

A Review Of The American Nurses Association

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In the dynamic field of nursing, being affiliated with a professional association is imperative. These associations are central to the generation of energy and ideas. Also, such professional organizations aid the development of proactive work behaviour necessary for the upkeeping of this profession (Matthews, 2012). Nursing organizations empower professionals and keep them informed of modern practices. They also learn about the innovations in the field of healthcare (Gaines, 2019). This paper aims to review the “American Nurses Association (ANA)” and its advantages. The paper also explores the networking opportunities and the continued education and professional development offered by this organization.

Purpose, Mission, And Vision

The “American Nurses Association” is the representative of over 4 million professionals registered through direct memberships in the United States. It is a premier organization that was established in 1896 and has members spread over all fifty states. With the mission of “leading the profession to shape the future of nursing and health care”, ANA aims to promote elevated standards of practice and foster a conducive work environment that is safe and ethical. Since its foundation, ANA has emerged as the leading voice of the nursing field. It seeks to enhance the well-being and health of the nurses while ensuring advocacy of healthcare issues that impact the general public and nurses (ANA, 2021).

Benefits To Members

The “American Nurses Association” provides representation to its members and safeguards the needs of healthcare facilities’ consumers as well as nurses. It offers them a chance to advance their careers and to remain informed. In addition to bringing financial gains through saving money, ANA also offers opportunities to network with other registered practitioners. ANA increases access to educational material through free webinars and provides a basis to nurture leadership skills among nurses while opening up avenues for their coveted jobs through the association’s career centre. With various journals such as the monthly journal “American Nurse Today”, the “Online Journal of Issues in Nursing”, and the “Global Diseases Alert Map” under its domain, the association’s prime purpose is to keep its members up to date with the most recent trends and discoveries of health care and nursing practice (ANA, 2021).

Importance Of Networking

Forming connections in the field of nursing is imperative to remain updated with the dynamic shifts of the profession and to learn about recent practices (Bell, Campbell, & Goldberg, 2015). Professional connections enable nurses to further their careers and find employment opportunities that best suit their needs. It offers professional support and helps reduce burnout problems related to this profession, which is physically and mentally demanding. Being inter-connected can also help nurses influence healthcare practices by implementing an active approach towards the system (Schmidt, 2020).

The Mentorship Program of ANA reflects its continued commitment towards the professional development of nurses. This program entails a unique online tool for networking and career growth that enables nurses to find other registered professionals and connect with them. These connections can develop into a mentor-mentee relationship anywhere around the world and offer the chance to get acquainted with peers in the same field (ANA, 2021).

Keeping Members Informed

The field of healthcare is highly dynamic, and changes in healthcare practice are introduced and implemented to keep up with emerging trends. One of the priority issues of ANA is to obtain sufficient resources for educating and training the nurses and ensuring their continuous professional development. Since nurses' practice pertains to various healthcare settings and is based on diverse roles and specific specializations, the ANA realizes its role in offering insight to upgrade healthcare. To stay current, the ANA takes up research initiatives through peer-reviewed journals such as the "American Nurse", which is a monthly journal based on practice-oriented, personal, and career-based clinical material. Similarly, "The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing" is a peer-reviewed online resource posted three times annually. SmartBrief is another online resource that keeps you updated on related nursing news. Other than these, various professional tools such as the CINAHL, Drug Name Error Finder Tool, and the Global Disease Alert Map are also made accessible. Other essential documents, such as the ANA code of ethics and standards of practice, are also available to professionals (ANA, 2021).

Continuing Education And Professional Development

The "American Nurses Association" promotes continuing education and professional development for both nurses and related organizations at every step. Continuing education is imperative, and a predetermined duration must be completed to maintain the professional license of nurses. For this purpose, several options are available, such as nurses taking courses developed by the education

department of their institute, attending various conferences, and enrolling in classes at the local colleges. The opportunity for online learning is also made available on RN.com. Seeking ways to advance their career and getting continuing education not only enhances the nurses' knowledge, skill, and ability but also equips them with leadership skills and helps them become better practitioners. Various new certifications, as well as the option to renew the current certification, are made available, and it is the utmost goal of the "American Nurses Association" to enable nurses to learn and remain in the practice of continuous professional development, ultimately leading to an updated practice and health care facility that is in line with the current research (ANA, 2021).

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