

INA 2023 LEADERSHIP CANDIDATE

INA BOARD AT-LARGE DIRECTOR & NORTHWEST REGION PRESIDENT



Ellen DeJong, RN, BSN, CLC

Osceola Regional Health Center | Nursing Supervisor
Sioux Center, IA

What activities are you currently involved with or have been in the past related to INA or ANA?

I have been an active member of the Education Committee for the last 2 years. I am part of the Membership Task Force as well.

What other professional organizations are you involved with?

Iowa ENA, ENA, BCEN, AWHONN, Ambassador for AACN, Mentor for American Nurses Association, IONL, Member of HealthCare Leaders, Nurses on Boards Coalition, PCNA, Johnson and Johnson Resilience Collaborative, Society of Trauma Nurses, ANA.

What other elected, appointed offices or community activities relevant to this position have you been involved with?

I am currently serving as the President of Iowa Nurses Foundation. I am on the Board of Directors for Iowa Emergency Nurses Association. I am the co-chair of Membership, Fundraising, and Government Relations.

Please write a statement that indicates your view on issues facing INA. Indicate why you want to serve in this role and why you are best qualified to carry out the duties of this office? This statement will be shared publicly with the membership.

As nurses, we are facing a higher acuity level of the patient's that we care for with less resources and a higher patient to nurse ratios. We need to stand together as colleagues and make known to our legislators and employers that this is not a safe practice for us or our patients. Violence in the workplace is on the rise. We need to work with our legislators and employers to make federal laws guiding the basics that need to be in place to protect us while we are caring for our patients. Once we have Federal laws in place that all employers need to follow to ensure a safe work environment, we can work more locally and statewide to fine tune safe workplace legislation. Our numbers of practicing nurses continue to drop due to more nurses leaving the field and retiring. We need to work on attracting new nurses and keeping our seasoned nurses at bedside and helping to alleviate burnout. As a nurse of 28 years and a supervisor, I have worked in different nursing specialties, work environments, and nursing roles. I am actively pursuing my nursing leadership knowledge to make myself a more effective leader and bedside nurse.