

CANDIDATES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (ELECT THREE FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Phyllis Brenner PhD, RN



Having earned master's degrees in nursing and management and a PhD in nursing with a cognate in labor relations, I have built on these educational experiences in my career and my commitment to service through my involvement with a variety of nursing and multidisciplinary

organizations. I am currently Professor Emerita at Madonna University, Livonia, Michigan, having retired as the graduate-level Nursing Administration and Nursing Administration/MBA Program Director and Health System Liaison and faculty for DNP students.

My leadership involvement with Sigma began in 1988 and continues to the present as the Kappa Iota Treasurer. I have gained valuable experience in every chapter role in three different chapters. At the international level, I served as the Midwest Nursing Research Society representative to the Sigma convened Evidence-Based Practice Committee (2000-2002) and as a member of the Sigma Bylaws Taskforce (2006-2007).

I have served in various capacities in many nursing organizations, including state affiliates or the national organizations of ANA, AONE, MNRS, and CGEAN. I served on two different state's multi-disciplinary boards addressing the needs of impaired health professionals and the local Detroit Asthma Coalition and the Steering Team of the MI Consortium of Asthma Coalitions. No matter the organization or group, I contributed in various capacities while growing my servant leadership abilities.

My particular interest in Sigma's Governance Committee is related to having served in 2006-2007 on a bylaws taskforce and more recently through a nine-year involvement with ANA-MI and ANA bylaws. One's appreciation for bylaws compliance

is heightened when rare issues arise that shake an organization at its very core, like threats of litigation around eligibility criteria, failure of board oversight leading to fiscal losses, or loss of the organization's nonprofit status. While these experiences did not involve Sigma in any way, they left an indelible impression on me that the operationalization of bylaws at the level of affiliates, or within Sigma at the chapter level, is of critical importance. The idea of bylaws as a living document "where the proverbial rubber meets the road" is of particular interest to me.

Reflecting on Sigma's strategic goals to "advance innovative and customized resources to develop nurse leaders", I believe my national and local involvement in governance issues may assist in identifying additional resources for chapter leaders to promote making bylaws a lived reality. For instance, knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order is essential knowledge for emerging chapter leaders to possess and deploy at the chapter level, thus better preparing members to then participate in governance at the international level. I can best summarize my education, experience, and interest in serving on the Governance Committee through Goethe's quotation: "Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do."