other stakeholders
- Reviewing policies and recommending positions to the Board
- Engaging members in advocacy events and policy discussions
- Promoting research and policy best practices that support nurse leadership



## **Social Networking & Communications Committee**

**Sponsor:** At-Large Board Member

Spreading the word about VONL's impact and opportunities.

### **Key Initiatives:**

- Promoting VONL events, scholarships, and initiatives
- Enhancing VONL's presence on social media and in the community
- Supporting our strategic plan through clear and consistent messaging
- Recommending communication updates (with Board approval)



**Want to get involved?**

**Each committee welcomes the passion and expertise of our members. Reach out to learn more about how you can contribute to the future of VONL! Email [VONLstaff@gmail.com](mailto:VONLstaff@gmail.com) to learn more or join a committee**

Looking for an opportunity to showcase innovative projects, research, or best practices that advance nursing leadership and practice? VONL has opportunities to submit poster abstracts.

Details on submission deadlines, guidelines, and themes will be announced through email and our website. Stay tuned and start preparing your ideas!



VONL will soon be accepting nominations for 2026 officer and At-Large Board Member positions. This is your chance to help shape the future of VONL by nominating a qualified leader—or yourself—to serve.

