



Wrap-up & Gear Up

MidYear Wrap Up

The 25th Annual MidYear Career Planning Conference at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, MO, was a rousing success. Over 1,300 students attended to hear renowned speakers, participate in workshops, and meet the 2007-08 Board of Directors.

Donna Cardillo, career guru and “Dear Donna” columnist for *Nursing Spectrum* and *NurseWeek*, kicked off the conference on Thursday. Cardillo spoke about her first experiences as a nurse and addressed the fears that all new nurses have when entering the professional realm. She noted that new nurses are not expected to know everything and encouraged students to ask for help when they needed it. She recounted a time when, just out of nursing school, she was left alone in the Emergency Room, without a preceptor. The knowledge she’d learned in school came through for her and got her through a tough night in the ER. Cardillo gave students additional tips on how to get started off on the right foot.

Throughout the next two days, students attended the New Directions in Nursing panel, a Leadership Breakfast sponsored by the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, and workshops by the Board of Directors, who encouraged members to get involved and take advantage of everything nursing has to offer. Workshops ranged from membership recruitment to disaster planning, to newsletter planning, among other topics. Members had the opportunity to ask questions of nurse leaders at the specialty showcases, and speak with recruiters, publishers, and schools at the exhibit hall. (See the spread at the end of the news coverage for highlights of the conference.)

Convention Update

Convention is early this year! Plan ahead and arrive at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center in Grapevine, TX, ready to go! Check out the Convention Alert on the NSNA website at www.nsna.org and ensure

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Seek the Adventure

Run for Office

Running for a national office is an exciting and action-packed process. Candidates are nervous, the NEC is full of activity, the current Board is thrilled to have a great slate, and everyone is bursting with anticipation! During this emotional roller coaster, it's nice to know that candidates have some options available, just in case they miss the pre-slate deadline. Candidates may pre-slate or run from the floor at the Annual Convention in March. The NEC is ready and waiting to guide our future leaders through the election process by providing all the necessary information involved in being a candidate for an NSNA position.



Scenarios: How to Seek the Adventure

Candidate A knows she wants to be a part of the national board. She requested her information last year in Anaheim, contacted her regional NEC representative, filled out her application packet, and already has a ton of ideas for campaigning. Candidate A is a pre-slater! Pre-slating has a lot of advantages for candidates. A pre-slated candidate must have their application packet completed – application, dean's verification, resume, reference letters, etc. – and turned in to the NEC by 5:00 pm EST on **January 8, 2008**. Pre-slated Candidate A will then be announced in *Imprint* magazine and the *NSNA News*. As such, candidates like "A" receive publicity through NSNA's member publications. After being officially placed on the slate, Candidate A can start campaigning before even arriving at the Annual Convention in Grapevine, Texas.

Candidate B also knows he wants to be on the national board, but he isn't quite sure what position he's most passionate about, and wants to make sure his schedule is ready for the time requirements of a national position. February is soon upon him and Candidate B has missed the

pre-slate deadline of January 8th. After contacting his regional NEC representative, Candidate B will come prepared to run from the floor at the Opening Business Meeting of the NSNA Annual Convention. Candidate B can still mail his application prior to Convention, or bring it all with him and hand it over to the NEC by **noon, Wednesday, March 26, 2008**. After the NEC reviews his application packet and verifies his credentials, he will be nominated from the floor that afternoon. Although he made his final decision weeks ago, Candidate B will be unable to start campaigning until after he is officially on the slate. Any position can have an unlimited number of candidates slated up to this time; however, after the Opening Business

Meeting of the House of Delegates all positions with two or more candidates on the slate will be closed.

Candidate C has come to Annual Convention in Grapevine, Texas and "caught the fire" on the first night! She wants to be a part of the national board badly but she's almost out of time! Candidate C finds her regional NEC representative on site, gets a candidate packet, and now has a lot of work to do. Candidate C completes her application, formulates a resume, gratefully obtains two letters of reference – one from her faculty advisor on school letterhead, and the other from her school or state officer – and contacts her Dean, working feverishly through the night. In the morning, she will use her own resources to receive a fax from her Dean with Section 8 of the application completed and signed. At 2:58 pm Candidate C is running through the convention center and bursts through the doors of Campaign Headquarters right on time! Her application is handed in to the NEC by 3:00 pm, Thursday, March 27, 2008 and, luckily for her, everything checks out and Candidate C is properly credentialed. Candidate C can be nominated from the floor at the Business Meeting on Friday, March 28th.

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Unfortunately, she will not be able to campaign until after she is officially on the slate on Friday and must keep her intent to run confidential for the rest of Thursday! Candidates nominated from the floor at the Friday Business Meeting will participate in the Candidate Forum and be able to campaign that night from 10:00 pm until midnight.

What works for you?

Candidate A, B, and C were all elected into office! While they all took different paths, they reached the same summit. The NEC is completely available and devoted to any potential candidate, and will walk them through the election process whether it's three months before Grapevine or three hours before the final deadline! We wish everyone the best of luck and can't wait to meet NSNA's new leadership!

Legislative Update



Jenna Sanders
*Chair, Legislation/
 Education Committee &
 Chair, Disaster Task Force*

Keep an eye on your e-mail inbox for the latest in legislative updates from NSNA! The Legislation/Education committee has begun sending legislative alerts to NSNA members whenever federal legislation is identified that relates specifically to a resolution passed by the House of Delegates. The first alert went out in October, and dealt with pending S-CHIP legislation. This alert was in

response to a resolution passed in 1999 entitled, "In Support of the Education of Americans Regarding the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)," and which included the following resolved statement: "be it resolved that the NSNA encourage its members to support local, state, and/or national legislation enhancing the CHIP program." Additionally, a resolution was passed in 2003 entitled, "In Support of Raising Awareness of the Plight of the Uninsured and Demonstrating Broad Support for Action on this Issue." This resolution called specifically for support of the Robert Wood Johnson program, *Cover the Uninsured*, which actively supported the passage of the S-CHIP Legislation.

Another Legislative alert was sent out in December regarding the 2007 Resolution "In Support of Federal Legislation for Life-Time Immunosuppressive Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients." Legislation is currently in committee regarding this issue, and NSNA felt it important to send out information on its status for those members who chose to contact the Federal committee members regarding the pending legislation.

Resolutions passed in the House of Delegates are

high on the list of the most valuable functions of our organization, and we are proud to be passing along information that can help those who choose to be involved further these resolutions. As always, if you have personal issues with any legislative alert, feel free to hit the delete button – we would never ask you to do something you are not comfortable with. If you aren't receiving these e-mails, please visit www.nsnamembership.org and make sure that your e-mail address is up to date!

Disaster Task Force Update

NSNA is proud to announce the release of the brand new “Guidelines For Establishing and Implementing Disaster Preparedness, Recovery, and Relief Projects.”

Debuted at the MidYear Conference in Kansas City, these guidelines were developed in response to several NSNA House of Delegates Resolutions on disaster preparedness, pandemic flu response, and the potential roles of the nursing student. While these roles are not able to be universally defined for every part of the country, we believe that the guidelines give state and local boards as well as individual members, an excellent idea on how to start the process of preparedness and certification.

Copies of the guidelines can be found on the NSNA website. For more information, please e-mail Jenna Sanders, NSNA Vice President and Chair of the Disaster Task Force, at NSNAVicePresident@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing your response! ☺

NEWS: *people*

Spreading the Word, Planting the Seed

The Bacone College nursing program piloted an initiative entitled, “Planting the Nursing Seed,” at the Coweta Intermediate Grade Center on Thursday, November 8, 2007. Headed by NSNA Breakthrough to Nursing Director Devyn K. Denton, five freshmen nursing students, student Monica Greer, and faculty advisors Diane Adair and Catherine White went to the Coweta Intermediate school to teach children about nurses, hygiene, health and nutrition.

Ms. Denton presented before an enthusiastic crowd of 217 and talked about preventing infection through proper hygiene, discussed why nurses and other health care personnel wear uniforms, and spoke about healthy living and nutrition. She also noted how many different specialties and jobs are available to nurses. “When I asked them to tell me what other places a nurse can work besides a hospital,” she said, “the answers came quickly. They answered: at school, the airport, a football game, at your house, etc.”

“It was obvious from their answers,” she adds, “that once they started thinking about it, they realized that nurses are everywhere.” She also emphasized how important it was that students realize that minority groups and men were great additions to the profession.

The students were able to tie in several different topics they were already covered in their classrooms, including math (as the children measured milliliters of “blood” into the syringes) and cell division (as the Bacone contingent discussed medication effects on the body).



BTN Director Devyn Denton (second from left) discussed the “Planting the Nursing Seed” project at the BTN Seminar featuring (pictured above, l t r) Diane Adair, BSN, RN; Devyn Denton; Catherine White, MA, RN; and Monica Greer.

Thanks to hats, surgical masks, gloves, booties, gowns, and other supplies donated by Hospice of the Cherokee, Tahlequah, OK, St. John Medical Center, Tulsa, OK, and Maternal & Family Practice Associates LLC, Muskogee, OK, the children were able to experience wearing health care gear and practiced pulling up different amounts of fake blood with syringes. The children received prizes for participating, including coloring books, pens, and posters from Johnson and Johnson’s Campaign for Nursing’s Future.

Ms. Denton has since been approached by other organizations looking to fund similar programs and activities. ☺



Convention Update (cont...)

that your constituency application is received at headquarters by the deadline, that you're prepared as a delegate, and that your resolution is ready for submission!

Major General Gale S. Pollock, 22nd Chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps will be the "Blazing Trails: A New Age of Nursing" Keynote Speaker. She is an invigorating speaker and knows firsthand how crucial nurses are to our nation's welfare. Plus, make sure and stick around for Dr. Lynn Wieck's Endnote speech. Not only will the Closing Ceremony include program awards, but you'll hear a great closing to the Convention.

Awards and Honors

Remember that in lieu of the traditional Annual Awards Ceremony, NSNA's awards in each program area will be given out during the Closing Ceremony on Saturday, March 29, 2008. The traditional General Scholarship and Promise of Nursing Scholarship recipients will be recognized during the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday, March 26, 2008; the Marilyn Bagwell grant will also be presented during this time.

The Isabel Hampton Robb Award will be presented during the Thursday, March 27, 2008 plenary session, and the Leader of Leaders award during the Friday, March 28, 2008 plenary session.

Make sure you submit your entries or nominations in time for consideration! Deadlines to remember:

- ★Leader of Leaders, January 30, 2008
- ★Project in Touch, January 30, 2008
- ★Isabel Hampton Robb, February 11, 2008
- ★NSNA Program Awards (BTN, Community Health, Leg/Ed, Newsletter, Image), February 11, 2008 ☺