THE ROLE OF THE NURSE IN LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

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Nurse Advocacy

• Who watches out for your profession, while you take care of patients?
• Why should you care?

ADVANCING THE NURSING PROFESSION AND PROMOTING A HEALTH ARIZONA

STRATEGIC PLAN

• PROMOTE A SAFE AND HEALTHY WORK ENVIRONMENT
• ADVANCE PROFESSIONAL AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
• DEVELOP COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
• ENGAGE MEMBERS

1919-1969

ADVOCACY - PUBLIC POLICY - PRACTICE
1921: “We are prepared to stay until our bill is heard.”

**MISSION COMPARISON**

**1930’s**
- ASNA supported the establishment of an Arizona State Department of Public Health.

**1940’s**
- Much of the business of ASNA was put on hold during WWII. Many nurses entered the armed services.

**1950’s**
- ASNA used their voice to advocate that employers adopt a forty hour work week.
- They also urged the formation of departments of nursing at both Arizona State University and University of Arizona.

**1960’s**
- ASNA became involved in community health programs and represented ASNA on agency committees and boards.
- A nurse was appointed to the Health Advisory Committee of the Selective Service Board of Arizona.
- ASNA advocated for upgrades to nursing homes. The State Board of Health adopted almost verbatim ASNA’s recommendations for proposed Rules and Regulations governing Nursing Homes and Hospitals.
• AzNA focused on ensuring that advanced practice nurses gained access to legislative authority to fulfill their role.
• Arizona became the first state in the nation to legitimate the practice of RNs in extended roles.

1980’s
• During this decade, AzNA was active in drafting bills that amended the Nurse Practice Act.
• Much of the focus was on scope of practice for Nurse Practitioners.

1989
• AzNA hires Rory Hays, lobbyist.
• Rory remains in that position today!

1990’s
• AzNA and the Arizona State Board of Nursing forged a strong working relationship.
• Legislation enabling advanced practice nurses to enlarge their scope of practice became a model for the country.

• ADVOCACY
  public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy

• LOBBYING
  seek to influence (a politician or public official) on an issue

2000-2010
Protecting Nurses: Using our Voice
• Whistleblower Protection Bill
• Mandatory Overtime
"Get to the table and be a player, or someone who does not understand nursing will do that for you."

- Loretta Ford, EdD, RN, PNP, FAAN, FAANP

**LOBBYING & ADVOCACY**

2013, 2014

Building & Using Political Capital
1. Medicaid Restoration and Expansion
2. Proposition 480

"Lack of insurance coverage leads people to use urgent care services that, while they are safe, are not intended to provide long-term health care management of the kind that has been demonstrated to improve health outcomes," said Denise Link, a Nurse Practitioner of 33 years and the Director of a Nurse Practitioner-managed health clinic in central Phoenix.

The influential Voice of Nursing

Journey to Nurse Advocacy

Proposition 480 is critical to help Arizona's integrated health system to fulfill its mission to provide quality health care to all and including our first responders and the most vulnerable.

The Trusted & Balanced Voice of Nursing

Due Diligence Phase
Robin Schaeffer, executive director of the Arizona Nurses Association, answers questions for the media after a nurse caring for an Ebola-infected patient tested positive herself. October 13, 2014. (Source: CBS 5 News)

AzNA Interviewed by 5 different Media Outlets in 1 Day!

Public Service Announcement by The Most Trusted Profession

2015-2016 Legislative Session

Not a Cinderella Story

The Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification & Education (LACE)

FULL PRACTICE AUTHORITY
- CNP
- CRNA
- CNM
- CNS

EACH STATE MUST PASS THEIR OWN LEGISLATION

“The goal of this legislation is to allow Advanced Practice Nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and training, which will increase patient accessibility of safe, cost-effective care”

MAY 2015

AzNA lead the way by coordinating leadership from all four Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) roles to put national standards into law in Arizona by allowing APRNs to practice to the full extent of their education and training. Our message became: Nurses Care for Arizona.
Historic merger:
The Arizona Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses
- Arizona Nurse Practitioner Council
- Arizona Chapter of the American College of Nurse Midwives
- Arizona Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Goal: Share resources and support each other to achieve this monumental task.
Arizona Medical Association warns SB 1473 would compromise patient safety and care
Strongly urges the Legislature to vote no.

SB 1473 would essentially allow advanced practice nurses to act as physicians without the requisite education and training patients expect and count on for quality care. For that reason, the Arizona Medical Association (AMA), the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA), and every major Arizona medical specialty society strongly oppose the legislation because of the potential danger to Arizona patients.

400 pages of Evidence-Based Research-Safety
**11/15/16**

**Nurses are #1 again!**
14 years in a row with the highest confidence in Gallup’s 2015 survey and ethics.

**DID YOU KNOW: 6.7 MILLION ARIZONANS**
83,000 RN’S + 10,671 LPN = 93,671
- NP=5,750
- CNS=183
- CNM=256
- CRNA=849
15,000 Physicians?

**DOES EVIDENCE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

Unless we are making progress in our nursing every year, every month, every week, take my word for it we are going back.

**Lessons Learned**
- Getting groups of nurses together to advocate for our profession is easy: just ask them.
- The heart and dedication of a nurse is what the public has used to vote us the most trusted, honest and ethical profession for over 14 years in a row.
- Being voted the most trusted, honest and ethical profession does not give you a “free-ticket” in politics.
- There may be “influences” out of our control.
- Not having a nurse in the AZ Legislature =loss for nurses and patients.

**Strategy Moving Forward?**
What was it that enabled Florence Nightingale to stimulate the development of a profession and change the health and lives of so many?

**ADJUSTING OUR SAILS – 2 SEPARATE BILLS**
- NP/CNM
- CRNA'S
CNS-YEAR OF LEGISLATOR EDUCATION
PUBLIC POLICY, ADVOCACY, LOBBYING

• Pre-licensure Curriculum?
• Faculty comfort zone?
• How do you support our professional policy efforts?
• What are your ideas?

85,000 Registered Nurses
Largest group of health care workers
Front-line care givers
1 in 75 Arizonans