

## Bases Loaded: Successfully Running from the Floor



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**M**any people are interested in running for national office but are too intimidated to do something about it. It can be a scary decision to run from the floor at National Convention, when you feel as if you are essentially unprepared and have to get up in front of your peers and speak about what you want and why. This is much like the story of Baseball Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn who was recently inducted

after finishing 25 years playing for the Padres. Gwynn was a walk-on at San Diego State and no one really paid attention to him or wanted to give him much of a chance until a fellow player, Bobby Meacham, persuaded the coach, Jim Dietz, to give him a chance. Tony went on to have a huge career in major league baseball with a career batting average of .338, which was the highest of any player born after World War II. He also collected 3,141 hits, eight baring rifles and five Golden Glove Awards. Not too shabby for a walk-on! Tony had the courage to try something new, to put himself out there and make himself known. And you can do that too! In order to run from the floor at National Convention you must have heart, desire and drive. You can make the experience anything you want it to be as long as you give it your all. Running from the floor includes all potential candidates who have not pre-slated—but have decided

prior to the Convention to run as well as people who decide to run while at the Convention. You must get a delegate to nominate you from the floor in the House of Delegates, and after you are placed on the slate you can begin campaigning. You must make sure to read and understand all of the campaign rules prior to running. The NEC will show you what you can and cannot do, where and when you can campaign, and what materials you can campaign with.

It is important to have confidence when you are campaigning and to try talking with everyone. They won't know who you are if you don't tell them. Explain what you are campaigning for and why you would be the best person for the job. Be sure to make that connection so that they remember you on the day of the election. Get plenty of sleep, practice your speech in front of friends or a mirror, dress appropriately (nothing says responsibility like a business suit), and enjoy yourself. Running from the floor doesn't have to be intimidating. The people you are speaking to are your peers and just like you they want what is best for the future of nursing and NSNA. By speaking with them as your equals and campaigning with an open mind, you can have a very successful experience at Convention. As Pete Rose said to Tony Gwynn in his first major league game, "Gee, you're making it look too easy."

If you or someone you know is interested in running for national office and have any questions, please feel free to contact your region's Nominations and Election Committee (NEC) Member at [nsna@nsna.org](mailto:nsna@nsna.org) or call NSNA at (718) 210-0705. It can seem overwhelming at first, especially if you decide at Convention to run, but with proper guidance, flexibility, and support you can hit a home run at Convention! ☺