

My journey into the field of nursing began with a deep-rooted desire to make a positive impact on people's lives. Growing up in Chicago, IL, I was inspired by the compassion and dedication of healthcare professionals who cared for my family during times of illness and who helped promote wellness. This inspiration led me to pursue a career in nursing, where I could combine my passion for helping others with my interest in nursing science.

After earning my diploma in nursing, I embarked on a fulfilling career that has spanned over 30 years. Throughout my professional journey, I have had the privilege of working in various healthcare settings, including hospitals, treatment centers, and health systems, as a clinical nurse, manager, director, regional director, and a nationwide healthcare consultant. Each experience has enriched my understanding of patient care and reinforced my commitment to excellence in nursing.

One of my proudest achievements was leading a team in opening the first COVID 19 mass vaccination clinic, providing 5000 vaccines a day for communities near and far to Chicago. This achievement coincided with my happiest day as a nurse leader, the day we were able to shut the clinic down! This initiative significantly improved community health outcomes and satisfaction, and it was recognized with each member of the team receiving the University of Illinois Presidents Medallion. Additionally, I have been actively involved in the Texas Organization of Nurse Leaders (TONL) DEIB Council, and American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Volunteerism Committee.

If I'm elected into the role of President-Elect for District 7 of the Texas Nurses Association, I will do so with a sense of purpose and excitement. My vision for this role is to advocate for the nursing profession, promote high standards of practice, and support the professional development of our members. I plan to focus on several key areas:

- **Advocacy**: I will work tirelessly to represent the interests of District 7 nurses at the state level, ensuring that our voices are heard in policy discussions and legislative decisions that impact healthcare.
- **Education and Professional Development**: I aim to enhance opportunities for continuing education and professional growth, providing resources and support for District 7 nurses to advance their careers and stay abreast of the latest developments in healthcare.
- **Community Engagement**: I believe in the power of community and will strive to strengthen our connections with local organizations and stakeholders, fostering collaborations that benefit both District 7 nurses and the communities we serve.
- **Wellness and Support**: Recognizing the challenges and stresses faced by nurses, I will prioritize initiatives that promote mental health and well-being, ensuring that our members have access to the support they need to thrive both personally and professionally.

My aspiration is to lead with integrity, compassion, and a commitment to excellence, building a stronger and more resilient nursing community in District 7. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our patients and the future of healthcare in Texas.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Bertini, DNP, RN, NE-BC