

Bylaws

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF NURSING STUDENTS BYLAWS

As amended **October 2023** ~~July 2019~~

ARTICLE I. NAME

- A. The name of this organization shall be the Georgia Association of Nursing Students, hereinafter referred to as GANS, a constituent of National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND FUNCTION

SECTION 1. THE PURPOSE OF GANS:

- A. To assume responsibility for contributing to nursing education to provide for the highest quality of healthcare.
- B. To provide programs representative of fundamental and current professional interest and concerns; and
- C. To aid in the development of the whole person, including an understanding of the professional role of a nurse, and his/her responsibility for the health care of all people.

SECTION 2. THE FUNCTION OF GANS:

- A. To have direct input into standards of nursing education and influence the educational process;
- B. To influence health care, nursing education, and practice through legislative activities as appropriate,
- C. To promote and encourage participation in community affairs and activities towards improved health care and the resolution of related social issues
- D. To represent nursing students to the consumer, to institutions and other organizations;
- E. To promote and encourage student's participation in interdisciplinary activities;
- F. To promote and encourage recruitment efforts, participation in student activities and educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, sex, lifestyle, national origin, age, or economic status;
- G. To promote and encourage collaborative relationships with the Georgia Association for Nursing Education, and Georgia Nurses Association, as well as other nursing and related organizations.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERS

SECTION 1. CONSTITUENT ASSOCIATIONS:

- A. Any school chapter whose membership is composed of active or associate NSNA members and who have submitted the Official Application for NSNA Constituency Status, containing the areas of conformity and an application for GANS Constituency status, and upon meeting such other policies as the Board of Directors may determine, shall be recognized as a constituent. By submitting these applications, schools agree to abide by these areas of conformity and to use them as their own bylaws. Constituency status will be renewable each year by resubmission of the applications. Schools must submit their own individual bylaws to GANS but are not required to submit their bylaws to NSNA.
- B. A school chapter shall be composed of at least ten members from a school. There shall only be one chapter in each school.
- C. A state association shall be composed of at least two school chapters in the state. School chapters shall belong to the state association. There shall only be one state association.
- D. Any school chapter whose membership is composed of NSNA active or associate members and who have submitted an Official Application for GANS Constituency Status containing the areas of conformity, and

upon meeting such other policies as the executive board determined, shall be recognized as a limited constituent. By submitting this application each year, schools agree to abide by these areas of conformity and to use them as their own bylaws. Limited Constituency status will be renewable each year by resubmission of the application. Limited Constituent Associations shall have delegate representation as outlined in Article VI, Section 3 Paragraph D. Schools should submit their own bylaws to GANS.

- E. A school may obtain Restricted Constituent Status by submitting only the application for GANS constituency status. By submitting this application, delegate representation will be determined as outlined in Article VI, Section 3 Paragraph D. This shall apply only on the state level, not to affect the NSNA requirements of Constituency status.
- F. A constituent who fails to comply with the bylaws and policies of GANS and NSNA shall have its status revoked by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors, provided that written notice to the proposed revocation has been given at least two (2) months prior to the vote and the constituent association is given an opportunity to be heard.
- G. A limited constituent who fails to comply with the bylaws and policies of GANS shall have its statutes revoked by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board, provided that written notice to the proposed revocation has been given at least two (2) months prior to vote and the limited constituent association is given an opportunity to be heard.
- H. School chapters are entities separate and apart from GANS in their administration of activities, with GANS exercising no supervision or control over their immediate daily and regular activities. GANS has no liability for any loss, damages, or injuries sustained by third parties as a result of the negligence or acts of school chapters, or the members thereof. In the event any legal proceeding is brought against GANS as a result of such acts of omission or commission by a school chapter, said school chapter will indemnify and hold harmless the GANS from any liability.

SECTION 2. CATEGORIES OF CONSTITUENT MEMBERSHIP:

- A. Members of the constituent association shall be:
 - 1. Active Members:
 - a. Students enrolled in state approved programs leading to a licensure as a registered nurse.
 - b. Registered nurses enrolled in undergraduate programs leading to a baccalaureate degree with a major in nursing.
 - c. Active members shall have all privileges of membership.
 - 2. Associate Members:
 - a. Students, including registered nurses, enrolled in college or university programs designed as preparation for entrance into an undergraduate program leading to an associate degree, diploma, or baccalaureate degree in nursing.
 - b. Associate members shall have all the privileges of membership, except the right to hold office as the President, Vice President, and 2nd Vice President at state and national levels.
 - c. Associate members shall not be eligible to serve more than one term of office as an associate member. Any associate member having already served one term of office and wishes to serve any additional term of office must do so as an eligible Active Member.
 - 3. Individual Members:
 - a. Individual membership shall be open at the state level to any eligible student when membership in a constituent association is not available. Individual members shall have the privileges of membership as described in Article III, Section 2, Paragraphs A and B.

SECTION 3. Categories of Non-Constituent Membership

- A. Sustaining Organization Members:
 - 1. Sustaining Organization membership shall be open in GANS to any organization, upon approval of The Board of Directors, interested in furthering the development and growth of GANS. Sustaining organization membership shall be granted for an annual fee as stated in the GANS Policies and Procedures.
- B. Honorary Members:

1. Honorary membership may be conferred by 2/3 vote of the House of Delegates with recommendation of The Board of Directors upon persons who have rendered distinguished service or valuable assistance to GANS. Honorary members shall have none of the obligations or privileges of membership.

SECTION 4. LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP:

- A. Active and Associate membership may be extended six (6) months beyond the completion of a student's program in nursing. Sustaining membership shall be renewable annually.

SECTION 5. DUES:

- A. Annual dues:
 1. The total annual dues shall include dues for NSNA, GANS, and school (if any) for any member. The dues year shall be for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months.
 2. Payment of NSNA, GANS, and school dues (if any) is a prerequisite for membership.
 3. NSNA dues shall be \$35.00 per member per membership year with GANS receiving \$10.00 per member per membership year for state dues. NSNA Renewal dues shall be \$40.00 per member with GANS receiving \$10.00 per member per year for state dues. School dues (if any) shall be decided according to each school's bylaws.
- B. NSNA and GANS dues shall be payable directly to NSNA. NSNA shall remit to each state constituent the dues received on behalf of the constituent. School dues shall not be submitted to NSNA.
- C. Any member who fails to pay current dues shall forfeit all privileges of membership.
- D. The annual dues for sustaining members shall be established by the GANS Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV. Officers and Directors

SECTION 1. OFFICERS:

- A. President
- B. 1st Vice President
- C. 2nd Vice President
- D. Secretary
- E. Treasurer

SECTION 2. DIRECTORS:

- A. There shall be nine (9) directors.
- B. One (1) shall be the Publications Director, one shall be the Legislative Director, one shall be the Breakthrough to Nursing Director, one shall be the Community Health Director, one shall be the Public Relations Director,
- C. There shall be four (4) District Directors, one (1) District Director for each of the following districts; North, West, East, and South, and each director must be enrolled in a school within the district they represent.
 1. Each nursing school campus in Georgia will be assigned to a district as follows:
 - a. North: Brenau University, Georgia Highlands College, ~~Georgia Perimeter College, Gwinnett Technical College~~, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University, WellStar School of Nursing at Kennesaw State University, University of North Georgia, Georgia Northwestern Technical College, Shorter University, Berry College, North Georgia Technical College, Chattahoochee Technical College, and Dalton State College
 - b. West Georgia: Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Columbus Technical College, ~~Georgia Baptist College of Nursing/Mercer University~~, Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing at Georgia State University/Georgia State Perimeter College, Gordon College, LaGrange College, University of West Georgia, West Georgia Technical College, Middle Georgia State College - Macon, and Middle Georgia State College - Cochran, Georgia Baptist

College of Nursing at Mercer University, Herzing University, Lanier Technical College, Wesleyan College, and Fort Valley State University

- c. East Georgia: Athens Area Technical Institute, Georgia College & State University-Macon, Georgia College & State University-Milledgeville, ~~Georgia Southern University, Middle Georgia State College—Macon, Middle Georgia State College—Cochran, Georgia Regents University—Athens, and Georgia Regents University—Augusta~~, Augusta University, Augusta Technical College, Georgia Gwinnett College, Piedmont University, Gwinnett Technical College, Morris Brown College, Reinhardt University, Atlanta Technical College, South College, Southern Crescent Technical College, and Chamberlain University
- d. South Georgia: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Albany State University, College of Coastal Georgia, Georgia Southwestern State University, South Georgia State College, Southern Regional Technical College, Valdosta State University, Central Georgia Technical College, Georgia Southern University, Thomas University, and Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, and Coastal Pines Technical College

2. New schools will be appointed to a district by the Executive Board of GANS.

- D. Two members, who ran for, but were not elected to, the Board of Directors or the Nominations and Elections Committee of GANS, shall be appointed to the board as Assistant to the Executive Board and Assistant to the District Directors. The appointment shall take place within 24 hours of the elections at the annual meeting and be based on a majority vote of the Board of Directors. If the positions become vacant at a later time, a new Assistant to the Executive Board or Assistant to the District Directors will be appointed by the Board of Directors. The Assistant to the Executive Board and Assistant to the District Directors will not have voting rights unless they fill a position with voting rights according to the GANS bylaws, Article IV Section 4 Paragraph L Item 1.

SECTION 3. ELIGIBILITY:

- A. Only members of who shall be nursing students throughout the full term in office, with a six (6) month leeway and have privileges of active membership, shall be eligible for the offices of President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President.
- B. Only members who shall be nursing or students with an interest in nursing, throughout the full term in office, with a six (6) month leeway and have privileges of active or associate membership, shall be eligible for the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, District Directors, Director of Legislation, Publications Director, Director of Breakthrough to Nursing, and Community Health Director, Nominations and Elections Committee, Assistant to the Executive Board, and Assistant to the District Directors.

SECTION 4. TERM OF OFFICE:

- A. The term of office shall be for one year from the adjournment of the annual meeting at which officers and directors are elected to adjournment of the annual meeting at which their successors are elected.
- B. Any Board Member who voluntarily resigns from their term of office, or becomes ineligible for office according to GANS bylaws, Article III, Section 2, Paragraphs A and B, or in the case of the office being declared vacant according to Article VII, Section 4, Paragraph E before their term expires, or whose office becomes terminated according to Article IV, Section 3, Paragraph C-D, shall:
 - 1. Reimburse the GANS treasury any and all funds paid to them or on their behalf, within sixty (60) days upon receiving notification by GANS Treasurer of the amount owed.
 - a. Reimbursement to the GANS treasury may be waived upon approval by 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors when; an appeal shall be brought for waiver of reimbursement obligation within sixty (60) days.
 - 2. Have a letter sent to the student's appropriate Dean, Faculty Advisor, and SNA President listed on the member's initial application for office notifying them of the end of their term of office for the protection of the integrity of the Georgia Association of Nursing Students.
- C. Any resignation from a position on the Board of Directors shall be in writing and shall be effective immediately upon receipt of the same by the GANS President.

- D. Verbal resignations shall be tendered to the President and another board member. In the case that the President is verbally resigning, the President shall tender the resignation to the First Vice President and another Board member.

SECTION 5. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the parliamentary authority, and more specifically shall include:

- A. The President shall:
1. Preside at all meetings of the GANS Board of Directors.
 2. Appoint special committees with the approval of the Board of Directors.
 3. Co-sign checks (or designate another officer to do so) for fund disbursements as provided by bylaws and policies.
 4. Serve as ex-officio members of all committees except nominations and elections.
 5. Represent GANS in matters relating to the association and perform all other duties pertaining to the office, including attending or designating an Executive Board member to attend meetings of other organizations deemed appropriate, and report back to the Board of Directors and state constituents.
 6. Oversee the annual review and revision of the strategic plan, which should be completed by the annual meeting.
 7. Provide a monthly written report to Executive Board members at board meetings.
- B. The First Vice President shall:
1. Assume the office of the President in the absence or disability of the President.
 2. Accede to the office of President in the case of a vacancy in the office.
 3. Serve as the chair of the Convention Planning Committee for the annual business meeting.
 4. Provide a monthly written report to Executive Board members at board meetings.
 5. Perform other duties as assigned by the President.
- C. The Second Vice President shall:
1. Assume the duties of the First Vice President in the absence or disability of the First Vice President.
 2. Accede to the office of the First Vice President in case of a vacancy in the office.
 3. Assist the 1st Vice President in preparing for Annual Conference
 4. Be responsible for upkeep and maintenance of GANS archives.
 5. Provide a monthly written report to Executive Board members at board meetings.
 6. Perform other duties assigned by the President.
- D. The Secretary shall:
1. Prepare and record the minutes of all business meetings of the association and Board of Directors to include, obtaining reports from Board members, disseminating minutes to Board members and constituents as deemed appropriate by the President.
 2. Within ten (10) days of approval of minutes: submit official minutes to NSNA, post corrected minutes (as necessary) to Gmail, and submit to the Publications Director for publication on the GANS website.
 3. Obtain and provide up-to-date contact information of Board of Directors
 4. Work with District Directors and Board of Directors to obtain and provide up-to-date names and contact information for local school chapter officers
 5. Work with the Publication Director to ensure upcoming events are posted to GANS website calendar each month.
 6. Perform other duties as assigned by the President.
- E. The Treasurer shall:
1. Act as custodian of the organization's funds and see that a detailed annual financial report and budget (i.e. previous year and year-to-date) be prepared and presented in writing to all constituent associations at the state convention.
 2. Be bonded and have treasurer's books audited at the end of the fiscal year, when deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
 3. Serve as chairperson of the finance committee when such a committee is established by the Executive Board.

4. Furnish to the chairman of the tellers, not less than two (2) hours before the opening of the polls, a list of delegates entitled to vote at the annual meeting.
 5. Monitor funds and inform the Board of Directors of allocated funds and expenditures related to the budget at monthly board meetings.
 6. Shall submit a proposed budget for the upcoming year to the House of Delegates at the annual meeting.
 7. Provide a monthly written report to the Board of Directors at board meetings.
 8. Perform other duties as assigned by the President.
- F. The District Directors shall:
1. Serve as a communication link between their district and the Board of Directors.
 2. Act as resource person for schools in their district.
 3. Contact each school in their district at least once per month during the school year by telephone, email, or in person.
 4. Have additional duties defined by the Board of Directors according to needs and priorities.
 5. Plan and coordinate Annual Mid-Year event, Council of Student Leaders (COSL).
 6. Notify all schools of their state constituency status, the number of voting delegates, and the date, time and place of the annual meeting at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
 7. Provide a monthly written report to the Board of Directors at board meetings.
 8. Perform other duties assigned by the President.
- G. The Public Relations Director shall:
1. Solicit and communicate with potential exhibitors and advertisers for the purpose of convention, COSL and EKG/website financing.
 2. Handle invoicing of all advertising and exhibiting of GANS functions.
 3. Organizing exhibit hall during GANS state convention.
 4. Coordinate GANS press releases to nursing publications in Georgia.
 5. Shall coordinate the annual IMAGE OF NURSING AWARD for NSNA
 6. Provide a monthly written report at board meetings.
 7. Perform other duties assigned by the President.
- H. The Publications Director shall:
1. Be responsible for a monthly publication of a GANS EKG newsletter.
 2. Be responsible for the publication of the annual GANS convention booklet.
 3. Shall coordinate the annual CHAPTER NEWSLETTER AWARD for NSNA.
 4. Provide a monthly written report to Board members at board meetings.
 5. Update and maintain GANS website and social media accounts on a monthly basis.
 6. Assist and coordinate with publicity and promotion of the organization.
 7. Perform other duties assigned by the President.
- I. The Legislative Director shall:
1. Stay informed concerning legislation in Georgia affecting nurses and nursing students and keep constituents informed and involved by submitting legislative updates for EKG issues.
 2. Submit resolutions from the state Board of Directors to the House of Delegates at the NSNA annual convention and annual state convention.
 3. Chair the resolutions committee to accept resolutions from school chapters and prepare resolutions to submit at annual conventions.
 4. Shall coordinate the annual POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT AWARD at NSNA.
 5. Provide a monthly written report to board members at board meetings.
 6. Be responsible for review and recommendation for change in the bylaws and policies.
 7. Be familiar with parliamentary procedure and assist with the understanding and enforcement of parliamentary procedure at all Board Meetings.
 8. Perform other duties assigned by the President.
- J. The Breakthrough to Nursing Director shall:
1. Submit BTN Project to District Directors to disperse to school chapters by the third month in office and keep the Board informed of the goals and progress of the project.
 2. Maintain communication with the local school BTN directors.

3. Work to develop nursing school recruitment materials and guidelines for recruiters appropriate to the state and local chapter recruitment needs.
 4. Write a BTN update article for each issue for the EKG.
 5. Identify and compile a listing of state and national financial aid sources for nursing students.
 6. Shall coordinate the annual CHAPTER BTN AWARD at NSNA.
 7. Responsible for GANS membership and recruitment and retention.
 8. Provide a monthly report to Executive Board members at board meetings.
 9. Perform other duties as assigned by the President.
- K. The Community Health Director shall:**
1. Submit Community service projects to the Publications Director and District Directors to disperse to school chapters and keep the Board of Directors informed of the goals and progress of the projects.
 2. Work to develop and participate in statewide, national, or international community service projects, as well as serve as a resource person for local chapters to participate and do the same.
 3. Shall coordinate the annual CHAPTER COMMUNITY PROJECT AWARD and DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AWARD for NSNA.
 4. Provide a monthly report to the Board of Directors at each Board meeting.
 5. Perform other duties assigned by the President.
- L. The Assistant to the Executive Board shall:**
1. Fill any GANS position that becomes vacant, with the exception of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, or any Director of a District or NEC they are not from.
 2. Participate in GANS committees
 3. Assist 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents in Annual Convention preparations.
 4. Assist Legislative Director with Legislative Day, Bylaws and Resolution duties.
 5. Assist Board members with projects throughout the year.
 6. Perform other duties assigned by the President.
- M. Assistant to the District Directors**
1. Fill the office of Assistant to the Executive Board if it becomes vacant.
 2. Assist the District Directors in the planning of COSL (Council of Student Leaders).
 3. Help in establishing and maintaining contact with various local chapters across the state.
 4. Assist all board members with projects throughout the year.
 5. Perform other duties as assigned by the President
- N. Council of School Presidents (COSP) Chair:**
1. Act as ex-officio, non-voting, Board Member(s),
 2. Plan and run Council of School Presidents meetings at least bi-annually; at COSL and GANS Convention.
 3. Maintain and manage COSP Facebook and Gmail Groups.
 4. Maintain and manage list of current SNA Presidents and advisors.
 5. Serve as a communication link(s) between SNA Presidents and the GANS Board by coordinating communication with the District Directors.
 6. Act as consulting opinion(s) representing state-wide SNA Presidents at GANS monthly Board meetings as deemed necessary.
 7. Serve 12-month term with elections held at the annual GANS Convention during COSP sessions.

SECTION 6. VACANCIES:

- A.** The Assistant to the Executive Board Member shall fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors or NEC, unless the Assistant to the Executive Board Member will be unable to fill the vacancy, due to bylaw constraints.
- B.** If the vacancy is unable to be filled by the Assistant to the Executive Board, then the Nominating and Elections Committee is responsible for vetting a prospective candidate, wherein a 2/3 vote by the Board of Directors must be obtained to approve the prospective candidate.
- C.** In the case of vacancy of an office, all materials of office are to be turned in to the President within 30 days from the Board meeting at which the office was declared vacant.

SECTION 7. ATTENDANCE POLICY

- A. Three absences as defined by the Executive Board will result in termination from office.
- B. Board members must be present for at least 80% of a board meeting to be counted present.
- C. After two absences from two Board meetings, an attempt will be made to submit a courtesy letter, reminding that member that an additional absence shall constitute a resignation.
- D. Only two electronic attendances are permitted. Exceptions to this rule shall be defined by the Executive Board.

SECTION 8.

- A. No GANS Board Member shall hold an officer position in a professional Nursing Association.

SECTION 9.

- A. All materials of office are to be turned over to the new officer by the second Board meeting following election to office.

ARTICLE V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS CHAIR COMMITTEE:

- A. One (1) member ~~from each district~~ shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting. In the event that no one is elected from a district, the Board of Directors shall appoint the remaining position.
- B. **The** Candidate shall be chosen from members who shall be nursing students throughout the full term in office with a six (6) month leeway.
- ~~C. A plurality vote shall elect, and the newly elected NEC shall appoint a chairperson from within the newly elected group.~~
- C. No member shall serve two (2) consecutive terms on the committee, ~~and no two (2) members shall belong to the same district.~~
- ~~D. If more than one (1) member from the same district receives sufficient votes to be elected, the one receiving the most votes shall be elected.~~
- D.** The NEC Chairperson shall be required to attend GANS Board meetings as specified by the current GANS Executive Board.
- ~~E. NEC members, excluding the NEC Chair, shall not have voting privileges.~~

SECTION 2. DUTIES OF THE NEC CHAIR:

- A. Supply ballots for the annual election of officers.
- B. Conduct mandatory candidate review meetings as stated in "Candidate and Campaign Regulations".
- C. Have voting privileges during the monthly GANS Board Meetings with suspended voting privileges during the Annual State Convention.
- D. Attend monthly GANS Board meetings as specified by the current GANS Executive Board with absences dictated according to Article IV, Section 7, A-D
- E.** Receive nominations for GANS officers and directors.
- F.** Assist with the mandatory candidate review meetings as stated in "Candidate and Campaign Regulations".
- G.** Shall enforce all policies set out in the "Candidate and Campaign Regulations" & the "Running for Office Document"
- H.** Attend monthly board meetings from May to October.
- I.** One unexcused absence during the May to October months will result in termination from office. Board member absences are approved if related to mandatory school sanctioned activities that are beyond the control of the board member, regardless of day (Sunday through Saturday) during board meetings. The Executive Board will determine whether the absence is excused or unexcused. Two absences, excused or unexcused, during the months from May to October, shall be grounds for termination from office.

SECTION 3. DUTIES OF THE NEC:

- ~~A. Receive nominations for GANS officers and directors.~~
- ~~B. Assist with the mandatory candidate review meetings as stated in "Candidate~~
- ~~C. and Campaign Regulations"~~
- ~~D. Shall enforce all policies set out in the "Candidate and Campaign Regulations" & the "Running for Office Document"~~
- ~~E. Attend monthly board meetings from May to October.~~
- ~~F. One unexcused absence during the May to October months will result in termination from office. Board member absences are approved if related to mandatory school sanctioned activities that are beyond the control of the board member, regardless of day (Sunday through Saturday) during board meetings. The Executive Board will determine whether the absence is excused or unexcused. Two absences, excused or unexcused, during the months from May to October, shall be grounds for termination from office.~~

SECTION 4 3. REPORT:

- A. The NEC Chair shall endeavor to submit one (1) or more names for each office to be filled.
- B. The report of the committee shall be printed in the convention handbook and read on the first day of the convention. Future nominations may be made from the floor at this time. Candidates nominated from the floor shall immediately present their credentials and written consent to serve.
- C. No one shall be nominated without consent of the nominee and verification of qualifications by the NEC Chair.

SECTION 5 4. SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION:

- A. No GANS Board member shall, in their individual or official capacity, write any letter expressing backing and/or support for any NSNA national candidate unless so directed by the GANS Board of Directors.
- B. Any GANS Board member that is also a local chapter president may write a letter expressing backing and/or support as the local chapter president, separate from their GANS position after first informing the GANS Executive Board.

SECTION 6 5. ELECTIONS:

- A. The elections will be determined by a plurality vote. In the event of a tie, each member of COSP (Council of School Presidents), in attendance at the annual meeting, shall re-cast a ballot vote. If still necessary, the tie vote shall then be determined by casting a lot by the entirety of delegates present.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

SECTION 1. ANNUAL AND MID-YEAR MEETING:

- A. The annual meeting of the association shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The annual meeting shall be for the purpose of holding elections, receiving reports, and conducting such other business as may properly come before the House of Delegates sent to the President of each constituent and other members of the voting body.
- B. The mid-year meeting of the association shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The mid-year meeting shall be for the purpose of offering our members educational seminars, information about NSNA and GANS, accessibility to exhibitors, as well as promote cohesiveness throughout the state's constituents.
- C. The GANS State Convention shall be scheduled for a fall convention date.

SECTION 2. GOVERNING AND VOTING BODY:

- A. The House of Delegates shall be the governing and voting body of the association and shall be composed of the delegates from the constituent associations and members of the Board of Directors. The business of the annual meeting shall be conducted by the House of Delegates.

SECTION 3. DELEGATE REPRESENTATION:

- A. The voting body at the annual meeting of this association shall consist of the elected officers, elected directors, and accredited delegates.
- B. Recognized Constituents shall be composed of at least ten (10) members from a school, or the total school enrollment if less than ten (10). This requirement of ten (10) or more members must be met on a date set by the GANS Board of Directors prior to the Annual House of Delegates. There shall be only one chapter from each school campus.
- C. Each school chapter that is a recognized constituency as determined by these bylaws shall be entitled to one voting delegate and alternate, and in addition, shall be entitled to one voting delegate and alternate for every ten (10) members. Delegates shall be computed based on the number of members in each constituency as evidenced by the annual dues received by GANS on a date set by the GANS Executive Board prior to the Annual House of Delegates.
- D. Each school chapter that is a Limited Constituent as determined by these bylaws shall be entitled to one voting delegate and alternate only.

SECTION 4. MOTIONS AND VOTING:

- A. The privilege of making motions and voting shall be limited to the voting body. A voting member shall have but one vote in any election or on any question.
- B. No proxy voting is allowed.

SECTION 5. OPEN MEETINGS:

- A. All meetings of the association shall be open unless voted otherwise by the House of Delegates. Student members, other than voting delegates, may attend the annual meeting, but shall not be seated with the delegate body, and may speak according to the convention rules.

SECTION 6. QUORUM:

- A. A quorum at meetings of GANS shall consist of at least one (1) representative from each of 1/3 of the constituent associations and at least four (4) members of the Board of Directors, including the President and First Vice President.

SECTION 7. SPECIAL MEETINGS:

- A. A special meeting may be called by the Board of Directors and shall be called by the President upon written request of 1/3 or more of the constituent associations. Notice of time, place, and purpose of the meeting shall be sent to all constituent associations not less than five (5) days prior to the meeting.
- B. The voting body shall be the same, insofar as possible, as that in the annual meeting. Other members may attend and shall have only the privileges to speak to each issue.
- C. The quorum shall be 1/3 of the constituent associations and at least four (4) members of the Executive Board, including the President, First Vice President, or Second Vice President.

SECTION 8. RESOLUTIONS:

- A. All resolutions adopted by the House of Delegates at the Annual convention will become the property of GANS to become part of their Policies.
- B. One resolution adopted by the House of Delegates may be selected for the purpose of presentation in the National House of Delegates at their Annual convention. The author of the original resolution will be notified within 14 (fourteen) days after selection and can be retained as a consultant by the resolution committee.
- C. If an author wishes to present their resolution before the House of Delegates at Nationals and it was not selected to be the GANS resolution they will be allowed to do so after requesting and receiving written permission to do so from the GANS President.

ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. MEMBERS:

- A. The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers and the directors. The consultants shall serve as ex-officio members without a vote.

SECTION 2. POWERS:

- A. All of the powers of the association are vested in and shall be exercised by the Board of Directors during the interim between meetings of the association, except that the Board shall not nullify or modify any action taken by the House of Delegates in the annual meeting and subject to the provisions of these bylaws.

SECTION 3. RESPONSIBILITY:

- A. The Board of Directors shall not be responsible for any contract, claim, or obligation of any kind incurred or for any position taken by any officer or member of a constituent unless the same was authorized in writing by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. MANAGEMENT:

Management by the Board of Directors shall include the Following Duties:

- A. Review and approve the term of official relationships established with other organizations singly or in coalition.
- B. Approve any commitment in form of action, statement of policy or position, or financial obligations involved in GANS relationships with other organizations.
- C. Approve the budget to be submitted to the House of Delegates, authorize all monetary disbursements, and provide for the annual audit of accounts at the close of the fiscal year when deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
- D. Have the power to fill vacancies for the unexpired term unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.
- E. Have the power by 2/3 vote to declare an office vacant.
- F. In case of an emergency, votes may be taken by current communication practices. The result of such an action shall control the actions of the association, the Board of Directors, and the committees. The result of such a vote shall be duly verified by the Board and recorded in the minutes of the next meeting.
- G. Perform all other duties as may be specified in these bylaws.

SECTION 5. DELEGATE TO NSNA CONVENTION:

- A. The GANS Executive Delegate to the annual NSNA convention shall be the GANS President or a delegate representative and an alternate elected by the Board of Directors from among the Board.
- B. School Constituents
 - 1. If a constituent school is unable to fill their delegation, said school should provide written authorization to the GANS Board of Directors requesting them to appoint one member of the GANS Board to act as a state-appointed delegate for their school chapter.
 - a. School chapter shall approve the appointment in writing.
 - b. The GANS Board of Directors shall verify that any state-appointed delegate is a member in good standing of the NSNA.
 - c. A school chapter must have at least one selected and/or elected delegate present at the NSNA Convention in order to have a state-appointed delegate seated in the House of Delegates.

SECTION 6. MEETINGS:

- A. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held immediately before and after the annual meeting, and at such times as deemed necessary by a majority of the Board. The President shall determine the date and place of meetings.
- B. The quorum shall be a majority of the voting members of the Board, including the President or First Vice President, and at least one consultant.
- C. The voting body at Board meetings shall consist of elected Officers of the state and the Directors. All GANS members may speak to any issue but may not vote.

SECTION 7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- A. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Directors (also referred to as the "Executive Board" within these bylaws) composed of the President, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer. A faculty consultant shall be asked to be present for any meeting of this committee. This committee shall have the power to transact business which cannot wait until the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. All transactions of the committee shall be reported in full at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. The Executive Board may conduct such business by telephone, email, or any other current communication the board deems appropriate.

ARTICLE VIII. CONSULTANTS

SECTION 1. NUMBER AND TERM:

- A. There shall be ~~four (4)~~ **five (5)** consultants (Three faculty consultants, **a financial advisor, and** one student consultant). One faculty consultant shall be appointed by each of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Nurses' Association and the Georgia Association of Nursing Education, in consultation with the GANS Board of Directors. These two consultants shall be appointed to serve for a two (2) year term, or until their respective successors are appointed. The third faculty consultant shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors. This faculty consultant shall be active in the same geographical area as the President, so to be readily available for consultation. This consultant shall have a one (1) year term of office to conform to the term of the President. **The fourth consultant should be appointed by the GANS board and serve as the financial consultants.** All ~~faculty~~ consultants must be approved to serve by the existing GANS Board. The ~~fourth~~ **fifth** consultant shall be a recently graduated nurse or graduating senior student who was a member of the GANS Board of Directors the previous year. This person shall be elected by the GANS Board of Directors to serve for one year or the remaining term of the existing board.

SECTION 2. THE CONSULTANTS SHALL:

- A. Be responsible for providing for interchange of information between the Boards of Directors of GNA, GANE, and GANS.
- B. Attend meetings and events of GANS and the GANS Board of Directors.
- C. Serve as resource persons consulting with the Board of Directors and committees in planning, deliberation, implementation and evaluation of activities and objectives.
- D. Assist as necessary in providing direction, assistance in operational aspects, foster problem solving, and goal centered planning.
- E. Stimulate and encourage personal and professional growth and skill development of officers and other members of the GANS Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. CONSULTANT VACANCIES:

- A. In the event a vacancy occurs in a consultant position, the board may invite a temporary consultant to serve until an official appointment can be made.

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors, at its discretion, shall establish committees deemed necessary to carry on the work of the association and determine the functions, terms, and membership of such committees. A quorum for committee meetings shall be a majority of the members present.

ARTICLE X. OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

The EKG (Exciting Knowledge about GANS) shall be the official publication of GANS and shall be distributed to members as one of the benefits of membership.

ARTICLE XI. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the association shall be from one annual meeting to the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE XII. FINANCE

SECTION 1. BUDGET:

- A. The Executive Board shall submit to the House of Delegates at the annual meeting, a proposed itemized budget for the coming fiscal year.
- B. The Executive Board shall organize a Finance Committee of three, including the Treasurer, who shall be responsible for developing the budget and submitting the accounts for review.

ARTICLE XIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

SECTION 1.

- A. All meetings of this association shall be conducted according to parliamentary laws as set forth in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* where the rules apply and are not in conflict with these bylaws.

SECTION 2.

- A. A parliamentarian, other than a Board member, will be present at all House of Delegates proceedings.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

- A. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing carrying the proponent's signature, to the Board of Directors for review at least six (6) weeks prior to the annual meeting. Proposed amendments may be submitted only by the Board of Directors, GANS Bylaws committee, or a constituent association.

SECTION 2. VOTING:

- A. These bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting by a 2/3 vote, provided notice shall have been given at an earlier meeting of the same session. If adopted, an amendment shall go into effect immediately unless otherwise noted in the amendment.

SECTION 3. BYLAWS OF NSNA:

- A. Amendments to the bylaws of NSNA, adopted at the annual meeting, which directly relates to the business of GANS in the areas of conformity shall automatically and immediately affect the necessary amendments to the bylaws of GANS and shall be incorporated into these bylaws.

ARTICLE XV. DISSOLUTION

In the event that GANS is dissolved, all monies remaining in the treasury, after all debts and liabilities are satisfied, will be donated to a non-profit organization as selected by the GANS Executive Board and acceptable under IRS Code 401.03 and any amendments attached thereto.

*Bylaws Proposed by the GANS Board of Directors
Proposed Bylaw Changes Submitted on August 24th, 2023