

Spring forward with KCNA

Gala★26

A CELEBRATION OF NURSING

KCNA Annual Gala

Thursday, May 14, 2026

5:30–8:30 PM

Cedarbrook Lodge

18525 36th Avenue South, Seattle 98188

Cost and registration:

\$75 KCNA members, \$90 nonmembers, \$45 students

Use code **EARLYGALA** by April 4 to get **\$10 off your ticket.**

Link to register: kcnurses.org

Registration deadline: May 1, 2026

Join us this May, during National Nurses Month, for a special evening honoring local nurses and the future of nursing at the KCNA 123rd Annual Gala. This year, we are excited to welcome you to Cedarbrook Lodge, a peaceful venue

with lush gardens and koi ponds, tucked away near SeaTac Airport.

Guests will enjoy a delicious

buffet featuring fresh, locally inspired dishes with options for all dietary needs, including vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free selections. From savory salads and Pacific Northwest salmon to tender beef and chef-selected desserts, there's something to satisfy every palate.

The evening will also celebrate our 2026 scholarship recipients. KCNA will award 18 scholarships of \$4,500 each, and guests will hear about the recipients' journeys into nursing and how they plan to shape the future of the profession. Our Shining Star Nurse Awardees will be honored as well, recognizing nurses nominated by their peers for outstanding dedication, leadership,



and excellence in practice.

You'll have the opportunity to support our scholarship fund by participating in an exciting auction featuring exclusive items, experiences, dining vouchers, and getaways. Whether you bid, donate, or simply attend to celebrate, your participation helps strengthen the future of nursing.

STAYING OVERNIGHT AT CEDARBROOK LODGE? Use promo code **FLOWERS26** at checkout with Cedarbrook for a discount (starting April 14, 2026). Restrictions apply.

CAN'T MAKE THE GALA? Consider donating to our scholarship fund at kcnurses.org!

Growing together: A celebration of nurses

As we move into spring, I reflect on the dedication and hard work of all my nurse colleagues as we advocate for ourselves, our patients, and our profession. For me, nursing has always been more than a job; it's who I am. Despite all the challenges we are facing, I know that we will thrive. Remember that KCNA is here to help you build a community. Spring is our time to celebrate. I encourage you to stop and smell the flowers, to celebrate, and to recognize how amazing you are as nurses!



Nancy Wilder, RN, BA

Annual Gala

National Nurses Month is in May; consider this your special invitation to the **KCNA Annual Gala 2026**, the evening of **Thursday, May 14, 2026**. You deserve to take a night off and be in the company of friends. Let's have some fun!

This year, join us at a new location: Cedarbrook Lodge, an oasis of gardens, koi ponds, and natural views, tucked away just minutes from SeaTac Airport. Enjoy an elegant buffet dinner, take part in our live auction, and be inspired as we introduce our scholarship recipients and honor our Shining Star Award winners. Register at kcnurses.org. Early bird pricing is available. **Register by April 4 using the promo code: EARLYGALA.**

During this time set aside to celebrate, I hope you will recognize a team member you think is doing amazing work by nominating them

for a **KCNA Shining Star Nurse Award**. Enter your nominee at kcnurses.org under the Members tab, and join us at the Annual Gala to celebrate the service, leadership, and caring of nurses, including you!

KCNA elections

It's time to vote! Be sure to vote in the KCNA election by **April 1, 2026**. If you have an email registered with WSNA, you will receive an email through SurveyMonkey with the ballot. Alternatively, you can use the QR code or the weblink listed in this publication. Review candidate biographies in this publication or at kcnurses.org under "About KCNA/Board." Thank you to all candidates and to the KCNA Nominating Committee!

This spring, make it a priority to celebrate our community of nurses dedicated to service, leadership, and caring. Here's to 123 years of KCNA!

Warmest regards,

Nancy Wilder, RN, BA
KCNA President

Small changes for a big impact

Did you know that you can donate to the **KCNA scholarship fund on a monthly recurring basis?** Even two specialty coffee drinks a month can add up to a nice donation over a year's time.



You can easily set up your recurring monthly payment at kcnurses.org under the **scholarships/donation** tab.

Any amount helps, and you'll love the energy boost you get from helping a student nurse pursue their dreams!



KCNA Calendar of Events

Date	Event
April 1	KCNA Elections — ballot due
April 23–26	Seattle/King County Clinic at Seattle Center (seattlecenter.org)
April 26–28	WSNA 2026 Union Leadership Conference, Wenatchee, WA (wsna.org)
May	National Nurses Month
May 1	KCNA Annual Gala registration deadline
May 6–12	National Nurses Week
May 14	KCNA 123rd Annual Gala

Details and registration for KCNA events at kcnurses.org

It's time to cast your vote!



Vote online by April 1

The KCNA Nominating Committee is excited to present the 2026 slate. Be sure to review each candidate's biography before submitting your ballot. You can find them below or online at kcnurses.org under the Members/Board tab. This year, ballots are electronic.

Three ways to vote:

- If you have a registered email with WSNA, you will receive an email from SurveyMonkey with a link to your e-ballot.
- Type the following link into your browser: www.surveymonkey.com/r/3ZBXF8G
- Scan the QR code above to connect to your e-ballot.

Vice President/2026–28

Dr. Antwinett O. Lee's

wealth of knowledge in nursing, human resources management, and inclusivity is remarkable. With over 30 years of experience as a registered nurse, Dr. Lee is a dedicated health care professional and educator committed to improving community health. She has made significant contributions to the health care sector, serving on multiple boards. She currently serves as Vice President for the Mary Mahoney Professional Nurses Organization; Chair of the Nominating, Governance, and Compliance Committee for Pacific



Medical; Board President for the Washington Center for Nursing; and Education Representative for the Professional Nursing Health Care Council for the Washington State Nurses Association. Her commitment to education and community service reflects her desire to uplift those around her. Most recently, she was appointed Interim Chief Nurse Administrator for the Lydia Green Nursing Program at Seattle Pacific University.

I believe in KCNA's mission of promoting healthy communities through education, advocacy, and outreach. As a nurse leader, I desire to empower nurses and nursing students to elevate the profession of nursing through evidence-based practice, equity, inclusion, and compassion for one another.

Secretary/2026–28

Hannah Jeong, DNP, RN, is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Lake Washington Institute of Technology.



She earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Washington. She currently serves on the KCNA Board as Secretary and is also a grant reviewer for the KCNA Community Grants Task Force.

My nursing journey, spanning both undergraduate and graduate years, has been greatly enriched by the mentorship and support of KCNA and nursing communities. KCNA has empowered me with invaluable resources to navigate the professional nursing landscape and has inspired me to apply collaborative and leadership skills to my roles as a nurse educator and community volunteer. I aspire to further my professional development through continued engagement in KCNA as a secretary and advocate for our nursing communities and the next generation of nurses.

Members at Large

(vote for 5)

Wendell Brunk, BSN, RN, has been active on the KCNA Board as a Member at Large for two years. He has also served



on the Bylaws Committee and has assisted with several tabling events for KCNA in the nursing community.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 4

Note from nominating committee

The KCNA Nominating Committee thanks all candidates for their dedication. If you're interested in joining the board, we'd love to hear from you. Our goal is to build a board that reflects the diversity of our membership. Complete the interest form at kcnurses.org under Member → Getting Involved.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Wendell is currently an active clinic RN at Swedish Urology.

I am passionate about activism and social justice and have been a nurse presence at the MLK Day March and the No Kings March. I've also participated in WSNA's Nurse Lobby Day. I love to represent KCNA at work to our team of nurses. I would love to continue to serve on the KCNA Board for 2026-2028.

Emily Gerardi, RN, BSN, currently works at the University of Washington Medical Center in the ICU, where she



also completed a fellowship. With a strong commitment to professional development and peer support, she developed a mentorship program for new ICU nurses in 2021-2022. Before joining UW Med, Emily was a PCU Charge RN at Swedish Edmonds and has preceptor experience at both the Swedish Edmonds and Issaquah locations. She graduated from the nursing program at Seattle University.

With eight years of varied nursing experience, I bring a wide perspective and appreciation for the challenges and strengths of our profession. I am excited to be more involved and supportive of our local nursing community in King County. Serving on the board aligns with my commitment to professional growth, leadership, and advocacy, especially as I look to the future with aspirations of attending CRNA school. I believe this opportunity would allow me to contribute meaningfully and continue developing as a nurse leader.

Leigh Kalamán, ARNP, DNP, a former KCNA scholarship recipient, completed her DNP at the



University of Washington in 2023 as a family nurse practitioner (with an undergraduate degree from Kent State University). From UW, she went on to complete a Primary Care Residency program at the Seattle Veterans Administration. Her experience spans from school nurse to long-term care, as well as critical care nursing focused on trauma and burns. In addition, Leigh completed a fellowship as a SANE nurse. Currently, Leigh works as a PCP at a primary care clinic through Valley Medical Center in Renton. She also serves on the KCNA Board and the KCNA Scholarship Committee.

I would love the opportunity to continue to serve KCNA, grow our nursing community, and advocate for all that nursing comprises. I hope to bring my varied nursing background and perspective to work alongside other remarkable nurses at KCNA.

Frankie Manning, MSN, RN, has an extensive nursing career, including roles in academia, the



military, and Veterans Affairs. She has served on numerous professional boards, including KCNA, WSNA, the Mary Mahoney Professional Nurses Organization, and others. She was the first nurse to serve on the King County Board of Health and was appointed by the governor to serve on

the Washington State Board of Health. She has consistently developed programs to enhance services for patients and communities. She has been a mentor to numerous students and colleagues alike, inspiring nurses in all settings. She consistently creates strategies for diversifying the nursing workforce. Frankie is a well-known visionary and leader in the nursing community.

I am interested in serving KCNA and the profession of nursing to foster the continued growth of the profession and to ensure we have a healthy population going forward. KCNA does great work with professional nurses and the community; it is a joy to serve.

Erin Michonski, RN, BSN, earned her BSN degree from Seattle Pacific University and currently works



at Seattle Children's Hospital in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. She is an active participant in unit-based and house-wide professional governance. In addition, she has been a clinical instructor at Bellevue College. Erin has served on both the KCNA Board and the Nominating Committee in years past.

Serving on the KCNA Board would provide an opportunity for me to contribute my time and energy toward meaningful decisions that support our nursing community. I care deeply about this community and am eager to collaborate within the many facets of the nursing profession to support KCNA's goals.

Heather

Stephen-Selby, BSN, MSN, ARNP-BC, RN, has been a nurse for nearly 30 years, including work as a family nurse practitioner, dean of nursing, and administrator. Most recently, Heather served as the Director of Clinical Services at HealthPoint Community Health Center for seven years. At Health Point, she was on the leadership team managing 17 clinics, urgent care, and 400 staff members. Her focus included employee health, professional development, infectious diseases, and infection control. She has been very active in nursing associations at the local, state, and national levels. Heather currently serves as Vice President of the WSNA board and has previously served on the KCNA board in a variety of leadership roles.

Being active with KCNA is a wonderful opportunity to engage with our local community and serve the needs that reflect the mission of education, advocacy, and community involvement. KCNA has become a lifeline for support, a rich collegial environment, and a repository for sharing best practices.



Nominating Committee

(Vote for 3)

Carolyn Clark,

RN, currently works as a staff nurse at the King County Correctional Facility, where she is one of the WSNA Grievance Officers for her unit. She has been an active member and participant of KCNA for over 15 years and currently serves on the board. Outside of nursing and advocacy, Carolyn has many interests, including traveling with her husband, Brad, reading, meditating, listening to music, and anything animal-related, especially spending time with her dog, Nari.

I am grateful for the relationships I have developed through KCNA by serving on committees, volunteering, partaking in continuing education, and being on the board. I appreciate being part of an organization that is supportive of individuals as well as the collective nursing voices in King County. I would be honored to serve on the Nominating Committee this upcoming year.



Lydia David, RN,

BSN, currently works at Seattle Children's Hospital in the PICU. At Children's, Lydia is a member of the "Healthy Work Environment" and is an active mentor and preceptor. In addition, she is the House-Wide Chair of HEAL. She graduated with an ADN degree from Lake Washington Technical



Institute and received her BSN from the University of Washington.

I am eager to serve on the Nominating Committee for KCNA to contribute my clinical experience as a PICU nurse, collaborative leadership skills, and commitment to nursing advocacy. KCNA plays a vital role in advancing the nursing profession, and I am passionate about supporting inclusive representation, professional growth, and strong leadership across diverse practice settings. Serving in this role would allow me to give back to the organization while helping shape the future of nursing in our community.

Rayna Holler,

RN, BSN, currently works at Seattle Children's Hospital in the PICU where she serves as the Professional Governance Chair and is an active preceptor. Rayna cocreated and has led the PICU preceptor course at Seattle Children's. She volunteers as a Camp RN every summer, helping empower future student leaders. She graduated from Pacific Lutheran University and holds a Palliative Care Certification from the University of Washington.

Her Vocation: Servant leadership can be best defined as recognizing a need and meeting it—finding ways to be present and provide service in the hope of achieving better outcomes and enhancing the experiences of others. This is my hope for my nursing career, and I believe it is best accomplished in community, which is why I am hopeful to serve on the nominating committee to uplift other servant leaders.



VOTE ONLINE BY APRIL 1, 2026

surveymonkey.com/r/3ZBXF8G

KCNA member spotlight: Emerin Hatfield

A KCNA member for 13 years, Emerin Hatfield says nursing has always been about meeting people where they are, both personally and professionally. Originally from Kentucky, she moved to Portland at 18 and later served in the Peace Corps, where she developed a strong commitment to community health and equity. Bilingual in English and Spanish, she spent six years working on a mobile medical van, a two-exam-room RV that brought care directly to people who needed it most. She laughs that she also picked up an unexpected skill along the way: learning how to handle a wide hook turn!

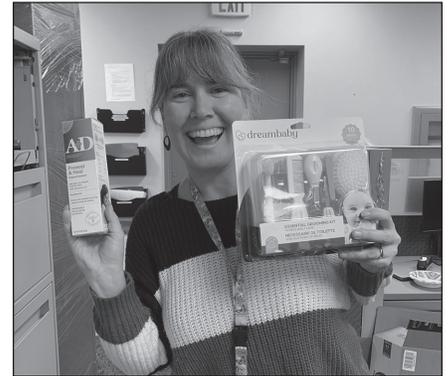
In 2013, she earned her nursing degree from the University of Washington School of Nursing and began working in public health. Today, she serves families through the Nurse-Family Partnership program in King County, supporting first-time parents from 28 weeks of pregnancy through a child's second birthday. Much of her current work is with Latino families, and she is passionate about making care accessible, culturally responsive, and rooted in trust. Outside of work, she enjoys the Pacific Northwest outdoors and has recently spent time near the Olympic Mountains.

Through her work in the community, Hatfield has applied for KCNA Community Grants to help address unmet needs she sees firsthand. Through her KCNA Community Grant, Hatfield helped launch a project to provide infant care kits to families enrolled in the Nurse-Family Partnership. The kits include basic supplies to support

safe and healthy infant care and are distributed by public health nurses during home visits, along with patient education. The goal is to serve up to 90 families across King County, focusing on first-time parents who are low resources and often Medicaid-eligible.

Working with supervisors from the Downtown Seattle and Columbia City Nurse-Family Partnership teams, nurses assembled and inventoried the kits and distributed them on a first-come, first-served basis. The team is tracking how many families receive kits and gathering feedback from nurses at the end of the project. A team survey also helped identify the most needed items, including breastfeeding supplies, safe sleep resources, and newborn essentials.

"This grant helped us respond to an unmet need we see every day,"



Hatfield said. "It is about giving families concrete tools, basic skills, and reassurance during a really vulnerable and important time."

She encourages other KCNA members to apply for a Community Grant, noting that it is a low-barrier process and a meaningful way to turn everyday observations into action. "If you see a need in your community, this is a powerful way to help fill that gap."



Relax and Unwind Giveaway!

We want to hear from you! One lucky member will receive a 60-minute classic head spa experience with RS Head Spa in Wallingford. To enter, share either a photo of yourself in the nursing community—whether at work, at a conference, or at another nursing-related event—and send us a short quote about your connection to KCNA. One winner will be selected at random in May, during National Nurses Month. Submit your entry to kcnurses@kcnurses.org by April 30 for a chance to relax and recharge!

Nursing is a profession

The U.S. Department of Education is considering a proposal that would exclude graduate nursing programs from the list of professional degree programs tied to federal student loan limits. If finalized, nursing students pursuing master's or doctoral degrees could face lower borrowing limits, potentially making advanced education less accessible.

The American Nurses Association (ANA) and the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) have raised concerns, emphasizing that nursing is a licensed profession. Graduate nursing students prepare for advanced roles in



clinical practice, leadership, and research, and are accountable for their professional practice. The ANA notes that advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) are fully educated, trained, and often practice independently in many states. The WSNA highlights that excluding

nursing could disproportionately affect nurses of color and worsen workforce shortages.

The public comment period ran through March 2, 2026. The Department will now review the comments and prepare a final rule. Organizations monitoring the process expect the Department to publish a final rule and complete this phase in spring 2026, with the resulting regulations taking effect on July 1, 2026, as required by law. ANA and WSNA continue to advocate for nursing's inclusion, underscoring its essential role in patient care and community health.

Welcome, new members!

Welcome!

Welcome to KCNA! By joining WSNA, you've automatically become a member of our community. We're excited to have you on board! Stay connected with us by following us on social media and subscribing to our e-newsletter, *News2Use*. You can sign up at kcnurses.org under the Members/News section. As a member, you'll have access to community grants, professional development funds, and discounts on continuing education. Plus, you can get involved by serving on our board or committees. To learn more, visit us at kcnurses.org. We look forward to connecting with you!

Celebrate volunteers

National Volunteer Week, April 19–25, is the perfect time to recognize just how important volunteers are for KCNA. Volunteers are the engine that moves us forward, helping us reach our goals and fulfill our mission. Volunteers make up our board, committees, task forces, and help with special projects, fundraising and events. Thank you for helping us build a stronger, more connected, and caring community!



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NURSES
ASSOCIATION

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ONLINE BY APRIL 1, 2026!

KING COUNTY
NURSES
ASSOCIATION

King County Nurses Association is a professional organization of registered nurses, committed to supporting members and the communities they serve through education, advocacy, and service.

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KCNA Event Cancellation/Refund policy: Attendees may request a refund up to seven days before the event date through Eventbrite only. Refunds will be automatically refunded to your original payment method only. Registrations cannot be transferred to others. Non-refundable fees from Eventbrite may be applied to attendees or paid for by KCNA. In the case of cancellation, attendees will receive a refund through Eventbrite, and non-refundable fees will be covered by KCNA.

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