

CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Edith Woltman

Retired RN Volunteer

Katy, TX



Experience and Activities

AACN Commitment and Involvement, 2022-present

Includes ways in which the candidate integrated the mission and work of AACN into their current role and practice. Local and national volunteer activities are listed, if applicable.

- West Houston Chapter
 - Outreach chair, 2017-present
 - Webmaster, 2016-present
 - Member, 2005-present
 - Bylaws Subcommittee, 2023-2024
- Ambassador, 2003-present
- Awards Review Panel, 2022-2025
- NTI Scholarship Review Panel, 2023
- Chapter Advisory Team
 - Co-lead, 2024-2026, 2020-2022
 - Member, 2022-2024, 2017-2020
- Speaker, National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition, 2025, 2022
- Delivered welcome message, Symposium at San Fernando Valley Chapter, fall 2023

Key Professional Activities outside AACN, 2022-present

Includes involvement with other professional organizations, teaching and/or speaking engagements

- RN volunteer, Houston Methodist West Hospital, 2021-present
- RN volunteer, Christ Clinic, 2013-present

Issues Statement

Nurses' engagement is one key issue affecting acute and critical care nursing today. Nurse engagement is vital to AACN's mission and vision, with chapters serving as the core of our community and driving effective participation. Multiple factors influence nurses' engagement with their organizations and professional participation. A commonly cited reason is the challenge of managing competing priorities between work and home in addition to "what's in it for me?" Burnout, compassion fatigue, insufficient staff, poor work conditions, and concerns about personal benefit are also factors.

AACN chapters face difficulties identifying effective ways to keep their members actively involved. Even though they may appear straightforward or ordinary, basic and meaningful methods have been effectively used by certain chapters:

- Personalized welcome email to new members
- Publicly introducing, welcoming new and returning members at chapter meeting
- Encourage members to attend board meetings, this allows them the opportunity to witness discussion and decision-making process.
- Meaningful recognition to members bringing new members
- Leadership support is essential for nurses to feel valued
- Merit system availability for all members
- Open, transparent communication
- Mentoring of emerging chapter leaders

Engaged chapter members need to feel the emotional connection and sense of the chapter's purpose to lead a nursing community with shared vision, inspiring members to attend chapter meetings regularly, go the extra mile, contribute and participate in chapter activities.

I believe it "takes a village to raise a child." It takes the collective effort of all chapter leaders and members to pursue a shared goal, address challenges, and develop best engagement practices.