

PRESIDENTS OF NACN-USA & BRIEF HISTORY

1909		Guild of St. Radegone for Nurses (for students & graduates of recognized schools of nursing in Boston.
1924		International Catholic Guild of Nurses (ICGN) founded in June 1924 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Spiritual Director, Fr. Edward J. Garesche, S.J.
1933		1st International Committee of Catholic Nurses (now CICIAMS) met in Lourdes, France
1933		In the United States, a new constitution & bylaws of a “national character” were adopted by ICGN & the name changed to the “National Federation of Catholic Nurses.”
1935		2 nd International Congress of Catholic Nurses (now CICIAMS) held in Rome Pope Pius XI address, “After describing the important work of the Nurse, her lofty vocation and the preparation so necessary for the successful execution of her mission to the sick, His Holiness Pope Pius XI told the assembly that <i>it was the duty of every Catholic nurse to belong to Catholic associations of nurses and to promote them in every way possible</i> (excerpt from G. Cardinal Pizzardo’s 1937 letter to bishops).
1937		Excerpt from the Address of Pope Pius XI to the 3 rd International Congress of Catholic Nurses: <i>“...The exercise of the profession of nurse is surely one of those which offer the greatest possibility for the apostolate, but we must not forget that the nurse, in the exercise of her profession, has to employ all sorts of technical means, and lives in a materialistic atmosphere, exposed to the danger of a limited interior piety only, dissociated from the profession and exterior practices enjoined by the Church. Furthermore, modern theories seek to penetrate the minds of Catholic nurses and to make them become unconsciously strong agents for the propagation of eugenics and neo-malthusianism. It is necessary, then, to protect them by means of Catholic Action, which has for one of its duties to sustain and fortify them in their professional and Christian formation.”</i> (Reference p25 Conference Report – Excerpt from Pope Pius XI address).
1937		3 rd International Congress of Catholic Nurses (now CICIAMS) held in London.
1938		G. Cardinal Pizzardo shared the report from the 3 rd International Congress of Catholic Nurses (now CICIAMS) and wrote each bishop expressing His Holiness Pope Pius XI’s desire <i>“that ways and means be found to emphasize the necessity of bringing all Catholic nurses within the influence of Catholic Association of Nurses”</i> and requested <i>“In accordance with this wish of the Holy Father, It is most desirable, Your Excellency, that the Catholic nurses of the United States be gathered into one national association under the direction of the respective Ordinaries of the Hierarchy.”</i> ...”In keeping with the wish manifested in the words of His Holiness, that the Archbishops and Bishops should organize local associations of Catholic nurses according to the needs of their respective diocese, which in due time, under the guidance of the Hierarchy, might be united to create a National Federation of Catholic Nurses.”
		Officers of the National Council of Catholic Nurses (NCCN) Years/Name/Diocese/Office
1940-1942	#1	Mary Kelly, Diocese of Detroit, President Mary Gillen, New Orleans Diocese, 1 st VP Gertrude Meyer, Baltimore, 2 nd V.P. Jane O’Rourke, Milwaukee, Secretary Anne Houck, Toledo, Treasurer
1942-1944	#2	Mary Kelly, Diocese of Detroit, President Mary Gillen, New Orleans Diocese, 1 st VP Gertrude Meyer, Baltimore, 2 nd V.P. Jane O’Rourke, Milwaukee, Secretary Anne Houck, Toledo, Treasurer
1944-1946	#3	Anne V. Houck, Toledo, President Gertrude Meyer, Baltimore, 1 st V.P. Estella Mann, Los Angeles, 2 nd V.P. Jane O’Rourke, Milwaukee, Secretary Clare Casey, New York, Treasurer
May 20, 1946		Albany Diocese Council of Catholic Nurses forms under the auspices of Bishop Edmond F. Gibbons (260 members from 3 area deaneries)
1946-1948	#4	Anne V. Houck, Toledo, President (resigned 1947)

		Estella Mann, Los Angeles, 1 st V.P. (Appointed President 1947) Rose Mary Maley Rochester, 2 nd V.P. Anne Dugan, Indianapolis, Secretary Gertrude Meyer, Baltimore, Treasurer
1948-1950	#5	Estella Mann, Los Angeles, President Rose Mary Maley, Rochester, 1 st V.P. Mary Baker, Denver, 2 nd V.P. Mary Knopp, Cleveland, Secretary (completed unexpired term of Anna Burns) Gertrude Meyer, Baltimore, Treasurer
1950-1952	#6	Estella Mann, Los Angeles, President Catherine Dempsey, Boston, 1 st V.P. Mary Kelly, Detroit, 2 nd V.P. Mary Knopp, Cleveland, Secretary Clare Casey, New York, Treasurer
1952-1954	#7	Catherine Dempsey, Boston, President Mary Sweeney, Washington, 1 st V.P. Adeline Braun, Louisville, 2 nd V.P. Helen Carroll, St. Paul, Secretary Helen Coleman, Brooklyn, Treasurer
July 26, 1954		Cardinal Stritch launched the new Chicago local council: CCNAC-Council of Catholic Nurses Archdiocese of Chicago, combining three separate Catholic Nurses groups that existed in Chicago.
1954-1956	#8	Catherine Dempsey, Boston, President Mary Knopp, Washington, 1 st V.P. Adeline Braun, Cleveland, 2 nd V.P. Helen Murphy, Detroit, Secretary (Resigned 1955) Alyce Rooney, Syracuse, Treasurer
1956-1958	#9	Mary Knopp, Washington, President Marie Costello, Chicago, 1 st V.P. Mary Delehanty, Brooklyn, 2 nd V.P. Myrtle Cavanaugh, San Francisco, Secretary Alyce Rooney, Syracuse, Treasurer
1960-1962	#10	Marie Costello, Chicago, President Mary Delehanty, Brooklyn, 1 st V.P. Helen Reetz, Dubuque, 2 nd V.P. Katherine Fitzgerald, Milwaukee, Secretary Irene Duffy, Baltimore, Treasurer
1962-1964	#11	Marie Costello, Chicago, President Mary Delehanty, Brooklyn, 1 st V.P. Mary McClanahan, Covington, 2 nd V.P. Vera Mellor, Washington, Secretary Irene Duffy, Baltimore, Treasurer
1964-1966	#12	Mary Delehanty, Brooklyn, President Helen Reetz, Dubuque, 1 st V.P. Ruth Vanisky, Los Angeles, 2 nd V.P. Vera Mellor, Washington, Secretary Helen Baggot, St. Paul, Treasurer
1966-1969	#13	Mary Delehanty, Brooklyn, President
1969-1970	#14	Mary Anita McHugh, President NCCN, USA
1970	---	NCCN-USA disbanded
1970-1993	---	Local Councils continue to flourish in Albany, NY; Chicago, Illinois & other locations in the U.S.A.
1993	---	National Association of Catholic Nurses-USA formed
1993-1996	#1	Eula Sforza, RN
1996-1998	#2	Marylee Meehan, President
1998-2000	#3	Marlene Rasmussen, President
2000-2002	#4	Diana Newman, EdD, RN, President
2001		Formation of the MidSouth Area Association of Catholic Nurses (MSAACN), Diocese of Memphis
2002-2004	#5	Sookie Domingues-Escadon, RN, President
2004-2006	#6	Thomas Connelly, RN, President

2006-2008	#7	Amy Hickman, RN, President
2008-2010	#8	Kathy Kirkpatrick, RN, President
2010-2012	#9	Cheryl Hettman, PhD, RN, President
2012-2014	#10	Alma Abuelouf, BSN, RN, Memphis, President
2014-2016	#11	Diana Newman, EdD, RN, President
2016-2017	#12	Jane Cardea, PhD, RN, President (resigned 24Feb2017)
2017-2018	#13	Diana Ruzicka, RN, MSN, MA, MA, CNS-BC, Colonel, U.S. Army Retired, Birmingham, President (as President-Elect assumed presidency 24Feb17)

Revised 3/17/2017, Happy St. Patrick's Day, DLR