

Dear Dedicated Council Members,

It has been an incredibly productive and exciting few months for NYSENA!

Setting the Pace was an overwhelming success, welcoming more than 200 attendees from across New York State. We were privileged to host outstanding state and national speakers who addressed a wide range of topics relevant to the evolving challenges of emergency care. The hands-on POCUS and Mercy Flight sessions were among the conference's most popular offerings. My sincere thanks go to our Conference Committee, speakers, Board of Directors, Grey Goose Graphics, the Saratoga Springs Holiday Inn, sponsors, vendors, and volunteers whose dedication made this event such a tremendous success.

June continues our commitment to excellence in education with an abundance of learning opportunities. We begin the month with two pediatric-focused educational sessions, followed by the second installment of our Leadership Lecture Series, where our President-Elect, **Vepuka Kauari**, will present *Leading a Multigenerational Workforce*. We are also launching a new vendor education series highlighting innovative products and technologies designed to improve emergency patient care. Your NYSENA team remains committed to providing timely, relevant, and high-quality educational opportunities that support your professional growth.

I am incredibly proud to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of our members and committees. In May, ENA honored the NYSENA Government Affairs Committee with the **State Council Government Affairs Award** for its exceptional advocacy efforts to improve workplace safety in New York's emergency departments. Additionally, Government Affairs Committee Chair **Jonathan Nover** received the prestigious **Gail P. Lenehan Advocacy Award** in recognition of his sustained commitment to advancing the welfare of emergency nurses. These well-deserved honors reflect our members' unwavering dedication to promoting safe, high-quality care for both patients and healthcare professionals.

Did you know that while the average EMS response time in urban areas is approximately 7–10 minutes, patients in many rural communities may wait up to 30 minutes for emergency services? I encourage you to watch the video, [449\) What If EMS Went Dark? - YouTube](#), which was produced by a NYS EMS agency, highlighting the significant challenges faced by our EMS partners every day. It is concerning that, unlike law enforcement and fire services, EMS is still not recognized as an essential service in many states. Our patients deserve exceptional care throughout the entire continuum—from the prehospital environment through their hospital stay.

To support this important issue, the NYSENA EMS Committee is being reestablished. Its first initiative will be to advocate alongside our EMS partners for legislation recognizing EMS as an essential service in New York State. The committee will include both NYSENA members and representatives from the EMS community. I am excited about this collaborative effort and look forward to the positive impact we can achieve together.

ENA General Assembly is fast approaching! I always leave GA inspired, energized, and proud to represent New York's emergency nurses. This year's response to our call for delegates has been tremendous, with an exciting mix of experienced delegates and first-time participants. It is truly encouraging to see so many members eager to engage in shaping the future of our association and our profession.

Over the coming months, NYSENA will also pursue grant opportunities to expand injury prevention initiatives, including the **Water Whistle Program**, an innovative project implemented by our Suffolk County members. At our April Council Meeting, the membership unanimously voted to support expanding this successful program statewide. Watch for future updates and opportunities to become involved as this initiative moves forward.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our **August 8, 2026 Council Meeting** in Binghamton. Members will have the option to attend either in person or virtually. In early July, proposed revisions to our bylaws and policies and procedures will be distributed for review before the meeting. We will also host a virtual informational session led by our Bylaws Chair to answer questions and gather member feedback. Our goal is to make the ratification process efficient, transparent, and respectful of everyone's time while ensuring every member has the opportunity to participate.

One of our highest priorities this year is ensuring responsible stewardship of NYSENA's financial resources so we can continue advancing our mission of education, advocacy, and member support. To help achieve this goal, we have established a Finance Committee to work collaboratively with the Board of Directors in developing sound financial strategies. We anticipate presenting the proposed 2027 budget for member review and approval at our October Council Meeting.

Our members are the heart of NYSENA. Your ideas, expertise, and dedication shape our priorities and strengthen our organization. I encourage each of you to become involved, join a committee, volunteer for an initiative, or simply share your ideas. Together, we will continue to advance emergency nursing and improve patient care across New York State.

Thank you for your continued passion, commitment, and service. It is an honor to serve as your President, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together.

With appreciation for all that you do,

Eileen Breckenridge, RN
Your 2026 NYSENA President