

GETTING STARTED WITH

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 **GAPNA**

Gerontological Advanced
Practice Nurses Association

DESIGNING YOUR LEADERSHIP PATHWAY



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Discovering Your GAPNA Membership Benefits**
- 2. Networking Opportunities: Building Connections That Last**
- 3. Educational Resources to Elevate Your Expertise**
- 4. Certification: Showcasing Your Expertise**
- 5. Getting Involved: Committees and Special Interest Groups**
- 6. Planning Your Membership Journey**
- 7. Next Steps**

INTRODUCTION

To Designing Your Leadership Pathway

The GAPNA Leadership Pathway Toolkit is designed to empower members at every stage of their career to explore, engage, and excel in leadership roles within the organization. Leadership within GAPNA offers opportunities for personal and professional growth, networking with peers, and contributing to the advancement of gerontological nursing.

This toolkit serves as a comprehensive guide, providing step-by-step instructions and insights into leadership roles, how to get involved, and key milestones to consider along your leadership journey.

LEADERSHIP AT A GLANCE



National
Leadership
Roles



Local
Chapter
Leadership



Committees &
Special Interest
Groups (SIGs)



Special
Projects

National Leadership Roles

GAPNA offers various national leadership positions for members eager to make an impact. Opportunities include serving on the Board of Directors in roles such as:

- **Director-at-Large**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **President-Elect**
- **President**
- **Immediate Past President.**

These positions are critical in shaping the direction of GAPNA, influencing policy, and supporting organizational growth.

Members can also volunteer for elected committees like the Nominating Committees, which play vital roles in advancing the organization's mission by recruiting the top leadership talent, or selected committees like the Conference Planning Committees, which work with the Director of Education to plan GAPNA's 2 annual conferences.

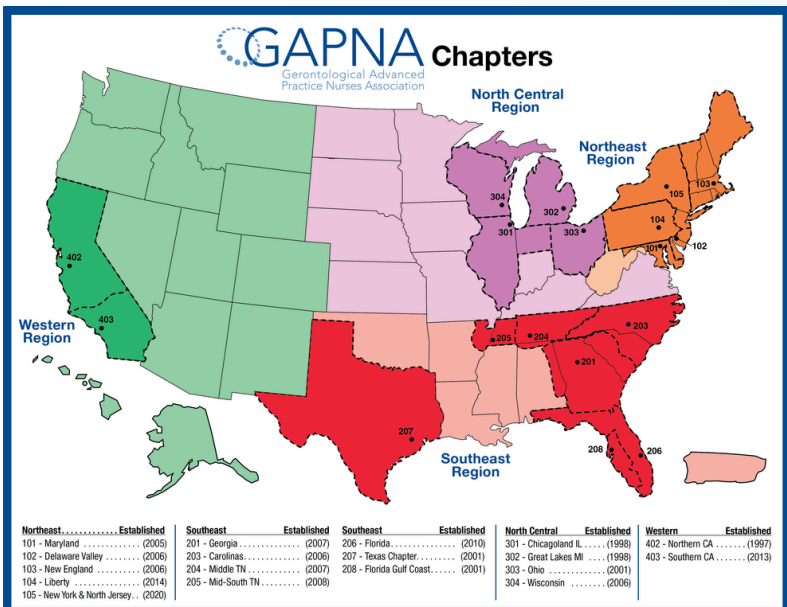


Local Chapter Leadership

Local chapters provide accessible leadership opportunities that are essential stepping stones to national positions. Members can take on roles such as:

- **Chapter President**
- **Vice President**
- **President Elect**
- **Treasurer**
- **Secretary**
- **Student Director**

Chapter leadership involves organizing educational programs, networking events, and advocacy efforts, providing a platform for members to develop leadership skills and connect with peers in their region.



Committee & Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

GAPNA's committees and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) offer members diverse opportunities to engage in focused areas of interest and contribute to the organization's goals.

Committees such as the Education, Research, and Health Affairs Committees allow members to participate in decision-making and policy development.

SIGs provide platforms for collaboration and knowledge-sharing in specialized fields of gerontological nursing. Participating in these groups helps members build leadership skills, influence the organization's direction, and expand their professional networks.

Special Projects and Advocacy Involvement

GAPNA frequently launches special projects and advocacy initiatives to address emerging issues in gerontological nursing.

Members can participate in these efforts by joining task forces, advocacy campaigns, and working groups. These roles enable members to contribute their expertise, drive meaningful change, and develop leadership competencies in a collaborative setting.

PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP BY CAREER STAGE



Students



Early Career



Mid-Career



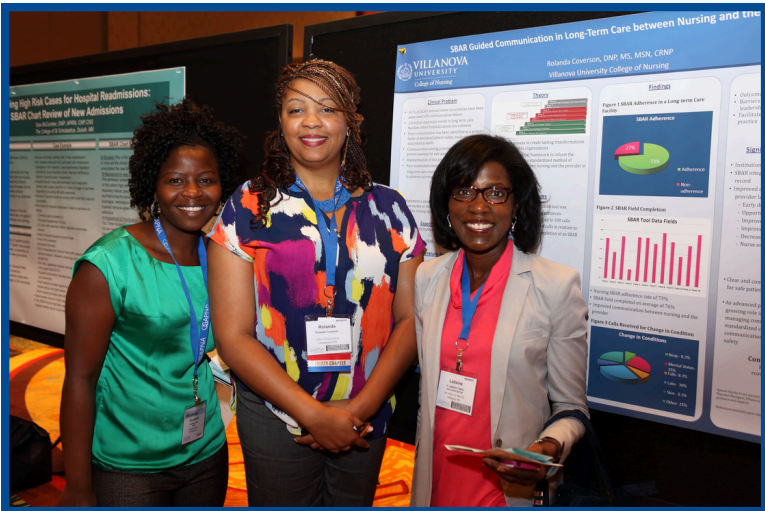
Late Career &
Retired

Student Members

Student members are encouraged to begin their leadership journey by actively participating in GAPNA events and connecting with local chapters.

Opportunities include applying for Student Director positions within chapters, volunteering for event planning committees, and attending national conferences to network with experienced professionals.

These early engagements help students build foundational leadership skills and expand their professional networks.



GAPNA Student Member Pathway

Katherine Ladetto, MSN, RN, ANP-BC, GNP-BC, PhD(c)



→ **1996**

BSN, Boston College,
summa cum laude

2002

MSN, Boston College,
Master's Distinction
GNP-BC

College, with
ANP-BC

2019

Began PhD program
at Boston College

2013

First introduced to GAPNA

2022

- Re-joined GAPNA to connect with like-minded individuals in support of my career focus.
- Accepted Student Director position with New England Chapter.
- Earned GAPNA Foundation Research Grant Award

Future

Attend and present at conferences;
continue to be involved with
GAPNA leadership.

Which path is yours?
Let GAPNA help
you find it...

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 gapna@gapna.org

 866-355-1392

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Early Career Members

Early career members can deepen their involvement by volunteering for chapter leadership roles, serving on national committees, and presenting at conferences.

These opportunities allow members to gain leadership experience, expand their professional presence, and develop mentoring relationships with more seasoned professionals through the GAPNA Leadership Institute.

GAPNA provides resources and mentorship to support early-career members in navigating these opportunities effectively.



I joined the Education Committee after attending a few conferences and witnessing the comradery among some of the longtime members and wanting to develop the same kind of friendships.

The Education Committee has been a gift to me. I get to learn from accomplished educators across the country, stay abreast of what is happening in the field even when I am not teaching, and have made friends I look forward to seeing each year.

- Melissa Kramps, DNP, GNP-BC, NP-C

GAPNA Early Career Member Pathway

Mohini Patel, AGPCNP-BC | Early Career



2012
ACLS/BLS
Certified

2015
BSN, Drexel
University

2019
MSN, Walden University
AGPCNP-BC
Joined GAPNA

2022
Attended GAPNA
Annual Conference virtually

2023
Plan to attend GAPNA Annual
Conference in-person
Pursuing chapter involvement


Which path is yours?
Let GAPNA help
you find it...


I chose to join GAPNA for the amazing network of Nurse Practitioners specializing in gerontology. I am passionate about caring for this especially vulnerable population and it is inspiring to surround myself with individuals feeling the same. I hope to continue to use GAPNA as a networking resource and begin working more closely with my local GAPNA Chapter.

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Mid-Career Members

Mid-career members are encouraged to pursue more significant leadership roles within both their local chapters and the national organization. This may include running for positions on the Board of Directors or leading national committees.

Additionally, mid-career professionals are well-positioned to mentor student and early-career members, fostering a supportive community while honing their leadership and coaching skills.

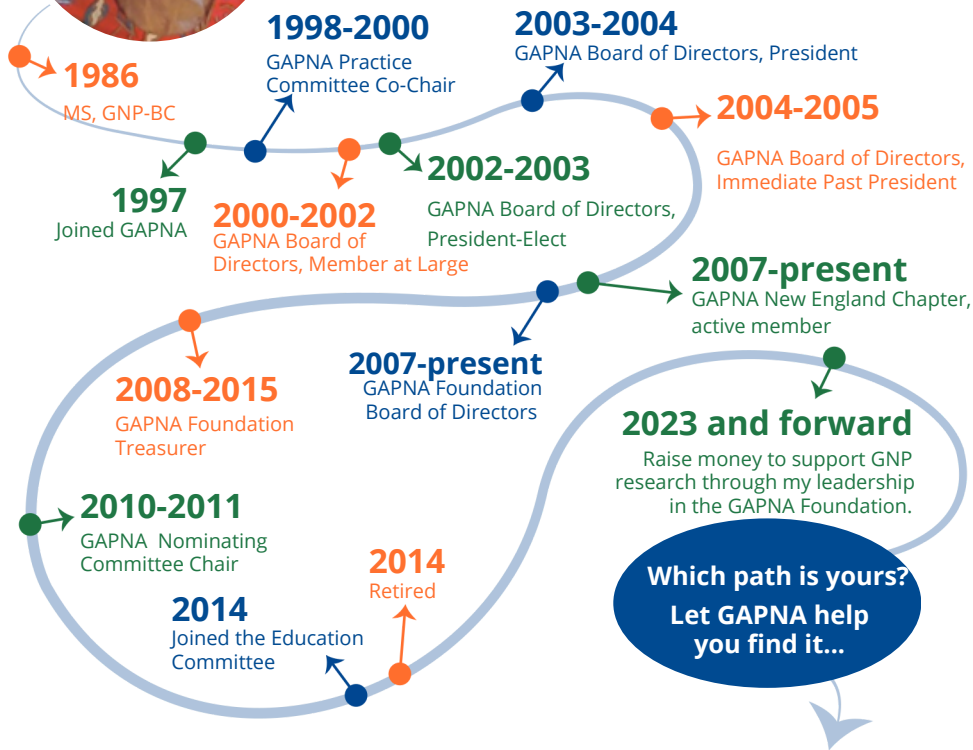
Late Career & Retired Members

Late Career and Retired members bring invaluable experience to GAPNA and can continue contributing through leadership roles within chapters and national committees. They can lead advocacy efforts, participate in educational initiatives, and mentor younger members.

Retired members play a pivotal role in preserving institutional knowledge and guiding the next generation of gerontological nursing leaders.

GAPNA Retired Member Pathway

MJ Henderson, MS, RN, GNP-BC



GAPNA is a very welcoming organization, and it is easy to make friends. I made contacts that advanced my career and was able to add to my resume with GAPNA leadership.



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STEP BY STEP TO GETTING INVOLVED



Interests &
Goals



Chapters &
Committees



Leadership
Positions



Nominations &
Elections

Identify Interests and Leadership Goals

Start by reflecting on your personal and professional goals. Consider which leadership roles align with your interests and how they can support your career aspirations.

GAPNA offers diverse leadership opportunities, and understanding your goals will help you navigate these options effectively.

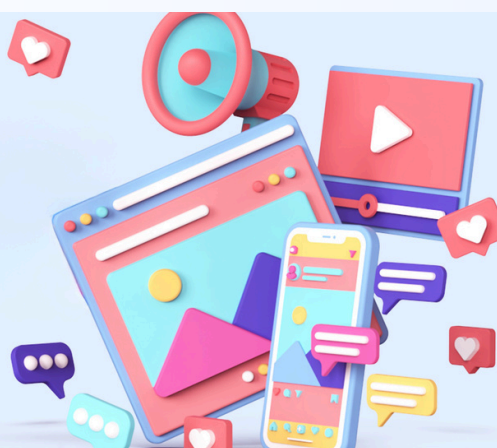
Gabbing with GAPNA Board

Are you interested in volunteering?

Hear from GAPNA board members about what it's like serving at the national level.



Check it out on Youtube



Connect with Local Chapters and Committees

Engage with your local GAPNA chapter and explore committee opportunities to begin your leadership journey.

Attend meetings, volunteer for events, and network with chapter leaders to learn more about available roles and how you can contribute.

Explore Open Leadership Positions

Regularly review GAPNA's website, email communications, and social media for announcements about open leadership roles at both the chapter and national levels.

Stay informed about volunteer opportunities and upcoming elections to identify roles that interest you

Understand Nomination and Election Processes

Familiarize yourself with the nomination and election procedures for leadership roles.

GAPNA provides clear guidelines and timelines for submitting nominations and participating in elections.

Get the Scoop on the GAPNA Board

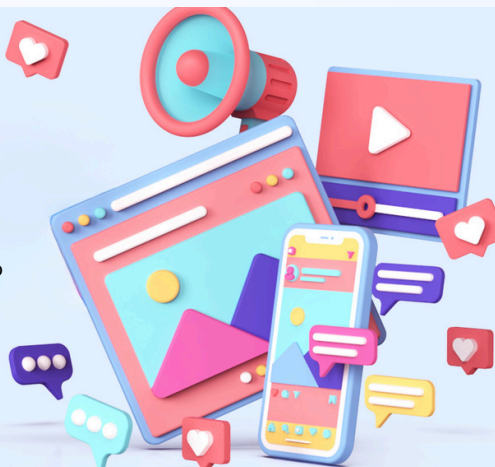
Considering running for the Board of Directors, but have some questions?

What would my responsibilities be?
Do I have the time?
What is it like?

Don't let volunteering be a rocky road...

Grab your favorite dessert and get the inside scoop as the Nominating Committee interviews Past GAPNA Presidents Katherine Evans and Carolyn Clevenger.

Check it out on Youtube



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES



GAPNA Leadership Institute

The GAPNA Leadership Institute offers educational programs designed to develop leadership skills among members.

Participants gain insights into effective leadership strategies, organizational governance, and project management. This program is ideal for members aspiring to take on significant leadership roles within GAPNA.

Local Mentoring Programs

GAPNA Chapters can provide informal mentoring programs that connect members at different career stages. These programs offer guidance, support, and networking opportunities, enabling members to learn from experienced leaders and develop the confidence to pursue leadership roles.

Educational Workshops and Webinars

GAPNA hosts various workshops and webinars focused on leadership development. These sessions cover topics such as strategic planning, advocacy, and organizational management, providing members with valuable knowledge and tools to succeed in leadership positions.

FAQS

How do I get started in GAPNA leadership?

Begin by identifying areas within GAPNA that align with your passions and professional goals. Attend local chapter meetings, participate in networking events, or volunteer for committees. Starting with small, manageable commitments can help you build confidence and gradually expand your involvement. GAPNA provides numerous opportunities to explore leadership roles that fit your interests and availability.

What qualifications are needed for leadership roles?

Leadership roles within GAPNA vary in their requirements. Generally, members interested in leadership should be active participants in GAPNA activities, demonstrate a commitment to the organization's mission, and possess relevant professional experience. Specific qualifications may be outlined for certain positions, so reviewing the role descriptions and expectations is recommended.

How do I balance leadership with other responsibilities?

Balancing leadership roles with personal and professional commitments requires effective time management and clear prioritization. Start by selecting roles that align with your current capacity and gradually take on more responsibility as you become comfortable. GAPNA offers flexible involvement opportunities, allowing you to engage at a level that suits your lifestyle and career stage.

Where can I find information about open positions?

Stay informed about available leadership opportunities by regularly reviewing GAPNA's website, subscribing to email communications, following social media channels, and participating in the GAPNA Exchange Community Forum. These platforms provide timely updates on open positions, nomination periods, and upcoming elections at both the chapter and national levels.

CHAPTER 7

CREATING YOUR LEADERSHIP PATHWAY TRACKER

Ready to take the next step?

Identify your leadership goals and desired roles.

Use a journal, spreadsheet, or digital tool to track leadership opportunities.

Record deadlines for nominations and elections.

Set personal milestones for engagement (e.g., join a committee, attend a conference).

Review and update your progress regularly to stay on track with your leadership goals.

Which path is yours?

Let GAPNA help you find it.