



NEWS: National

Up, Up and Away: Taking Leadership to New Heights

Have you ever looked up at the sky and had your eyes meet vibrant and colorful hot air balloons gracefully floating there? As a kid, I can remember seeing them from the car window and urging my parents to “follow those balloons!” I always wanted to see where they would land.

Last year, I had the pleasure of experiencing my first hot air balloon ride in Charlotte, North Carolina. As I climbed into the gondola I felt apprehensive, realizing that a basket made of only wicker, a delicate nylon balloon, and one pilot using two propane tanks would fuel my voyage upward lift. It was hard to imagine that with just a few materials, a decent wind, and a well prepared pilot a successful flight could result. But it did! My courage exposed me to exciting new horizons. As with my ballooning experiences, offering leadership skills to NSNA® at the national level also begins with courage. But the journey is sustained through insightful preparation, a supportive network of people, and exposure to new perspectives.

When pilots prepare for flight, they assure that conditions are well-suited for takeoff and landing. Gathering materials, maps, and information are essential steps in developing a flight plan. *Getting the Pieces to Fit* and the *2010 NSNA® Digest of Information for Running for National Office* (available at www.nsna.org/officials/roles.asp) provide the maps and information candidates need to run for NSNA® office.

The Nominating and Elections Committee (NEC) member from each election area (*see sidebar*) are valuable resources to help answer your questions as you consider navigating the election process. Pre-slating for office is highly recommended, and requires that a candidate’s completed 2010 Application for National Office is received at NSNA® Headquarters by the January 19, 2010 deadline. “Pre-slating” means to be designated as a candidate by the NEC for a specific office on the 2010-2011 NSNA® Board of Directors or Nominating and Elections Committee. By pre-slating, candidates allow themselves time to prepare for the campaign process months ahead of Convention, and gain national name recognition on the 2010 Slate of Candidates for NSNA® Office, published in the February/March issue of *Imprint*®.

Are you ready for liftoff? In a hot air balloon, the pilot ignites the torch and with just a few bursts of fire, the gondola slowly rises high above the ground. Sounds incredulous right? To be a soaring candidate, you’ll want to gain clarity and understanding of what you would like to accomplish if elected to serve as an NSNA® officer. Start by making a list of your objectives as well as your own talents and strengths. This will help you determine which office position will best suit you and NSNA®. Public speaking will also be an important part of your success. You will be meeting many people who want to know why you are running and what makes you the most qualified candidate for the position.

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Nominating and
Elections Committee,
Southern Election
Area



NEC Committee Members and NSNA® Election Areas by state

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**EASTERN
ELECTION AREA**
Connecticut
District of Columbia
Delaware
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont
Virginia
U.S. Virgin Islands
West Virginia

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**NORTHERN
ELECTION AREA**
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin

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**SOUTHERN
ELECTION AREA**
Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Louisiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
Puerto Rico
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas

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**WESTERN
ELECTION AREA**
Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Guam
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming



GOALS:
The ultimate goal of the NEC and NSNA® is to cultivate tomorrow’s leaders by promoting, nurturing and investing in their leadership on a local, state and national level.

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Know about important issues relevant to the nursing profession, become familiar with the NSNA Resolutions that have framed NSNA policy over the past ten years (see Resolutions on the NSNA website under Publications), and have a future vision for your NSNA position. Being prepared to answer questions will build your confidence when speaking with others.

Next comes the fun part: designing your campaign. You will want to get creative and think of a vision or theme. Advertising in the form of posters, fliers, pamphlets, stickers, pens, and highlighters are just some ideas that have been used in the past. Keep in mind, you want to stand out among your competitors and catch voters' eyes like a colorful balloon in the sky. You will want to designate a peer as your campaign manager, as this is a critical component to your success. A campaign manager should

be someone who exudes enthusiasm, is responsible, and is comfortable speaking in front of others. Their role is to assist you in handing out your campaign materials as well as being your spokesperson when you are unavailable. Remember, unlike flying an airplane, hot air ballooning is largely improvised from moment to moment and relies on intermittent fueling by professionals to keep lifting upward. Members of a hot air balloon crew have to standby on the ground, collaborating with the pilot in which direction to move towards for landing. Let your campaign manager, peers, and faculty members provide this supporting role for you in your journey.

Remember, your own path to leadership is unique. Navigating your leadership journey requires you to be steadfast and at times flexible. Being prepared and observant of the need to change to meet opportunities

and challenges along the way allows you the freedom to make adjustments, just as a hot air balloon pilot can adjust altitudes to ensure a smooth ride. When it is time for the landing, the arrival should be graceful and smooth. By the time the Annual Convention comes next spring, you will be primed and geared up for success because you have chosen to be prepared early.

I know for me, the experience of riding a hot air balloon helped me gain new perspectives. Likewise, my journey to pre-slate and run for a national NSNA position on the NEC has broadened my horizons. Now it is time for you to have courage to begin by preparing yourself and your 2010 Application for NSNA National Office. Climb into the gondola and begin your journey by seeking to be pre-slated for a 2010-2011 NSNA national office. You *can* do it and the climb is not as steep as you think! ∞

\$13.4 Million in Financial Assistance to Support Nurses

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced in July the release of \$13.4 million for loan repayments to nurses who agree to practice in facilities with critical shortages and for schools of nursing to provide loans to students who will become nurse faculty. The funds were made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed Feb. 17, 2009, by President Obama. The awards come from two programs administered by HHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Nurse Education Loan Repayment Program (NELRP): totals \$8.1 million

- Awarded competitively, these funds will help 100 registered nurses pay their nursing education debts. The program repays 60 percent of the loan balance of registered nurses in exchange for two years of service at facilities with a critical shortage of nurses.
- For a list of facilities employing the first 100 NELRP award winners from ARRA funds, go to <http://newsroom.hrsa.gov/releases/2009/nelrprecips.htm>
- Participants may be eligible to work a third year and receive additional repayment assistance.

Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP): totals \$5.3 million

- These funds go to schools of nursing to support the education of 500 masters and doctoral nursing students who plan to become nurse faculty after completing their education. Following graduation, loan recipients may cancel up to 85 percent of the loan principal and interest in exchange for four years of service as a full-time nursing faculty at a school of nursing.
- For a list of universities that received NFLP funds, go to http://newsroom.hrsa.gov/releases/2009/nftp_arra.htm

Approximately 50,000 individuals interested in going to nursing school are turned away due to insufficient capacity at schools of nursing. The two main factors limiting the ability to educate more nurses are a faculty shortage and insufficient clinical training sites.

For additional information about the Loan Repayment Program and other Recovery Act programs for health care professionals, see <http://bbpr.hrsa.gov/recovery/>.

The Health Resources and Services Administration is part of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. HRSA is the primary federal agency responsible for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable. For more information about HRSA and its programs, visit www.hrsa.gov ∞

