Election Guide

Ballots must be electronically filed or postmarked no later than June 29, 2020 to be considered a valid vote.

Please return to:
APNA Elections
10500 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Ste 770
Columbia, MD  21044

Questions?
Call (855) 863-2762 or go to www.apna.org/elections.
ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

Section 1. (a) APNA provides leadership to promote psychiatric-mental health nurses, improve mental health care for culturally diverse individuals, families, groups, and communities, and shape health policy for the delivery of mental health services; (b) to make charitable contributions and grants to nonprofit organizations exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as the same may be amended or supplemented (hereinafter referred to as the “IRC”), as well as governmental units and other nonprofit organizations, that promote and further the purposes described in this Section 1 above; and (c) to exercise any other powers conferred upon Associations organized pursuant to the provisions of the Delaware General Association Law, as the same may be amended or supplemented (hereinafter referred to as the “Act”).

Section 2. The Association is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations exempt from federal income tax under IRC Section 501(c)(3).

Section 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, the Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on: (i) by an Association exempt from federal income tax under IRC Section 501(c)(3); or (ii) by an Association contributions to which are deductible under IRC Section 170(c)(2).

Section 4. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.
May 2020

Dear Colleague:

Vote in this year’s APNA elections and influence who will lead APNA and psychiatric-mental health nursing into the future: Your votes determine who will serve on the APNA Board of Directors and who will set the slate of candidates for next year’s elections on the Nominating Committee.

Before you cast your ballot, visit the online Election Guide at www.apna.org/electionguide. This guide includes information to inform your vote, such as candidate backgrounds, leadership styles, and contributions to APNA. Paper copies are available upon request by calling APNA at 855-863-2762.

To cast your vote, go to www.apna.org/elections or complete the enclosed ballot and return it in the postage paid envelope. Ballots must be postmarked or electronically submitted no later than June 29, 2020 to be considered valid. You may have already received this information via email and voted online. If so, thank you! If not, please vote using one of the options listed above.

The 2020 Nominating Committee composed a balanced slate of candidates reflecting geography, gender, professional experience, and racial diversity, which was subsequently approved by the APNA Board of Directors. We are grateful to all of the outstanding candidates who participated in this process and applaud them for being willing to submit their names for consideration.

Thank you for your continued support of APNA and PMH nursing. Let your voice be heard by casting your vote for the new leaders of your association!

Sincerely,

Sattaria (Tari) Dilks, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FAANP
APNA President

Janette N. O’Connor, MS, BS, BSN, RN-BC
Chair, 2020 Nominating Committee
Kathryn E. Brotzge, MSN, APRN, NP

Present Position
Adult Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Family Health Centers

Education
Master of Science in Nursing – PMHNP, University of Louisville, 2001
Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Spalding University, 1998

APNA Contributions
- President, APNA Kentucky Chapter, 2007
- Chair & Co-Chair, Mental Health Advocacy Council, 2014-Present
- Chair, Planning Committee, APNA Annual Conference in Louisville, KY, 2010
- Chair, APNA Nominating Committee, 2016

Other Experience
- Chair, Government Affairs Council, Kentucky Nurses Association
- Member, Mental Health Jail Diversion Board – Kentucky Nurses Association/City of Louisville
- Psychiatric Nurse Researcher, STEP Bipolar Depression Study, Mood Disorders Clinic, University of Louisville
- Psychiatric Emergency Nurse, University of Louisville Hospital
- Office Manager, Seven Counties Services Mental Health Clinics, Louisville, KY
- President, Parish Council, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Louisville, KY

Why should APNA members vote for me to serve as President-Elect?
The foundation of APNA is based on education and research. I believe in advocacy for our patients and peers through expanded research. I have practiced in the clinical setting most of my career. In daily practice, I utilize treatments that are research-based. Working in an underserved area with the severely mentally ill has given me insight into the gaps in caring for my patients and those like them. This setting consistently challenges me to continue my psychiatric training. Nursing education and research are fundamental to providing the best care possible for our patients. While working on a national research study, I experienced the connection between research and improving treatment with science.

Working on the Council for Mental Health Advocacy, I have participated in public advocacy at all levels of government. Currently, I am working with immigrants who have suffered severe trauma. This includes working in an integrated care model. The evolution of the psychiatric nurse role in primary care setting is an important area for continued expansion. These positions have provided insight into the value of public healthcare and the role we play.

My goal is to lead Psychiatric Nursing into the forefront of mental illness treatment providers. We need patients, elected officials, and our fellow providers to recognize us as the highly skilled professionals we are. In this position, I will work to involve our members to become more active in public advocacy to encourage more investment in vital research focused on psychiatric nursing. It is time to work on getting the word out to the public on the true value of psychiatric nursing. An organization the size of APNA needs a democratic leader. My experience enables me to lead effectively, grow and expand APNA’s positive impact.

How can I help fulfill APNA’s purpose as a scientific and education organization?
Participation in conferences and online education is vital to our profession. I support and encourage members to actively participate in research and education at every opportunity. APNA is a leader in our country for mental health/illness research and education. My plan includes working with APNA to provide education skills necessary in our everchanging world. Online education, podcasts, chat forums such as Member Bridge are key to continuing to reach out to nurses. I would support expanding these options for members. We must continue to support research opportunities with our existing membership. Increasing involvement with nursing students is imperative as well to grow our ranks and make sure that we have access to the best ideas and practices. My role would be as a representative to the public and membership. Protecting and promoting the organization’s purpose is key to the role of the President.
Leslie G. Oleck, MSN, PMHNP-BC, PMHCNS-BC, LMFT

Present Position
- Psychiatric APRN, Indiana Health Group, Carmel, Indiana
- Adjunct Professor, Indiana University School of Nursing PMHNP Graduate Program
- Preceptor, PMHNP students

Education
- Post-Masters Lifespan PMHNP, Indiana University School of Nursing, 2014
- MSN/PMHCNS Indiana University School of Nursing, 1979
- BSN, Indiana University School of Nursing, 1977

APNA Contributions
- APNA Board of Directors Member-at-Large, 2012-2016
- Council for Mental Health Advocacy (CMHA)
  - Current Co-Chair; Steering Committee 2010-2013; Advisory Panel 2010-2020
- Practice Council (formerly known as the APRN Council)
  - Chair/Co-Chair 2009-2013; Steering Committee 2008-2009; Advisory Panel-current
- JAPNA Peer Reviewer 2016-current
- Sigma Theta Tau Board Scholar and APNA Board Mentee, 2009-2011
- 2004 APNA Annual Conference Committee Chair
- APNA Indiana Chapter - Current Member-at-Large; Chapter President, 2002/03

Other Experience
Advocacy:
- Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses in Indiana (CAPNI)
  - Board Secretary 2020
  - Legislative Team 2017-current
  - Correcting significant misunderstandings about PMH-APRN and PMHRN education; needs of mental health consumers and families
- Bowen Center (IU School of Medicine) for Health Workforce Research and Policy Advisory Group
- Served on the Indiana Alzheimer’s Association Medical and Scientific Research Council as the only APRN 2013-2019
- IU/Methodist Hospital Advanced Practice Council 2012-2014

Why should APNA members vote for me to serve as President-Elect?
My national, state and community leadership roles and extensive involvement within APNA have helped me understand how to move our organization forward. My experience in a variety of practice settings enables me to effectively understand and advocate for psychiatric nurses. APNA is a valuable organization to its members; we MUST continue to educate the public, including state and national thought leaders, about psychiatric nurses and mental health/addiction needs while continuing to be the thought leader and voice for psychiatric nurses. I want to ensure that this continues and expands. Psychiatric nurses are an innovative community; with the multi-faceted changes in health care, we must use our creativity in research, education, and patient care while practicing at the top of our licenses.

How can I help fulfill APNA’s purpose as a scientific and education organization.
I will work to safeguard that APNA remains the united voice of Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, using our skills with not only identified psychiatric/mental health patients and families but also with communities, healthcare stakeholders and thought leaders. The importance of PMH research cannot be underestimated. I will support APNA’s efforts to fund and encourage PMH research, while educating students to use evidence-based care in their own education and practice. This is a time of major change in mental health care in the United States with new opportunities and challenges for PMH Nurses. If elected, I will work to keep our organization, and the awareness of our specialized knowledge, at the forefront of healthcare delivery and research through active advocacy and education of consumers, healthcare providers, healthcare stakeholders and thought leaders.
Brenda Marshall, EdD, PMHNP-BC, ANEF

**Present Position**
- Professor, William Paterson University, Wayne NJ 07470
- PerDiem NP Psychiatric Unit Holy Name Medical Center, Teaneck NJ
- Private Practice, Adult Psych NP - psychotherapy and medication management, Oakland NJ

**Education**
- Doctor of Education (EdD) Teacher’s College, Columbia University, NY
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) psychiatric advanced practice, UMDNJ/Rutgers University, NJ
- Master of Science (MS) in health education, Teacher’s College, Columbia University, NY
- Master of Science (MS) in advanced management, New York University, NY
- Bachelor of Arts (BA), Eisenhower College, NY
- Diploma in Nursing, St. John’s Riverside Hospital and Nursing School, Yonkers, NY

**APNA Contributions**
I served as the Secretary of the APNA New Jersey Chapter Board from 2007-2013 and then as President of the chapter from 2013-2015. I am presently on the APNA Research Council Steering Committee and have served in the past on the APNA Education Council Graduate and Undergraduate branches. I have volunteered for evaluating online CE programs and reviewing abstracts for the APNA Annual Conferences. I was elected to serve on the 2015 APNA Nominating Committee.

I am an active participant in national and state conferences regularly speaking at APNA conferences in NJ, NY and national. I contribute annually to our foundation drive and facilitate the giving of funds by other members in the NJ and NY chapters by talking about it with members during state conferences.

**Other Experience**
I am the Director of the Center for Research and the secretary for the Cannabis Research Institute at William Paterson University, where I served as the Coordinator of the DNP program from 2011-2017. I am a Fulbright Scholar Specialist in Mental Health (2017-2022) conducting education and research initiatives in Malta. I served on the New Jersey State Nurses Association from 2011-2014, the National League for Nursing Nomination committee (2011-2014 and 2019-2022). I am a grant reviewer for SAMSHA, NIH and U.S. Department of Education grants. I served on the New Jersey board for the Society of Psychiatric Advance Practice Nurses on the nominations committee from 2012-2015. I have published three books, two on psychiatric nursing and one of research with Springer Publications, collaborating with other psychiatric nursing specialists.

**Why should APNA members vote for me to serve as Secretary?**
I hope members want to vote for me because of my love and dedication to our field and our patients. Those who know me know I have spent my life working to improve care to patients through education and research. I would like to be able to share my passion with my colleagues nationally and work to increase the amount of research done by psychiatric nurses in the field. I am dedicated to our profession and to the mission of APNA and can think of no greater honor than to be part the governing board serving the APNA members as their secretary.

**How can I help fulfill APNA’s purpose as a scientific and education organization?**
As a nurse practitioner, educator and researcher, I hope to increase the ability of other psychiatric nurses to find the same enthusiasm for investigating issues in mental health nursing locally, nationally and internationally. I can bring my experience in writing, practice, education and research to help others find funding for their own investigations and support wide dissemination of our knowledgeable outcomes.
Evelyn Perkins, MS, RN, PMH-BC, NE-BC

Present Position
Co-Chair, APNA Forensic Council
Behavioral Health Consultant, Alpha Eta Nursing Sorority

Education
Masters of Science Psychiatric Nursing (MS). St. Xavier University, Chicago, 1979
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). St. Xavier University, Chicago, 1976

APNA Contributions
- APNA Member since 2009
- APNA Illinois Chapter
  - President 2013
  - President-Elect 2011
  - BOD Member-at-Large
  - Annual Conference, podium presenter, 2017
- 31st APNA Annual Conference, podium presenter, 2017
- Forensic Council Steering Committee, 2016 - present
- Forensic Council Co-Chair Appointment, 2018
- JAPNA publication, 2017
- Archives of Psychiatric Nursing publication, 2011
- Sigma Theta Tau, Excellence in Nursing Leadership, 2013

Other Experience
- Nurse Liaison for Substance Use Disorders Return to Work Program (2005-2020)
- International Conference on Borderline Personality, the Netherlands, podium presenter, 2012
- Chicago Urban Summit, podium presenter, 2016
- Academy of Medical-Surgical Nursing Chicago Chapter Annual Conference, Keynote 2017
- Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority, Alpha Eta Chapter, Life Member, past Historian
- National Black Nurses, Trailblazer Award, 2013

Why should APNA members vote for me to serve as Secretary?
I have 30 years of administrative experience in varied clinical settings; inpatient, outpatient, psychiatric consultation liaison, substance abuse, crisis ED and emergency housing. In these varied settings, I employed nurses with different scopes of practice. My own performance reviews referenced my leadership skills as demonstrating a calm approach to unexpected events and creativity in developing the right solutions to manage the unexpected. The 2020 pandemic might leave psychiatric nurses, consumers and communities with more questions than answers. One thing we do know is that uncertainty is anxiety provoking. Leadership in an era of uncertainties will require creativity to manage issues we have not previously experienced. In addition to my clinical skills and creativity, I also have business skills. As a certified nurse executive, I understand Roberts Rules of Order. I know how to capture the essence of conversations and document, so readers appreciate the information. I understand fiscal budgets, metrics and systems interface. If elected I will bring my diverse clinical experiences, my calm approach to the unknown, my passion for mentoring nurses, my creativity and my executive skills to support APNA’s membership

How can I help fulfill APNA’s purpose as a scientific and education organization?
Sharing my experiences with evidence-based information, grants, documenting findings, abstracts, publications and presentations. I mentored a mentee who wanted to change the use of physician ordered observations. His review of the lit discovered evidence-based research that supported his hypothesis. I co-authored his grant that awarded in 2010 to start the work. It published in Archives of Psychiatric Nursing in 2011. JAPNA published the outcome data in 2017. APNA awarded him the Excellence in Innovation-Individual 2017 Award. I mentored another mentee for a podium presentation at APNA’s 2011 conference. Nurses from the Netherlands attended. They invited us to present at the 2012 International Symposium on BPD. The privilege of being the only nurses presenting among international experts including Linehan, is something my mentee and me will never forget.
Sue Brammer, PhD, RN, CNE

Present Position
Assistant Professor Educator, University of Cincinnati

Education
- PhD, Nursing Research, University of Cincinnati, 2000
- MSN, Psychiatric Mental Health, University of Cincinnati, 1998
- MA, Health Education, Ohio State University, 1985
- BSN, Ohio State University, 1979

APNA Contributions
Recovery Council Steering Committee Charter Member, 2011-present
Nominating Committee, 2017-2018
APNA Ohio Chapter
- President, 2017-2019; 2010-2011
- Immediate Past President, 2019-present; 2011-2013
- Conference Planning Committee Co-Chair, 2016, 2018
- Conference Planning Committee Chair, 2017
- Conference Presenter
- Regional Coordinator, 2013-2017
APNA Annual Conference: 8 presentations
Facilitator, Acute Care Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses: Preparing for Recovery Oriented Practice, 2018-present

Other Experience
Professional:
- Nurse Educator for 23 years in ADN, BSN, MSN, Post-Master’s, and DNP programs, teaching didactic and clinical courses in psychiatric-mental health nursing, medical-surgical nursing, and healthcare policy
- 11 years in clinical practice in roles of staff nurse, assistant nurse manager, and nurse therapist
- Principal Investigator, Ohio Medicaid Equity Simulation Project, University of Cincinnati, 2018-present

Other Organizational Service and Leadership:
NAMI Southwest Ohio, Chairperson, Advocacy Council, 2019-present; Advisory Council, member 2011-2019; Chairperson, Board of Directors, 2008-2009; President, Board of Directors, 2007-2008; Secretary, Board of Directors, 2005-2007; Information and Referral Specialist, 2016-present

Awards:
March of Dimes Ohio Nurse of the Year, Behavioral and Mental Health, 2019

Why should APNA members vote for me to serve as Member-at-Large?
Having served on the APNA Nominating Committee, I know what characteristics are necessary for individuals who can move APNA forward. I possess those characteristics. I have led organizations dedicated to mental health, such as APNA Ohio and NAMI Southwest Ohio. These experiences have taught me to appreciate and foster teamwork and interdisciplinary collaboration. I listen with my mind and heart to what people have to say, particularly about difficult issues. I value and respect their opinions, even when they differ from my own. The bottom line is that we’re all working towards the same goal, and that is to further the mission of APNA. My passion for psychiatric-mental health nursing is both as a provider and a recipient of care. As someone who has lived with a mental health disorder for over 40 years, I bring a first-hand account of what is most needed from mental health care providers.

How can I help fulfill APNA’s purpose as a scientific and education organization?
I actively pursue science and education opportunities to promote our field and improve mental health care and will leverage them in my work with the APNA Board of Directors. In addition to teaching the next generation of psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners, I am principal investigator of a research grant that focuses on social determinants of health and stigma experienced by Medicaid patients. My work with NAMI Southwest Ohio as an Information and Referral Specialist allows me to educate family members, persons with lived experience, and the public not only on community resources, but on the integral role that psychiatric-mental health nurses play within those resources.
Brenda Kucirka PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, CNE

Present Position
• Associate Professor, Widener University SON
• Consultant, Widener Community Nursing Clinic
• Providence House Advisory Board
• City of Chester Reentry Committee

Education
• PhD Widener University
• MSN University of Pennsylvania
• BSN Hahnemann University/MCP
• Diploma St Luke’s Hospital SON

APNA Contributions
• Executive Director Search Committee (2019-20)
• Scholarly Review Committee - Chair (2017); Co-Chair (2015-16); Member (2010-present)
• Awards and Recognition Committee (2009-present)
• Education Council (2007-present)
• Forensic Council Advisory Panel
• Undergraduate Nursing Education Toolkit (2016)
• APNA Pennsylvania Chapter - President (2017-20); President-Elect (2016-17); Education Chair (2014-16)
• APNA Annual Conference presenter (2010,13,14,15,16,17,18,19)
• APNA Health Policy Summit invited participant (2018,19)
• Janssen Scholar 2011
• eLearning Center Faculty

Other Experience
• Clinical: 36 years PMH nursing: Generalist (15yrs) APRN (21yrs).
• Teaching: 19 years PMH settings and higher education (prelicensure to doctoral)
• Advocacy: NAMI: Advisory Board, Education and Outreach Committee
• Facilitate MH awareness and coping skills workshops in prison and homeless shelter

Why should APNA members vote for me to serve as Member-at-Large?
As an APNA member for 30 years, I am committed to service, actively involved at the state and national level. This year I served on the Executive Director Search Committee, an experience which deepened my appreciation for the work of the leadership team, strengthening my desire to serve on the BOD. I bring an understanding of APNA’s mission and strategic plan and a sincere desire to work with the BOD on initiatives meeting needs of members and stakeholders. I will use my advocacy and PMH nursing skills to promote wellness, social justice, and inclusivity. I am committed to listening to the voices of stakeholders, cognizant that APNA is an organization dedicated to promoting MH nursing and MH. My career focus is advocacy and education to support optimal MH outcomes for the communities and organizations that I serve. I am a mentor and ambassador for PMH nursing. My passion for PMH nursing has inspired students to pursue PMH nursing careers. I understand the educational needs of nurses and persons with MH issues. I welcome the opportunity to use my leadership skills and nursing expertise to serve APNA as Member-at-Large.

How can I help fulfill APNA’s purpose as a scientific and education organization?
If elected, I will bring integrity and intentionality, upholding APNA core values of empowerment, inclusivity and collegiality through stewardship, advocacy and service. As an innovative leader, I will collaborate with the BOD on initiatives that fulfill APNA’s goals of advancing PMH nursing, integrating research, practice, and education to promote mental health. My expertise as an educator and researcher along with years of active involvement in APNA will inform my work with the BOD. I support open dialogue that recognizes and values all voices. I am a passionate, tireless advocate with a heart for social justice serving vulnerable and stigmatized populations. I will address issues related to disparity and stigma. I will listen to the needs of members and stakeholders and work with the BOD to maintain APNA’s standing as the expert voice for PMH nursing committed to the wellbeing and MH of persons affected by MH issues.
Nicole Brodrick DNP, PMHNP-BC

Present Position
Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado (CU) College of Nursing, Aurora, CO
Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Colorado School of Mines Student Health Center, Golden, CO

Education
• 2015 Post-Graduate Certificate Program
  Certification: Family Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO
• 2010 Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP); University of Minnesota
• 2002 Master of Science (MS). CNS/PMHNP-Adult; University of Minnesota
• 1996 Bachelors of Science (BS); Nursing; University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire, WI

APNA Contributions
• 1999 Joined APNA
• 2019 DNP Advisor for Dr. Liz Depalma, who was awarded APNA grant for Implementation of a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training Intervention to Support College Student Mental Health by Improving Peers’ Readiness to Help; grant will continue to aid MHFA training at the Colorado School of Mines
• 2017 Oral Presentation: Integrated Care, APNA-CO, Grand Junction, CO
• 2016 Member of the APNA Tobacco Dependence Task Force
• 2016 APNA Colorado Chapter President, Awarded APNA Chapter of the Year
• 2016 Poster Presentation: Integrating Psychiatric Simulation in Undergraduate Nursing Curriculum, APNA National Conference, Hartford, CT
• 2016/14 Steering Committee member APNA Colorado Chapter
• 2015 Coordinated with the CU Office of Continuing Education and Development to facilitate the Cutting Edge of Psychiatric Recovery Conference for the APNA Colorado Chapter
• 2014 Oral Presentation: Infusing a Tobacco Cessation Curriculum to Undergraduate and Graduate Nursing Students, APNA Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN
• 2013 APNA Champion for Smoking Cessation Award
• 2010 APNA Janssen Scholar: Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialists’ Utilization of a Tobacco Assessment in an Electronic Medical Record

Other Experience
• 24 years as a psychiatric nurse in a hospital setting; 18 of those years as a PMHNP working in community health, private practice, and college health settings
• PMHNP and DNP preceptor and advisor

Why should APNA members vote for me to serve on the Nominating Committee?
I have been involved with APNA for 21 years as I feel it is a strong nursing organization that supports and promotes psychiatric nursing profession in a multitude of capacities. In the past, I have been nominated by APNA for my work as a psychiatric nurse. This is the reason I am wanting to be on the Nominating Committee so that I can be able to disseminate the work of other psychiatric nurses. I believe having one’s work acknowledged can advance not only one’s career trajectory, but also validate and enhance the overall psychiatric nursing profession.

How can I help fulfill APNA’s purpose as a scientific and education organization?
I feel one of the reasons I went into academia was in parallel to one of APNA’s main tenets, which is to disseminate knowledge to psychiatric nurses and beyond. It is also the reason I remain a psychiatric clinician. I want to empower, not only my fellow psychiatric providers, but also my patients in their journey of recovery. This is how I work in tandem with APNA to advocate for the continual validation and advancement of psychiatric nursing.
Joe Holshoe, MSN, MA, BSN, RN, PMHNP-BC

Present Position
• Commander, U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS)
• Deputy Chief, Department of Behavioral Health, Bassett Army Community Hospital (BACH)
• Outpatient Child, Adolescent & Adult Psychiatric APRN, BACH

Education
• Master of Science in Psychiatric Nursing, University of South Alabama, 2009
• Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Lynchburg College, 1993
• Master of Arts in History, Virginia Tech, 1990
• Bachelor of Science [Biology], Longwood College, 1987

APNA Contributions
• Member, APNA Clinical Psychopharmacology Institute (CPI) Program Committee (2014-Present)
• Presenter, APNA Annual Conference (2014, 2017)
• Presenter, APNA New England Chapter (2014)
• Member, APNA Military, Veterans Administration & Federal Nursing Community
• Member, APNA Integrated Physical and Mental Health Care Community
• Member-at-Large, APNA North Carolina Chapter (2017-2018)

Other Experience
• Recognized speaker and Subject Matter Expert (SME) on sleep, antidepressants, and military psychiatry
• SME for behavioral response needs during disasters/national emergencies and developed national behavioral health emergency response policies and doctrine for at-risk and vulnerable populations
• Member, USPHS Mental Health Response Team, with multiple deployments for behavioral health assistance during nationally declared disasters/emergencies
• Manage 75 member multi-service behavioral health clinic in austere and resource-limited environment
• Authored: peer reviewed journal article, encyclopedia chapter, and BH Chapters for Western Schools Nursing Program
• Developed Independent Behavioral Health Consultant (IBHC) programs in Primary Care in three different clinics
• Served as preceptor for multiple BSN & MSN and PA students
• Registered RN since 1993 and PMHNP since 2010
• Former President-Elect for RI Chapter of Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) and helped found RI Chapter of ANAC

Why should APNA members vote for me to serve on the Nominating Committee?
My diverse clinical, educational, and professional experience gives me with a broad background to help APNA expand and develop the role of nursing in mental health. I have worked at the national level in the development of mental health response policy for at-risk and vulnerable patients, led and managed behavioral health response teams during emergencies and disasters, managed complex multi-service clinical programs, developed mental health programs in primary care, and have advocated and educated on the role of sleep in public health and mental health. My experience on the Program Committee for APNA CPI's has expanded my ability to develop programs and recognize and manage trends and talent in behavioral health care. Selecting the next generation of nurse leaders is essential to continue to expand and improve the role of mental health nurses and the health care system. With the current shortage of licensed psychiatric providers, the increasing mental health needs of our population, and the advent of new therapies and treatments, mental health nurses are uniquely positioned to assume a greater, and much deserved, role within the American health care system, and I would be honored to assist in this process as a member of the APN nominating committee.

How can I help fulfill APNA's purpose as a scientific and education organization?
My career as commission officer and RN/APRN has always focused on providing quality behavioral health care to those in need. I have also sought to expand the nursing knowledge base and to develop educational opportunities for nurses. I have mentored nurses in evidence-based care, contributed to the nursing and professional literature, and provided multiple trainings and lectures in mental health. This background in evidence-based research and care, hands on clinical care, and experience in multiple leadership roles has uniquely positioned me to assist in APNA’s core mission as a scientific education organization.
Erica Joseph, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, NP-C

**Present Position**
- Adult Psych/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Mental Health Intensive Case Management Program
- Southeast Louisiana Veterans Healthcare System

**Education**
- PhD in Nursing, Southern University, May 2020
- DNP, Southern University, 2016
- Post-Masters Adult PMHNP, Southeastern Louisiana University, 2012
- MSN, Southern University, 2008
- BSN, Southern University, 1999

**APNA Contributions**
- APNA Louisiana Chapter President, current
- APNA Louisiana Chapter President-Elect, 2019
- APNA Louisiana Chapter Treasurer, 2014-2019
- Competency Based Facilitator Training for Suicide Prevention, 2018
- APNA Recovery to Practice Facilitator, 2018
- APNA Reviewer of educational content, 2016
- Addictions Council, 2014
- APNA Tobacco Cessation Champion, 2014
- Presenter APNA Annual Conference 2014

**Other Experience**
**Professional Clinical Experience**
- outpatient clinics
- medication management
- psychotherapy
- suicide prevention
- inpatient consultation

**Teaching Experience**
- clinical faculty at Southern University
- mentor

**Advocacy Experience**
- Legislative Days at Louisiana & United States Capitol to advocate for mental health care, and role that advanced practice registered nurses play in healthcare

**National Experiences**
- SAMHSA ANA Minority Fellowship Program, 2015-2020
- National Advisory Council for National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation AARP, Breakthrough Nurse Leader, 2015
- Center for Creative Leadership, Leadership Development Program, 2016
- Southwest Region, Physical & Mental Health Chair, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

**Why should APNA members vote for me to serve on the Nominating Committee?**
APNA members should vote for me to serve on the Nominating Committee because of my commitment to the profession of nursing and more specifically to the importance of psychiatric mental health nursing. I have a desire to use my time and skills to help continue the advancement of the psychiatric nurse’s role in mental health care, education, research and policy. As a PMHNP and member of APNA since 2012, I have benefited greatly from the resources provided through APNA and the advanced leadership skills of our Board of Directors over the years. I would use my time and skills to work as a team and create a balanced slate in the search for future leaders who have a strong desire to serve and exhibit a commitment to APNA’s core values and long-term vision.

**How can I help fulfill APNA’s purpose as a scientific and education organization?**
I will continue to help fulfill APNA’s purpose as a scientific and education organization through my commitment to nursing practice, education, research and health policy. As a SAMHSA ANA Minority Fellow, my research has focused on suicide prevention among minority Veterans and the evaluation of suicide risk assessment training modules among primary care providers in my commitment to improve mental health care for culturally diverse individuals. I will continue to seek opportunities to provide leadership, mentorship and educational offerings of content relevant to PMH nurses. I have participated in numerous panel discussions to raise awareness about mental health and will continue to serve in this role to address the stigma. I will remain committed to provided excellence in mental health care and was recognized as a recipient of the Honorable Secretary of VA personal coin for my contributions.
Carol Kottwitz DNP, CNS-BC, PMHNP-BC

Present Position
- Assistant Professor, and Lead Faculty for PMHNP Program, Gonzaga University School of Nursing and Human Physiology
- Owner, CK Therapeutics, LLC. Private Practice

Education
- Doctor of Nursing Practice, University of Washington, 2013
- MN (PMHCNS) University of Washington, 1997
- BSN, Eastern Washington University, Intercollegiate Center for Nursing Education, 1984

APNA Contributions
- APNA Washington Chapter Board of Director, Secretary, 2017-current
- APNA Washington Chapter Temporary Leadership Committee 2016/2017
- JAPNA Peer Reviewer (2019-Present)
- Reviewer for APNA Continuing Education content-2017

Other Experience
Clinical Experience:
Clinical Nurse Specialist at state psychiatric hospital in various leadership roles: Program Director of Habilitative Mental Health Unit, education and consultation, Critical Incident Stress Management Lead, individual and group psychotherapy, liaison with state hospitals and University of Washington education grant.

Other Leadership and Professional Service:
- ANCC Content Expert Panel Advanced Practice–2019-Present
- ANCC Test Item writer for advanced practice national certification exam – 2018
- Conference Presentations at APNA Washington Chapter Conferences – 2017, 2018, 2019
- Passages Family Support – Spokane Board of Directors – 2019-Present
- Zero Suicide Conference – Planning Committee – 2015-2017
- Sigma Theta Tau Delta Chi Chapter at Large–Scholarship Committee – 2005-2007
- National Alliance on Mental Illness – Spokane Board 1998-2013

Why should APNA members vote for me to serve on the Nominating Committee?
My leadership experience as both a clinician and educator has allowed me to demonstrate my ability to work with a diverse group of individuals to find common ground and strategize our work toward mutual goals. Maintaining a focus on the nominating committee’s purpose of providing a balanced slate of candidates that is reflective of the membership will provide a foundation for the nominating committee’s work. The roles within psychiatric nursing are vast and the environments, systems of care and methods of care delivery are changing quickly. As a member of the nominating committee, selecting leaders who are inclusive, innovative, visionary, and committed to psychiatric nursing and the individuals they serve has the capacity to influence the trajectory of APNA into the future. This is no small responsibility and one that I am qualified to undertake.

How can I help fulfill APNA’s purpose as a scientific and education organization?
By integrating my professional practice, educational preparation of future psychiatric practitioners and service in local, regional and national organizations, I am fully prepared to provide continued service and support for APNA’s core purpose. My scholarship interest and activities of exploring psychiatric nursing roles and educational preparation for these roles also serves the goals and strategic direction of APNA. I am passionate about improving the mental health care of individuals, groups and communities and it is through science and education that this is accomplished. Applying my expertise and passion to the work of the nominating committee will help fulfill APNA’s purpose as a scientific and educational organization.
Aparna Kumar, PhD, MSN, MPH, PMHNP-BC

Present Position
- Assistant Professor, Thomas Jefferson University (Philadelphia, PA)
- Program Director-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program

Education
- PhD in Nursing Science, University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing-2016
- MSN, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing-2013
- BSN, Nursing Science, University of Pennsylvania, School Nursing-2010
- MPH, Public Health Developing Countries, University of Malawi, College of Medicine-2008
- MA, Human Rights Studies, Columbia University-2005
- BA, Political Science, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, 2003

APNA Contributions
- APNA Annual Conference-Poster Presentations-2012 and 2015
- APNA Association Policy Brief: Quality Improvement Strategic Plan for People with Mental Illness and Addition-Contributing Author-2012
- APNA Janssen Scholar-2011

Other Experience
- Clinical: Therapy and pharmacological management for children and families for 4 years; private practice experience with adults for 3 years
- Teaching: Instructor at University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing in undergraduate psychiatric nursing, graduate program, and simulation lab; current instruction in graduate courses on leadership and research at Thomas Jefferson University
- Research: Training in health outcomes research; invited member of advisory committee for behavioral health interest group at AcademyHealth
- Service: Board Member of local nonprofit, Mental Health Partnerships; Member of Diversity and Inclusion Committee at Thomas Jefferson University
- Non-Nursing: International experience in research and teaching in sub-Saharan Africa (Malawi and Mozambique); collaborated with World Health Organization (WHO) and Millennium Villages Project
- Additional training: Public health, health policy, and human rights framework to healthcare
- Languages: Spanish, Portuguese, Kannada

Why should APNA members vote for me to serve on the Nominating Committee?
I believe that my background has prepared me well to serve the needs of APNA and our membership. Through early career experiences in community organizations, international settings and in public health, I have gained exposure not only to diverse geographical settings but also to diversity in education, resources, experiences, and approaches to health care. This shaped my framework for teaching, practice, and research and my passion for ensuring diversity and representation in organizations. I define diversity as encompassing not only culture or ethnicity, but also experience, location, education, and engagement in innovation. I am committed to fostering diversity in every sense through this role in APNA. As our workforce grows, as our healthcare system constantly changes, and as our country accommodates these changes, we are tasked to continue to represent all interests; I can rise to this challenge.

How can I help fulfill APNA’s purpose as a scientific and education organization?
My early experience as a Janssen Student Scholar (2011) ignited my passion for research and inspired me to pursue a PhD in nursing science. I have been committed to developing skills for psychiatric nurse practitioners (in my role as a program director and former preceptor) and engaging in research to demonstrate differential health outcomes for people with mental illness and substance use disorders. I am dedicated to furthering the role of psychiatric nursing as integral in the delivery of primary health care. In my current academic role, I am devoted to furthering the role of psychiatric nursing with new and innovative partnerships. If elected, I would promote the mission of APNA as a researcher, as an advocate for people with mental illness and as an educator of future psychiatric nurses and nurse practitioners.