



GREATER CINCINNATI ORGANIZATION for Nursing Leadership

BYLAWS 2020

ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be the Greater Cincinnati Organization for Nursing Leadership, herein referred to as the **GCONL**

ARTICLE II – SCOPE

A. Mission

GCONL is a group of nursing leaders serving as the catalyst for innovative healthcare in the greater Cincinnati area.

B. Vision

GCONL is the voice for nursing leadership in greater Cincinnati. It serves to empower nurse leaders to advance changes in healthcare.

1. Our Driving Force:

GCONL believes diverse nursing leadership influences and impacts the healthcare continuum. Every nurse is a leader. We nurture engagement, advocacy and professional development to advance health and maximize practice and outcomes.

2. Our Core Business:

- a. Engaged Nurse Leaders
- b. Leadership development
- c. Public policy, legislation and advocacy
- d. Thought leadership
- e. Education

C. Purpose

GCONL shall:

1. Foster the development of effective nursing leaders.
2. Create forums that will energize healthcare leaders to exchange ideas and find solutions.
3. Increase the visibility and influence of the organization to effect change.
4. Positively affect healthcare outcomes by collaborating within the community on healthcare issues and initiatives.
5. Create environments that are optimal for effective nursing practice.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

A. Classes of Members

GCONL membership shall consist of registered nurses who may be full members, associate members, honorary members, emeritus members or student members.

1. Full Members:

Registered Nurses holding an organizational role with administrative or management accountability, who are employed by an OHA organizational member.

2. Associate Members:

Associate members may include but are not limited to:

- a. Registered nurses who are not eligible to be full GCONL members but whose role supports the vision, mission and goals of GCONL, and are employed by an OHA organizational member.
- b. Deans and Directors of Schools of Nursing and faculty in nursing administration and other administrative health care programs with shared/consistent philosophy and goals with GCONL.
- c. Registered nurses holding an organization role with administrative or management accountability who are employed by an OHA corporate partner, OHA Provisional Member or OHA Associate Member.

3. Honorary Members:

Honorary membership may be granted by nomination to, and action by, the GCONL Board of Directors. Membership may be rescinded by Board action. Honorary members may include nurse leaders from non-OHA affiliated organizations. Honorary members may not hold a position on the GCONL Board.⁴

4. Emeritus Members:

Emeritus status is bestowed upon individuals who are not engaged in service (sales/consulting) to the health care community and have at least 5 years of membership in GCONL or have served as board president or officer of GCONL, OONL, AONL or another affiliated group. This may be requested upon retirement or by nomination to, and action by the GCONL Board of Directors in recognition of outstanding individual contribution to the field of health care.

5. Student Members:

- a. Nurses enrolled in a graduate program may be student members.
- b. Student members will not be counted as part of a quorum at general membership meetings.

B. Privileges of Membership

1. Voting privileges: Full and Associate members
2. Committee membership privileges: Full, Associate, Honorary, Emeritus and Student members
3. OONL Board participation: Full members, Associate members and Emeritus members may serve at the discretion of the Board

C. Procedure for Membership

1. Establishment of Membership:

An applicant shall submit an application and dues for membership. Membership in GCONL shall become effective upon acceptance of the membership application

- and dues.
2. **Transfer of Membership:**
Membership in GCONL is a personal membership and is not transferable to another person. A member who changes institutional affiliation shall retain membership during the full term for which dues have been paid.
 3. **Termination of Membership:**
 - a. **Resignation**
A member may at any time file a resignation from GCONL in writing with the Board. It shall become effective immediately.
 - b. **Eligibility Status Change**
Full Members who, because of change in position or unemployment, or who do not continue to meet the criteria for Full or Associate Members may request to extend membership eligibility in their current membership category for two years. Upon retirement, a member may request a change from full membership to Emeritus status.

D. OONL Affiliate Chapter Membership

1. GCONL shall comply with the Ohio Organization for Nursing Leadership (OONL) eligibility requirements to maintain affiliate chapter status as outlined in the OONL Bylaws Article IV, Section D.:
2. As an affiliate chapter of OONL, GCONL may:
 - a. Submit recommendations directly to the Board of Directors of OONL to articulate the organization’s position on issues relevant to nursing.
 - b. Recommend programs and activities for OONL’s consideration.
Provide input and feedback to OONL when position statements are formulated regarding health care issues including but not limited to: health care delivery access, financing, preparation, utilization, and governance of health care practitioners.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

A. List of Officers

1. The officers of GCONL shall consist of: President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.
2. The offices of President and President-Elect shall be filled by full members who have 5 years’ experience in progressive leadership in an acute care facility or system and who have held membership in GCONL during the previous year.
3. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer shall be filled by full members who have held membership in GCONL during the previous year.

B. Method of Selection

1. **Election:** Newly elected officers of GCONL shall take office on the first day of January each year. At this point during even years, the current President-Elect shall succeed to the office of President.
2. **Vacancies:** If a vacancy, for any reason, occurs in the office of President or President-Elect, the following applies:
 - a. If a vacancy occurs in the office of President during the year (even years) that there is no President-Elect in office, or if both the President and President – Elect offices are vacant, the Board of

Directors shall appoint a President pro tempore to serve any remaining portion of the unexpired term. The board of directors shall declare a special election and the Nominations Committee will be asked to prepare a slate of eligible candidates as soon as possible. At the next regular election of the organization, a President and President-Elect shall be elected in accordance with provisions of these bylaws. The process will then follow general election guidelines.

- b. Office of President-Elect: The Board of Directors shall declare a special election and the Nominations Subcommittee will be asked to prepare a slate of eligible candidates as soon as possible.

C. Duties

- 1. President:
 - a. Presides at all meetings.
 - b. Appoints chairpersons of all standing committees, and/or taskforces.
 - c. Appoints members to serve on other, community based, health care committees/councils. Presents the annual report prepared by the Board of Directors to the members at the OONL annual meeting.
 - d. Presents the annual report prepared by the Board of Directors to the members at the OONL annual meeting.
 - e. Represents the GCONL affiliate chapter to OONL and serves as a member of the OONL Board of Directors.
 - f. Performs other duties as authorized by the GCONL Board of Directors.
- 2. President-Elect:
 - a. Presides at any meeting in the absence of the President.
 - b. Performs other duties as authorized by the GCONL Board of Directors
- 3. Secretary:
 - a. Records and prepares minutes of all meetings of the organization, including Board meetings.
 - b. Conducts correspondence as directed.
- 4. Treasurer:
 - a. Collects dues and is responsible for the financial affairs of the Greater Cincinnati Organization for Nursing Leadership. Serves as primary co-signer on the chapter account in conjunction with the Chair of Engagement.
 - b. Submits a report at scheduled business meetings.
 - c. Prepares an annual financial report.
 - d. Presides at any meeting in the absence of the President or President-Elect

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. Membership

- 1. Elected officers: President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Past-President (1year)
- 2. Appointed committee chairpersons: By-laws, Education, Engagement Nominations and Legislative and Practice
- 3. Elected officers are Board members for the duration of their term in office. The Past

President will remain a member for the year immediately following his/her term as President.

4. Committee chairpersons are appointed by the President and may serve on the Board for up to but not exceeding two, 2-year terms or longer at the discretion of the Board.
5. Board-appointed chairpersons are members of the Board and will have a vote.

B. Duties and Responsibilities

The Board of Directors shall make policy decisions and provide direction for the organization by:

1. Reviewing, revising, and presenting the mission, vision, goals, and objectives of GCONL for member approval annually.
2. Fulfilling responsibilities to OONL as an affiliate chapter. This includes at least the following:
 - a. In the absence of the President, providing an alternate to represent the NE constituency at any OONL Board meeting.
 - b. Promoting membership in OON and AONL.
 - c. Supporting OONL and AONL activities and programs.
 - d. Providing OONL and AONL information to the GCONL membership, including but not limited to minutes, educational opportunities and legislative issues.
3. Facilitating the business of the organization when such business must be dealt with prior to a regularly scheduled meeting and reporting these business activities at the next regularly scheduled meeting of GCONL.

C. Board Vacancies

The Board of Directors shall have authority to fill any vacancy that may occur on the Board other than a vacancy in the office of the President-Elect, by appointment of an eligible member of GCONL to serve for the unexpired term.

D. Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet not less than two (2) times per year. Additional meetings may be called by the President.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

A. Regular/Annual Membership Meetings

Regular business meetings will be held at least four (4) times a year or as determined by the Board of Directors.

B. Order of Meetings

The order of business of all meetings of GCONL shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

A. Standing Committees

1. There shall be four (4) standing committees: By-Laws, Education, Nominations and Engagement, and Legislative and Practice.
2. The President, in conjunction with the other elected officers, appoints all

chairpersons of the standing committees.

B. Eligibility and Qualifications

Any full member of GCONL is eligible to be appointed as chairperson of a standing committee or to serve as a member of a standing committee. All full, associate, honorary and emeritus members may participate on standing committees.

C. Duties and Responsibilities

1. By-Laws Committee

- a. Reviews the By-Laws annually and makes revisions as necessary.
- b. Submits GCONL bylaws to OONL for review (even years).

2. Education Committee

- a. Completes an annual assessment of the educational needs and interests of the members.
- b. Confirms meeting dates, times and locations
- c. Plans educational programs that promote any of the following:
 - Leadership development
 - Nursing issues related to health care legislation and public policy
 - Nursing practice issues.
- d. At the request of the President, selects speakers for regular meetings.

3. Nominations and Engagement Committee

- a. Prepares a slate of qualified candidates for each office to be elected.
- b. Prepares, distributes and counts election ballots.
- c. Develops and implements an annual plan for membership recruitment.
- d. Develops a review process for new applicants for compliance with by-laws regarding membership.
- e. Provides each member with a current membership roster annually.
- f. Promotes membership in OONL to ensure ongoing affiliate chapter status.
- g. Submits information annually to OONL to validate affiliate chapter eligibility.
- h. Distributes dues notices annually.
- i. Notifies the membership, at least two weeks in advance, of the date, time and location of meetings.

4. Legislative and Practice

- a. Advocates for nursing at the local, state and national level on issues supported by AONL, OONL, OHA and GCONL
- b. Shares information about local, state and national legislation that pertains to nursing at membership and board meetings.

D. Taskforces

Taskforces may be appointed by the President for special projects as authorized by the Board of Directors. Taskforces shall submit interim reports of their activities to the Board of Directors and at completion of the assigned project present a final report with conclusions and recommendations.

ARTICLE VIII – DUES

- A. The Board of Directors in collaboration with the GCONL organization shall establish the annual dues to be paid by members.
- B. Student members will pay a discounted rate as determined by the Board of Directors.
- C. Emeritus members shall be exempt from dues assessment.

- D. Any member who has not renewed membership within three (3) months of receipt of dues notice shall be deleted from the mailing list. Any qualified individual who pays dues after the three-month date and before October 31st will be added to GOONL membership and added to the mailing list.
- E. Dues received after November 1 shall be applied to the following year.

ARTICLE IX – TERMS OF OFFICE

- A. The President shall serve for a term of two (2) years.
- B. The President-Elect succeeds to the office of President at the end of the one (1) year term as President-Elect. The President-Elect office will exist every other year (odd years) to support the succession plan.
- C. The Secretary shall be elected bi-annually, to begin a two (2) year term of office in odd-numbered years.
- D. The Treasurer shall be elected bi-annually, to begin a two (2) year term of office in even-numbered years.

ARTICLE X – ELECTIONS

- A. Method of Nominating
 - 1. A slate of candidates shall be submitted by the Nominations Subcommittee at the last meeting preceding the annual meeting.
 - 2. Nominations may also be made from the floor by a member at the last meeting preceding the annual meeting.
 - 3. Elections shall be held annually by ballot to the membership.
 - 4. Election shall be held by ballot unless there is but one (1) nomination for any office, at which time the vote may be via voice.
 - 5. A quorum is necessary to transact elections.
 - 6. No officer shall be eligible for re-election to the same office after two (2) consecutive terms until there is a lapse of one (1) term.
 - 7. Elections to fill vacancies may be held at any regular meeting.
 - 8. Any officer filling a vacancy for less than three (3) months shall be eligible for two (2) consecutive terms.
- B. Voting
 - 1. A majority of votes cast shall determine the decision at any meeting at which there is a quorum.
 - 2. A majority of votes cast shall determine the decision in all elections. Mailed or electronic ballots are acceptable for voting purposes.
 - 3. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE XI – QUORUM

- A. Regular/Annual Meetings

A quorum shall consist of no less than ten percent (10%) of the total eligible voting membership, including two officers.
- B. Board of Director Meetings

A quorum shall consist of not less than fifty percent (50%) of the Board members.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

- A. Recommendations for By-Laws changes are to be mailed or e-mailed to the membership in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- B. The By-Laws can be amended at any regular meeting if a quorum is present.

Review/Revision Dates:8/90, 10/91, 1/96, 4/98, 12/01, 4/03, 9/03. 3/06; 1/07, 3/08, 9/13, 06/16, 12/17