

***Informational Summary***

**ARKANSAS FOR NURSING** is a non-profit organization with goals to advance effective nurse recruitment and retention programs by promoting:

1. A positive image of nursing.
2. Nursing school enrollment.
3. Nursing career opportunities for RNs and LPNs.
4. Nursing as a viable career option.

The organization is neutral in all affiliations and represents all levels of nursing education, as well as a diverse variety of nursing careers in multiple settings. Members of this organization are representatives from healthcare organizations (nursing administration, human resources, and nursing recruitment) and nursing education programs as well as individuals that demonstrate an interest in the nursing profession. It is the intent of the organization to educate the public, including prospective nursing school applicants, regarding the various educational routes and the opportunities afforded by a nursing career.

History: A statewide task force was formed in January 1987 by the Arkansas Society for Hospital Nurse Recruitment/Retention (an affiliate of AHA). Hospitals and nursing education programs were notified of the task force formation and invited to send representatives to participate.

Activities to date: The organization has met formally since its formation with the following results:

1. Information exchange with the Governor’s office in 1988

with regards to nurse recruitment and retention issues.

1. By-laws adopted.
2. Non-profit status and articles of incorporation approved.
3. Brochures for nursing programs and financial aid developed and distributed.
4. AFN has exhibited at the Arkansas Counselors’ Convention and the AHA Trade Show.
5. Radio, print ads, and press releases for various efforts. Radio spots aired in central Arkansas.
6. Supporting funds collected from Arkansas hospitals, nursing education programs, nursing organizations and interested individuals.
7. Membership expanded to include nursing organizations, management, and additional healthcare agencies.
8. Post cards sent to all high school counselors in AR with web address.
9. Attendance at bi-annual meetings has increased over the past 6 years.
10. AFN has a presence at the annual Nursing Expo hosted by Publishing Concepts, Inc.