NURSES ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES (ICN), CARIBBEAN NURSES ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (CNR), CARIBBEAN NURSES ORGANIZATION (CNO)

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 National Nurses Associations (NNAs), representing more than 20 million nurses worldwide. Founded in 1899, ICN is the world’s first and widest reaching international organisation for health professionals. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all, sound health policies globally, the advancement of nursing knowledge, and the presence worldwide of a respected nursing profession and a competent and satisfied nursing workforce. ICN headquarters is in Geneva Switzerland.

The Nurses Association of Jamaica (NAJ) became a member of the ICN in 1953, with members serving on the Board, as follows:

- Dr Mary Jane Seivwright
- Mrs Syringa Marshall Burnett
- Mrs Merel Hanson - was 3rd Vice President
- Mrs Edith Allwood Anderson

The theme that guides all activities for nurses throughout the year such as International Nurses Day May 12 and Nurses Week is usually formulated by the ICN.

In 1991 the NAJ hosted the ICN Council of National Representative (CNR) Conference at the then Oceana Hotel, Kingston.

ICN Congress 2019 will be held in Singapore from June 27-July 1, 2019, and will be hosted by the Singapore Nurses Association. CNR, ICN’s global governing body will convene from June 25 – 27, 2019.

The Council of National Nursing Association Representative is the governing body of ICN and set policy at the marco level including admission of members, election of the Board of Directors, amendments to the constitution, and the setting of fees. A National Representative is a nurse selected by a member association to be its representative, who may or may not be the President of that Association, but who meets the ICN definition of nurse. The nurse accompanying the National Representative of a member of association may participate in meetings of the CNR but has no right to vote except when acting as the authorised proxy for the national representative. At meetings of the CNR the right to speak is limited to:

- Members of the CNR, ICN Board of Directors, The ICN Chief Executive Officer and the accompanying person from the member association.
- Official observers designated by the ICN Board of Directors, on selected topics as determined by the chairperson of the meeting;
- Guest invited by ICN to speak on specific topics for the time allowed by the presiding officer of the meeting.
The CNR meets every two years (2) and ICN every four years (4) after successful bidding by a member country. For these conferences the NAJ is always represented by two (2) voting delegates and others as observers.

**The Caribbean Nurses Organization (CNO)**

The Caribbean Nurses Organization (CNO) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-partisan, regional, professional (umbrella) nursing organization of individual Nurses, National Nurses Association in the Caribbean and who reside in countries outside the Caribbean. It is the oldest regional nurses’ professional organization.

The CNO was founded May 1957, on the island of Antigua, West Indies, by Miss Mavis Harney. The Nurses Association of Jamaica (NAJ) became a member of the CNO in 1960. The CNO has four (4) Regions where, Jamaica falls in Region One. The CNO convenes its Biennial General Meeting and educational conference in one of its member countries, which is hosted by the CNO member Nurses Association in that country.

Jamaica hosted this conference twice, the 16th Biennial Conference, July 24th - August 2, 1968 at Mary Seacole House, 72 Arnold Road, Kingston, Jamaica and the 26th Biennial Conference July 17th - 22nd, 1998 at the then Oceana Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica. Members of NAJ had served in different capacity over the years:

- Miss Gertrude Swaby- 1st Vice President 1966-1968
- Miss Edna Tulloch- President 1982-1984
- Miss Pearlie Esteen - President 1998-2000
- Mrs Murlene Davis–Secretary 1998-2000
- Mrs Edith Allwood Anderson- Regional Director One and Chairman of Bylaws Committee 2000-2002
- Mrs Thelma Deer Anderson- Nominating Committee Chairman 2000-2002
- Mrs Valrie Bogle- Regional Director One.
- Miss Laverna Campbell- Nominating Committee Chairman 2010-2012
- Mrs. Anthonette Patterson-Bartley- President 2012-2016
- Miss Novellette Robinson- Assistant Treasurer 2012-2014
- Mrs Patsy Edwards Henry- Recording Secretary 2014- Present
- Mrs Michelle Hales Thompson- Treasurer 2016- Present

The Caribbean Student Nurse Organization (CSNO) was formed by Dame Delores Gumbs in October 2007, St. Croix. The first CSNO President was Mr Kevin Allen of Jamaica.

CNO recognizes the contributions of nurses and individuals to nursing practice, service and to the organization. An award in recognition of these services is provided through its award programmes. A Caribbean Nurse of the Year Award has been added in recognition of
outstanding nurses of their country. The following members of NAJ have been recipients of this award:

- Mrs Iris Wilson
- Mrs Sharon Brown Brotherton
- Mrs Edith Allwood Anderson
- Miss Victoria Melhado
- Mrs Anthonette Patterson Bartley
- Miss Laverna Campbell