

American Nurses Association
8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3492
Tel (301) 628-5000
Fax (301) 628-5001
www.NursingWorld.org

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 1, 2008

CONTACT:

Mary McNamara, 301-628-5198
mary.mcnamara@ana.org
Mary Stewart, 301-628-5038
mary.stewart@ana.org
www.nursingworld.org

**RN DELEGATES TO ANA’S BIENNIAL MEETING TAKE ACTION TO WORK
TOWARD GREATER NURSE RETENTION, ADDRESS PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES**

Silver Spring – More than 600 elected registered nurse delegates to the American Nurses Association (ANA) passed several proposals designed to improve nurse retention rates while simultaneously advancing the public’s health at its House of Delegates meeting held in Washington, D.C.

With one half of all new graduate nurses leaving their first professional assignment in less than one year, delegates resolved to support the successful integration of new nurses into the work environment, including residency programs, and to support nursing research efforts that demonstrate effective plans for successful integration of new nurses into the work environment.

“Retention of nurses is a vital element in combating the critical nursing shortage. Nurse residency programs that provide a structured, mentored environment will help new nurse graduates progress from beginners to competent nurses. At a time when the nursing shortage threatens to impact the quality of patient care, we owe it to the nursing profession, and the public we serve to work toward the successful integration of newly graduated nurses into the work environment as well as improving the working conditions for experienced nurses,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

MORE

ANA members also resolved to increase awareness and education among nurses about the effects of intimate partner violence on the health, safety and welfare of families, children and communities, and advocate for the use of evidence-based clinical guidelines in caring and treating victims of violence. ANA endorses the use of routine, universal and culturally sensitive intimate partner violence screening tools and protocols in all nursing specialties and settings.

With one half of all new graduate nurses leaving their first professional assignment in less than one year, delegates resolved to support the successful integration of new nurses into the work environment, including residency programs, and to support nursing research efforts that demonstrate effective plans for successful integration of new nurses into the work environment.

Additionally, ANA delegates passed the following measures, many of which could have significant impact on public health:

- Delegates approved a resolution that recognizes the impact global climate change has on the health of the world's population and encourages nurses to advocate for change on both individual and policy levels. The measure calls on ANA to incorporate global climate change into its legislative agenda, and support public policies that endorse sustainable energy sources and reduce greenhouse gases.
- ANA also resolved to advocate for research to identify real or perceived gaps and barriers to health care for veterans and their families.
- Recognizing concerns over the adverse affects linked to food additives and contaminants, ANA has resolved to work collectively with CMAs, affiliates and health care organizations to eliminate purchasing milk and dairy products for use in the health care industry that contain hormones.
- ANA resolved to recognize the impact human trafficking has on the public health and the profession of nursing, and to advocate for and seek opportunities to ensure nurses have the skill sets to properly identify and refer victims of human trafficking. ANA has also resolved to advocate and support legislation that further enhances protection and prosecution in an effort to decrease the incidence of human trafficking.

MORE

- ANA, one of the original supporters for the establishment of the nation's Social Security program, resolved to work with Congress and the President to strengthen Social Security and extend its solvency beyond 2042.
- ANA resolved to advocate for the expansion of Medicare from the traditional "medical model" to include a focus on prevention, wellness and primary care services.
- ANA resolved to advocate and promote legislative and educational activities that support advanced degrees in nursing. Increasing the level of education required for continued registration as a registered nurse by requiring RNs to attain a baccalaureate degree in nursing within ten years after initial licensure, while maintaining the multiple entry points into the profession.
- ANA further resolved to advocate for legislation that increases access to oral health care for older adults and support efforts to raise awareness of the importance of oral health and preventive care for older adults.
- ANA resolved to begin a dialogue with the American Red Cross over the elimination of its Chief Nurse Officer position, and to urge the Red Cross to re-instate a Chief Nurse Officer position at its national headquarters.

###

The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 54 constituent member nurses associations. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.