

Florida Nurses Association Recognizes Outstanding Nurses



The Florida Nurses Association celebrated its 110th Anniversary at their Annual Membership Assembly in September. In honor of the occasion, the organization created a special award recognition for nurses who are outstanding in their respective specialties. The FNA ICON Awards recognizes nurses who are outstanding in the fields of Clinical Practice, Advanced Practice, Research, Community Service, Advocacy, Education, Administration, and Mentor/Role Model. A call was sent out in January and nominations were accepted until June 1. Nominations were reviewed by a committee of peers and recommendations were made to the Board of Directors based on the contributions of each nominee. On September 13, a gala awards ceremony was held at the Mission Inn Resort in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida. The following nurses were honored:

- Jane Fusilero, Nursing Administration
- Dr. Stacia Hays, Advocacy
- Linda Smith, Advocacy
- Sherrina Stewart, Clinical Nursing
- Dr. Kathy Voegel-Harvey, Community Service

- Dr. Yolanda Alvarez Nitti, Community Service
- Dr. Nancy Harris, Nurse Educator
- Joyce DeGennaro, Nurse Educator
- Kathleen Muniz, Nurse Educator
- Dr. Sherri Smith, Nurse Educator
- Michelle Greene Rhodes, Nurse Entrepreneur
- Dr. JoEllen Edwards, Mentor/Role Model
- Dr. Guillermo Valdes, Mentor/Role Model
- Dr. Kelly Allred, Mentor/Role Model
- Dr. Lois Marshall, Mentor/Role Model
- Dr. Mary Lou Sole, Research
- Dr. Patricia Messmer, Research
- Dr. Daleen Penoyer, Research
- Dr. Cheryl Krause-Parello, Research
- Dr. Veronica Decker, Innovator

Additionally, the association recognized Representative Cary Pigman and Senator Jeff Brandes for their work in the Florida Legislature on behalf of nursing. Both Representative Pigman and Senator Brandes have been supportive of key nursing issues over the past several years resulting in important gains for advanced practice nurses in our state.

Monique Madan, a south Florida journalist was awarded the Excellence in Journalism Award for a piece she wrote on a teen immigrant that she helped to stay in the country.

Anne Peach, a long-time member of FNA and the immediate past Vice-President was awarded the President's Award by President Janegale Boyd for her contributions during her term. She was instrumental in helping the organization adopt a new robust strategic plan and she chaired the 2017-2019 Membership Committee, which is positioned to launch some exciting new initiatives.

FNA represents over 300,000 nurses in the state of Florida and is proud to be able to recognize these outstanding nurses for their contributions to the profession and the community.

The Florida Nurses Association is the professional organization for nurses in Florida. FNA represents nurses regardless of specialty and area of practice. Founded in 1909, FNA has advocated for nurses and the communities they serve in the health policy arena for 110 years.



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Nursing Administration



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Representative
Cary Pigman



Senator Jeff
Brandes