



2024 Member-at-Large

Mary Alice Vanhoy, MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, NREMT-P,
FAEN

Walkertown, North Carolina

Why would you like to serve as Member-at-Large on the Academy of Emergency Nursing Board and what would you like to contribute while serving in that office?

My vision for AEN is to provide guidance to nurses in defining personal and professional goals through the development of a 3-year plan with strategies to promote and increase our presence. With this objective, we will continue to promote our goal of enduring contribution to advancing emergency nursing practice.

Please share your perspectives and strategies on how the Academy of Emergency Nursing can help advance the profession of emergency nursing.

My goal for AEN is to explore new opportunities to interact formally and informally through outreach, mentoring, sharing, and growing with our colleagues, which could possibly include resources for states, regions, and countries.

Strategies to reach these goals would include developing and reinvigorating the mentor program is a start but there is so much more we have to offer. We need to explore options to increase our visibility and availability. We started this journey with the mentor program and having FAEN representation on national committees. This is an area that we need to continue to expand our presence.

Each of us has areas where we excel. We must ask ourselves “how can we assist our colleagues?” I propose that we need to develop a strategy to be easily assessable and share these areas of expertise. We should explore these opportunities to advance the profession of emergency nursing by developing a resource program where nurses access the Fellows who have similar areas of interest. This would differ from the mentor program as this will encompass a single interaction or short-term guidance. Sometimes a member has a question or needs direction--who better to turn to than a member of the AEN. This program could be from a link on the ENA home page. Currently, according to ENA members, it is hard to find the AEN page. The home page link would take you to the AEN home page where we ask how we can help. From there, headers with the areas of education, practice, leadership, research, or public policy would direct the emergency nurses to a FAEN who has volunteered to participate in this program with expertise in those areas.

This project can be expanded to have a FAEN resource for each state. I have found this works well at a state level with hospitals so that collegial relations can develop. Members have expressed an apprehension in approaching members of our group so this would show that we are emergency nurses just like them.

Our purpose is to “provide visionary leadership to ENA”. We need to look at our approach and how we can share the experience and knowledge of the Fellows of the Academy of Emergency Nursing to promote the role of the professional emergency nurse.