

American Board of Neuroscience Nursing Certified Nurse Leader of the Year Award

Purpose:

To annually recognize outstanding achievement of a nurse leader who is a Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse (CNRN®) or Stroke Certified Registered Nurse (SCRN®).

Nominees may be self-or peer-nominated. Peer nominations should be done so with permission from the nominated individual. Individuals will be notified to confirm willingness to proceed with the award application.

Application Submission Deadline: October 30, 2026

Award:

The award winner will receive a \$500 monetary award and complimentary registration to attend the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses' (AANN) annual meeting where the award will be presented.

Eligibility Requirements:

- ☐ A current CNRN or SCRN in good standing.
- ☐ Member of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN).
- ☐ A nurse who is in a formally designated nurse leader role, such as, nursing professional development, nursing manager, stroke coordinator, clinical nurse specialist, director, etc.
- ☐ Recipients of any ABNN award within the last 2 years are not eligible.

Members of the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN) Board of Trustees, American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) Board of Directors, and Agnes Marshall Walker Foundation (AMWF) Board of Directors are **not** eligible to be nominees, nominate individuals or to provide recommendations for nominees.

Criteria:

The recipient of the ABNN Certified Nurse Leader of the Year Award will demonstrate outstanding leadership and contributions to neuroscience/stroke nursing through professional service, exemplary outcomes, mentoring and professional development, advocacy and innovation, support for evidence-based practice, and promotion of the CNRN/SCRN certification.

Submission Criteria:

The award recipient will be selected by the ABNN Board of Trustees based on a blind review of the following materials.

- ☐ Nominees must submit a completed, typed application along with a statement of how the nominee has met the award criteria
- ☐ Nominees must have **two typed references** from supervisors/colleagues describing the nominee's achievements based on criteria in neuroscience/stroke practice in their nurse leader role.
- ☐ The summary and recommendations must be no greater than 500 words, and electronic submission is preferred. Exemplars of the nominee's success can take the form of narrative, brief case studies, or reflection. **There cannot be identifying information in the recommendation (i.e., no name of nominee).**

Submissions: Completed application must be received by **October 30, 2026**, and submitted electronically to Morgan Cassidy, ABNN Operations Administrator, at mcassidy@abnncertification.org.

**American Board of Neuroscience Nursing
Certified Nurse Leader of the Year Award
Application form**
(Please type in form fields)

Nominee _____ Credentials _____

Address _____

Home Telephone (_____) _____ Work Telephone (_____) _____

E-Mail _____ Fax (_____) _____

Employer _____ Position/Title _____

Reference #1 Name _____ Position _____

Reference #2 Name _____ Position _____

Please submit **two reference forms** from colleagues describing the nominee's achievements in neuroscience/stroke nursing practice, in your nurse leader role, according to the following guidelines:

Give a detailed explanation of this individual's performance as a Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse (CNRN) or Stroke Certified Registered Nurse (SCRN) exemplar. Examples are, but not limited to, leading or significantly contributing to neuroscience/stroke care or programs, providing nursing professional development through mentoring or course instruction, contributing to quality outcomes and/or protocols through advocacy and innovation, supporting neuroscience/stroke nurse-led research and evidence-based practice and/or encouraging national membership participation and CNRN/SCRN board certification.

Please attach completed reference statements to this form (template below). **All written statements (nominee and references) must be typed, be limited to 500 words or less, and must NOT contain any identifying information (i.e., no name of nominee or their institution).**

Application Checklist

- ☐ Application Form
- ☐ Nominee statement (**typed**)
- ☐ **Two** reference statement forms from colleagues (**typed**)

Application must be received by October 30, 2026

Please submit electronically to Morgan Cassidy, mcassidy@abnncertification.org

**American Board of Neuroscience Nursing
ABNN Certified Nurse Leader of the Year Award
Nominee Written Statement**

Credentials _____

Please give **specific examples** of your contributions to neuroscience/stroke nursing practice in your nurse leader role based on the following criteria (statement may not exceed 500 words):

Leadership

Contributions to Neuroscience/Stroke Nursing through Professional Service

Mentoring and Professional Development

Advocacy and Innovation

Support for Evidence-Based Practice

Promotion of the CNRN/SCRN credential

**American Board of Neuroscience Nursing
ABNN Certified Nurse Leader of the Year Award
Blinded Reference Statement Form #1**

Reference Name: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

References may be contacted for additional information or clarification of information. Please complete form below. All references must be blinded (no identifying information).

**American Board of Neuroscience Nursing
ABNN Certified Nurse Leader of the Year Award
Blinded Reference Statement Form #1 (cont'd)**

I worked with the nominee during the following time period _____ and with
_____ (name of institution).

Please give **specific examples** of this nominee's contribution to neuroscience/stroke nursing clinical practice through your first-hand experience with the nominee (statement may not exceed 500 words):

Leadership

Contributions to Neuroscience/Stroke Nursing through Professional Service

Mentoring and Professional Development

Advocacy and Innovation

Support for Evidence-Based Practice

Promotion of the CNRN/SCRN credential

**American Board of Neuroscience Nursing
ABNN Certified Nurse Leader of the Year Award
Blinded Reference Statement Form #2**

Reference Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

References may be contacted for additional information or clarification of information. Please complete form below. All references must be blinded (no identifying information).

**American Board of Neuroscience Nursing
ABNN Certified Nurse Leader of the Year Award
Blinded Reference Statement Form #2 (cont'd)**

I worked with the nominee during the following time period _____ and with
_____ (name of institution).

Please give **specific examples** of this nominee's contribution to neuroscience/stroke nursing clinical practice through your first-hand experience with the nominee (statement may not exceed 500 words):

Leadership

Contributions to Neuroscience/Stroke Nursing through Professional Service

Mentoring and Professional Development

Advocacy and Innovation

Support for Evidence-Based Practice

Promotion of the CNRN/SCRN credential