



CSNA Update

FEBRUARY 2008

CSNA BOARD
MEMBER OF THE
MONTH

Ally Trumbo

Hi, my name is Allyson Trumbo. I'm nursing student from Beth-El at UCCS. I grew up in Loveland, CO and moved here to Colorado Springs to get my BSN. Currently in my junior year, I'm plan on going into emergency care with the goal of being a flight nurse. My reason for choosing this profession has been to use my skills as a nurse for non-profit health care here, and around the world. I'm excited to graduate, and have appreciated this opportunity to be a part of CSNA and contribute to our professional development through helping with the Spring Convention. Thanks and good luck!!

Membership In The Making

Hello. We are the West and East Membership Directors of the **Colorado Student Nurses' Association's board**. Aspen (West) and Darlene (East) have been making progress visiting nursing schools in Colorado. So far we have met with people at the following schools: Front Range Community College -Larimer, Denver School of Nursing, the University of Colorado Denver, Colorado Northwest Community College, and Mesa State College.

In addition, the entire CSNA board is also helping with membership by recruiting new members from their respective

schools. We would like to make contact with as many faculty advisors, SNA members and program directors as possible. If there are any contact changes or SNA board member changes, especially President and Vice-President, we would love to hear about it. Please send an email to membership@coloradostudentnurses.org.

Our term with the CSNA board will end on March 1, 2008 at our Spring Convention in **Aurora, CO**. We'd like to take this opportunity to visit your school before our time is done.

Please, email us or send a response to one of our emails to schedule your school visit.

For nursing schools in Colorado who do not **have a Student Nurses' Association** yet we recommend ordering the book, Getting the Pieces to Fit, from the **National Student Nurses' Association's website** (www.nсна.org). This helpful, step-by-step guide will show you how to **"piece" together supporting faculty and a board of nursing students to establish a professional Student Nurses' Association**. The benefits are endless.

Spring Convention Toy Drive

CSNA will be collecting toys at our Spring Convention to donate to **Children's Hospital in Denver**. **These toys will be used in the hospital's numerous playrooms** by therapists as part of a patient's treatment plan. Toys are also used to comfort and entertain a child during the hospital experience. Your donations will also make it possible for patients to select a gift following the completion of a procedure or to celebrate a significant event such as a birthday, holiday, or the end of treatment. To assist you in making decisions about what to provide, here are a few guidelines.

The items that we need the most include:

- Toys for infants and toddlers
- Items for teenagers

Items we cannot accept are:

- Used items
- Bubbles

What's All This Talk About Sunset?

By Christopher Wall, BS BSN

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Children's Hospital
Wish List:

[http://
www.thechildrenshospital.org/give/in_kind.aspx](http://www.thechildrenshospital.org/give/in_kind.aspx)

What is the Nurse Practice Act?

The Colorado Nurse Practice Act, authored and enforced by the state board of nursing, is a document that **“defines the role of professional and practical nurses, sets requirements for licensure, and defines the scope of our practice” (Kopanos, 2007)**. It also outlines subjects such as powers and duties of the board and delegation of nursing tasks. A PDF version of the practice act can be found online at the following URL: <http://www.dora.state.co.us/nursing/statutes/NursePracticeAct.pdf>.

What is Sunset?

The practice act is said to be in “sunset” when it is under review. This review session is conducted by the state legislature and allows for both scrutiny and defense of the current roles of nurses. The process of the periodic sunset allows the public and members of other health professions to voice their opinion to the legislature regarding what should be within the scope of practice for nurses in our state. It also allows the possibility for expansion of our scope of practice as professional nurses. With the beginning of the 2008 session, **“the planning for next year and the sunset of the Nurse Practice Act” has started as well (Kopanos, 2007)**. The state statutes collectively referred to as the Colorado Nurse Practice Act will inevitably expire in 2009, thus requiring a bill to maintain or, possibly, to change it (Kopanos, 2007).

What does this mean to students and professional nurses?

Getting involved in or at least following the sunset process will enable us to become the amazing leaders that we all have the potential to be. It could also help protect our interests as professionals while ensuring that **“patients continue to have access to the safe, high quality nursing care they need” (Kopanos, 2007)**. As students and lifelong learners, it is imperative to keep track of what direction our future profession is headed. Our generation of nursing students will determine and define the future of our profession. As professionals, it is our responsibility to familiarize ourselves with the practice act of our state. The violation of such could lead to disciplinary action.

To follow the developments of this process, refer to future issues of Colorado Nurse, **a publication of the Colorado Nurses' Association (CNA)**. The CNA has also agreed to post updates on their website (www.nurses-co.org). To find these updates, click on **“Legislative Activities.”** To become more actively involved in the sunset proceedings, one can join the CNA's Government and Public Policy committee (GAPP). For further information on this committee, or other exciting opportunities the CNA has to offer both students and professionals, you can contact the CNA by phone at (303) 757-7483 or by e-mail at CAN@nurses-co.org.

Works Cited

Kopanos, Tay. “Securing our future: planning for the 2008 legislative year.” Colorado Nurse 107.3 (Sept 2007): 9(1). Health Reference Center Academic. Gale. Regis University. 27 Jan. 2008



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