



Convention Preview



**General
Gale S. Pollock**

U.S. Army Nurse Corps Chief

NNSNA's 56th Annual Convention is earlier than usual next year so start planning now! Over 3,500 students will gather at the gorgeous Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center in Grapevine, TX, from March 26-30, 2008.

Two plenary sessions, a packed exhibit hall, and the Drexel University NCLEX® EXCEL! prep course are just part of the Convention's many highlights. Plus, attendees

have the chance to network with students from around the country, hear from renowned speakers, and learn about trends and issues in the profession.

The Convention's Keynote Speaker is General Gale S. Pollock, 22nd Chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and acting U.S. Surgeon General. She will bring a lifetime of service and experience to her keynote speech on "Blazing Trails: The New Age of Nursing." Don't miss her at the Opening Ceremony! Watch www.nsna.org for announcements on the Endnote Speaker.

Located in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, Grapevine, TX, offers a great location for students to gather and network. The weather promises to be comfortably cool in late March.

The surrounding area offers plenty of dining, shopping, and beautiful views, with Lake Grapevine close by and vineyards throughout the region. The Gaylord Texan itself features four acres of indoor gardens underneath glass atriums and offers dining and shopping underneath the same roof.

Focus Sessions

A variety of focus sessions offered throughout Convention highlight trends and issues in nursing, discuss managing a successful career, and speak about the opportunities available to registered nurses. Explore the profession through sessions presented by today's nursing leaders.

NCLEX® EXCEL!

Drexel University's NCLEX® EXCEL! program is NSNA's official NCLEX prep course. Drexel has been helping student nurses pass the NCLEX since 1980 and its experts offer up-to-date strategies and tips to help you prepare for the biggest test of your life. The nine-hour review covers health promotion and maintenance, physiological and psychosocial integrity and the nursing process. Pharmacology, pathophysiology, medical diagnosis and nursing diagnosis are part of the discussion, as well as obstetrics and psychology. Quizzes throughout the two-day course give you the opportunity to validate your learning and practice NCLEX type questions.

Awards

In lieu of the traditional Annual Awards Ceremony, the top awards in each program will be awarded 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, Honorary Membership, and the Spirit of Nursing award, 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.

Exhibits

This is your chance to speak to recruiters, learn about the newest books and products, and network. The Exhibit Hall at the Gaylord Texan will be packed, with over 220 exhibitors waiting to speak with you. Learn about summer internships, finding your first RN position, or find the perfect school to continue your education.

Project Showcase and Poster Sessions

NSNA members and chapters are invited to showcase their program projects and other research by displaying posters at Convention. Projects relating to Community Health, Legislation/Education, Breakthrough to Nursing, Membership, Image, and Newsletters will be on display as well as all of the award-winning projects. This is a great way to share community outreach ideas and learn what fellow nursing students are researching.

Please call Cathy Ramos at NSNA for more information at (718) 210-0705 or email nsna@nsna.org, att: Cathy.

Budgeting Information for the 56th Annual Convention

**Grapevine Texan Resort & Convention Center,
March 26-30, 2008**

The following information is provided to assist with budgeting for the 56th Annual Convention. Estimated expenses (excluding travel) are for 5 days and 4 nights.

Minimum Cost Budget

Registration	\$85.00
<small>(Member, Convention only, Register in Advance)</small>	
Hotel	189.00
<small>(4 nights, quad room, \$189 per night, at the Texan includes 12% tax split between 4 people)</small>	
FOOD (5 days)	
Breakfast	40.00
<small>(\$8 per day, including tip)</small>	
Lunch	50.00
<small>(\$10 per day, including tip)</small>	
Dinner	100.00
<small>(\$20 per day, including tip)</small>	
Minimum TOTAL	\$464.00

Maximum Cost Budget

Registration	\$105.00
<small>(Convention & NCLEX Review, Member, Register in Advance)</small>	
Hotel	451.00
<small>(4 nights, single room, at the Texan includes 12% hotel tax)</small>	
FOOD (5 days)	
Breakfast	60.00
<small>(\$12 per day, including tip)</small>	
Lunch	75.00
<small>(\$15 per day, including tip)</small>	
Dinner	105.00
<small>(\$21 per day, including tip)</small>	
Maximum TOTAL	\$1101.00

Student Activity Tables

School and state constituents may sell fundraising items at the Annual Convention. Tables are available on a first-come, first serve basis. The cost is \$15 for a half-table. Register for tables at the Convention Office when you arrive.

Auction

The FNSNA Auction is one of Convention's most popular events. Money raised during the event supports the Mary Ann Tuft Scholarship Fund. Held on Friday, March 28, 2008, 1:45 p.m.-3:00 p.m., it features fun and unique items from across the country donated by individuals,

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LOS ANGELES, CA**



chapters, sponsors, and other contributors. Don't miss out! Bring donation items with you to Convention and come and bid on your favorite items!

Spirit of Nursing Award

The Spirit of Nursing (SON) Award Program is a joint effort between USAREC and the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) and serves as a great way to reach out to all nursing programs. The SON Award Program provides accredited schools of nursing the opportunity to recognize an exceptional student and has been in existence since 1991. Deans and directors of nursing programs are encouraged to nominate one student who demonstrates a commitment to excellence through community, professional and academic achievements.

A board is convened once a year and consists of one ANC officer and two representatives from the NSNA. Selection Committee members are asked to review all nomination forms and select the winner based on the following criteria:

- Statement by School's Dean or Director;
- Candidate's Statement
- Community Involvement (community projects or volunteer work);
- Professional Involvement (candidates' involvement in the nursing profession – i.e., membership in professional organizations, health fairs, etc.);
- Leadership Experience (office or committee positions held by candidate in school or professional organization);
- Academic Achievements (scholarships, academic awards, honor societies);
- Cumulative Grade Point Average.

Candidates can receive up to 5 points in each of the seven categories.

Maximum points: 35

U.S. Army Recruiting Command pays for the winner's registration fee, lodging and airline ticket to attend NSNA's 56th Annual Convention at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine, TX. The SON Winner is expected

to attend conference sessions and is recognized at the Annual Convention.

Information about the Spirit of Nursing award is mailed to schools in the fall or can be obtained from the Army Nurse recruiter in your area. ☺