

Reports

Report of the President

Jenna Sanders



This year has been nothing short of incredible! I am so grateful to have served with a dedicated and motivated 2008-2009 Board of Directors, and I am hopeful that you read each and every one of their committee reports over the next several pages to get the very best picture of how

hard they have all been working on behalf of this association. Every decision that has been made by this board has taken place through thoughtful consideration of NSNA's mission, and a strong desire to do what is very best for our membership. You can truly be proud of this board – I certainly am!

American Nurses Association (ANA)

I traveled to the nation's capital to represent NSNA at ANA's House of Delegates. With over 50 proposed bylaw amendments, it was quite a historic convention, and it was an honor to be present. I spoke at the House of Delegates, sharing the work of NSNA and our member's message to embrace the youth in their organization. I was thrilled to be joined by a group of approximately 15 past NSNA board members and representatives from nearby state associations, including a large delegation from the Maryland Association of Nursing Students. Our enthusiasm was difficult to miss, especially when it came time to discuss and debate the creation of a new ANA board position reserved for a recent graduate. While the measure did not pass on its first vote, the energy of the student attendees did not go unnoticed and the matter was brought up for re-vote, on which it passed. Do not ever let anyone tell you that a small group of people cannot make a big change. The meeting was inspiring, and the support from ANA president Rebecca Patton for student involvement was strong.

I had the opportunity to return to the Washington, DC, area later in the year to attend the fall meeting of ANA's Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics (CNPE). This was a unique op-

portunity to witness the center of where ANA policy is drafted. At the direction of the House of Delegates, this large and dedicated group of elected representatives from a variety of nursing specialties gathers twice a year to research, debate, and draft policy and position statements for ANA board approval. President Patton and the other members of the CNPE went out of their way to include me in the process.

Throughout the year, I have had multiple meetings and conference calls with the ANA leadership. I am proud to say that efforts are underway to explore a mentorship program for those NSNA members and ANA members who elect to become a mentor or mentee. I firmly believe that the opportunity to have the guidance of a professional in your chosen specialty is a benefit that cannot be assigned a value. Your next NSNA president will have the opportunity to move forward with the specifics of this project, and as I am certain to become a sustaining member, I look forward to seeing the results of the efforts.

Foundation of the NSNA (FNSNA)

In August, I attended the FNSNA Board of Trustees meeting in Brooklyn, NY, fulfilling my ex-officio role on the board. The dedication of the Trustees to the mission of NSNA and the assistance to nursing students nationwide was quite inspiring. As the group of us began to tackle the issue of a major capital campaign on behalf of the FNSNA, I was stunned by the personal dedication and donation of the members. I have continued to work with the board throughout the year on efforts to begin the capital campaign, and I am optimistic about its success and our ability to continue to provide financial assistance to undergraduate nursing students for many years to come.

National League for Nursing (NLN)

The NLN Education Summit in San Antonio, TX, brought with it so much more than I expected. Those who work tirelessly to put together nursing education curricula and bring it into the twenty-first century are an underappreciated group. I was so impressed by the dedication and collaboration shown at this event. The future of nursing education is in excellent hands!

I had the opportunity to moderate and participate in a panel discussion on varying pathways to leadership, with NLN President Dr. Elaine Tagliareni, NLN CEO Dr. Beverly Malone, and our very own NLN consultant to the NSNA Board of Directors, Dr. Carol-Grace Toussie Weingarten. The multitude of different pathways the four of us had taken to our leadership positions, coupled with the commonalities, reaffirmed for me the fact that anyone can become a leader. What was most exciting was who was able to join us for this panel presentation - a group of 521 students from local San Antonio Community College's nursing program. The faculty of this college had the foresight to apply for a grant to bring their entire student body and nursing faculty to the NLN Education Summit. The chance to speak directly with so many of these students was an honor, and the excitement I could see in their eyes regarding future NSNA involvement and possible leadership opportunities was thrilling. Kudos to their faculty for recognizing the value of professional involvement and working so hard to include your students in the process!

Other Nursing Organizations/Activities

In November, I attended the Nursing Organizations Alliance meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I had the opportunity to meet with the presidents and executive directors of many of the national nursing organizations. The message at the meeting was not one of consolidation, but rather one of unifying of message. At this meeting, I participated in a panel discussion called, "Engaging Youth in Professional Associations." The presentation ran twice and was extremely well attended. The professional associations as a whole consider it a priority to include new graduates within their organizations and leadership ranks. I was pleased to be able to share with them some communication methods, programs of outreach, and strategies to engage so many of you in their missions as you graduate. I know that the NSNA is rich with intelligent, thoughtful leaders who will play an integral role in determining what nursing is to become in the future!

In January, I attended the Canadian Nursing Students' Association (CNSA) Annual Convention in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. I was blown away by the hospitality of CNSA's

president Sarah Painter as well as other board members and volunteers, as I toured the Island and thoroughly enjoyed the discussions I had with their members. While there I participated in an International Panel along with Piotr Goworek (President, Poland Student Nurses' Association), Stephanie Williams (CNSA Board, Director of International Health), and Dr. Karen Morin (President Elect of Sigma Theta Tau International). The presentations were informative, and the audience questions and discussions were insightful; our discussions in the hallway afterwards were delightful as well.

I am thrilled to debut NSNA's next series of Leadership University Certificate programs here in Nashville, TN. In Grapevine, TX, the Treasurer Certificate program was a great success, and we know that our new Consultants and Advisors Certificate program will be equally successful. Our consultants and advisors are such an integral part of our state and local organizations, but so many are appointed without resources or without an adequate understanding of their roles, rights, and responsibilities. We are confident that this course will prove to be extremely valuable both to the consultants and advisors themselves as well as our individual state and school chapters.

Another announcement I am excited to bring to Nashville is the development of the NSNA Stellar Chapters program. It is no secret to anyone with long-term involvement in NSNA that school support is a critical ingredient to active NSNA participation. We wanted to develop a system to recognize chapters that are the cream-of-the-crop in student support, NSNA involvement, and involvement of association membership within the curriculum. The qualifications are high, but we believe it will be a distinction of honor for individual chapters to strive towards. More information is available here in Nashville, and I encourage you to work along with your chapters to prepare an application for the inaugural class in 2010!

In response to the 2007 resolution, "In support of improving the nurse/physician relationship," I have begun talking with leaders of the Medical Student Section of the American Medical Association. I am thrilled to report that they, too, are ex-

cited about the opportunity for interprofessional collaboration with our association. The best place to begin the improvement of the nurse/physician relationship is at the student level, and I am optimistic that we are at the beginning of a long-term relationship.

Closing

It doesn't seem possible that a year has passed already. I have been involved with NSNA since the beginning of my nursing education, and I can say with great certainty that I have emerged a much different and stronger nurse and advocate for it. I firmly believe that my NSNA involvement has served as an equal part of my nursing education to my actual nursing curriculum, and I will remain a long-time champion for this organization and its mission. I look forward to the opportunity to become a sustaining member.

This journey has been a long one, and I cannot bring it to a close without thanking a few people. My husband may be the first to tell you that I didn't enter nursing school or NSNA alone, our entire family enrolled. It has changed us all. It's been difficult, it's been endlessly rewarding, and I couldn't be more thankful for the support of my incredible family - my husband Dave, and my children Owen (10), Mackenzie (8), and Jack (5). I also need to thank NSNA staff, especially Dr. Mancino, for their unbelievable support. It is incredible how well they walk the line of sharing historical information and precedent for the best decision making while standing back and allowing the students to run this organization. And finally, I have to thank my SNA advisor at the University of Saint Francis, Rene' DePew, MSN, RN, BC. Without her support and nudging, I may never have become involved in this to start with. To the endless list of individuals that have been a part of this journey, my heartfelt thanks.

Report of the NSNA Executive Director Diane J. Mancino, EdD, RN, CAE



The 2008-09 academic year has brought many rewards and challenges to NSNA, its leadership and members. The deepening economic downturn has placed us all on alert as well as on edge. With the growing competition for entry-level RN positions, leadership participation and engagement in professional issues gives members an advantage in the job market.

I am pleased to present this report to inform the delegates of NSNA operations over the past year. The many accomplishments of the 2008-09 NSNA Board of Directors are reflected in their *Business Book* reports. It is truly an honor for me to work with such outstanding nursing students. Through their remarkable committee and board involvement, the Board of Directors has continued to advance NSNA's mission and motivate the involvement of members.

Here's some highlights for the past year:

Volunteer Leadership: The creativity of the 2008-09 Board of Directors is reflected in their Committee Reports. Program themes sparked interest and offered a multitude of pathways to involvement. Even the staff got involved in the "Making It Fit," challenge! I look forward to hearing the results of the contests at the Closing Ceremony on Saturday.

The Nominating and Elections Committee played hardball this year and was very successful in engaging future NSNA leaders to slate for office. Their theme inspired many to step up-to-the-plate and run for national office. Election results will be announced at the Saturday House of Delegates meeting.

Business Management: The everyday operations of NSNA are managed by a staff team of 13. I am pleased to inform you that Jonathan Buttrick, MPW, joined the staff in September 2009 as Publications and *Imprint* Managing Editor. Robert Ocran, MPA, joined the staff in January 2009 as Controller. Last November, Judith Tyler, MA,

RN, transitioned to the role of Convention and Conference Consultant. This provided an opportunity to bring Carol Fetters Andersen, MSN, RN, on staff as Director of Governance and Program Development. Ms. Andersen served as NSNA president 1991-92. NSNA's exhibits; *Imprint* and *Program Book* advertising; and conference management is provided by Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc. WL Arehart Computer Systems manages NSNA's complex membership database. WL Arehart staff is here at convention assisting in registration. First Republic Securities Company, LLC manages NSNA's investments and reserve funds. NSNA operations are managed on a day-to-day basis by the executive director whose work and decision-making are guided by the association's policies in close collaboration with the president and the Board of Directors.

Funding and Finances: All non-profit organizations are challenged by the current economic climate. Although NSNA operations ended in 2008 with a surplus of revenue over expenses, investment losses, mostly unrealized, created a negative outcome for the year. As the economy continues on an uncertain journey, NSNA management remains conservative in fiscal matters. Advertising and exhibit revenue are expected to decline as the availability of entry-level RN positions decreases. Due to economic conditions, RNs are postponing retirement and returning to the workforce—flooding the market with seasoned nurses. High unemployment with the associated loss of health insurance benefits translates into a decline in hospital census and less need for hospital staffing. With the loss of RN positions, nursing school enrollments, which have increased over the past several years, will begin to decline. The 2009 economic climate remains uncertain and management plans are in place to respond to declining revenue. We will continue to monitor economic trends and evaluate their impact on NSNA. We are prepared to take the actions necessary to keep NSNA strong. Members can contribute to NSNA's strength by utilizing member benefits that help raise revenue for the association.

Communications: Decision Critical, host of www.nsnaleadershipu.org and Delmar Cengage Learning, host of www.nсна.org provide important communication vehicles for NSNA. The

NSNA home page will soon launch a redesign in an effort to make it more user-friendly. Broadcast email has replaced burdensome and expensive postal mailings and saved trees! Members are encouraged to update their membership data online and provide an email address to facilitate communication. Over 45,000 NSNA members are in the email database. Healthcare agency logo links and banner ads on NSNA's Career Center (www.nсна.org) helps new graduates find entry level positions and assists members to locate internships and residency opportunities.

Programs and Activities: NSNA's Leadership University Certificate Program launched last year with a six-hour intensive workshop for school and state treasurers. The program has been very well received and attended. At this convention, we inaugurated the Consultants and Advisors Certificate Program. These programs will be offered at both the Annual Convention and the MidYear Career Planning Conference. More Certificate and Recognition Programs are being developed.

A new DVD, "Nursing—The Career of a Lifetime," was premiered at the 2008 MidYear Conference. Convention attendees will have an opportunity to view the program at Friday's Plenary Session. The video can be downloaded from NSNA's Career Center. The goal of the program is to motivate every nursing student to plan to continue their education and thus increase their impact on nursing and healthcare. Through the generous support of several sponsors, official NSNA constituents may request one DVD for their school or state chapter. Information is available at the NSNA Store.

There is an abundance of opportunities here in Nashville for you to develop your professionalism and leadership skills. Take advantage of every available occasion to network with your peers, faculty, NSNA leaders, exhibitors, and staff. Bring back the excitement of NSNA to your school and state chapters and continue to grow leaders at the grass-roots level. Thank you for all that you do to make the world a better place and for your involvement in NSNA. Wishing you all the best for a successful convention and a bright future in nursing.

Report of the Foundation of the National Student Nurses' Association

Anthony J. Jannetti, President



The Foundation of the National Student Nurses' Association (FNSNA) was established in 1969 for charitable and educational purposes. FNSNA provides scholarships to students throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories. Since 1974, the

FNSNA scholarship program has distributed more than 2.5 million dollars representing over 2,000 scholarships to undergraduate nursing students. Scholarship awards range from \$1,000 to \$2,500. This year, over \$125,000 will be awarded for the 2009-10 academic year.

The Trustees of the FNSNA represent business and professional leaders who are committed to growing the Foundation. They are: President: Anthony J. Jannetti, President, A.J. Jannetti, Inc., Pitman, NJ; Vice President: Pearl Moore, MN, RN, FAAN, CEO (retired), Oncology Nursing Society; Secretary: Robert V. Piemonte, EdD, RN, CAE, (retired) New York, NY; Treasurer: Ken Dion, MSN/MBA, RN, President and CEO, Decision Critical. Trustees: Donna M. Nickitas, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, New York, NY; Cheryl K. Schmidt, PhD, RN, Clinical Associate Professor, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Nursing, Little Rock, AR; Beth Ulrich, EdD, RN, FACHE, FAAN, Senior Vice President of Business Analytics & Research, Versant; Rumay Alexander, EdD, RN, Director, Multicultural Affairs, University of North Carolina @ Chapel Hill; John F. Garde, MS, CRNA, FAAN, Interim Executive Director, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists; and Ex-Officio members, Jenna Sanders, President, NSNA, and Diane Mancino, EdD, RN, CAE, who serves as the FNSNA Executive Director. Jasmine Melendez, MA, serves as the FNSNA Scholarship and Grants Administrator, and Lauren Sperle, is the Executive Assistant for the FNSNA.

FNSNA, as the charitable affiliate of the National Student Nurses' Association, works to further the

interests of nursing students, faculty and schools of nursing through philanthropy. NSNA works closely with FNSNA to establish new funds and programs that benefit both organizations. The following is an overview of how the two organizations are working together to benefit nursing students and nursing education.

- In 2003, the NSNA Board of Directors established a Board Directed Fund in the FNSNA to provide opportunities for funding of programs and activities that further NSNA's mission and which have not been budgeted for in the NSNA Operating Budget.
- Since 2004, NSNA Board of Directors has set aside funds for the purpose of supporting the purchase of office space for NSNA if needed. Although the current NSNA lease does not expire until 2014, the NSNA Board believes that long-term planning would be necessary to provide options for the organization (i.e. continued rental or purchase of real estate). In 2006 and 2007, the NSNA Board awarded grants to FNSNA for the building fund; however, no grants were made to the fund in 2008. A detailed description of the fund can be found on www.nsna.org on the foundation/Scholarship page.
- In July 2008, the Trustees launched the Forever Nursing Endowment Campaign to raise funds for undergraduate scholarships. Once the lead-gift phase is completed, FNSNA will seek assistance from NSNA members to reach the fund-raising goals.
- The Disaster Relief Fund was established in 2006. Grants are available to schools of nursing and students impacted by disasters. This Fund has supported grants to several schools devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Additional funds were raised at the 2008 MidYear Conference to continue to make support available when needed.
- The Marilyn Bagwell Leadership Development Fund has reached its target of a \$50,000 endowment! NSNA members helped by purchasing books and other items from the online Barnes and Noble Bookstore. The Marilyn Bagwell

Leadership Development Fund will award two \$1,000 grants this year. This is a great way to celebrate this important program that was launched just five years ago.

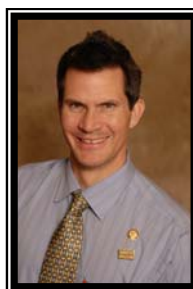
- The Mary Ann Tuft Scholarship Fund, established in 1982 to honor Mary Ann Tuft, NSNA's second Executive Director, awards five \$1,000 scholarships annually. The Music City Auction is a great way for NSNA members and others to contribute to this fund.
- The RWJ Executive Nurse Fellows Program Leadership Legacy Fund is sponsoring the Seventh Annual Terrance Keenan Nursing Leadership Lecture, "Return on Investment – Leadership and the Personal Benefits of Involvement." This year's speaker is Ann Cashion, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor and Chair, Department of Acute and Chronic Care, College of Nursing, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN.
- Established in 2007, the McKesson Scholarship Program is supported by the McKesson Foundation. This program will award \$25,000 in scholarships for the 2009-10 academic year.
- Sales of the NSNA Graduation Cords remain strong thanks to graduating seniors who want a visual symbol of their leadership and involvement in NSNA. Funds raised through the sale of the cords support the undergraduate scholarship program. Be sure to purchase your cord before leaving Nashville.
- Since 2002, Johnson & Johnson has sponsored gala nurse recognition events in several regions to raise funds for undergraduate nursing education, faculty fellowships, and grants for schools of nursing to increase their student capacity. FNSNA manages the contributions and selects the recipients of the undergraduate scholarships and the Faculty Fellowship Program. Several Promise of Nursing undergraduate scholarships will be awarded this year and recipients are recognized at the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday evening.

Support for funding nursing education through scholarships and grants will intensify with the

growing shortage of registered nurses and nurse educators. By supporting the FNSNA, contributors are making one of the most important investments they can make in healthcare. To all who have supported the efforts of the FNSNA, you have our heartfelt thanks for your continued commitment. To our future donors, we welcome your involvement. Your generous support is a source of encouragement and strength for our future generation of registered nurses.

Finance Committee

David Horner, Secretary/Treasurer



Hello and Welcome to NSNA's 57th Annual Convention! It has been an honor to serve as your 2008-2009 Secretary/Treasurer. I have met many enthusiastic members over this year and your support and commitment to the NSNA has been very encouraging for me over this year.

It was very exciting to continue the NSNA Leadership University's Treasurer Certificate Program. I would like to congratulate the graduates of the workshop at the MidYear Conference in Reno, Nevada. We had a strong contingent of dedicated state and chapter treasurers, often accompanied by other officers from their organizations. This is a great way to network with treasurers as well as learn techniques to safeguard association funds.

NSNA provides assistance in safeguarding funds by providing electronic fund transfers (EFTs) to state associations. After state elections, the new state board should update the NSNA with the new board contact information and update the association's bank account with the new authorized signers of checks for the account. EFTs move state association dues to the state's designated account without delay. This reduces the number of uncashed or improperly deposited checks and doesn't use the valuable time of the treasurer after the EFT is set up. State treasurers can find this and other forms at www.nсна.org/pubs/state_associations.asp.

NSNA has been operating in a difficult environment

this year but remains well positioned to provide members with a forum to take part in leadership activities and further awareness of nursing issues.

2008 Annual Convention and MidYear Conference actual revenues at the Grapevine, Texas Convention were about five percent less than expected. Revenues were also behind schedule at the MidYear Conference in Reno, Nevada. The difficult economic conditions and high cost of travel appear to have affected attendance.

Other Revenues and Investments

Imprint advertising revenues continue to come under pressure of reduced recruitment budgets of hospitals and nursing schools. A significant bright spot is in the NSNA membership that remains over 50,000 members near all time high levels. Going into the future, I will become a sustaining member of the NSNA to continue to support the NSNA in my own small way and I encourage you to do the same when you complete your first nursing degree.

NSNA continues to offer members discounted products and services through relationships built with various corporations. Many of these products and services are prominently displayed on the website at www.nsna.org. Your continued selection of these NSNA Alliance products and services provides additional support for the NSNA. Through these efforts, the NSNA has been able to keep the dues affordable for all members.

NSNA continues to use a professional investment manager who follows the NSNA's investment policies. The NSNA follows an overall investment strategy of "low to moderate risk." This has been a challenging environment and NSNA remains committed to being conservative at this time. NSNA has adjusted to these challenges by reducing the budget for the 2009 calendar year. One of the ways that the board has helped is being committed to using less paper and saving on mailing expenses in our operations.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Finance Forum where you can get answers to questions that you may have. There are also additional resources available at www.nsna.org; I encourage

you to utilize these resources and provide feedback on how NSNA can improve them in the future. This has been an amazing year. I want to thank all the board members for their support as well as our consultants. I would especially like to thank Dr. Diane Mancino, Executive Director and the entire NSNA staff for their guidance and support. And to you the members of NSNA, I would like to thank you the most for without you this organization would not function. May God bless you and keep you as you continue in nursing!

Imprint

Lauren Brewer, Editor



Wow....I'll say it again, wow. This year has been wonderful! I feel immensely blessed to have had this opportunity of leadership and creative license as well as the chance to interact with the awesome individuals on this board, the staff, and all of the NSNA members I have met.

I especially enjoyed meeting many of you at the MidYear Conference in Reno. I was enriched by the one on one conversations held after the breakout sessions and when we were just walking in the exhibit hall. Those of you that joined me in the Newsletter workshop were hopefully able to use that information on newsletter building, website design, and communication strategies as a basis to improve communication at the state and school chapter level. As we learned, communication is a key component to every area of our lives!

Another component of life is change. This year has seen some big changes. We gained a new managing editor, Jonathan Buttrick, who has been amazing! Both of us have been learning together how to bring you the best articles possible as well as developing new features to catch your eye. Due to the current economic status and some copyright issues not all of our ideas have come to fruition however I still feel that we were able to provide interesting and useful articles. This year we got your attention, put on our swimmy, puzzled over our futures, and even got a lesson from candy corn (if you read my editorials anyway) all in hopes to be prepared for nursing school, un-

derstand diversity, discover different career opportunities, and learn that we as individuals are the true image of nursing. In any case, I hope that *Imprint* has left its positive, shall we say, imprint on your life!

As we continue down our paths of nursing I wish you only the best and I hope to meet you again one day!

Image of Nursing Committee

Lauren Brewer, Chair

Are you sparkling yet? This year's Image of Nursing theme was "Nursing Students: Diamonds in the Rough." As a committee, we loved this word image and this year we hope you have discovered how valuable you are as individuals and as nursing students.

Our committee has been very productive as we launched our "Polish Yourself" campaign at Mid-Year with a PowerPoint comparing properties of diamonds to nursing students. MidYear also held the Image and Public Relations Workshop sponsored by Johnson and Johnson with Dain Perci-field who taught us how to write for and communicate with the media and how to prepare for interviews. As a committee we also launched two other PowerPoint's on the use of mentoring to help you polish yourself and one on breaking negative stereotypes as a way to get rid of stereotypes that tarnish the image of nursing. Image affects every nursing student and every nursing student can have an effect on it. That's why we promoted the creation and submission of image projects for NSNA awards. We also created a new way to showcase the positive image you create as nursing students by allowing you to share photos displaying positive nursing student images.

We feel that this year has been a wonderful success and we are happy to say that we have effectively addressed past NSNA resolutions through our actions including: Advocating for an Accurate and Improved Professional Portrayal of Nurses and the Nursing Profession (2007); In support of Increased Awareness of the Professional Etiquette of Nursing Students (2004); and In support of a Collective and Collaborate Effort Between Nurses and Nursing Students to make Contributions of Nursing More Visible in the Me-

dia (2003). Thank you all for such a wonderful year and don't forget to keep up your sparkle.

Bylaws/Policies Committee

Fikile Mpopu, Chair



Hello NSNA members, 2008-09 has been quite a journey! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the national leadership for this great organization. I was appointed into office in the middle of the term and although it was quite an adjustment to make, I really believe that it has given me an opportunity to learn and grow. As the chair to the Bylaws and Policies Committee I am continually acquiring a better understanding as to the internal affairs, governance and policies of NSNA. I hope that the resources available through the website and throughout NSNA meetings have made Bylaws more accessible to you.

The Bylaws and Policies Committee included Marie Cassels and Heather Hyatt Dolan, immediate past Ex-officio; as a team we began working on reviewing and updating the interpretive statements for the Code of Ethics. This will provide a better perspective to the primary goals and values for Professional and Clinical Conduct outlined in the *Code of Ethics* and will be referred to the 2009-2010 Board of Directors for continued work.

The MidYear Career Planning Conference in Reno, NV was a wonderful event. It was a pleasure meeting many of you in the fall and I hope that this opportunity for information sharing was beneficial to all. As such a diverse organization, it was nice to come together among our common threads in the spirit of leadership development. An exciting highlight from MidYear was the skit on delegate credentialing and parliamentary procedure prepared by Marie Cassels. We hope that this provided a fun and informative example to constituents on governance and encourages you all to use the same type of interactive projects within your state and school organizations.

Another exciting achievement for the year is the introduction of the first Bylaws and Policies Award. State and School organizations have the

opportunity to submit a project or event, highlighting bylaws or policies in your area. This will provide a platform for some of the projects many of your organizations have been working so diligently on. The future of healthcare is changing and in these dynamic times the policies that govern healthcare delivery are essential to our daily lives. Involvement as student nurses now is a great way to become future leaders in the nursing profession, as we will be at the forefront of ensuring a stronger and better health care delivery system for all.

I would like to thank you all for your sincere support and continued involvement; this was a rewarding and lifetime learning experience. Here's to all your hard work and to your continued success in the future!

Breakthrough to Nursing® Committee

Kenya Haney, Chair



Hello NSNA members and welcome to Nashville, TN, NSNA's 57th Annual Convention! It seems impossible to believe that my term as Breakthrough to Nursing® Director is coming to an end. I have been so blessed to have worked with a phenomenal Board of Directors this past year.

During this year I was excited to chair the Breakthrough to Nursing® Committee along with fellow committee members David Horner and Grant Tyler. I also had the pleasure to serve on the Image of Nursing Committee and the Convention and Program Planning Committee. The BTN Committee went to work immediately in New York at the Board Orientation Meeting. We developed a great theme and planned out several goals based on past NSNA resolutions and NSNA member suggestions.

The BTN Committee chose the theme, "Building the Nursing of Tomorrow," and went directly to work on our goals. The BTN Committee worked steadfastly and always promoted the awareness of available BTN resources through NSNA and outside sources. Individually and together we each encouraged and promoted BTN projects and programs at

the state and local levels. We also supplied *Imprint* magazine with several different articles to promote the BTN initiative. Together as a committee we felt it important to bring relevant issues to the forefront for all nursing students to read.

The BTN Committee was delighted to host a very special BTN seminar at the NSNA MidYear Conference in Reno, NV. At the BTN seminar, students shared ideas to invigorate BTN activities across our nation. We were also pleased to have had students from Fort Hays State University, in Hays, KS provide results from a survey conducted with men who are NSNA members. It was our desire that the attendees would find the session very informative and inspirational.

During this past year, I had the pleasure of attending several different conventions. I would like to thank the Missouri Nursing Students Association (MONSA) for inviting me to attend their awesome annual convention. I would also like to thank MONSA for allowing me to host a special session dedicated to nurse educators. Earlier this year, I was honored to attend the Michigan Nursing Student Association (MNSA) annual convention which was filled with fun and excitement. I also had the pleasure of hosting two seminars in which I talked about mentoring and the BTN project.

Again, it has been my honor and passion to serve you as your 2008-09 Breakthrough to Nursing Director. I would like to thank my supportive family and friends who has always been a great base of support for me. I wish each NSNA member a fantastic Convention and a rewarding nursing career!

Membership Committee

Grant Tyler, Chair



It has been an honor and pleasure working for the NSNA members as the 2008-09 Membership Committee Chair. The time has flown; it is unbelievable this year has come to an end. As hard as it is to step down, this Convention brings much excitement as resolutions and Bylaws are discussed and voted on and new leaders step in to influence the future of this outstanding organization.

It has been a truly amazing year. With economic concerns present, nursing students across the country proved their dedication to the future of this profession as NSNA increased membership to over 58,000, as of February 18, 2009. They have all been able to see the benefits of membership despite financial hardship, and I can tell you it is wonderful to see the continued dedication of every member.

We continued the "Catch the Wave" membership recruitment campaign again this year. It turned into a great success, as we had 138 PIT recruiters sign-up over 2,000 new members. This campaign is imperative as it assists in the growth of NSNA through students connecting with peers. It has always been a great way for students to share their experiences with peers while receiving some pretty nice prizes along the way. Thank you to every PIT recruiter as well as every new member and renewing member.

There are a variety of benefits available to members through NSNA. I believe students have become more aware of these benefits over the past year. Some benefits, such as the MidYear Conference and Annual Convention, give students the ability to meet nursing students from around the country while staying aware of current topics affecting the future of nursing.

Thank you for this wonderful and unforgettable experience. I am privileged to have had the ability to represent you in this capacity. I will never forget the many friends I have met through my participation with NSNA during the past years and am sure our paths will cross in the future. Enjoy the remainder of NSNA's 57th Annual Convention here in Nashville.

Legislation/Education Committee

Marie Cassels, Chair



This year has been absolutely amazing thanks to NSNA and all of its members. I can't believe how fast it has gone and when looking back at my term in office as Director, I couldn't have asked for a better "family" to work with: that means you! This year's theme for Legislation/Education

was, "Stand Up for Yourself, Your Patients, and Your Profession!" As Chair of the Legislation/

Education Committee, we first focused on the 2008 presidential election and encouraged nursing students to "Get Out and Vote." This year being a very important time in the history of politics, healthcare was in the forefront of discussion and will be for some time. We urged our members to contact local and state legislators to discuss issues that will be pertaining to our profession and careers. An article was written in *Imprint* titled "Step Up," which addressed the importance of individuals taking political actions themselves. Throughout the year, many students showed great interest in healthcare and politics. They engaged in conversations at the MidYear Conference, through email, or calling me and other members of the committee. This exemplifies the growth and development of young leaders in nursing.

The 2008 Resolutions that were passed at the House of Delegates totaled 24 and out of those, 21 of them related to Legislation/Education. Knowing how difficult and time consuming all the resolutions take, we wanted to ensure that they were getting the recognition that they deserve. So we decided to make Fact Sheets and posted them on NSNA's website. The committee took the resolution, researched each topic in more depth, and added more facts to the ones already there. This way, all NSNA members can learn more facts about these current issues and topics as well as, "What Nursing Students Can Do," and some references of the articles used. We want to thank all the authors that worked diligently on the resolutions as well as the ones in the future. With these resolutions, we are voicing our stand on subjects that we are passionate about and that we believe should be focused on for patient, staff, and community's safety, advocacy, and knowledge.

If you would like to learn more about Legislation/Education please go to NSNA's website at www.nсна.org/activities/legislation.asp and explore the resources and links that give you up-to-date healthcare information as well as other Nursing Association's stands on current issues. Thank you for such a great year! You have really taken an interest in your careers and have boosted our profession with your interest.

Disaster Preparedness Committee & Convention and Program Planning Committee

Laura Chapman, Chair, Vice-President



WOW! What an awesome two years this has been. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you again this year as your vice president. As chair of the Disaster Preparedness Committee, our goal was twofold. First, we promoted the formation of disaster preparedness committees to serve individual states. At MidYear, a training workshop was held to assist those interested in starting up a Disaster Preparedness Committee, and it met with great success. Good attendance resulted in the beginnings of numerous state initiatives toward establishing the committee. Second, we followed up with the 2008 resolution that was passed in the House of Delegates, "In Support of Including Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Pre-Certification in Nursing Curricula." With great response from schools and states, we will see an overwhelming number of students completing the NIMS 100, 200, and 700a level courses. The Disaster Preparedness Committee included Grant Tyler, Director and Marie Cassels, Director.

I also served as the Convention and Program chair. The Committee included Candace Biberston, Director and Kenya Haney, BTN Director. The Committee has worked hard on the Wall of Fame promotion and having wonderful and diverse speakers at Midyear and Annual convention.

It was a pleasure attending the Alabama Association of Nursing Student last September; the Tennessee Association of Student Nurses Convention last October; and the Nebraska State Student Nurses Association Convention in February of this year. The enthusiasm of the students and professionalism are to be commended.

It has been a pleasure to work with the other talented and resourceful members of the Board of Directors and NSNA staff – they've challenged me and each other and have worked hard to accomplish our goals. I want to send a special

thanks to the NLN and ANA Appointed Consultants for their wisdom and support.

Again, there are not enough words to thank you for the wonderful relationships and knowledge that has been gained from being a part of NSNA. I wish you a great convention, a fantastic end of the 2008-09 academic year, and a successful nursing career.

Community Health Committee

Candace Biberston, Chair



What a wonderful year this has been. It has been a great honor to serve as the 2008-09 Community Health Committee Chair. I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet so many great NSNA members as they worked on projects and sought advice. I enjoyed the chance to hear your thoughts and comments. Also, this year would not have been a success without hard-working committee members Heather Hyatt-Dolan and Lauren Brewer. Their fresh ideas and insight aided us in finding meaningful goals and creating a great experience for members.

I would like to thank Judith Tyler, NSNA Convention and Conference Consultant and Carol Fetters Andersen, NSNA Director of Governance and Program Development for their immense support and assistance throughout the year. I also could not have done this without the help of my fellow board members and Dr. Diane Mancino who each provided encouragement.

We began the year with our theme, "Community Health: It All Starts With You." As a committee we wanted to stress the idea that our common goal is to improve the health of our communities, and that begins with each individual. We set out three goals: to prevent disease through education, promote individual health and protect the environment through education. We posted articles on the website related to each of these topics. The "Making It Fit" program, started by previous chair Emily Little, gave tips on making healthy choices fit into our busy schedules. In the environmental articles we highlighted how NSNA

has focused on making environmentally friendly choices. Overall, the articles were well utilized and we hope they will continue to inspire those involved with community health.

Our largest project for the year was the first NSNA "Shaping Up" competition. The Board of Directors was the first team to apply and we are excited to see the results. The idea was well received by members, although we did not have as many applicants as we had wished. However, we do hope this idea will promote healthy choices among NSNA members so that they will carry these goals into the future.

One of the goals of the Board of Directors was to make sure that all the resolutions passed in Grapevine had appropriate recognition. Working with the other committees we created fact sheets made available on the website so that members could share this information. As a Community Health Committee we included an article in *Imprint* regarding the eating disorder awareness resolution.

Thank you all for a fantastic year filled with great ideas and wonderful memories. I hope you all have a great time at Convention and enjoy your experiences as NSNA members and future nurses!

Council of State President (COSP) Planning Committee

This has been a memorable year for the COSP. The COSP meetings are great networking opportunities among the state presidents and the NSNA Board of Directors. Many ideas are shared about leadership; team-building; negotiating and conflict resolution; and mentorship. The MidYear COSP in Reno was a tremendous success:

- The NSNA Board gave updates about their committee activities.
- A governance forum was conducted on how to run an effective state association.
- Association of Nurse Executives (AONE) Leadership Luncheon presentation: *Transition from Student Leader to Professional Leader*.
- Topics of interest discussed: finance, membership recruitment and convention planning.

- Attended a nursing image and public relations workshop sponsored by The Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing's Future. The meeting here in Nashville offers another opportunity for state presidents to share accomplishments, to address concerns, and to exchange ideas with peers. It is wonderful to have many of the state presidents here.

One of the NSNA Board's goals is to maintain scheduled communication with the state presidents. The board communicates via e-newsletters, live chats and forums on the LeadershipU web site, broadcast emails, as well as individual board members contacting their assigned states.

This year's experience has been priceless. Thank you for your friendship, support, and your dedication to strengthening NSNA!

Bylaws Amendment Proviso

Please see proposed Bylaws Amendments on page 24.

If passed, this bylaws amendment shall take effect at the close of the House of Delegates on Saturday, April 18, 2009; provided, however, that:

1. NSNA members who are RN to BSN students shall remain members until such time that their membership expires. They shall have all the rights and privileges of membership until their membership expires. They may not renew their student membership in NSNA; however, they are eligible to apply for NSNA Sustaining Membership.
2. NSNA members who are elected to 2009-10 national office, and those who currently hold state or school office, shall remain members during their term of office and may renew their membership if such membership expires during their term of office. Once they have completed their term of office, they will have the option of converting their NSNA membership to sustaining membership. Note that there will be no refunds of membership dues as per NSNA policy.

Proposed NSNA Bylaws Amendments

Proposed bylaws amendments are voted on at the 2009 NSNA House of Delegates which convenes in Nashville, TN, April 15, 17 and 18, 2009. The following proposed amendments (and rationale) to the NSNA Bylaws were submitted by the Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania by the February 4, 2009 deadline.

Current Bylaws Article IV	Proposed Amendments	Rationale (continued)
<p>Section 2. Categories of Constituent Membership: Members of the constituent associations shall be:</p> <p>1. Active Members:</p> <p>a) Students enrolled in state approved programs leading to licensure as a registered nurse.</p> <p>b) Registered nurses enrolled in programs leading to a baccalaureate degree with a major in nursing.</p> <p>c) Active members shall have all the privileges of membership.</p> <p>2. Associate Members:</p> <p>a) Pre-nursing students, including registered nurses, enrolled in college or university programs designed as preparation for entrance into a program leading to an associate degree, diploma or baccalaureate degree in nursing.</p> <p>b) Associate members shall have all the privileges of membership except the right to hold office of president and vice president at state and national levels.</p> <p>Section 3. Categories of Non-Constituent Membership:</p> <p>a. Sustaining Members:</p> <p>Sustaining membership shall be open at the national level to any individual or organization interested in furthering the development and growth of NSNA, upon approval of the Board of Directors. This membership category is not open to those eligible for active and associate membership. Sustaining members shall receive literature and other information from the national office.</p>	<p>Amend Section 2, 1b by striking the entire sentence. Renumber Section 2, 1c to Section 2, 1b.</p> <p>Amend Section 2, 2a by striking "including registered nurses." The amended sentence would read: Pre-nursing students enrolled in college or university programs designed as preparation for entrance into a program leading to an associate degree, diploma or baccalaureate degree in nursing.</p> <p>Amend Section 3, 1 by inserting the words, "including, but not limited to, registered nurse enrolled in college or university programs leading to an associate, diploma, or baccalaureate degree" after the word "individual." The amended sentence would then read: Sustaining membership shall be open at the national level to any individual, including, but not limited to, registered nurse enrolled in college or university programs leading to an associate, diploma, or baccalaureate degree, or organization interested in furthering the development and growth of NSNA, upon approval of the Board of Directors.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Rationale</p> </div> <p>The NSNA is a pre-professional nursing organization, therefore individuals who have attained their registered nursing licensure should not be granted full membership with the same privileges as those students for whom this organization was created. Other organizations represent the needs of registered nurses. These individuals are eligible to join these organizations (i.e. the American Nurses Association). With this amendment, those individuals who are registered nurses enrolled in baccalaureate programs will be able to join NSNA as a sustaining member.</p>	<p>The number of members in this category has never been substantial; therefore the financial implications to NSNA are low. Historically these individuals have served in the elected offices in disproportionately high numbers, which has a negative impact hindering the opportunity for non-licensed students to further their leadership abilities.</p> <p>Most importantly this bylaw is in conflict with the American Nurses Association and our own policies. NSNA is opposed to professional nursing organizations offering a student membership category, and for years the ANA has agreed not to initiate a student category with voting rights to their membership. NSNA has also urged ANA to recognize their autonomy "as an independent organization and is strongly discouraged from creating a mechanism for voting representation of NSNA chapters, or for any other mechanism for recruiting student nurse members in competition with NSNA." (<i>Getting the Pieces to Fit</i>, 2008-2009, p. 30) NSNA must reciprocate by not offering a voting membership category for RNs. A collegial relationship with our professional associations must remain intact.</p> <p>Above all, registered nurses are considered professionals and thus should hold membership in their professional organizations, without holding membership in a pre-professional organization such as NSNA. At the present time, these individuals are eligible to hold office simultaneously in both the pre-professional and the professional organizations, which is not in the best interest of NSNA, its constituent states or local chapters. It creates a conflict of interest situation.</p>