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National Student Nurses' Association Reinventing Itself Yet Again



Over the past 25 years, the interest of NSNA nursing student leaders in social, political, and international affairs waned. Concerns over civil, human, and student rights faded with the total reorganization of NSNA's governance structure from 1976-78, when policies, procedures, and bylaws, took center stage. Over

the past few years, resolutions addressing global health, social, and political concerns have provided the foundation for new initiatives and innovative programs for NSNA. Two new projects by the NSNA Board of Directors hold great promise for nursing students to expand their boundaries beyond the confines of nursing education. These inventive programs offer nursing students relevant experiences for leadership development, participation in research, international collaboration, and expansion of cultural horizons. These new initiatives are the NSNA Disaster Relief Project and the hosting of an International Council of Nurses Student Network meeting at the 2008 NSNA Annual Convention.

Disaster Preparedness, Recovery, And Relief Project

The 2006 NSNA House of Delegates passed a resolution entitled, *The Establishment of Protocols for Disaster Relief Guiding the Scope of Practice for Student Nurses and the Collection and Distribution of Donations*. The resolution calls for NSNA to 1) establish guidelines for nursing student involvement during disasters, and 2) address the needs of nursing students impacted by disasters by developing a plan for the collection and distribution of donations.

To begin planning for the implementation of the resolution, eight NSNA Board members traveled to the Gulf Coast in August 2006 to visit schools impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Using a data collection tool and visiting with students and faculty, the Board began an assessment and evaluation process that helped to guide implementation of the resolution. In addition, the Board conducted a workshop in New Orleans entitled, *Lessons Learned: Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery*. The Gulf Coast visit was funded through donations and included participation by Dr. Cheryl Schmidt, a disaster-training specialist and member of the Foundation of the NSNA Board of Trustees, who served as a resource person.

One of the major outcomes of the Gulf Coast expedition is the development of Guidelines for Nursing Students in

Disaster Preparation, Recovery, and Relief (Guidelines). Another outcome is the establishment of a Disaster Preparedness, Recovery, and Relief Project (Disaster Project). In order to obtain input into the development and dissemination of the Guidelines and establishment of an ongoing project, the NSNA Board of Directors created a Task Force to 1) provide feedback into the development of Guidelines and establishment of the NSNA Disaster Project, and 2) make recommendations to the NSNA Board regarding how constituents may become involved in implementing the Disaster Project at the state and school chapters. The goals of NSNA's Disaster Project are to:

- Increase awareness of the role of nursing students during disasters.
- Increase the number of students qualified to participate in disaster relief activities.
- Establish methods to identify the needs of nursing students during disasters and to address those needs.
- Establish Disaster Project committees at state and school NSNA chapters.
- Raise funds for nursing students to have available in times of disaster.

Members of the Task Force include Jenna Sanders, NSNA vice president and chair; NSNA Board members; and representatives from several national nursing organizations, nursing schools, and the American Red Cross. Task Force members participate by reviewing documents, exchanging disaster program plans, exploring ways to collaborate on disaster programs, informing respective organization members as the task force progresses with its work, and identifying opportunities for collaboration.

The development of Guidelines for Nursing Students in Disaster Preparation, Recovery and Relief is now underway. The Guidelines provide direction on how NSNA chapters can set up ongoing response mechanisms for when disaster strikes. Once the document is completed, it will be available via the NSNA Web site (www.nsna.org).

NSNA conventions and conferences offer opportunities for nursing students and faculty to learn about the skills needed during disaster interventions, emerging ethical issues related to disasters, and lessons learned through the lived experiences of those impacted by disasters. A plenary session, sponsored by the American Nurses Association, took place at the NSNA 55th Annual Convention. "Lessons Learned: Preparedness, Response and Recovery" included presentations by Rebecca Patton, president, ANA; Justine Mize, NSNA vice president and immediate past chair, the NSNA Disaster Relief Task Force; and Dr. Patricia Prechter, dean and professor, Our Lady of Holy Cross College, New Orleans, LA. Dr.

Prechter served as a special needs nurse in the Louisiana Superdome during Hurricane Katrina. Attendees also viewed a short video entitled, *Katrina*, produced by Johnson & Johnson. This program, along with the keynote and endnote addresses, and a presentation by Dr. Patricia Benner and Dr. Molly Sutphen on nursing education, are available on DVD from NSNA.

The Disaster Task Force is in the process of analyzing the data of a qualitative study collected via www.SurveyMonkey.com last spring. The study, which yielded 1,351 responses, was approved as an exempt study by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Institutional Review Board (IRB). Cheryl Schmidt, PhD, RN, CNE, associate professor at the UAMS College of Nursing, is serving as principal investigator for the study. Preliminary results will be presented at the Nursing Education Summit, National League for Nursing (September 26-29, 2007, Phoenix, AZ) and at the 39th Biennial Convention, Sigma Theta Tau International (November 3-7, 2007, Baltimore, MD). Jenna Sanders, NSNA vice president and chair of the Task Force, will co-present the findings with Dr. Schmidt at the Sigma Theta Tau meeting. Ms. Sanders is a junior nursing student at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, IN.

Another goal of the Disaster Project is to establish support networks that are available in time of disaster. For example, if disaster strikes a school, NSNA chapters will be positioned to offer assistance and provide support. When Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005, there was an outpouring of support from nursing students and faculty who wanted to help in any way possible. Unfortunately, the absence of a pre-established, coordinated effort prevented immediate response. The anticipated outcome is to connect NSNA chapters to sister schools that are available to coordinate the distribution of supplies.

E-mail messages from students who lost their homes, their schools, and family members stimulated the creation of the Foundation of the National Student Nurses' Association (FNSNA) Disaster Relief Fund. Through this fund, small grants are available to help purchase supplies for nursing labs and libraries, and to assist nursing students to purchase books, uniforms, nursing shoes, and other items they need to sustain them in nursing school. Several NSNA chapters, generous individuals, and fund-raising events at NSNA meetings are helping to build the fund. If your school or students are impacted by a disaster, please contact FNSNA for details about applying for a Disaster Relief grant.

International Nursing Student Network (INSN)

In 2007, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) established an International Nursing Student Network (INSN) to facilitate student interaction between meetings of the ICN Student Assembly. The Student Assembly takes place during the Quadrennial ICN Congress. NSNA President Jennifer Davis attended the first meeting of the INSN last June in Yokohama, Japan. NSNA Past President Rebecca Wheeler, who represented NSNA at the 2005 Student Assembly in Taipei, Taiwan, served as a member of the INSN Planning Committee. An INSN Working Group was recently formed to begin planning the agenda for the 2009 Student Assembly, which takes place in Durban, South Africa. Jennifer Davis is co-chair along with Allison Webel, past NSNA vice president and doctoral student at the University of California San Francisco.

NSNA will host a meeting for international nursing students who wish to participate in the Working Group to plan the

2009 Student Assembly agenda. International nursing student leaders are invited to attend the 56th Annual NSNA Convention, March 25-30, 2008, at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine, TX. International students will arrive in time to be introduced at the Opening Ceremony and will enjoy the entire convention prior to the INSN Working Group meeting on Sunday, March 30.

The NSNA Board of Directors will cover expenses to bring a student leader from South Africa, host country of the 2009 ICN Congress, to the NSNA Convention. NSNA is seeking support from state and school NSNA chapters to sponsor scholarships for additional international student leaders to participate. Scholarships will offset the cost of hotel, meals, and ground transportation. International students will be asked to find their own support for airfare; if they come from a low-income or lower-middle income country (as designated by the World Bank), NSNA will try to find a chapter to sponsor or co-sponsor their airfare. International students will be invited to submit a scholarship application that demonstrates a need for funding and a commitment to share information with their peers and faculty upon their return home. NSNA is offering international student leaders attending the Working Group meeting complimentary registration to the NSNA Annual Convention and will host an invitational reception for the international students.

Once a state or school NSNA chapter volunteers to sponsor a student, they will be put in touch directly with the international student they are supporting. The sponsoring chapter will have the privilege of welcoming the international student on arrival at the Convention Center, orienting them to the program, and assisting their international guest during the convention.

NSNA members have demonstrated that they value and support involvement in international nursing student issues. This venture gives NSNA constituents direct contact with international student leaders. Students will have the opportunity to explore issues facing students in other countries in a way that would not otherwise be available to them. Inviting NSNA chapters to sponsor a student gives them an opportunity to experience multi-cultural relationships one-on-one. This event also carries with it the potential to inspire members to pursue careers in international nursing and to be advocates for the nursing profession on a global level.

The two programs described in this article are the result of actions initiated by emerging leaders who recognize that they can change the world through involvement in professional organizations. Success of these programs will surely benefit from the support and mentorship from nursing faculty. Nurse educators who are committed to the development of the next generation of nurse leaders are encouraged to explore how to incorporate involvement in NSNA into undergraduate curriculum (see www.nsnaleadershipu.org for details).

If the creativity of today's nursing students continues to be set free, just imagine how the future of nursing will be reinvented.

Diane J. Mancino, EdD, RN, CAE, is executive director of the National Student Nurses' Association and the Foundation of the NSNA located at 45 Main Street, Suite 606, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Please send your comments and questions to nsna@nsna.org (Attention Dr. Mancino).

APNA Announces 2007 Award Winners

Through the generous support of Ortho-McNeil Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) announced the recipients of the 2007 APNA-Janssen Student Scholarship Program. NSNA joins APNA in congratulating the 15 winners. The scholarship supports the participation of the nursing student winners at the Annual APNA Conference, and in addition to covering those expenses, also provides winners with a one-year complimentary membership in APNA. The purpose of the Scholarship Program is to stimulate continued interest in psychiatric-mental health nursing. This year's annual conference takes place in October 3-6, 2007, Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, Kissimmee, FL.

The program provides a wonderful experience for students to obtain cutting-edge information about the specialty of psychiatric-mental health nursing, to meet with leaders in the specialty, and to network with psychiatric-mental health nurses and other students. Students are recognized for this achievement throughout the convention and at an awards banquet. By attending the APNA Annual Conference, students gain an appreciation for the treatment modalities, concepts and philosophy of care, pharmacology, and trends and issues in the care of individuals with psychiatric-mental health needs. Students are also able to meet leaders in the specialty, and can network with nurses and students from around the nation.

Deans and directors of nursing programs were invited to nominate students for the scholarship. In addition to expressing an interest in psychiatric mental health nursing, the nominee had to maintain a high grade point average, be an NSNA

member, and exhibit exceptional leadership skills. Look for announcements about the 2008 APNA-Janssen Scholarship Program and the 2008 Annual APNA Convention in *Imprint* and *NSNA News*, and on www.nсна.org

2007 APNA-Janssen Scholarship Recipients

Victoria K. Albertus
Bloomsburg University
Bloomsburg, PA

Gina Bourgeois
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT

Joseph Hendricks Burds
Northeast Iowa Community
College
Peosta, IA

Kelly Ann Campbell
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC

Klava Dmitrievna Caras
Mesa State College
Grand Junction, CO

Rebecca Anne Hancock
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

Jessica Bright Jester
Dixon School of Nursing
Abington Memorial Hospital
Willow Grove, PA

Chanda L. Knelsen
Walla Walla Community
College
Walla Walla, WA

Alan Louis Lopez
Medical University of South
Carolina
Charleston, SC

Tahira C. Memon
Florida International
University
Miami, FL

Kathryn Lynn Meunier
Louisiana State University
Health Sciences Center
New Orleans, LA

Katie E. Parziale
Loyola University
Chicago, IL

Jane E. Pressman
Mount St. Mary's College
Los Angeles, CA

Natalia M. Ramirez
Florida International
University
Miami, FL

Margaret A. Wilkinson
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT

NSNA's 25th MidYear Conference • November 15-18, 2008

Consultants, Advisors, and Faculty

The NSNA's 25th Annual MidYear Conference in Kansas City, MO, offers consultants and faculty the opportunity to support their students with their attendance, obtain continuing education credit, and meet and network with colleagues across the country. This year, the schedule offers many networking and roundtable discussion opportunities, including time to discuss ideas to improve your chapter and help you in your role as a mentor and leader.

Cyber Café and Faculty Lounge Sponsored by Florida Hospital

Thursday, November 15, 2007

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Opening Session and Keynote Address

Speaker: Donna Cardillo, RN, Professional Keynote Speaker, Author, Consultant, and Coach.

Sponsor: Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc., Pitman, NJ

Ms. Cardillo's accomplished career combines over 20 years of clinical, managerial, and business experience, not to mention

her stint as a professional singer. "Dear Donna" gives daily online career advice to nurses at www.nurse.com and writes a monthly column for *Nursing Spectrum* and *NurseWeek*.

Friday, November 16, 2007

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

What Do Nurses Want – 2007 Nurse Incentive Project

Speaker: K. Lynn Wieck, PhD, RN, FAAN, CEO, Management Solutions for Healthcare, and Jacqueline M. Braithwaite, Professor at the University of Texas at Tyler.

Sponsor: NSNA, Brooklyn, NY.

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Chapter Resources

Come and network with your colleagues. Find out how you can improve your chapter membership, communications, and fund raising outcomes. Talk with others who will share successful ideas, and discuss what resources are available and how these resources can be used to enhance chapter success.

Once you have finished with this newsletter, please pass it along to share with a colleague or friend.

DEAN'S Notes™

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4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Standardized National Transitioning Model

Speaker: Nancy Spector, DNSc, RN, Director of Education, National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Chicago, IL

Sponsor: National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Chicago, IL.

Saturday, November 17, 2007

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Hallmarks of a Healthy Workplace

Speaker: Dennis Sherrod, EdD, RN, Professor and Forsyth Medical Center Endowed Chair of Recruitment and Retention; President-elect, Center for American Nurses; President, North Carolina Nurses Association; and Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Executive Fellow

Sponsor: Center for American Nurses, Silver Spring, MD

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Consultants and Advisors Forum

State and school advisors will meet to get an update on NSNA business and meet the members of the 2007-2008 Board of Directors. Moderators: Anne Manton, PhD, RN, FAAN, appointed consultant, American Nurses Association, and Carol Toussie Weingarten, PhD, RN, appointed consultant, National League for Nursing.

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Making a Family and Professional Emergency Plan

Speaker: Cheryl Schmidt, PhD, RN, Associate Clinical Professor, University of Arkansas for Medical Science, Little Rock, AR

Sponsor: NSNA, Brooklyn, NY

Send Your Student Leaders to NSNA

The NSNA Nominating and Elections Committee (NEC) is seeking assistance from faculty advisors and mentors to encourage their best and brightest student leaders to run for national office. "Most of us who serve on the National Board and Nominating and Elections Committee were supported to run for office by nursing faculty," stated Jenna Witt, NEC Chair. Serving in an elected office prepares the next generation of nurse leaders to participate in professional organizations, as well as in health care facilities with shared-governance models. Please send your student leaders and prospective candidates to the NEC Web page (www.nсна.org, click on "Elected Officials," and go to the NEC homepage), or send an e-mail to nsna@nsna.org for details about running for office. Applications must be received by January 8, 2008.