

MEET THE BOARD





The Georgia Association of Nursing Students strives to guide nursing students in the development of their skills as a whole person, including assuming and understanding the role of a professional nurse. Becoming apart of the board allows you to work with other nursing students from various schools. The board offers a community of nurses who come together to plan, create and educate others and ourselves within the healthcare field

The following slides have various questions answered by the board on their duties and honest opinions on the roles assumed. We hope to encourage anyone who is thinking about running for the board this year.

Amber Merwitz: President

Q: What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

A: As President, I reside as chair at all meetings and ensure that we have an agenda to follow. I collaborate with the Treasurer on management of finances, appoint special committees with the approval of the Executive Board. I attend the Georgia Council of Nursing Organization, as well as the Georgia Nurses Association meetings when deemed appropriate. I also try to help any member of the board in their position as well as provide encouragement and support.

Q:What has your placement on the board taught you about the professional nursing role?

A: My role on this board has been such a blessing. I have improved my social and professional communication skills. I have had opportunities to listen to many knowledgeable colleagues within the nursing profession and plan to take what I was able to learn from them and grow.

Q:What advice would you give to those who are considering preslating for a position on the board?

A:Do it! There is a lot of work put into making the conferences and various events, but the experiences gained and people meet along the way make it worth the time. I would suggest setting aside a few hours a week to accomplish anything that needs to be done for GANS. A few hours is all that is needed to stay current and ensure that you duties are being accomplished in a timely manner.





Aysia Garrett: First Vice President

Q: What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

The responsibilities of the 1st VP include selecting a venue site for convention, securing hotel blocks, ticket pricing, assisting the president, and assuming the role of president when they are absent.

Q: Why did you run for the board and what made you choose your position?

My decision to run for GANS board was last minute, but I am glad that I chose to. I ran for the board because I wanted to see more people of color in leadership roles and positions.

Q: What advice would you give to those who are considering preslating for a position on the board?

My advice to those that would like to preslate for a position would be to use your voice, and don't be afraid to state your opinion. Also, don't forget to have fun and most importantly do not stress yourself out because it is a learning experience.

Emma Miller: Second Vice President

Q: What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

A: -Finding speakers for our annual convention. This includes speakers for breakout sessions and a keynote speaker.

-Collaborating with the 1st VP in organizing a convention schedule.

-Assisting public relations with securing sponsorships from hospitals, schools, and other businesses.

-Promoting the GANS organization and conference.

-Assisting the president/GANS board with any other assigned duties.

Q: How has your experience being on the board been so far?

A: My favorite things about being 2nd VP is having the opportunity to network and get to know professionals from hospitals and all other sectors of nursing practice. This helps to make contacts that can last throughout your career! Networking with one of the hospitals while planning convention helped me secure an externship for the summer.

Getting to work so closely with the 1st VP and president is a lot of fun, you really get to shape the conference and build great friendships along the way!





Zhinea Thomas: Secretary

Q: What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

A: As secretary, my major role is to take the minutes at our monthly meetings and any other committee meetings. I also keep record of each board member's hours and I make sure that everyone has the proper documents and supplies that they need. The secretarial position works closely with the president, advisors, and treasurer.

Q: How has your experience being on the board been so far?

A: Being apart of the 2019-2020 GANS executive board has been such a rewarding and resourceful experience. I was able to meet so many nursing students across the state that were going through or had already been through nursing school. We built a community of support, compassion, and nursing leadership! The information, friendships, and resources that I have gained through this experience are truly invaluable and I believe they will greatly impact all of our careers as nursing professionals!

Kianna Sanders: Community Director

Q:What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

Official duties of Community Health director per bylaws: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,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 do the participate as well and do the same, shall coordinate the annual CHAPTER COMMUNITY PROJECT AWARD and DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AWARD for NSNA.

Q:Why did you run for the board and what made you choose your position ?

A: I really believe that it is so important to get out into the community to learn about the people in which we may provide healthcare to. Community service is a great way to give back while also meeting new people. I also believe that community health nursing is not talked about enough, so I really wanted to show students the various opportunities within nursing.





Perrie Gooden: Breakthrough to Nursing

Q:What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

The mission of the Breakthrough to Nursing Director position is to mentor students into becoming sensitive to diversity within our society, BTN focuses on recruiting, retaining and diversifying the field of nursing as a while; with outreaches developing and implementing projects to help spread the mission of BTN at the state and local chapter.

Q: Why did you run for the board and what made you choose your position ?

I ran for the board because of the opportunity to strengthen my leadership skills, to increase diversity in healthcare, and to challenge myself to become a strong nurse leader. I chose the BTN position because it aligned with my passion to serve the community. What has your placement on the board taught you about the professional nursing role?

Q:What has your placement on the board taught you about the professional nursing role?

My placement on the board has taught me how to become a nurse leader and a mentor. From my position on the board I started my own organization called the Diverse Nurse Mentorship. My mentorship program is to support ethnic pre-nursing and nursing students through a rigorous College of Nursing.

Deborah Quarles: Public Relations

Q: What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

A: The main responsibility of this role is to reach out to potential sponsors for the annual GANS convention. I have had the ability to connect with talent acquisition specialist of multiple area hospitals, which is a great way to get your name out there for potential job offerings after graduation

Q: Why did you run for the board and what made you choose your position ?

A: I originally ran for the GANS board because I wanted to be more involved. I was involved at the school level in my school's Student Nurses Association, and I wanted to see what the state level was like. I am so glad that I made the decision to run for this board because I've made connections in my field, added a state board position to my nursing resume, and made great friends in the process.

Q: What advice would you give to those who are considering preslating for a position on the board?

If you are considering running for the GANS board, I would highly recommend the PR role if you are interested in the marketing and communications that go along with nursing or have an interest in making connections with nearby hospitals. Please email publicrelations@ganursingstudents.com with any questions you may have regarding this



Elsa Garcia: Treasurer

Q: What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

A: My responsibilities include: monthly profit loss reports, annual registration, annual taxes, tickets sales, and raffle/silent auction (payments and getting some donated items).

Q: Why did you run for the board and what made you choose your position ?

A: I've been treasurer before. I wanted to be part of GANS because I wanted to be a part of the team organizing the convention since I had a great time when I went and thought the treasurer role was the best fit for me.

Q: How has your experience being on the board been so far?

A: My time on the board has been great. Everyone has been working hard together. If anyone needed a hand with a task, someone on the team would step up to help.





Ben Prevost: North District Director

Q: What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

A: As North District Director, my main responsibilities are to stay in constant communication with each of the chapters in my district, whether on the phone, via email, or in person. My job is to be the liaison between the schools in my district and the board as a whole. I send out all information that comes from the board as well as keep the schools informed and interested in convention.

Q: Why did you run for the board and what made you choose your position ?

A: I ran for the board to get more involved in the nursing field. I am so happy with the connections and relationships I have made through this experience. I chose my position because it matched with what I feel that I am good at. I love reaching out to schools and keeping in constant communication with them while continuously building relationships with all of the schools.

Q: What has your placement on the board taught you about the professional nursing role?

A: Being involved on the board has taught me so much about nursing and the professional nursing role. It has taught me amazing organizational communication as well as a professional attitude towards nursing and a business meeting.



Dana Chen: West District Director

Q: What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

A:As the West District Director, I act as the liaison between the state board and my respective schools. My responsibility is to communicate updates and important information regarding community volunteer opportunities, GANS, NSNA, and COSL to schools in my district.

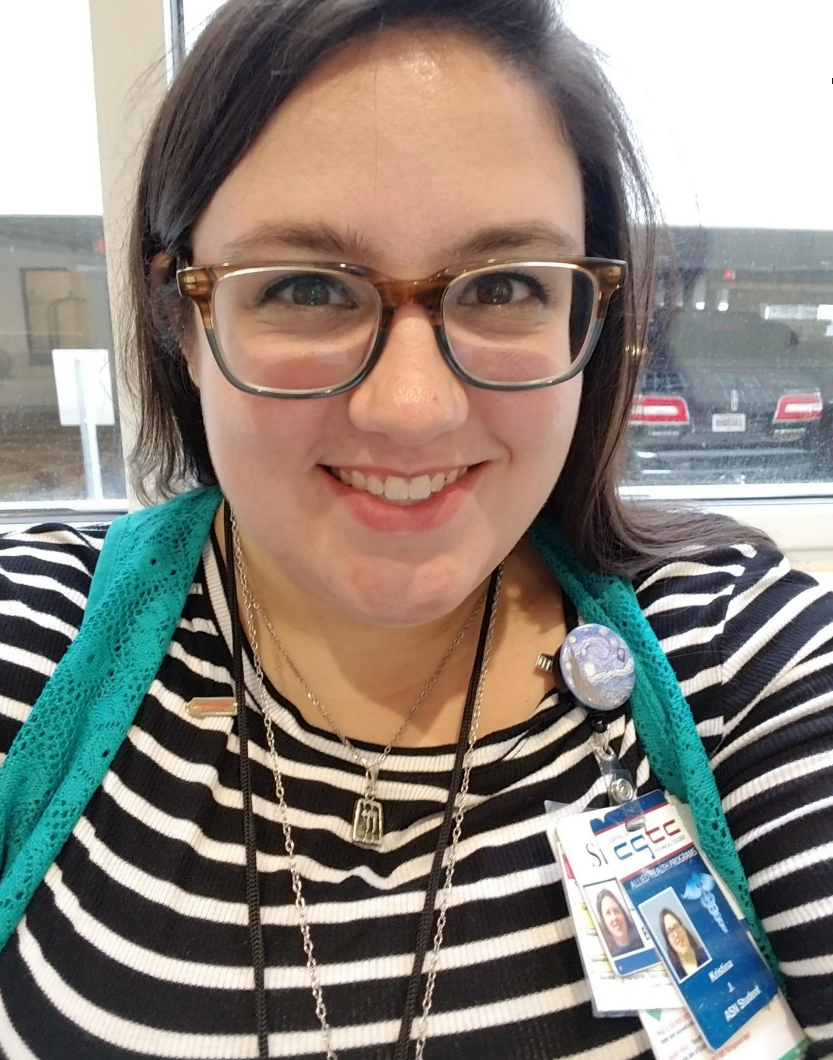
Q: Why did you run for the board and what made you choose your position ?

A:I ran for the board last year in hopes to get more involved in nursing school. Two years is very short in the long run, so I wanted to make the most of it and meet as many like-minded people as I could. I chose West DD because I wanted to be the bridge for our state chapter and nursing schools.

Q:What advice would you give to those who are considering preslating for a position on the board?

A: Personally, I will say that being on the board has been doable with my schoolwork, studying, and clinicals. The main priority is to be available on Saturdays (for GANS board in-person meetings) and to show up prepared and ready to have fun.

Kristina Johnson: South District Director



Q: What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

A: Go to meetings once a month. Reach out to schools at least once a month through email, phone, and in person. Helped plan COSL. Help with planning the Annual Convention.

Q: What advice would you give to those who are considering preslating for a position on the board?

A: would recommend that they have patience with schools in the district. I would also want them to understand that they won't necessarily get responses from anyone, but to keep sending updates.



Rebecca Park: Publications Director

Q: What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

My responsibilities are to maintain the GANS website and social media accounts. I am also responsible for creating the GANS monthly newsletter (EKG) and the annual GANS convention booklet.

Q: Why did you run for the board and what made you choose your position ?

I ran for board because I wanted to get to know other nursing students and to be involved in GANS. I chose this position because I love creating and putting together newsletters.

Q:How has your experience being on the board been so far?

Being part of the board has taught me many things. One thing it has taught me about the professional nursing role is that teamwork is essential! Working with nursing students and advisors from all over Georgia has been a great experience so far. My advice for those preslating would be to just go for it

Briana Jolly: NEC North/Chair

Q: What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

A: I am responsible for informing/educating other students on the various positions on the board, encouraging them to preslate to run for the board during election time, oversee the application process, and ensure a fair election.

Q: Why did you run for the board and what made you choose your position ?

A: This was the first year my school had been to convention in 6 years we wanted to get back out there and represent our school. I was already on the local school board but wanted to get involved on a higher level. I chose my position because I had such a fun experience running/campaigning for board and wanted to help other students with the process.

Q:What advice would you give to those who are considering preslating for a position on the board?

A; Do it! I was honestly so scared to run for board but I haven't regretted it for a second. You learn such a different view of nursing that I think helps strengthens your skills overall. It opens many doors for your development of self and future career



Ronald Yeager: NEC East

Q: What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

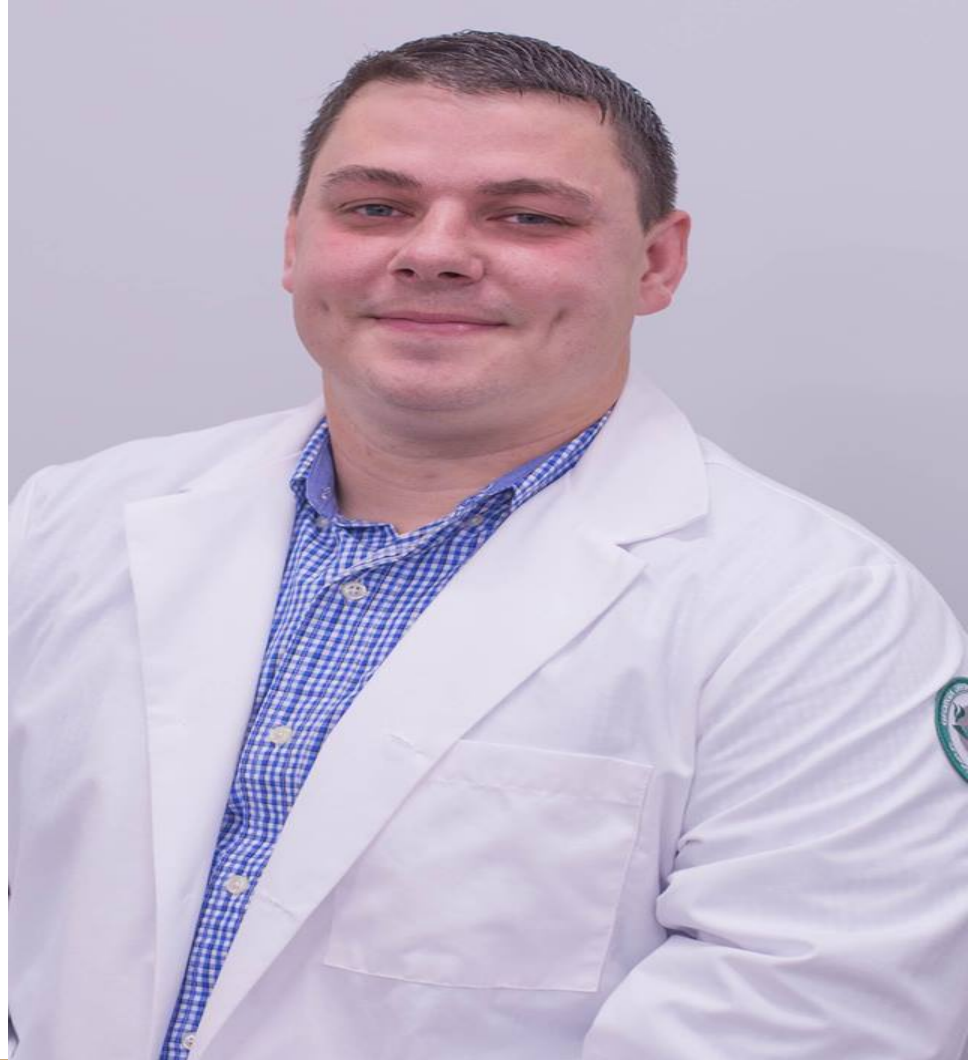
A: I am responsible for informing potential candidates of the roles of GANS, creating interest in serving on the board, ensuring a fair election process, as well as guiding potential candidates through the application process.

Q: Why did you run for the board and what made you choose your position ?

A: I had the privilege of watching my wife serve on the board before me. Watching her assume the leadership role and collaborate with other student leaders made me want to serve and follow in her footsteps.

Q; What has your placement on the board taught you about the professional nursing role?

A: I have learned how valuable it can be in your professional life to learn the intricacies of a professional organization. This knowledge and these skills transfer seamlessly to the professional world of nursing as well. Being involved in these organizations allows you to listen to concerns and suggestions and actually play a large role in creating change





Kayla Jacobs: NEC South

Q: What responsibilities/duties are associated with your position on the board?

A: My main duties can be summarized as conferring with the NEC South District Director in order to promote and encourage nursing students in our district to run for positions on the executive board for the upcoming term. We work together to reach out to schools within our district and contact individuals who have shown interest to give them more information. It's a fun job and is definitely a team effort. We love GANS and want to tell other people about it so they have an opportunity to be a part of it.

Q; What has your placement on the board taught you about the professional nursing role?

A: I think the most valuable thing it has taught me is about networking. I've met wonderful people from schools and companies I probably never would have otherwise. It was helpful for me to get experience doing that because it's translated well to my first job.

Q:How has your experience being on the board been so far?

A:If you can't already tell, I've loved it! We've had some unexpected roadblocks due to the current state of the world but I'm proud of how our group has pushed through. I think if you give it a shot, you'll experience that too!