

# Nurses in Action

Storytelling, Leadership,  
and Advocacy



OCTOBER 2-3, 2025

## CONVENTION AGENDA

### Wednesday, October 1 – Pre-Conference

- 4:30 – 7:30 pm      Exhibitor and Poster Setup
- 6:30 – 9:30 pm      NNA PAC Fundraiser at Cunningham's on the Lake

### Thursday, October 2 – Day 1

- 7:00 am      Exhibitor and Poster Setup
- 7:30 am      **REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS OPEN**  
Breakfast – *provided*
- 8:25 – 8:30 am      **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 8:30 – 9:30 am      **GENERAL SESSION 1** **1.0 Contact Hour**  
**The Power of Nurses** – *Ernest Grant PhD, RN, FAAN*
- 9:30 – 9:45 am      Networking Break – Visit Exhibits
- 9:45 – 10:15 am      **CONCURRENT SESSIONS** **0.5 Contact Hour**  
Breakout 1: **From Pills to Power: Storytelling as a Catalyst for Advocacy** – *Odilia Underwood BSN, RN, NC-BC*  
Breakout 2: **Tales from a 76-year old Reluctant Nurse** – *Becky Wetenkamp RN, BSN*
- 10:20 – 10:50 am      **CONCURRENT SESSIONS** **0.5 Contact Hour**  
Breakout 3: **From Story to Simulation: Turning Real-Life Drama into Teamwork Wins** – *Christine Bartholomew DNP, MSN-Ed, RN, April Benson MSN, RN and Gina Frerichs BSN, RN*  
Breakout 4: **From Trauma Bay to the Touchline: Why Nurses Belong in Youth Sports** – *Dave Henson M.Sc., BSN, RN*
- 10:50 – 11:05 am      Networking Break – Visit Exhibits
- 11:05 am – 12:15 pm      **GENERAL SESSION 2** **1.25 Contact Hours**  
**Conversations that Matter** – *Erin Putney MSN, RN*
- 12:15 – 1:00 pm      Lunch – *provided*  
Visit Exhibits
- 1:00 – 2:05 pm      **CONCURRENT SESSIONS** **1.0 Contact Hours**  
Breakout 5: **Healing Touch (60 mins)** – *Jane Bies, BSN, RN, CHHC, CHTP/I*  
**OR**  
Breakout 6a: **What's NEXT? Advancing Refugee Health Equity Through Nursing Scholarship, Digital Innovation, and Transformational Leadership (30 mins)** – *Falah Rashoka PhD, RN, MS, MPH, CPH*  
Breakout 6b: **From Marine to Messenger: Turning Pain into Purpose (30 mins)** – *Alex Bratt RN*

|                |   |                          |
|----------------|---|--------------------------|
| 2:05 – 2:20 pm | Networking Break – Visit Exhibits   |                          |
| 2:20 – 4:20 pm | <b>GENERAL SESSION 3</b><br><b><i>Everybody's Work (film) and Post-Film Panel Discussion</i></b><br><u>Moderator:</u> Blake Smith MSN, RN, FADLN<br><u>Panelists:</u> Theresa Causa DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, Ernest Grant PhD, RN, FAAN, Aron King MSN, RN, Falah Rashoka PhD, RN, MS, MPH, CPH | <b>2.0 Contact Hours</b> |
| 4:20 – 4:50 pm | <b>GENERAL SESSION 4 – RESEARCH POSTERS</b><br>Research Posters with Authors  | <b>0.5 Contact Hours</b> |
| 5:00 pm        | Exhibits Close  |                          |
| 5:30 – 6:00 pm | <b>NETWORKING RECEPTION</b>   |                          |
| 6:00 pm        | <b>NNA AWARDS DINNER</b><br><b>GENERAL SESSION 5: Leadership Lessons Learned: The Good, the Bad and the Fun</b><br><i>Shelly Schwedhelm MSN, RN, NEA-BC and Rita Weber MSN, RN</i>  | <b>0.5 Contact Hours</b> |

## Friday, October 3 – Day 3

|                     |  |                           |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 7:00 am             | <b>REGISTRATION OPENS</b>  |                           |
| 7:30 – 9:00 am      | <b>40 UNDER 40 AWARDS BREAKFAST</b><br><b>Raise Your Voice: Nurses Shaping the Future of Healthcare – Stacie Ethington MSN, RN</b>   | <b>0.25 Contact Hours</b> |
| 9:00 – 9:15 am      | Networking Break   |                           |
| 9:15 – 10:15 am     | <b>NNA BUSINESS MEETING</b>  |                           |
| 10:15 – 11:15 am    | <b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b><br><u>Breakout 7: Current Substances of Abuse: Tianeptine, Xylazine, Kratom (60 mins) – Nathan “Ed” Kaiser FNP</u><br><br><b>OR</b><br><u>Breakout 8a: Journey to Leadership (30 mins) – Marky Medeiros MSN, RN</u><br><u>Breakout 8b: Finding Purpose Beyond the Burnout (30 mins) – Jena McFadden DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC</u> | <b>1.0 Contact Hour</b>   |
| 11:15 am – 12:15 pm | <b>GENERAL SESSION 6</b><br><b>Beyond the Badge: Shaping Health Equity through Nurse Leadership – Aron King MSN, RN</b>  | <b>1.0 Contact Hour</b>   |
| 12:15 pm            | <b>ADJOURN</b>   | <b>9.5 Contact Hours</b>  |

## DISCLOSURES

- **Successful Completion** – Participants must check-in on both days, participate in a minimum of three educational sessions, submit a verification of attendance form noting the sessions attended, and complete the online evaluation to receive a certificate of completion.
- **Contact Hours** – Participants meeting the successful completion requirements will receive up to 9.5 contact hours.  
*VTL Center for Professional Development is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.*
- **Relevant Financial Relationships** – No relevant financial relationships were identified for any member of the planning committee or any presenter/author of program content.

## Nebraska Nurses Association

OFFICE: 217 Oscar Drive, Suite C., Jefferson City, MO  VOICE: 888.885.7025  WEB: [www.nebraskanurses.org](http://www.nebraskanurses.org)