



PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF NURSING



Secretary Carol Aichele

www.dos.state.pa.us

June 2012

[Disciplinary Actions](#)

MEET THE BOARD

The following are members of the State Board of Nursing as of January 2012:

Dr. Ann L. O'Sullivan (Philadelphia, September 2003) PhD, CRNP, RN, FAAN is a former chair of the State Board of Nursing, is the Dr. Hildgarde Reynolds Endowed Term Professor of Primary Care Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. An internationally consulted expert on working with teen mothers, O'Sullivan has provided years of practice-based scholarship, teaching, and policy leadership on the special needs of teen mothers and their young children. Her work was recognized with the 1998 American Nurses Association Honorary Practice Award, and she was selected as the University's Lindback Awardee in 2000. Her graduates over the past fifteen years have a 99% pass rate on the national certifying exams. O'Sullivan also received national recognition by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing for her leadership in developing the Model Rules and Regulations for Advanced Practice Nurses. Outlined in the rules and regulations are the requirements in licensure, accreditation, certification and education that can be adopted by every state to ensure accountability, patient safety, and recognition of the training and skills of advanced practice nurses.

Dr. Joanne L. Sorensen (Russell, Warren County, November 2002) DNP, RN, MS, FACHE, NHA is a former chair of the State Board of Nursing, and currently a director of quality and care management at UPMC Northwest. In addition to fulfilling Board duties, Sorensen serves on the Taxonomy of Error, Root Cause Analysis Program (TERCAP) Committee of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. TERCAP collects, analyzes, and shares data on nurse practice breakdowns to encourage error reduction. Sorensen also is a facilitator for Waynesburg University, where she received a doctorate of nursing practice (DNP). Prior to her appointment at UPMC, she held a variety of

management positions (most recently chief nursing officer) at Warren General Hospital. Sorensen, a licensed nursing home administrator since 2001, has worked as a staff nurse in critical care and emergency care, achieving certification in both specialties. She also was director of nursing at a skilled nursing facility. Sorensen is a past board president and is in her second term as a board member. In addition to her DNP, she holds a master's degree in organizational leadership from Mercyhurst College and bachelors in nursing from Daemen College. Sorensen is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Nursing Society.

Ms. Judy Hale (Altoona, Blair County, June 2001) LPN is a former board vice chair and is in her second term on the Board. Hale recently retired from the Test Scheduling Department of the Blair Medical Associates (BMA), a large multi-physician practice with numerous satellite locations. Prior to joining BMA, she worked at Altoona Hospital for 23 years, beginning as a nurse's aide and progressing through various positions (that include Medical Library Technician) as she pursued her Licensed Practical Nurse credentials. Hale has worked in the medical progressive care unit, a step-down unit of coronary care and medical intensive care, and has expertise in portable telemetry systems. In addition to serving as president of her LPN class, Hale has provided leadership to the LPN Association of Pennsylvania by serving as both treasurer and president of the Altoona chapter.

Dr. Kathleen M. Dwyer (Harrisburg, May 2003) PhD, RD, LDN is the Board's first Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist (LDN) representative. Dwyer holds both a Doctor of Philosophy and a Master of Science from Ohio State University and baccalaureates in home economics

[Contact Us](#)

[Report Unethical Activity](#)

[Renew Your License](#)

[Meet the Board](#)

[PHMP](#)

and dietetics and psychology from Ohio Dominican University. She has been a registered dietitian-nutritionist credentialed by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics since 1975. Dwyer has been employed as a therapeutic dietitian in a hospital setting as well as an outpatient clinical dietitian. She has served as assistant-executive director and academic-program coordinator for the Pennsylvania Diabetes Academy, and has published numerous articles on dietetics and nutrition. She currently works at the Department of Labor and Industry.

Ms. Suzanne M. Hendricks (Quakertown, June 2007) BSBH, LPN has been a nurse for 30 years. Currently Hendricks is director of Clinical Service at Childway, a non-profit, inpatient medical facility located in Lansdale, Pa. which specializes in supporting the needs of children with extensive medical issues. Previously, she was clinical coordinator at Point Pleasant Pediatric Special Care, which specializes in medically fragile children. Hendricks teaches CPR and is an instructor of Certified Nurse Assistants. She has a BSBH in Health Administration from Gwynedd-Mercy College, and continues her education in various certifications such as EMT, IV, and medication specialty practice. Throughout her career, Hendricks has worked in home care for pediatric cases and was house manager at a long-term facility for medically fragile children. She began her career at Quakertown Hospital, where she worked in the Medical-Surgical Unit, Ambulatory Procedure Unit, Emergency Room, Recovery Room, and Step-down Unit. She served as a preceptor and member of quality Improvement teams. In 1985, she was nominated by the American Cancer Society for her region's "Nurse of HOPE" award.

Ms. Bette M. Wildgust (Philadelphia, March 2009) CRNA, MS, MSN is the Board's Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). Ms. Wildgust is the director of the Crozer-Chester Medical Center/Villanova University Nurse Anesthesia Program, which is housed within the Crozer-Chester Medical Center. The 27-month, full-time anesthesia program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs; its graduates receive a Master of Science in nursing degree. Wildgust is also a member of the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, and chair of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists' Foundation.

Ms. Kristin Malady (Mechanicsburg, September 2010) RN is currently employed as a school nurse in the Mechanicsburg Area School District. Malady graduated from the University Of Minnesota Carlson School Of Management and holds a BS in Business. Her experience in the private sector includes serving as a sales representative for 3M, for which she earned membership in the vice president's key club for Excellence in Sales. Her interest in nursing led to a BSN from York College of Pennsylvania. A member of Sigma Theta Tau, she has acute care experience in pediatrics and in the neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Pinnacle Health System in Harrisburg. Malady is using her experience to work on issues related to community nursing and the work of international volunteer organizations such as the American Red Cross, and serves as a member of its Disaster Action Team.

Ms. Linda Tanzini Ambroso (Pittsburgh, October 2008, Public Member) is a government relations professional at Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl, a Pittsburgh law firm. A specialist in security, education, and public policy, Ambroso has previous consulting experience developing proposals at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) Winter Institute for Simulation Education and Research at the School of Medicine; University of Miami (Ryder Trauma Center); Pitt Graduate School of Public Health (biodefense); and Pitt Center for National Preparedness, where she helped create a certificate in homeland security. Her education reform work includes securing and managing a grant from the Walton Family Foundation to establish an accountability program serving public charter schools. In Washington, D.C., she served as a legislative assistant on Capitol Hill, a budget analyst at the U.S. Navy, and a foreign affairs specialist at the U.S. State Department, where she chaired an interagency group that prepared negotiating instructions to U.S. delegations on issues related to weapons of mass destruction. Ambroso holds BA and MA degrees in political science from the University of Michigan.

Mr. Robert E. Ames (Coaldale, Schuylkill County, June 2011, Public Member) is a retired teacher with 35 years of classroom leadership and instructional support experience. Presently a vocal music instructor, his service in a variety of civic positions includes terms as President, secretary, and treasurer of the Board of Trustees of Coaldale State General Hospital and its

successor, St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital. Ames was president of the Tamaqua Education Association for 14 years. From 1996 to 2010, he served as commissioner of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. His community activities include service as president of the Coaldale Lions and leadership in its regional diabetes committee, as well as support for local food banks and charities. A lifelong resident of Coaldale, Ames has been a church organist and choir director for 46 years. At present he leads the liturgical music program at St. Joseph Church in Summit Hill, Pa.

