

## Run for Office

### Be a Trailblazer: Run for Office



**Sarah Baker,**  
Johns Hopkins University,  
Baltimore, MD

**W**elcome to a new and exciting academic year with NSNA!

This year's Nominating and Elections Committee is on an expedition to unearth and empower future leaders. Our search begins with your decision to explore leadership opportunities within this professional organization. Won't you consider stepping up to a new challenge? NSNA represents diverse regions and

nursing programs, and right now we are all making decisions that will profoundly shape our nursing careers. Now is the time to venture into the profession's wide open spaces and to blaze trails toward the new age of nursing: *now is the time to run for office.*

You may be asking yourself: with textbooks to read and care plans to write, why is it important to run for office? The experience of running for office holds many benefits for students who take on the challenge. Students

who run for office have the opportunity to explore their professional organization on a deeper level and to work closely with their peers from all over the country. Furthermore, students get to develop their public speaking skills, voice their opinions on critical nursing issues, and network with faculty and employers. So why not run for office? Joining the NSNA leadership team offers students unique opportunities to grow as people, leaders, and nurses.

So how do you get started? An excellent place to begin is to review the *Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Officials*. This information comes from *Getting the Pieces to Fit* in Articles V and VI of the Bylaws and can be found on the NSNA website, under the "Elected Officials" tab. Another option is to contact any member of the Nominating and Elections Committee or the NSNA headquarters and request an application packet. All contact information can be found on the NSNA website. Whichever route you choose, it is important to remember that the deadline to turn in an application to be pre-slated for candidacy is **January 8, 2008**. The application is very detailed, requires letters of reference, and includes short essay responses, so getting an early start is key!

Another great way to gather information on running for office is to attend the NSNA MidYear Conference in

**NSNA**  
*Leadership:*  
**Seek the Adventure –  
Transform your Journey.**  
**Run for 2008-09  
National Office!**

Kansas City, MO. With this year's MidYear Conference around the corner (November 15-18), getting started now is ideal.

The Nominating and Elections Committee will be hosting a workshop titled "Running for Office" at the Conference. You will meet the NEC representatives, interact with other students interested in running for office, and learn more details. The workshop will include information on the application packet, campaigning process, benefits of pre-slating, and any other questions you bring up. Attending this session is fun and will help prepare you for your leadership experience.

I believe no matter what path you choose, becoming a leader will deeply enrich the journey. My experiences with NSNA have transformed me into the nursing student and

leader I am today. I encourage you to consider NSNA leadership as a way to achieve your nursing goals. I am available for any questions and may be contacted via email or through the NSNA website. I look forward to meeting you at the "Running for Office" workshop in Kansas City at MidYear!

## Call for Resolutions

All state and school NSNA constituents can submit one resolution to be considered by the NSNA House of Delegates when it meets in Grapevine,



TX, during the NSNA Convention. **Resolutions must be received at NSNA headquarters by February 11, 2008.**

State constituents whose conventions occur after February 11 have two weeks from the closing date of their conventions to submit a resolution. All school constituents must meet the February 11 deadline. Resolutions should be on matters of national importance affecting nursing students, nursing, and the health needs of the public. Resolutions passed by the House of Delegates become official NSNA policy. Only complete resolutions will be accepted for consideration by the Resolutions Committee.

To be considered complete, a resolution must include the following:

1. All resolutions must be submitted by mail on a CD (MS Word, or text only format) along with a hard copy of the resolution.

2. Four copies of the following must be included:

- All documentation used for the “whereas” clauses. (Each “whereas” clause must be identified in the body of the resolution and the sentences referenced must be underlined in the documentation.)
- Names and addresses of all organizations, agencies, and individuals mentioned in the “resolved” clauses, on a separate page.
- Estimated cost of implementing the resolution, noted on a separate page.
- A short summary to include the purpose of the resolution and the intended outcomes.
- Checklist for “Complete Resolutions Mailing.”  
Completing this important form gives NSNA information about the author.

3. Mail resolutions to Judith Tyler,

National Student Nurses’ Association, 45 Main Street, Suite 606, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Resolutions must be received by February 11, 2008. Note: Please do not e-mail resolutions, as they will be considered invalid.

The “Complete Resolutions Checklist” and the complete resolutions process are described in the *Guidelines for Planning Resolutions* and in *Getting the Pieces to Fit*. Both are available from the NSNA office or on [www.nsna.org](http://www.nsna.org) under Publications. If you have any additional questions, please contact Michelle Rogers, Chair, NSNA Resolutions Committee, at [nsna@nsna.org](mailto:nsna@nsna.org) att: Resolutions Committee or contact NSNA headquarters at (718) 210-0705. ☺



Rebecca Wheeler (far right) attended the ICN meeting in Yokohama Japan with two other past-presidents (Mary Foley, left, and Pam Cipriano) and current president Jennifer Davis, who reported on her experience in the September/October issue of *Imprint*.

## Past-president Rebecca Wheeler Reports from Japan

Yokohama, Japan was a fitting setting for my second International Council of Nurses (ICN) meeting – students followed up on what began two years ago at the ICN conference in Taipei, Taiwan. At the ICN’s 2005 Quadrennial Congress, which I attended as NSNA president, national student representatives presented their respective country’s positions on a topic predetermined by the ICN at the Student Assembly (that year’s topic was diversity). It was after the Assembly that a group of students met to discuss the possibility of forming an international organization for nursing students. This was the informal creation of the International Nursing Student Association (INSA, as we called it) and we met in Japan to decide its future.

Why create INSA? I think NSNA members will find great value in such an organization. To understand the value of INSA it is important to put it in the context of what NSNA does. It gives us a place to meet and network as we learn about important things involved in the profession we plan to enter. It also gives us a place to

practice our skills as delegates, resolution-writers, and members of boards of directors so that we will be better prepared to be involved in professional nursing organizations. It also gives us a national forum for discussing important issues. INSA would do all the same things on an international level. For example, one issue INSA may discuss is the increasing global migration of nurses. Many foreign nurses are emigrating to the U.S., Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom. This international migration brings up serious ethical questions, especially around the “brain drain” it causes in other countries by recruiting their best nurses. On the other hand, we have a duty to staff our hospitals and provide the best care possible to our patients, and an individual has the right to choose how (and where) to live his/her life. An international forum for nursing students would be the perfect place to have these discussions.

The image of nursing students is another important reason for creating INSA. There are other international student organizations in health care, specifically, one for

## Major Differences between INSA and the ICN's Student Network

	INSA	ICN's Student Network
<b>Organizational structure</b>	A Board of Directors (BOD), consisting of a representative from each region of the world, and headed by a Chair and a Vice-Chair. A constitution/bylaws would be determined by the BOD and voted upon by the member countries.	A "working group" of anyone interested. A "terms of reference" could be created to determine how the group is to function, but everything would be subject to ICN approval and must be in accordance with ICN policies.
<b>Meetings</b>	Every two years. The intervening year would be for regional meetings.	Every two years at the ICN conferences. Additional meetings could be arranged as needed. In addition, the ICN hosts a Student Assembly during the Quadrennial Congress.
<b>Finances /Resources</b>	The source of financing the INSA (including staffing, location and travel) is unknown and has not been determine, nor yet evaluated as feasible.	ICN will provide meeting space and perhaps official translation for the meetings held during ICN conferences. No dues will be charged, but conference fees would be charged to attend. Any funding sought from outside agencies would go through the ICN (except for private funding for individuals to attend ICN meetings.)
<b>Membership</b>	As in the ICN, through national student nurse associations (or their equivalent). Unlike NSNA, and the Canadian Nursing Students Association, many countries that have SNAs are not independent from the national nurses associations. Additional options would be determined by the BOD through the constitution/bylaws.	Nursing students in countries that hold membership in ICN, but no one officially "represents" any organization or country. Each person acts independently. In addition, as it stands now, the individual does not have to be a student - anyone interested may participate.
<b>Taking action</b>	Would be determined by the member countries.	Unknown at this point, but again, any action would be subject to ICN review in accordance with ICN policies.
<b>Relationship with other organizations</b>	The BOD would determine associative relationships and activities, i.e., joint conferences, shared resources, dissemination of information, etc. Some policies may require the BOD to bring the issues before their respective national SNAs before a final decision is made.	Any relationships would be subject to ICN review in accordance with ICN policies.

pharmacy students and another for medical students. Nursing students deserve to have an international presence among their peers. Of course, we face a challenge in that students in those programs are in school for at least four years no matter which country they are from. Nursing program duration varies widely, even within the United States. We also have varying levels of entry into practice that require different amounts of education.

The group that met in Yokohama had to decide what to do about INSA. The ICN had been approached after Taipei to see what kind of support it would give to an INSA-type organization. In response, the ICN established a "student network." (The ICN has several "networks" of nurses with specific interests, for example one for HIV/AIDS and another for Advanced Practice Nursing.) Due to its bylaws and organizational rules (more complicated than I can understand) this was what the ICN could offer students at this time. If INSA were to exist as an independent organization, ICN support would not be available.

Both options (as illustrated in the information box to the left) have major strengths and limitations. The strength of INSA would be its ability to function as an organization independent of the ICN. The limitation would be its initial lack of resources and connection to the professional nursing organization in ICN member countries. The Student Network's strength is that the ICN would provide some resources and a base from which to function. The limitation is that everything it does is subject to ICN's review. In the end, it was decided that our group should direct its energy towards helping the ICN get the Student Network up and running. To that end, many signed up to be in the "working group." (In case you are also interested, the ICN will be sending out an official invitation for anyone to be a part of this

“working group.” Check their website at [www.icn.ch](http://www.icn.ch).) Many others decided to sign up for the general listserv to receive information about what is happening.

It will be very interesting to see what comes of this in the future. We all know how motivated students can be, and what great leaders we have among us. This could be a wonderful international forum for us. I have certainly felt privileged to work with the students from around the world that I met through the ICN in both Taipei and Yokohama. We worked hard, but I will also never forget our dinner at a traditional Japanese restaurant, or singing karaoke, a dinner in Chinatown, or seeing the Empress and watching Japanese performances at the reception hosted by the Japanese Nurses Association. I have made some wonderful friends that I hope never to lose and have learned much about other cultures. Isn't that what this is all about?



Steve Aduato, left, with Jennifer Davis and Andrea Hingham on the set of *One-on-One with Steve Aduato* in New Jersey.

## ***One-on-One*** **with Jen Davis**

NSNA president Jennifer Davis spoke with the Emmy-award winning host of *One-on-One with Steve Aduato*, which is broadcast along the east coast on CN8, the COMCAST Network and Cablevision. Mr. Aduato and Ms. Davis spoke

about why she decided to pursue nursing, how nurses impact health care, and the role of NSNA in mentoring future nurse leaders.

One-on-One has run its Discover Nursing series for several years, and the broadcast also featured other leaders, including Andrea Hingham of Johnson and Johnson, which spon-

sors the Promise of Nursing Scholarships, administered by the Foundation of the NSNA.

For an episode synopsis and more information on how to order a video of the show, go to [www.caucusnj.org/one-on-one/shows/roteman\\_davis\\_tofani.asp](http://www.caucusnj.org/one-on-one/shows/roteman_davis_tofani.asp). ☺