



We start our newsletter this Black History Month by remembering a nurse who truly made history.

Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson passed away on December 31, 2023 at the age of 88. In January 2023, we highlighted the Congresswoman in the "See it To Be It" section of the newsletter, as she retired from Congress after nearly three decades.

EBJ, as she was known fondly in Texas, was a woman of "firsts." As the chief psychiatric nurse at the Veterans Administration hospital in Dallas, she was the first Black female chief psychiatric nurse. When Representative Johnson was elected to the House of Representatives in 1992, she became the first nurse ever elected to Congress. When she was elected to Chair the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology in 2019, Representative Johnson became the first African American and woman to chair the Committee.

We had the distinct pleasure of interviewing Representative Johnson in March of 2022 in the hearing room of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. She was generous with her time and her insights, and very supportive of the mission of Healing Politics.

Eddie Bernice Johnson will be sorely missed by her constituents and the broader public she served, her colleagues in Congress, and the many nurses who have been inspired by her. While we mourn her passing, we are so grateful for her work and proud that our shared profession of nursing was, for her, the foundation for a lifetime of far-reaching public service. She will continue to be an inspiration.

Below are quotes from our March 2022 interview:

*"I don't know if there's any other profession that's more prepared than nursing to take on the responsibility of policymaking, but I also know that nursing culture does not encourage it. This means nurses must choose for themselves to get involved to affect policy - and we need a lot of them to be at the tables where decisions are made."*

*"I happen to believe that some of the most useful information that's needed, and the knowledge base for making that policy, will come from nurses. They have the experience of caring for patients and working with the families of patients. We need that perspective when we're dealing with the health of communities."*



## February Virtual Event

### 2024 Campaign School Information Session



Photo credit: Unsplash Images

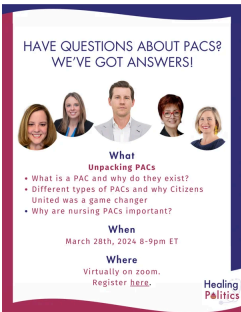
Are you "election curious"? Thinking of running for office? Maybe running is not for you, but you would like to manage a nurses' campaign?

To learn more about the [2024 Healing Politics Campaign School for Nurses & Midwives](#), attend our next **Campaign School Information Session on Tuesday, February 20 at 8pm EST.**

[Register Now](#)

## March Virtual Event

### Unpacking PACs



Join us for our next virtual educational event on **March 28 at 8p EST** featuring Legislative & Campaign Law Expert Andrew Cates, JD. He will tell us everything we ever wanted to know about PACs. Next, an expert panel representing some of the major PACs in nursing will join Andy for Q&A:

- Susan Swart, ANA-Illinois Executive Director ([ANA-PAC](#))
- Catherine Harris, AANA Political Director ([CRNA-PAC](#))
- Jessica Talbert, AANP Director of Federal Advocacy ([AANP-PAC](#))
- Amy Kohl, ACNM Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs ([Midwives-PAC](#))

You won't want to miss this!

[Register Now](#)

# Healing Politics Is on the Road

Will we see you at one of these events?



March 1-3 at the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology Region 2 Leadership Retreat in Asheville, NC.

- On March 2nd, Healing Politics co-founder Kimberly Gordon will lead an interactive discussion with CRNA leaders from Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia about innovative approaches CRNAs can incorporate into their roles as advocates, leaders, and - yes, legislators at the local and state levels.

March 6 at the [Iowa Nurses Association \(INA\) 2024 Legislative Day](#) in Des Moines, IA

- Healing Politics co-founder Kimberly Gordon will encourage and empower Iowa's nurses to tell their stories by delivering the Keynote Session: How Iowa Nurses Can Heal Politics.

March 13 - 16 at the [the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners \(VCNP\) Annual Conference](#) in Williamsburg, VA.

- On Friday, March 15th, Healing Politics co-founder Kimberly Gordon will present the Leslie Herdegen Rohrer Memorial Session titled, Healing Politics

[Learn More Here](#)

## See It to Be It



Representative Travis Nelson (District 44 – Portland OR)

Travis Nelson was appointed to the Oregon House of Representatives in January 2022 and was elected to his first full term as a State Representative in the 2022 general election. He is proud to join the OR legislature as the first Black LGBTQIA+ member.

The grandson of Louisiana sharecroppers, he moved with his family to the Pacific Northwest before grade school. Representative Nelson developed a strong work ethic, working in food service, landscaping, and janitorial positions to put himself through community college and then Washington State University's School of Nursing. He specialized in Emergency Nursing, Critical Care Nursing, Medical-Surgical Nursing and Rehabilitation Nursing.

Representative Nelson honed his advocacy skills serving as a union representative and served as Vice President of the Oregon Nurses Association. He states on his [legislative website](#):

*"Healthcare is intersectional and is entwined with our environment, housing policy, racial justice, and so many other social determinants of health. It is this intersectionality that initially drove me to run for office."*

## Champion



Danielle McCamey, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, FCCP

We "met" Danielle McCamey via the chat in a Center to Champion Nursing in America call and quickly appreciated her engagement in our work. Before long, we asked her to serve on our Advisory Council and have benefitted greatly from her perspective and sage advice.

Danielle brings not only her long career in nursing, but her experience as the founder of another non-profit – [DNP's of Color](#). She was inspired to create DNP's of Color (DOCs) because she wanted to create a space, a community, for DOCs to elevate themselves, the nursing profession, and communities through the richness of diversity.

Danielle grew up in a single-parent family home in Northern VA and credits her mother with inspiring her to become a nurse. She started her nursing career at Georgetown University Hospital and obtained both a Master of Science and a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Georgetown University. Specializing in Acute Care Advanced Practice, her dissertation focused on the integration of palliative care screening of neurosurgical patients on admission. She currently serves as Assistant Dean, Strategic Partnerships at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.

*"I've witnessed the profound impact policy decisions have on the well-being of our communities. While I'm driven to advocate for change, I know my voice alone isn't enough. Collectively, nurses and midwives are the most trusted voices with unique perspectives and are ideally positioned to bridge the gap between healthcare and policy. This is where Healing Politics is making an impact: empowering nurses and midwives to run for elected office at all levels and building a culture of civic engagement within our profession."*

## What We're Reading (and Listening To!)



Photo taken at DNPs of Color conference following the recording of See You Now Episode #100. Author Maria Smilios, Virginia Allen, See You Now Host Shawna Butler, and Danielle McCarney, President and CEO of DNPs of Color.

Our reading this month, [The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis](#) by Maria Smilios came to our attention while listening to Episode #100 of the See You Now Podcast: [The Untold Story of the Black Angels](#).

See You Now, is focused on trailblazers, changemakers, and pioneers (Healing Politics was featured in Episode 95# [Nursing is Political](#)). The 100th episode features someone who personifies those values: [Virginia Allen](#), the last living [Black Angel](#). The episode was recorded live at the [DNPs of Color](#) conference and we hope you will listen in - if you haven't already.

We love the entire program, but our favorite part is when Ms. Virginia talked about her work in the community:

*"I'm 92 now...and I have been working all my life and I'm still working. I have been working with the Board of Elections on Staten Island for over 43 years and I just took 2 tests recently so that I will be able to do the early voting."*

She emphasized this in her final comments:

*"I think that each and every one of us should bring ten people to the polls. You know, don't go alone. Always take someone with you when you're going to vote, because the vote is where we have the strength."*

## Fun Facts



Photo credit: KCBQ, Lubbock, Texas

The November 5th general election may seem a long way off, but primary election season is in full swing. While the presidential race takes up a lot of airtime, primary elections are important at the state and local level as well.

### When are the first state primaries, and why should you care?

- Primaries are important because political parties use primaries and caucuses to determine which candidates will run for their state's partisan offices in the general election.
- It may seem early, but at Healing Politics we are ramping up our (non-partisan) work on voter registration and efforts to enlist poll workers. Why??
- After the "early states" of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, and South Carolina are finished competing to be the *earliest* state, **the 2024 primaries will begin on March 5!** The busiest primary months are June and August with 13 primaries each.

You can check [vote.gov](#), for information about registering to vote, voter registration deadlines, absentee voting, and other details. The National Conference of State Legislatures has a complete list of primary dates [here](#).

## Like what we're doing? Wondering how can you help?

1. Follow us on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Facebook](#).
2. Share this with a friend or colleague and encourage them to [sign up for our newsletter](#).
3. [Donate](#) - Your donations are tax-deductible and will go directly toward building Healing Politics and our mission to inspire, motivate, recruit, and train nurses and midwives to run for elected office!

[Donate Now](#)

[We'd like your feedback on the newsletter!](#) What would you like to see? Questions we can answer?

Was this email forwarded to you? Sign up for the newsletter [here](#).

Healing  
Politics



Healing Politics, 1824 Elizabeth Ave., Winston Salem, NC 27103  
[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)

Send free email today  
HubsSpot