



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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NSNA's 56th Annual Convention Draws Over 3,000 Attendees

Brooklyn, NY. April 16, 2008. Over 3,000 participants attended the National Student Nurses' Association's (NSNA) 56th Annual Convention in Grapevine, TX, at the Gaylord Texan™ Resort & Convention Center. The Convention program, which was themed, "Blazing Trails: The New Age of Nursing," was packed with focus sessions – including two outstanding plenary sessions – over 220 exhibit booths, and the Drexel University NCLEX® EXCEL! Mini-review course.

Opening Ceremony and Keynote Address*

Major General Gale S. Pollock, Deputy Surgeon General for Force Management and 22nd Chief, U.S. Army Nurse Corps, guided students along the leadership trail she has blazed in her nursing career. She identified key elements of leadership – loyalty, respect, duty, selfless service, honor, integrity, personal courage – and noted that accepting risks and learning from mistakes, being true to your values, and striving to understand others, were crucial to a successful career as a nurse leader. General Pollock also noted how important it is that students find mentors: "One of the most important things we do as leaders is to develop leaders who will replace us. Be a mentor to someone else." The Opening Ceremony sponsor was Gannett Healthcare Group, publishers of *Nursing Spectrum/NurseWeek* and Nurse.com, Falls Church, VA. The Keynote Address sponsor was Nurses Service Organization, Hatboro, PA.

The Opening Ceremony also featured the presentation of the Foundation of the NSNA's (FNSNA) Marilyn Bagwell Award, the Spirit of Nursing Award, and NSNA's most prestigious award, Honorary Membership. The latter went to **Dr. Anne Manton**, the ANA-appointed consultant to NSNA's Board of Directors. She was surprised and moved at the honor and warmly accepted the Honorary Membership pin from immediate-past NSNA president **Jennifer Davis**.

Long-time FNSNA supporters Johnson & Johnson were recognized for the contributions of the Campaign for Nursing's Future, which has raised over \$13 million in scholarships. The McKesson Foundation was also recognized for contributing \$25,000 in scholarships to the FNSNA in 2007. This year, McKesson contributed \$50,000 in scholarships, doubling their impact on the future of nursing education.

Plenary Sessions

Thursday's plenary sessions featured **Dr. Peter Buerhaus**, who addressed, "Health Care Policy and Nursing: A Framework for the Future." Dr. Buerhaus, Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies in Nashville, TN, encouraged students to learn how to influence those in the public and private sectors who can advance the well being of nurses and their ability to care for their patients. He also highlighted recent research findings in his 2008 book, *The Future of the Nursing Workforce in the United States: Data, Trends, and Implications* published by Jones and Bartlett Publishers. The plenary session was sponsored by Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, MA.

Friday's plenary session, "The Future of Nursing and Health Care: What's in it for me?" addressed the needs of tomorrow's nurse, what nurses should expect in patients and technology, and what nurses researchers and entrepreneurs are up to. **Dr. K. Lynne Wieck** moderated the session and **Dr. Rosemary Luquire**, Chief Nursing Officer at Baylor Health Care System, Baylor, TX, and American Nurses Association (ANA) President **Rebecca Patton** addressed the assembly. The plenary session was sponsored by American Nurses Association, Silver Spring, MD.

Endnote Address

NSNA's Top Program Awards were presented at the Closing Ceremony, followed by the endnote address, which was given by Dr. K. Lynne Wieck. In an often humorous presentation, Dr. Wieck noted that the technological opportunities nursing will bring are limitless. This future "hyperworld" includes robotics that won't replace nurses but will allow them to prioritize what they truly value. For example, feeding and lifting would be done by robots, while nurses could focus on patient care, advocacy, and critical thinking to the betterment of health care. The Endnote Address was sponsored by Baylor Health Care System, Dallas, TX.

Fundraising for Scholarships

The Annual Challenge and the Grapevine City Auction raised several thousand dollars to benefit the Foundation of the NSNA. On Friday, March 28, 2008, The Grapevine City Auction raised \$5,500 for the Mary Ann Tuft Scholarship Fund and inspired several heated bidding wars. On Saturday, during a House of Delegates break, attendees pledged an impressive \$12,000 to support the general scholarship fund.

Election Results: 2008-09 Board of Elections

The following officers were installed at the close of the House of Delegates on Saturday, March 29, 2008:

President: Jenna Sanders, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, IN

Vice-president: Laura Chapman, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL

Secretary/Treasurer: David M. Horner, Golden West College, Huntington Beach, CA

Imprint Editor: Lauren Brewer, Clemson University, Clemson, SC

Breakthrough to Nursing: Kenya Haney, University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO

Directors: Marie Cassels, Cochran School of Nursing, Yonkers, NY; Bonnie Kluttz, Cabarrus College of Health Sciences, Concord, NC; Grant Tyler, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, IN; Candace Biberston, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.

Ex-officio and Chair, Council of State Presidents Planning Committee: Heather Hyatt Dolan, Trident Technical College, Charleston, SC.

2008-09 Nominating and Elections Committee

Chair: Gerardo Melendez-Torres, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Members: Melissa R. Snow, Charity School of Nursing-Delgado Community College, New Orleans, LA; Jill E. Phillips, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO; Kimberly Root, Saddleback College, Mission Viejo, CA.

Resolutions Adopted

The House of Delegates passed 24 resolutions, in support of:

- Legislation and Regulation of Toys and Other Products Containing Lead
- A Continuum of Medical Care for the Homeless in Order to Prevent Patient Dumping
- Increased Awareness of Oral Assessment and Hygiene and the Need for Appropriate Dental Referrals by Nurses
- The Federal Government Implementing a Community-Based Disposal Initiative for Contaminated Medical Waste Including All Needles, Syringes, and Other “Sharps”
- Legislation Against Genetic Discrimination in the Workplace and for Insurance Purposes
- Increased Awareness of and Evidence-Based Research on Bipolar Disorder in the Pediatric Population
- Nationally Recognized End-Of-Life Orders Including Advance Directives
- Including Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Pre-Certification in Nursing Curricula
- Rewriting the Language of the Current Good Samaritan Laws to Cover All

- Licensed Healthcare Personnel Responding to Emergencies and/or Operating Automatic External Defibrillators
- Universal HIV Testing of Pregnant Women with Patient Notification (Opt-Out Screening) as a Routine Component of Prenatal Care
 - The Inclusion of Clinical Nurse Preceptorships in the Clinical Learning Environment
 - The American Nurses Association “Safe Staffing Saves Lives” Campaign
 - Health Literacy Education
 - Increased Awareness and Education about Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Programs in Order to Promote Increased Program Development in the United States
 - The Establishment of Official Policies and Protocols Regarding the Option of Family Presence During Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Emergency Invasive Procedures in the Hospital Setting
 - Advocating the Use of a Helmet for Any Person Operating or Riding a Motorcycle on Public Roadways
 - Integrating Computerized Provider Order Entry (CPOE) Systems into Hospital Settings
 - Increased Education about Eating Disorder Awareness and Prevention
 - Empowering the Role of the Chief Nurse Officer of the United States Public Health Service
 - Increased Access to Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses in the Perioperative Periods for Ostomy Patients
 - Requiring CPR/AED Certification for All Secondary (Grades 6-12) School Coaches
 - National Standardized Curricula for Nurse Residency Programs
 - Increasing Healthcare Resources for American Veterans Suffering From Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Their Families Dealing With the Physical and Psychological Injuries of Returning Veterans
 - Increasing the Political Awareness of Nursing Students.

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**Please see separate press releases on www.nсна.org for full coverage of the Keynote Speaker, as well as releases on the new NSNA president, the Foundation of the NSNA’s scholarship recipients, the Leader of Leaders winner, and the Honorary Member.*

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NSNA is a membership organization representing over 50,000 students in Associate Degree, Diploma, Baccalaureate, generic Masters and generic Doctoral programs preparing students for Registered Nurse licensure as well as RNs in BN completion programs.