

LETTERS to the editor

The “Write On” column is intended as a forum for readers to respond to articles in *Imprint*® as well as issues in nursing today. Please send your letters to nsna@nsna.org attn: WRITE ON.

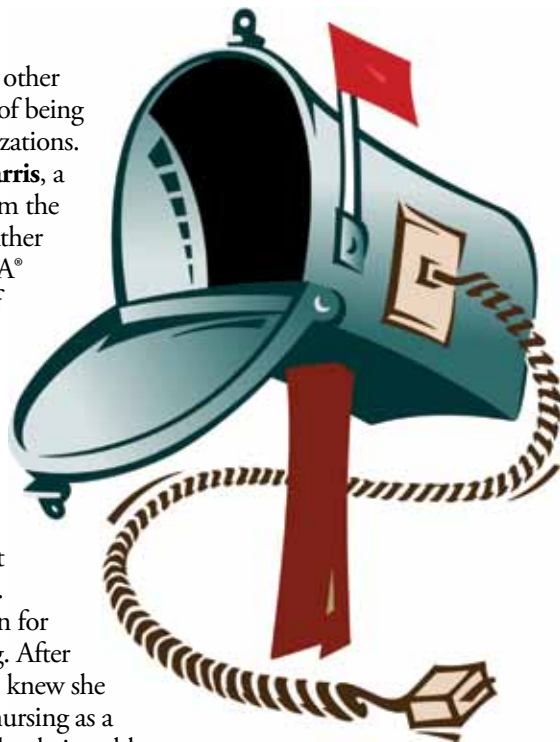
The Benefits of Being Part of a Professional Nursing Organization

Dear NSNA,

Becoming a part of the National Student Nurse’s Association® was very important to me and should be considered by all nursing students. I didn’t want to be just a student that was along for the ride, I wanted to make a difference and have my voice heard in the “nursing world.” NSNA® is a great way to do just that. Not only does this organization let you network with other nursing students around the country, but it can give you great opportunities for leadership and professional development.

At the 2009 NSNA® Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, the guest speakers motivated me to keep myself informed and involved in current topics in the field of nursing. As **Judy Martin-Holland**, Assistant Dean at the University of California in San Francisco, stated, “Nurses should aim to be a part of a professional organization.” She stressed that this was crucial in furthering their careers and keeping current in their practice. Another key speaker at the Convention, **Elaine Tagliareni**, President of the National League for Nursing, stated, “I started out in professional organizations and moved up into leadership positions.” She also reminded us to “be leaders and to leave the campsite cleaner than we found it and bloom where you are planted.”

I wanted to find out what other nursing students thought of being part of professional organizations. I interviewed **Heather Harris**, a senior nursing student from the University of Maine. Heather has been part of the NSNA® and the Student Nurses of Maine since 2007. She feels that NSNA® has exposed her to the professional nursing role and has opened up many opportunities. During the 2009 Annual Convention she was a part of the House of Delegates. This confirmed her passion for politics and policy making. After attending Convention she knew she made the right choice in nursing as a profession. Heather feels that being able to participate in the Convention and become exposed to nursing leaders is very motivational because the speakers there drove her to do more and make a difference. The theme at Convention was continuing education and it made Heather rethink her plan to continue her education sooner rather than later. Heather also talked about how important it is that NSNA® allows your voice to be heard as well as providing opportunities to network with other students around the country and share about their nursing programs.



Leadership, professional and personal growth are just a few of the benefits NSNA® has to offer. NSNA® unites nursing students and empowers them to become future leaders in the field of nursing. I think it’s vital that nursing students are aware of the opportunities presented with NSNA® membership that benefit both their nursing education and future career opportunities. I strongly encourage NSNA® members to share these benefits with any nursing student who is not a member.

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