

Presidents Report: A Year in Review

I became President at the last Annual Nursing Convention in March 2016. It has been a very busy, heavy hearted year for the organization. We conducted a successful Pre-Convention Educator and Convention Program last year. There were 606 in attendance at the Annual Convention and 75 at the Pre-Convention. The evaluations were excellent, and it was a fiscally sound conference. Following that event, we had the PN Student Education day in April for 250 attendees. Scholarships were given to eight PN students to help with their educational expenses. The feedback from the participants was outstanding; this program is always very much appreciated by the PN students and Faculty.

We then entered into a long summer during which our primary accomplishment was to sustain the organization during the time of illness and the untimely loss of our Executive Director, Gail Hammond, who gave 35 years of service to this organization. A Board of Director's Retreat was held to plan the transition from a paid "Executive Director" led organization to a voluntary "Board of Director's" led organization. This transition, with the additional loss of our part time office staff was challenging.

Bylaws and strategic planning have been evaluated. Committees have been re-structured and co-chaired by Board Members. Our re-structured Finance Committee has put new bank accounts, detailed budgets and new financial measures in place. Our Non-Profit status has been reviewed by legal counsel to assure our good standing. The infrastructure of the organization was reassessed and new technology was added. "Constant Contact" software was purchased to support our ability to reassess membership and facilitate planning and implementation of our programs. This has been carried out by the independent contractor, Susan Chandler, whom we have retained as our event planner. She has also created, with our webmaster, a new 3-phase website project which is under construction, with part 1 being complete. Without the valuable services of Susan Chandler, our Convention Manager, this 2017 convention would not have been possible.

During this re-organization phase, a Nurse Recognition Gala was not held. In addition to our re-organization, I remained active on a state level with New Jersey Leadership Council and the New Jersey Collaborating Center Advisory Board. We have also maintained our collegial relationship with New Jersey State Nurses Association and the New Jersey Student Nurses, Inc.

I attended the NLN Summit in September 2016, and represented our organization at the Constituent League Presidents Workshop. We have been granted full status as a Constituent League of the NLN for June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017. Our 2016 Annual report has been submitted and is under review. At the present time, NJLN's financial accounts are in positive balance.

The Plan for 2017 is to ensure financial survival of the NJLN through responsible spending, creation and maintenance of an organizational infrastructure and / or members to support the NJLN mission and to provide effective continuing education programs for members and other healthcare providers, which promote excellence in Nursing Education.

We believe this convention is an educationally and fiscally sound offering. We will be engaging in a very active membership drive this Spring, our Board of Directors will be working hard at a summer retreat and we look forward to an exciting new Nurses Gala in the Fall 2017.

The accomplishments of this organization would not be possible without Board Members, Legal Counsel, Committee Chairs, Committee Members, our Event Planner and most of "you," our membership, for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

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President, New Jersey League for Nursing