



## CONGRATULATIONS

To the VISNA Board of Directors on successfully championing the conversion of the ADN program in Nursing to a BSN program on the St. Croix UVI campus.



To Dr. Gloria Callwood, PhD, RN, FAAN for another successful health disparities Institute which focused on Men's Health. Gloria is the Director of the Caribbean Exploratory Research Center (CERC) in the UVI's School of Nursing.



## VISNA Representative Report

2015 Membership Assembly

Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown Hotel

By: Alexandria Bradley, RN

Greetings to all. It was an extreme honor as the second alternate to be the representative for VISNA at the 2015 ANA Membership Assembly in Washington D.C. It was five days filled with an overwhelming amount of information that I can most certainly apply to my professional development as well as to the organization both VISNA and CBU.

The wealth of information received and knowledge shared with other nurses from across the continental US was breath taking. Amendments were made; laws were passed and so on. I was also instrumental in electing Ernest Grant as the first black male ANA president. He has a wealth of knowledge, experience, and is spoken highly of by other organizations across the US. This in and of itself is an important milestone and breakthrough for the nursing profession and ANA.

Today I want to share with you one of many important topics discussed that are of great concern. It is the involvement and participation of nurses in their professional organization. This applies to both the experienced and novice nurses. This is a pressing issue for nursing associations all over the globe. The vision is to engage members and develop leaders locally and in the digital age.

Membership engagement is the investment of time, money, attention, and participation by both members and the associations. The focus is to provide meaningful, mutually beneficial experiences and ongoing relationships that advocate the profession and the professional nurse. Membership engagement drives satisfaction, which is the driver of member retention and membership growth. Every interaction can raise association awareness and connection. To engage members we must be aggressive. How, when and where is the challenge. What else our leaders often ask. Well, let's try from the student level. An active student nursing association with a back bone of grassroots. Developing leaders at this level will prepare college graduates to take the lead once in the profession.

Well, what about the nurse? Nursing is not just at job its career. Do we really understand our purpose in this profession? Is it just to provide care, complete paper work and go home? What are the expectations of this career, and what are we bringing in and taking out? We can research innovative ways to engage our members, but what about the member, what are they seeking?

These are the challenges facing the profession of nursing. If this is not addressed the fate of the nursing profession is at stake. The age of the baby boomers is coming to an end. Nevertheless we must persevere and continue by doing whatever it takes to keep the professional organization active and productive. Let's try to change the face of the organization, let's try! It starts right here this very day, this very minute. It starts with me.

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## MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. This ANA governance structure will remain until 2017 to allow more time to evaluate its effectiveness in receiving and responding to input from the constituent associations.
2. More services are available from ANA for the constituent associations to purchase at a reasonable cost.
3. Membership Recruitment strategies continues to be a priority in assisting the constituent associations, ie; retired nurses with inactive licenses are being considered for a special membership category.
4. Regretably, nurses in the USVI and Guam are still unable to access the professional insurance plans.

## ***From the Desk of the Executive Director***

VISNA has a paid membership of over 220 members yet only 15 of you to include the Board of Directors attended the recent biennial convention. Was there not enough advance information and Public Service Announcements? Was the venue not enhancing? Were the theme and speakers uninviting? With these questions and more the Board is seeking to understand the poor attendance. A survey to collect your answers will be circulated in the near future.

The professional practice of nursing has received the attention of the Institute of Medicine which is conducting a detailed analysis of its impact on patient care outcomes. In the territory this impact is already known and felt in the worsening RN nursing shortage. Individually no one will pay you much mind as you present your situations but collectively we will be heard, not only as a collective bargaining entity, but as a professional body.

Because of this limited involvement, elections had to be re-scheduled to take place by February 28, 2016. Please act on the Call for Nominations posted on the Home Page of this website. You are VISNA, not the Board of Directors. You also set the direction of the association.

Please continue to make the difference not only in your work environment but for YOUR association. Look for the survey!!!!!!

Joyce T. Heyliger, MPH, MSN, RN  
Executive Director

## ***Membership Dues Benefits***

If you are currently having full VISNA dues - \$13.52 or \$14.37 based on your District– deducted from your check per pay period but you have not received a membership card from ANA please contact me at visnaus@icloud.com immediately with the following information:

- your name
- mailing address
- preferred contact telephone number
- email address

For those of you who may have been referred for a VISNA payroll deduction or ANA Membership Application form please complete the above information without your social security number and scan to the above referenced email.

In addition to the membership card with your ANA member number, you are to receive the ANA newsletter every other month. The ANA website is replete with practice, leadership, research and other pertinent information most of which may not be accessible without your member number.



### **Dues breakdown is as follows:**

	District 01 (St. Croix)	District 02 (St. Thomas /St. John)
CBU		
Service fees	\$5.00	\$5.00
District dues	\$1.70	.85c
ANA dues	\$5.77	\$5.77
State dues	\$1.90	\$1.90

ANA does not collect CBU fees;  
a separate check must be written.

# CALL TO NOMINATIONS

## 2015–2017 Biennium



**The Virgin Islands State Nurses Association  
issues the initial call for nomination of eligible members to serve for the upcoming biennium.  
The following positions are open.**

**OFFICERS:**

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer (one each)

**DIRECTORS:**

Three

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

a minimum of five (5)

**REPRESENTATIVE TO ANA MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY:**

at least two (2)

**REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CARIBBEAN NURSES ORGANIZATION CONVENTION:**

at least two (2)

### **ELIGIBILITY**

The person(s) nominated for each office should:

- Be a current member of VISNA/ANA
- Expect to continue in a leadership capacity for the elected term
- Have sufficient experience and education within the organization that will demonstrate her/his understanding of the requirements of the office/position
- Have commitment of time involved with the position compatible with employment, if applicable
- Submit a brief statement of qualification
- Understand appropriate methods of confrontation, exhibit good decision making abilities, and have leadership qualities
- Submit a statement of views on issues facing the nursing profession, VISNA and/or the office s/he is seeking
- Complete a Consent to Serve form

**CONSENT TO SERVE** forms will be available on St. Thomas from Merla Kimball at Schneider Regional Center and on St. Croix from Evet Rivera at the Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital. Deadline for submission of Consent forms is 5 pm Friday, January 29, 2016.



**Virgin Islands  
State Nurses Association**

Contact us at:

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Christiansted, St. Croix  
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Phone: 340-244-6874  
E-mail: [visnaus@icloud.com](mailto:visnaus@icloud.com)

Intentionally left blank for you to fill in your short and long term goals for your professional association, list your contribution towards accomplishment of these goals and then share with your District President.

***Attention VISNA Members!***

*If you are not receiving updates, news releases and relevant information from ANA, please send your personal email address along with your name and ANA member number to:*

***[visnaus@icloud.com](mailto:visnaus@icloud.com)***

## **Upcoming Events**



Election of Officers and Directors  
Nominating Committee  
Delegates to ANA Membership  
Assembly  
and Caribbean Nurses Organization  
Conference

For the 2015-2017 Biennium

Ask not what VISNA is doing for me but what  
can I do to enhance VISNA's mission

