

Guide to Getting Appointed to Your State Boards of Nursing

Why seek appointment to your state board of nursing?

The profession of nursing, according to NACNS's social policy statement, has served society's interest in the area of health and healthcare from its inception and is obligated to those who receive nursing care¹. Seeking appointments to governmental agency is one of the most effective ways today to influence healthcare policy and uphold the obligation of public service within the nursing profession. Appointments can lead to a sense of accomplishment, recognition and prestige, and can enhance the prospects of an exiting career in government service.²

In addition, the profession of the Clinical Nurse Specialist needs to be represented in order to inform the board of how issues may impact their practice, including implementation of the APRN Consensus Model.

Two examples of how to acquire appointments to state boards of nursing

Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing Appointment Process

The State Board of Nursing consists of thirteen members. These are: the Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs; three members representing the public at large; six registered nurses, at least three of whom shall possess Masters' degrees in nursing; two licensed practical nurses and one licensed dietitian-nutritionist. Nurse members are required to have been engaged in nursing in this Commonwealth for the five-year period immediately preceding appointment. In making appointments to the Board, the Governor is required to give due consideration to providing representation from diversified fields of nursing, including, but not limited to, specialized nurses of all types. All members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of a majority of the members elected to the Senate.

Wyoming State Board of Nursing Process

The Advanced Practice Advisory Board serves to advise the Wyoming State Board of Nursing on matters related to advanced practice nursing. The advisory board consists of one member from each of the APRN disciplines to total four members.

Members are appointed after submission of an application and the approval of the board of nursing members. There are no specific requirements, other than the applicant must be an APRN or mid-wife and have a current valid license. The board of nursing web site lists open positions and an application can be completed and submitted on-line. Applicants are notified by mail of the outcome of the board's decision.

Nurses interested in serving on the Wyoming State Board of Nursing are appointed by the Governor and may submit applications online to vacancies listed on the state's web site. The appointment distribution includes a licensed practical nurse, one public member with healthcare background or related education, and five registered nurses including one with at least two years of experience in administration or teaching in nursing education, one with at least two years of experience in administration in nursing service or public health nursing, one with at least two years experience as an APRN, and two with general nursing experience. Restrictions include, no more than one person associated with a particular agency, educational institution, corporation, or enterprise at any one time, and members may serve for no more than two consecutive terms. Although not necessary, it is valuable in the appointment process to include, or have sent, recommendation letters from those who know you personally in your community.

1. American Nurses Association (2003) *Nursing's social policy statement*, 2nd ed. Silver Springs, MD: American Nurses Publishing. 29-34.
2. Wyrsh, S. J., Chaffee, M. W., & Dickson, B.(2007). Taking action: Political appointments. In D. J. Mason, J. K. Leavitt, & M. W. Chaffee (Eds.), *Policy and politics in nursing and health care* (5th ed., pp. 690-698). St. Louis: Saunders.