

What's the Difference?

The Alabama State Nurses' Association (ASNA) and the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABON) are often confused because they almost sound the same. Do you know the difference? Based on the telephone calls and requests received daily in both offices, there is definitely some confusion. Hopefully the following will help clarify this.

Alabama State Nurses Association

360 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104-3658

phone: 334-262-8321; 800-270-2762

fax: 334-262-8578

Email: alabamasna@bellsouth.net

Description:

- Professional membership association composed of registered nurses
- Board of Directors elected by membership
- Founded in 1914
- One of 53 state and territorial associations of the American Nurses Association (ANA)

Executive Director: Joseph F. Decker, II

Purpose:

The purpose of the Alabama State Nurses Association (ASNA) is to foster high standards of nursing, promote the professional and educational advancement of nurses, and promote the welfare of nurses to the end that all people may have better health care.

Functions:

- To promote through appropriate means the standards of nursing practice, nursing education, and nursing services established by the American Nurses Association (ANA).
- To ensure adherence to the Code for Nurses established by ANA.
- To propose and influence legislation, governmental programs, and state and national health policy.
- To promote and protect the economic and general welfare of nurses.
- To promote and provide for the continuing professional development of nurses.
- To represent nurses and serve as their spokesperson with professional and community groups and the public.
- To promote the advancement of human rights related to health care and nursing.
- To provide for representation in the ANA House of Delegates.
- To promote relationships with the Alabama Association of Nursing Students.
- To promote nursing as a career choice.
- To stimulate and promote research in nursing, disseminate research findings, and encourage the use of new knowledge as a basis for nursing.
- To provide services to district structural units.
- To maintain communication with members through official publications.
- To assume an active role as consumer advocate.

Alabama Board of Nursing

RSA Plaza, Suite 250, 770 Washington Avenue

P.O. Box 303900, Montgomery, AL 36130-3900

Phone: 334-242-4060, Fax: 334-242-4360

Web Site: www.abn.state.al.us,

E-mail: abn@abn.state.al.us

Description:

- Created by the Legislature in 1915
- Legally constituted body that regulates the education for and practice of licensed nurses within Alabama

Board comprised of eight (8) registered nurse (RN) members (two of whom are advanced practice nurses), four (4) licensed practice/ nurse (LPN) members, and one (1) consumer member. Board members are appointed by the Governor.

Executive Officer: N. Genell Lee, MSN, RN, JD

Purpose:

- Safeguard the public health, safety and welfare through the regulation of nursing education and practice, entry into nursing practice, and promotion of continuing safe nursing practice.
- Write and adopt rules and regulations for the enforcement of Nurse Practice Act
- Prescribe standards and approve curricula for nursing education programs; approve entry-level nursing education programs; deny or withdraw approval from educational programs for failure to meet prescribed standards
- Establish qualifications for licensure. Adopt standards for nursing practice and continued competence.
- Examine, license and renew the licenses of duly qualified applicants.
- Investigate complaints against licensees and conduct hearings and proceedings concerning alleged violations of the law and regulations of the Board
- Cause the prosecution of all persons violating the provisions of the "Nurse Practice Act"
- Maintain a register of all licensees.
- Regulate the legislatively mandated program of continuing education as related to the licensure of nurses
- Monitor licensees through disciplinary and non-disciplinary programs Regulate advanced practice nursing.
- Maintain Joint Committee for Advanced Practice Nursing with the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners to regulate the practice of Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP) and Certified Nurse Midwives® (CNM®).
- Administer a scholarship program for post-baccalaureate education of nurses provided for under the Alabama special education trust fund.
- Perform duties to "foster and improve nursing and the regulation thereof and the public health of this state."