1989

Committee of Bylaws - N.Y.S.N.A.; Series I; File 39.5

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In September 1988, Committee reviewed the NYSNA Bylaws for consistency of those bylaws related to all councils. The Committee met in conference call on January 19, 1989 to make its final determinations about recommendations to the Board.

The Committee concluded that there should be bylaw provisions for each council in the following areas:

- Name
- Composition
- Terms of appointment
- Purpose
- Functions
- Accountability

The Committee then reviewed bylaws pertinent to the following councils:

- Consumer Advisory Council
- Advisory Council
- Councils named in Article VII of the Bylaws:
  - Council on Continuing Education
  - Council on Ethical Practice
  - Council on Human Rights
  - Council on Legislation
  - Council on Nursing Education
  - Council on Nursing Practice
  - Council on Nursing Research

The Committee recommends that the Board of Directors forward the following suggestions for revision of bylaws to the Committee on Bylaws for its consideration and refinement:

1. The Committee recommends that a statement of purpose be provided in bylaws.

   The Committee recommends that the Committee on Bylaws be requested to give consideration to a broad statement of purpose such as the following:
   The Consumer Advisory Council advises the Association of the consumer's viewpoint on nursing and health care and communicates the Association's aims to the public.

2. The Committee recommends that the stated functions of the Consumer Advisory Council be refined for greater clarity.

   The Committee recommends that the Committee on Bylaws be requested to give consideration to the following clarifications:
   a. analyze trends and developments in health care and the nursing profession from the perspective of the consumer
   b. convey to this association the recommendations of consumers regarding the nursing profession and health care
   c. assist in communicating to the public this Association's aims

3. The Committee recommends that a statement of the accountability of the Consumer Advisory Council be added.

   The Committee recommends that the Committee on Bylaws be requested to give consideration to the following provision:
   The Council serves in an advisory and consultative capacity to the Board of Directors and reports directly to the Board of Directors.
ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Committee notes that the name of this Council does not reflect its composition. The composition of the Council is specified. Since this Council is not subject to appointment of its members, no such provision is required. Because the districts are independent organizations loosely affiliated with the Association, provision for accountability is deemed by the Committee to be inappropriate.

1. The Committee recommends that the name of this Council be changed to reflect its composition.

   The Committee recommends that the name of this Council be changed to reflect its composition.

   The Committee recommends that the Committee on Bylaws be requested to consider renaming this council Constituent District Nurses Associations Advisory Council.

2. The Committee recommends that functions of the Advisory Council be specified in bylaws.

   The Committee recommends that the Committee on Bylaws be requested to give consideration to functions of the Council that were identified in 1988 by representatives of the Board and the Advisory Council working together as the Board Committee to Study the Role of the Advisory Council (these are taken from the last draft of the proposed "guidelines for structure, function and operation of the Advisory Council"): a) serve as consultant to the Board of Directors in defining, communicating and interpreting the district nurses association viewpoint on nursing, health care and organizational issues; b) consider issues referred by the Board of Directors or the Voting Body to district nurses associations and/or to the Advisory Council and to advise the NYSNA President and Board of Directors on those issues; c) identify issues of DNA concern; d) provide the opportunity for activities of the entire organization to be shared - i.e., between NYSNA and DNAs and among DNAs; e) identify mechanisms for strengthening: the relationships between NYSNA and DNAs; communication between NYSNA and DNAs; and the functioning of NYSNA and DNAs in collaborative efforts.

COUNCILS NAMED IN ARTICLE VII OF NYSNA'S BYLAWS

The Committee notes that all recommended components of the bylaws pertaining to councils are present in this Article.

1. The Committee recommends that consideration be given to establishing a standard format for bylaw provisions pertaining to all councils:

   Name
   Purpose
   Composition
   Terms of Appointment
   Accountability
   Functions

   Board committee to study bylaw provisions for councils
   Patricia Bishop Barry, Chairperson
   William R. Donovan
   Kathleen O'Brien Farraro
   Miriam Gonzalez

WMB
1/23/89
board/councils
NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, N.Y. 12084, (518) 456-5371
January 25, 1988

Ann Marie Treanor, BSN, RN
Chairperson, NYSNA Committee on Bylaws
The New York State Nurses Association
2113 Western Avenue
Guilderland, NY 12084

Dear Ms. Treanor:

On behalf of the Consumer Advisory Council of The New York State Nurses Association, I wish to communicate several suggested changes for the NYSNA Bylaws, Article X, Section 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Bylaw</th>
<th>Suggested Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 2a</td>
<td>To recommend to this Association the consumer's viewpoint on nursing and health matters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2b</td>
<td>To convey to this Association the recommendations of consumers regarding the nursing profession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2c</td>
<td>To assist in communicating to the public this Association's aims in nursing education, practice and research.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for considering these changes. I would be happy to answer any questions your committee might have.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Wainwright
Chairperson
Consumer Advisory Council

THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

Consumer Advisory Council

The Veronica M. Driscoll Center for Nursing

April 22, 1988

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Cynthia Wainwright, Chairperson.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present

- Ralph Booth
- Paul Elisma
- Lynn Evans
- Evan Pritchard
- Rosemary Sheridan
- Cynthia Wainwright
- Alton Walton
- Elizabeth Carter, Deputy Director

Absent

- Hezekiah Brown
- Roger Coene

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Each member was introduced and shared pertinent information about current activities.

IV. MINUTES

The minutes of June 26, 1987 and December 1, 1987 were reviewed for information.

V. BYLAWS

The Council reviewed the Bylaws, p. 10, Article X, related to the structure and functions of the Consumer Advisory Council.

It was noted that the Bylaws changes suggested in the December 1, 1987 minutes were not forwarded by the Bylaws Committee.

The Council members believe they can operate within the current Bylaws as stated.

VI. ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS

The NYSNA Organizational Charts were reviewed and discussed. It was noted that the Consumer Advisory Council reports directly to the Board of Directors in an advisory capacity.
VII. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The Council received an orientation to the current program activities.

A. Legislation
1. Standardization of Nursing Education.
2. Prescriptive Privilege.
3. Exempt Clause Repeal.

B. Nursing Education
1. Delineation of scope of practice for two careers in nursing.
2. Statewide Planning Committees. These committees are regional.
3. Arden House Conference follow-up. A Consortium of nursing and non-nursing groups is meeting to strategize around retention and recruitment issues.
4. Continuing Education. NYSNA provides programs and approves other providers of continuing education.

C. Nursing Practice and Services

The Council was joined by Gail DeMarco and Louise Kohn, Associate Directors of Nursing Practice and Services Program to discuss several of the ongoing activities of this program.

1. Clinical Practice and Functional Units.
2. Do Not Resuscitate Task Force.
   This Task Force report was discussed at some length. Several of the Council members are preparing testimony for the public hearings. The recommendations of concern were discussed.
4. Personal Care AIDS Curriculum, Department of Social Services.
5. Retired Nurse Group.
   Several examples of nurses in independent practice were shared. These cost effective nurse providers would benefit from more flexible reimbursement methodologies.
7. Task Force on Impaired Nursing Practice.
   The seriousness of the Supreme Court decision denying the disease of alcoholism - calling it a willful moral weakness - was discussed. This retrogressive view will hinder the treatment process.
8. Hospital Code Committee. The revisions to the hospital code are closely monitored.
9. AIDS project. NYSNA is cooperating with New York University in this project.
10. CPR regulations. It was reported that the Association's position was dismissed by the judge for lack of standing. The Association is considering further actions. The need for consumers to speak out for quality of care was discussed.

11. Consultation on nursing practice concerns.
   The staff reported that the number of calls requesting assistance with practice concerns had nearly doubled in the first quarter of this year over the first quarter of last year.

D. Economic and General Welfare

Martha Orr, Executive Director, joined the Council to discuss some aspects of the Economic and General Welfare Program. Ms. Orr noted that NYSNA is the largest collective bargaining program for nurses in the United States representing nurses in about 120 bargaining units in both public and private facilities.

She spoke of the multi-purpose nature of NYSNA which is both a professional association and a labor union.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anne Schott joined the Council to discuss this department's work.

1. Responsibility for Association publications.
2. Liaison with the media. The media is very interested in nursing at this time. The image of nursing is important. It is necessary to address both the self-image of nurses as well as others' perceptions of nursing. Several articles were shared with the Council.
3. What might the Council do? Keep NYSNA informed of what is seen or read about nurses or nursing; write letters to the media to comment on either positive or negative portrayals. We need to develop a consumer constituency for nursing - a cadre of satisfied customers.

IX. RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Several ideas were identified to address the nursing shortage. Time was not available to discuss these items:

1. Need to recruit in junior high schools.
2. Need to develop high schools which will offer curricula to prepare students for entry into nursing programs.
3. Need to standardize nursing education - present system is confusing.
4. Need to work on others' perception of nursing, i.e., image.
5. Need to increase salaries along the career continuum.
6. Need to regenerate a sense of excitement about nursing as a career.
7. Develop a public relations campaign - similar to armed services.
8. Enhance the benefits rather than lowering standards.
9. Develop support for nurses outside the profession - an advocacy group for nursing.
10. Meet with editorial boards of major newspapers to identify specific areas of most importance.

X. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Directions for retention and recruitment.
2. Voting Body resolution regarding increasing awareness of current nursing roles and practice.
XI. NEXT MEETING
The next meeting will be on July 8, 1988, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at The Veronica M. Driscoll Center for Nursing.

XII. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Cynthia Mainwright
Chairperson

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NYSCA PARLIAMENTARIAN CONCERNING THE APPROPRIATE ROLE OF A BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Excerpts from ANA Bylaws

Article XIII, Section 1.

1. The Committee on Bylaws shall receive proposed amendments at least 180 days prior to an annual meeting of the House of Delegates ...
2. Amendments proposed by the Committee on Bylaws for action by the House of Delegates shall be submitted to the ANA secretary and appended to the official notice of the meeting of the House of Delegates.

Parliamentary Advice

Since the only way of giving notice of proposed amendments to the ANA Bylaws is through the Committee on Bylaws, it seems reasonable that the Committee on Bylaws cannot refuse to give notice of proposed amendments that are submitted at least 180 days prior to the annual meeting.

The parliamentary authority for this is: Lena La Nele Hardcastle, Parliamentary Law Rules and Procedures for Conducting Conventions, pp. 217-218.

The pages are quoted in full on the attached sheet. Parts which apply particularly to the issue under consideration are underlined.

Attachment
The New York State Nurses Association

Report to the Board of Directors
COMMITTEE ON BYLAWS
January 26-27, 1989

The Committee on Bylaws met on December 5, 1988. All members of the Committee were present.

1. Progress report on work of board committee to consider bylaw provisions for councils

The Committee noted the Board Committee met to consider the adequacy of current bylaw provisions for all NYSNA councils. The Committee noted that in its deliberations the Board Committee reviewed the report of the Committee on Bylaws' March 1988 discussion about bylaw provisions for the Consumer Advisory Council (at the request of that council). The Committee noted that the Board Committee would report to the Board of Directors in January 1989.

The Committee stands ready to assist the Board of Directors as the Board deems necessary.

II. Review and evaluation of bylaws of constituent district nurses associations

The Committee completed its review of the bylaws of one constituent district nurses association, reviewed for the second time the bylaws of two DNAs, and reviewed for the first time the bylaws of the only DNA not yet reviewed by the Committee.

The Committee has reviewed at least once the bylaws of all nineteen of the constituent district nurses associations. The Committee will continue its review of DNA bylaws as district representatives respond to the Committee's reports of findings concerning constituency requirements.
In addition, the Committee continues to extend to district representatives suggestions for bylaw refinements and expressions of the Committee's willingness to assist district bylaws committees in their work.

Committee on Bylaws
Herbert S. Brown
Ruth W. Harper
Nancy Linger
Nancy Michela
Ann Marie Treanor,
Chairperson