

Nursing Notes



A letter from the President

My fellow nursing students;

I want to take a moment and let you know a little about all we have in store this coming year. Planning for **state convention** is underway and I am pleased to announce that it will be held **March 5-6, 2011** in Indianapolis. We are also working on fundraising activities and arranging to meet with student nurse leaders across the state.

I am also pleased to announce that **Dana Fiedler** from University of Southern Indiana

has joined our board of directors and will be leading the **Community Health/ Disaster Preparedness** committee for the remainder of the year! This group is working hard to provide our members with information about community health service opportunities throughout the state.

Membership is another focus for us this coming year - does your school have an active SNA? Would you like IANS help in making it more active? Would you like IANS help you in creating a NEW SNA? Would

you like me to visit your school? All it takes is an e-mail and we'll be happy to assist.

I also encourage school SNA's to send in your calendar events. We will add these to our online calendar to help encourage discussion about possible SNA activities. If you've got something going on or something to say, we want to know about it!

Sincerely,

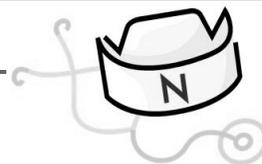
Heather SavageMaierle

NS, Goshen College
IANS President

2010 NSNA Annual Convention April 7-11, 2010

This past April the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) held their annual conference at *Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida*. Two students from Indiana University's School of Nursing, Eric Kern and Amanda Miller, attended the conference, along with ten other nursing students from across the state of Indiana. The conference opened with a keynote address by Jennie Chin Hansen, MS, RN, FAAN, President of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). The conference featured many renowned nursing leaders including Rebecca Paton, MSN, RN, CNOR, President of the American Nurses Association (ANA) and Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN, Chief Executive Officer, President of the National League for Nursing (NLN).

Nursing students from various states presented platforms, which included an issue about the nursing profession they believed should be addressed. Both executives from the **ANA**, as well as the **NLN** were present to hear what the nursing students' had to offer. Delegates from each state voted upon these issues and if majority ruled, the issue was sent to the ANA for further review. *(continued on p. 2)*



2010 NSNA Annual Convention Cont.

The conference also offered an exhibit hall including hundreds of nursing schools and hospitals from around the country. Representatives from each organization were available for more information about the services they offered. Many potential employers also held on-site interviews for seniors!

Breakout sessions during the conference helped students learn more about a specific area of nursing. These included; Emergency Nursing, Information about CRNA, Landing the Right Job, The Path to Nursing School Success, Acing Nursing School Exams, Avoiding Malpractice, and Pharmacology Made Insanely Easy. On-site **NCLEX review sessions**, as well as nursing merchandise sales were offered throughout the conference.

Finally, students and faculty were given designated time to enjoy the Disney World Parks for a discounted price! The parks were open late specifically for the NSNA. Overall, the conference was a good way to learn more about NSNA, as well as the nursing profession, and have a little fun too!



Amanda Miller

NS, Indiana University
IANS Vice-President

How Can I Be More Involved?

There are so many ways to get involved with **IANS!**

- Attend **monthly meetings** and let your voice be heard by voting on various topics
- Become a **member of a committee**. Current committees needing slots filled include Membership, Newsletter and Community Health
- Attend mid-year and annual **conventions**
- Start an **IANS chapter** at your school
- Contribute articles regarding nursing developments, issues, or events to the newsletter

Goals for the Upcoming Year

We are working hard this year to increase our *active membership* through increased participation in IANS events, meetings and committees. We hope to make IANS reach its full potential. We expect to enrich the education of nursing students throughout the state with news and events that are relevant to nursing today. We are currently planning the **annual state convention** in Indianapolis, IN for March 5-6, 2011, and expect to host many different speakers covering a variety of exciting topics. Mark your calendars now – you won't want to miss it!

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Did you get your e-mail Newsletter?

If not, NSNA does not have a proper e-mail address for you. We'll be sending out newsletters by E-Mail and we want to know you are getting the info. Please take a moment to visit the membership section at <http://www.nsna.org> and update your member info so you don't miss a single update!

NSNA Mid-year Conference

Cincinnati , Ohio

November 4th-7th

For more information on the program schedule, venue, costs, and registration visit

<http://www.nsna.org/>

Meetings/

MidYearConferences.aspx

If you are planning on attending, please let us know! We hope to convene with IANS members while we are there. Check out the conference schedules and bulletin boards once you are there for information on where we will be gathering.

Not a Member of IANS!?

Are you not a member of IANS, but got your hands on this newsletter? Are you interested in becoming a member of this great organization? It is **EASY!**

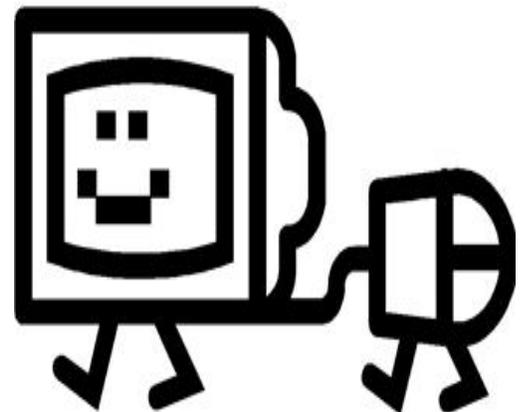
Membership to the IANS is automatic with a membership to the National Student Nurse Association (NSNA). There are countless benefits to becoming a member besides receiving our newsletters, discounted convention admission, networking, and not to mention a great line on your resume. For more information on the benefits of becoming a member and on-line registration visit the NSNA membership website. We are excited for you to become a member of our organization!

www.nsnamembership.org

New and Improved Website!

<http://www.indianastudentnurses.org/>

Have you visited the IANS website recently? We have been working to update and advance the quality of information found on our website. You can now find current information on 2010-2011 Executive Board, this year's Convention dates, and new member registration as well as convention registration. We have also amended and corrected the bylaws and rearranged the website for member convenience and easy access. If you have any suggestions or concerns regarding the website we would love your feed back, so please do check out the reorganized website!



A valued letter of advice

Indiana State Nurse's Assistance Program

I have seen many nursing students who have just graduated appear before the Board without any objective documentation which verifies that this particular person is safe to practice as a nurse. Know that the Board will not just take a person's subjective report that they have resolved their past difficulties.

Students should bring the following to the Board if they are scheduled to appear and have a history of arrests due to substance use or have a history of problems with substance abuse or dependence.

1. Proof of successful completion of probation or proof they are in compliance with criminal probation.
2. Proof that a past felony was reduced to a misdemeanor.
3. At least 2 letters of support from nursing instructors. In that letter of support the nursing instructor needs to state they are aware of the student's past legal or substance use issues.

4. A letter of support from a current employer especially if the nursing student has been working in a health care facility as a nurses aide or support staff position.

5. A person who is willing to advocate for the nursing student ie nurse preceptor, manager, nursing instructor by coming to the Board hearing with him/her.

6. A current substance use assessment by an LCSW, LMHC, or LCAC or an addictionist (MD) verifying that the nursing student has resolved their issues with substance use. It needs to be someone who can give an Axis I-V diagnoses. I will be happy to send you a list of treatment providers who work with us if you would like.

Questions that are commonly asked by the Board are:

1. What was the level on your breathalyzer?
2. Do you still spend time with using friends?
3. What did you learn from the arrest?

4. Do you still drink alcohol?
5. Do you have any prescriptions at this time?

With the press revealing that the licensing agency does not do a criminal background check every 2 years on nurses, the Board of Nursing is now even more cautious when someone has a history of legal problems or substance use.

After they graduate, nursing students can call me or email me if they would like some guidance on what to do to address these issues with the Board of Nursing. We also do in-services for nursing schools if the nursing instructors would like us to do so.

If you would like any more information on the program check out the website (indiananurses.org).

Robin Riebsomer, MA, RN,
CAS, LMHC
ISNAP Intake Coordinator
rriebsomer@indiananurses.org

Current Board of Directors

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Vice President: Amanda Miller, IU Bloomington

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Newsletter Co-Editor: Brittany Hoge, IU Bloomington

Membership Committee Director: Elles Niessen, IU Bloomington

Community Health/ Disaster Preparedness Committee Director: Dana Fiedler, University of Southern Indiana

Faculty Advisor: Rene' DePew, MSN, APRN; University of Saint Francis

