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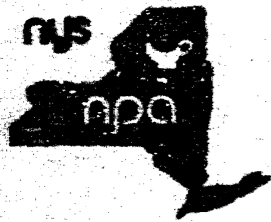
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#150

NYS NA/PNA

AUG 3 1988



New York State Nurses for Political Action

314 West 53rd Street
New York, NY 10019

June 25, 1988

Ms. Martha Orr, MN, RN
Executive Director
New York State Nurses' Association
2113 Western Avenue
Guilderland, New York 12084

Dear Ms. Orr:

I am writing to you on behalf of New York State Nurses for Political Action to request your assistance in planning our activities for the NYSNA convention in October. NYS-NPA board member, Diana Mason has done some preliminary work on our convention and has been in contact with Jackie Negri. Following those preliminary discussions it was our understanding that the Concorde's unique set-up limited our fundraising options.

During convention each year what is of greatest importance to NYS-NPA is our ability to raise money. This money is used as you know, to support educational and political activities. This is of course an election year and it therefore is one which requires successful fundraising.

The specific areas that we are seeking the assistance of NYSNA to help us with are as follows:

- 1) Waiving the cost of booth space for NYS-NPA
- 2) Providing an opportunity for NYS-NPA to do a challenge from the convention floor preferably not on the last day of convention since many members will not be present

NYS-NPA plans to do a "silent auction" from the booth. This is a fundraising mechanism which does not normally result in the returns that other types of fundraising activities do. For this reason, it is extremely important that an event such as the challenge be successful.

I appreciate your time and attention regarding this matter. Our requests if granted, will enhance our overall ability to have a measurable impact statewide.



New York State Nurses for Political Action

314 West 53rd Street
New York, NY 10019

Ms. Martha Orr
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NYS-NPA appreciates the support that we have received from NYSNA. Without a doubt our working together is a critical component of the strategy needed to realize legislative successes for nursing in New York State. I look forward to hearing from you. I may be reached at work Monday through Friday at (716) 263-5972 or at (716)263-6000 page. Feel free to contact me at my home if necessary (315)986-2431.

Sincerely,

Karen Duffy-Durnin
Karen Duffy-Durnin, R.N., M.S.
Chairperson

cc: Dr. Juanita Hunter
Dr. Diana Mason
Dr. Madeline Nagle
Jacki Negri

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NYS NA/PNA

Martha L. Orr, MN, RN
Executive Director



Constituent of The American
Nurses Association

NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, N.Y. 12084, (518) 456-5371

August 3, 1988

Karen Duffy-Durnin, MS, RN
Chairperson
New York State Nurses for Political Action
314 West 53rd. Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Ms. Duffy-Durnin:

Thank you for your letter concerning NYS-NPA's plans for activities during the NYSNA convention in October. Before I can respond to your request to do a fund-raising challenge from the convention floor, I will need to discuss the convention agenda with Dr. Hunter. She is away on vacation until August 15th, so I will have to delay a response on that request until our meeting.

Your request regarding the cost of exhibit booth space is a bit more complicated than it first appears. As you might imagine, we are asked by numerous groups to waive this fee. In the past, such waivers have been very sparingly given since the exhibits constitute an important source of revenue for the Association. Various charitable organizations, public interest groups, religious organizations, and other nurses associations have made similar requests.

In addition, there is a real cost to the Association for each exhibit, a cost related to charges by the exhibit decorator and site facility. A total waiver of fees would ultimately mean that the Association would not only forego revenue but would also incur those fixed costs.

In the interests of being fair to all those who request free exhibit space, I have adopted the following policy:

(1.) The purpose of the exhibit requested must be consistent with the philosophy, mission, and purposes of the Association.

(2.) The applicant for complimentary exhibit space must be a group/association/or other not-for-profit entity for whom the exhibit registration fees would constitute a financial burden.



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Karen Duffy-Durnin
August 3, 1988
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(3.) The exhibitor must pay the actual costs (to the Association) of the exhibit.

(4.) Complimentary space will be assigned, if available, to exhibitors on a "first come, first served" basis after all paid exhibitors have been accommodated. The location and size of complimentary exhibit space will be determined by the Association.

(5.) The Association reserves the right to cancel complimentary exhibit space if paid exhibitors apply for the space, up to three weeks before the convention.

The actual cost of a standard exhibit at this year's convention is expected to be \$65. Therefore, subject to the policy as described above, I will be pleased to offer you exhibit space for \$65.

On another subject altogether, may I remind you that NYS-NPA has not yet formally requested release of the Association's 1987-1988 contribution of \$5000. As in past years, a written request for release of the contribution is necessary in order for the Association to have documentation of the intent of NYS-NPA to expend the contribution ONLY for political education and organizational support. NYSNA contributions cannot be used for support of specific political candidates. Since NYSNA's fiscal year ended July 31, it is essential that we expend this money immediately if we are to comply with auditor's requirements. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the letter you sent last year.

I'm looking forward to meeting with you sometime within the next several weeks. As soon as Dr. Hunter returns from vacation, we will call you to discuss scheduling.

Sincerely,

Martha L. Orr
Executive Director

→cc: Juanita K. Hunter
Madeline A. Naegle

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NYS NA/PNA

Martha L. Orr, MN, RN
Executive Director



Constituent of The American
Nurses Association

NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, N.Y. 12084, (518) 456-5371

DATE: August 5, 1988
TO: JKH
FROM: MLO
RE: NYS-NPA

In preparation for the meeting with NYS-NPA, I have compiled the attached background information for your review.

Karen Duffy-Durnin cannot meet on August 22nd. Please call me or Kim to discuss alternative dates.

ker



Martha L. Orr, MN, RN
Executive Director



Constituent of The American
Nurses Association

NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, N.Y. 12084, (518) 456-5371

February 2, 1988

Karen Duffy-Durnin, RN MS
Chairperson
New York State Nurses for Political Action
5718 Allen-Padgham Road
Macedon, NY 14502

Dear Karen:

It seems like a very long time since the October convention, and perhaps even longer to the next one, but I think there are still some loose ends that need to be resolved vis a vis NPA's requests of NYSNA.

Specifically, we have begun our program planning for the convention, October 16-19 at the Concord Resort. If NPA wants to plan for some kind of challenge fundraiser during a break of the voting body, I need to know this as soon as possible. Also, it would be good to plan any other event as far in advance as possible since the convention schedule becomes "set in stone" early in the Spring.

I'm not sure where we stand with respect to the other requests which you advanced, so I'll risk a repeat of the answers previously communicated. We would be pleased to include an article in Report describing NYS-NPA. There would be no cost for this. If you would like to include information about the Senate District Coordinators, along with a request to have interested nurses contact NYS-NPA, this can also be done. The next issue of Report for which such an article would be possible is the March-April issue. The deadline for receipt of copy for that issue is February 22.

If you wish to request mailing labels for all or any part of the NYSNA membership, you may request the labels by letter, enclosing an exact copy of any material you wish to mail. Current Board policy requires payment for all mailing labels (\$85 for data processing, five cents/label). If you wish to request a waiver of the charges for the labels, send a letter to President Juanita Hunter. For your information, NYSNA legal counsel has advised that any such waiver be treated as an additional donation to NYS-NPA.



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February 2, 1988
Duffy-Durnin
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Finally, I'm enclosing a copy of the detailed letter of last January which explains some of the complexities surrounding these questions. Also enclosed is a small packet of materials related to rental of NYSNA mailing labels.

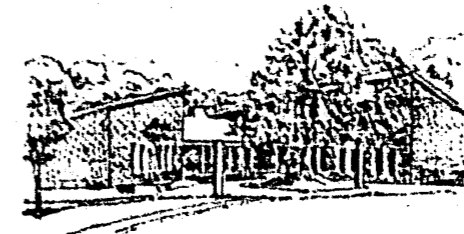
Please call me if you have any questions or need any further information. I hope this will be helpful to you and to NYS-NPA.

Sincerely,

Martha

Martha L. Orr
Executive Director

Martha L. Orr, MN, RN
Executive Director



Constituent of The American
Nurses Association

NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, N.Y. 12084, (518) 456-5371

POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR RENTAL OF NYSNA LABELS

This is in response to your request for permission to rent mailing labels of NYSNA's nurses.

Pressure sensitive or cheshire (3-up or 4-up) labels are available in zip code or alphabetic order. Selection can be made from the specialty areas of gerontologic, gynecologic-obstetric, medical-surgical, pediatric-parent child health, psychiatric-mental health, community health, and/or primary care practitioners; by position title; or in settings where nurses practice., i.e., hospital, nursing home, school of nursing, etc.

Educational preparation can be included as a criteria for specialty area selection above - i.e., diploma, associate degree, BSN, MSN, Doctorate. Labels can be ordered for selected areas of New York State by indicating counties needed rather than a statewide list which comprises a total membership of 31,000 nurses.

Costs are \$85.00 for computer processing and .05c per label. An approximate 50% of total cost deposit (or \$85.00 minimum deposit) is required at the time the order is placed. (More than two sorts, i.e., 1) area of specialization and 2) geographic area, could increase computer processing charge.) To order, complete and sign the enclosed rental agreement. Return the signed agreement together with:

.Sample of material to be mailed (Processing of your order is dependent upon NYSNA's approval of contents of mailing.)

.Completed Membership List Request (outlining your order), and

.Appropriate Deposit

Only upon receipt of all of the above will your order be scheduled, if approved. (Approval process is approximately 3 days.)

Once scheduled your order will be processed approximately 3 weeks following approval of mailing contents.



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NYS NA/PNA

THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
NYSNA MEMBERSHIP LIST RENTAL AGREEMENT

The New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) agrees to rent its membership list to the below listed organization. This rental does not constitute, or in any way imply an endorsement, referral or recommendation of any product or service.

Name of Company: _____

Address: _____

The following terms and conditions apply to the rental:

1. The renter is expressly prohibited from selling, reproducing, trading, re-renting or otherwise allowing the use of the membership list to any person, organization, corporation or other entity without written permission from NYSNA.
2. The rental price for one time use of the NYSNA membership list is \$.05 per name and an \$85 processing charge.
3. Rental of this membership list is authorized on a one-time basis only. The renter is permitted to send only one mailing to each member; unless the member responds affirmatively to the initial mailing.
4. If enforcement of this agreement becomes necessary, the renter agrees to pay all costs.
5. This agreement will remain in effect for one year beginning on the date below.

I (renter) acknowledge that I have read the above terms and conditions and agree to abide by them.

(Signature)

(Name) please print

(Date)

(Title)

RRS/jm1
4/24/86
Revised 9/24/86

Martha L. Orr, MN, RN
Executive Director



Constituent of The American
Nurses Association

NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, N.Y. 12084, (516) 456-5371

MEMBERSHIP LIST REQUEST

Brief Description of Order: _____

BILL TO: _____

SHIP TO: _____
(if different from above) _____

TYPE OF LABEL: _____ 3-up PRESSURE SENSITIVE (gummed)
_____ 4-up Cheshire labels (generally used by mailing houses)

ORDER: _____ ZIP CODE OR _____ ALPHABETICAL NUMBER OF SETS: _____

DATE NEEDED: _____ (anticipated mail date) CONTACT PERSON: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Unless otherwise directed, all orders are shipped UPS.
Express Mail must be requested and requires additional charges.



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NYS NA/PNA

January 20, 1987

Diana Mason
455 West 44th Street
New York, NY 10036

Dear Diana:

This will respond to the request made by yourself and others in attendance at the meeting of ANA Congressional District Coordinators with me during the Association's Convention in Lake Placid. I apologize for the delay in response; it was necessary to do some research and consultation on the issues you raised.

As you know, there were a variety of very complex issues put "on the table" at that meeting, including Association support for the work of the CDCs and SDCs, the nature of political action and the relationship of the Association to Nurses for Political Action. I continue to find it difficult to respond to your questions in generalities, but I believe it may be helpful to summarize a few key points.

As I understand the purpose and functions of CDCs, they are to "work with the American Nurses' Association to keep abreast of the issues of interest to professional nurses currently before Congress. CDCs also work with all of the nurses in the congressional district, initiating and coordinating their political activity on legislation and elections." (See letter from Eunice Cole, attached.) Thus, it is clear to me that the activities of CDCs encompass activities that are political education, lobbying on legislation of concern to nurses, and political action directed to the election of pro-nursing candidates.

It also appears to me that these activities involve substantial overlap with the stated purposes and functions of Nurses for Political Action. In fact, I believe it would be helpful to complete the enclosed reference paper with a third column on the CDC program of ANA.

This Association must be governed in its decisions by provisions of New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, applicable labor laws, and the Internal Revenue Code. I would like to comment on a few provisions of those laws which would influence Association decisions pertaining to political activities of CDCs and PACs.

Diana Mason

January 20, 1987

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The Association is exempt from taxation as a "business league" under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(6):

Business leagues, chambers of commerce, real-estate boards, boards of trade, or professional football leagues (whether or not administering a pension fund for football players), not organized for profit and no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

While nothing in this section precludes the Association from engaging in any political activity, the Taft-Hartley Act, under which the Association operates as a "labor organization", contains this restriction in section 304:

Sec. 304. Section 313 of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act, 1925 (U.S.C., 1940 edition, title 2, sec. 251; Supp. V, title 50, App., sec. 1509), as amended, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 313. It is unlawful for any national bank, or any corporation organized by authority of any law of Congress to make a contribution or expenditure in connection with any election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election or political convention or caucus held to select candidates for any political office, or for any corporation whatever, or any labor organization to make a contribution or expenditure in connection with any election at which Presidential and Vice Presidential electors or a Senator or Representative in, or a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to Congress are to be voted for, or in connection with any primary election or political convention or caucus held to select candidates for any of the foregoing offices, or for any candidate, political committee, or other person to accept or receive any contribution prohibited by this section. Every corporation or labor organization which makes any contribution or expenditure in violation of this section shall be fined not more than \$5,000; and every officer or director of any corporation, or officer of any labor organization, who consents to any contribution or expenditure by the corporation or labor organization, as the case may be, in violation of this section shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. For the purposes of this section "labor organization" means any organization of any kind, or any agency or employee representation committee or plan, in which employees participate and which exists for the purposes, in whole or in part, of dealing with employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours of employment, or conditions of work.

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Diana Mason

January 20, 1987

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While this provision does not preclude a labor organization from establishing a separate segregated fund to be utilized for political purposes, under the Federal Election Campaign Act there must be strict segregation of the fund's monies from labor organization dues and assessments. And, in soliciting for donations, the labor organization must make it clear that such donations are for political purposes and strictly voluntary. However, if Association publications and other resources are used to solicit these voluntary contributions, the cost to the Association of doing so is open to challenge by objecting members, and subject to labor organization dues rebate requirements.

Section 208.3 of the New York Public Employees' Fair Employment Act (The Taylor Law), permits a labor organization to receive an agency shop fee from a non-member, provided, the labor organization:

...has established and maintained a procedure providing for the refund to any employee demanding the return any part of an agency shop fee deduction which represents the employee's pro rata share of expenditures by the organization in aid of activities or causes only incidentally related to terms and conditions of employment.

Pursuant to this requirement, the Association must certify any monies expended on political or ideological activities and return to those nurses who request it their pro-rata share of those funds.

As far as the Association's Incorporation Certificate is concerned, it does not appear to encompass or authorize partisan political activity as a corporate "purpose". Thus, under sections 203 and 720 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, an objecting member could bring a lawsuit against the Association to enjoin such activities.

In considering the entire issue of Association participation in partisan political activities, the NYSNA Board of Directors identified these implications for the Association: (a) involvement by the Association in "partisan political-social" activities appears unrelated or even contradictory to its primary organizational nature and purpose; (b) such involvement could pose serious legal and organizational problems for the Association; and (c) these unrelated activities require financial and time commitments which could subject the Association to charges of failure to give proper attention to professional issues, failure to carry out its responsibilities, failure to represent all its members and other similar charges. (See statement attached.)

Putting all of this together, my conclusions are that (1) existing policy of the Board of Directors precludes the Association's financial or other participation in political action i.e., political campaigns, endorsements, and the like; (2) the Association is firmly committed to support for political

Diana Mason

January 20, 1987

Page Four

education of nurses and to Nurses for Political Action; (3) there is not contraindication for the Association's work with and support of activities of Congressional District Coordinators insofar as either political education and/or lobbying are concerned.

I think it is important to add, however, that what remains unclear to me is the appropriate role of this Association in funding activities of CDCs/SCDs which are extensions of the American Nurses' Association's political education program. I also remain unclear as to the nature of the relationship of the CDC network to ANA-PAC and NPA. I have asked ANA for clarification of the role and functions of the CDC network.

Guided by the above information and conclusions, I have the following comments to make on your specific requests:

- (1) Janet Mance is the designated staff resource to work with the CDCs. She will continue to work with the ANA to identify suitable CDCs. She will continue to respond to requests for information to assist the CDCs.
- (2) The Association will print in Report an article on the role and functions of the CDCs, along with a list of vacant positions for CDCs and a request for expression of members' interests in being appointed to CDC positions. Would you like to write this article?
- (3) The availability of Association mailing labels will be guided by the policy of the Board of Directors. (See attached.) The appropriate procedure is to send a request in writing for the desired labels to Janet Palombo, Director of Membership Services. Ms. Palombo will advise you of the number of labels involved and the fee required. If you wish to request an exception to the policy for a direct mailing to NYSNA members to solicit funds for CDC activities, please send a written request along with a sample of the material to be mailed to me. If such funds are to be utilized for support of political candidates rather than for political education of nurses, please be sure to indicate this. You may wish to consider an advertisement in Report as another vehicle for such a solicitation.
- (4) I will ask the Association's legal counsel for an opinion on the permissibility of publishing information concerning political races in the Association's publications. I expect that this issue will be more difficult to address and will require an assessment of the potential risks and benefits to the Association.

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NYS NA/PNA

Diana Mason

January 20, 1987

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- (5) If you wish to ask for the Association's financial support for a yearly meeting of the CDCs, please submit the request in writing, including a statement as to the amount of support anticipated. The Finance Committee and Board of Directors could consider that request at its March meeting.

I hope that this is responsive to the specific requests presented at our meeting. If you wish to present other requests, you may wish to ask for this subject to be placed on the agenda of a future Board of Directors' meeting. Please understand that the Association applauds and respects the work of the CDCs and wishes to assist in any responsible way.

Sincerely yours,

Martha L. Orr, MN, RN
Executive Director

NLO/lm

cc: Ellen M. Burns
Juanita K. Hunter
Pat Ford-Roegner
Judy Leavitt
Sally Solomon
Connie Vance

bcc: JPM

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NYS NA/PNA

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**NYSNA BOARD REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO AND SUPPORT OF NYS-NPA
NYS-NPA DECLINES JOINT TASK FORCE PARTICIPATION**

In light of current confusion and controversy surrounding the Association's relationship with New York State Nurses for Political Action, the NYSNA Board of Directors directed publication of:

- I. Its statement on the relationship;
- II. Events subsequent to formulation of that statement;
- III. Summary of major issues.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RE: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
AND NEW YORK STATE NURSES FOR POLITICAL ACTION**

EVOLUTION OF NYSNA - NYS-NPA RELATIONSHIP

From its inception the New York State Nurses Association has believed strongly in active nurse participation in political processes. The very purpose of the Association's founding was to secure legal recognition of nursing as a profession. Obviously, achievement of legislative objectives is dependent upon the efforts of nurses highly skilled in and knowledgeable about the political as well as the legislative process. However, as an organization responsible to society at large as well as to the nursing profession, the Association did not and could not engage in "partisan politics" in the conduct of its legislative program.

In keeping with changing political and social trends in recent years, an increasing number of organizations began to establish political action committees as a means of directly influencing the positions of individual politicians on issues of special interest. A major purpose of these PACs involved endorsement and financial support of individual political candidates.

In 1971, as a result of Governor Nelson Rockefeller's veto of the Association's proposed legal definition of nursing practice, a group of NYSNA members in Districts 13 and 14 proposed establishment of "Nurses for Political Action." These nurses sought NYSNA's response to this idea and advice regarding the appropriate relationship between the professional organization and the proposed political action group. NYSNA representatives heartily endorsed the establishment of "Nurses for Political Action," which at the outset was conceived as a national network.

At that time those nurses who founded NPA and NYSNA representatives agreed that:

- (a) it was in the best interests of both NYSNA and NPA to be formally independent; and
- (b) NPA would support candidates who supported NYSNA's legislative goals. Some time after NPA had become operational and functional, ANA had decided to establish an official political action arm and eventually NPA ceased to function as NPA and became instead N-CAP - ANA's political action arm. ANA and N-CAP then began to encourage all SNAs to establish state political action committees.

Written guidelines were distributed and, in the case of New York, N-CAP offered financial support of initial organizing efforts. NYSNA members formerly active in NPA joined N-CAP's support of establishment of a state PAC. At initial organizing meetings in May 1976, however, supporters of the New York State PAC emphasized their desire not to be perceived as too closely associated with NYSNA because they believed the PAC could attract the interest and support of large numbers of nurses who for a variety of reasons do not belong to or support NYSNA. NYSNA Board representatives at these meetings concurred in the need for independence on the part of both organizations. As a result, NYS-NPA Bylaws, unlike the bylaws of many other State PACs, do not provide for interlocking directorates with NYSNA or for control of NYS-NPA by the NYSNA Board of Directors.

NYS-NPA is not now and has never been a structural unit within NYSNA. Nonetheless, consistent with the model recommended by ANA and N-CAP, it has been described as NYSNA's official political action arm. NYSNA has provided financial and administrative support services to NYS-NPA. Liaison has been maintained through the Association's Legislative Program and through communication between the NYSNA Board of Directors and the NYS-NPA Board of Trustees.

RE-EXAMINATION OF RELATIONSHIP

In recent months the Association has received an increasing number of requests or complaints regarding its involvement or non-involvement in a variety of activities falling within the broad category of "partisan
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NYS NA/PNA

political-social" action. At its September 11-12, 1978 meeting the NYSNA Board of Directors considered the implications of this trend for the Association.

The inherent question posed in these requests and complaints focused on the appropriateness of the Association's involvement in certain "special interest" or "single issue" activities of a primarily partisan political, social, religious or moral nature. In addition, the fact that some of these interests or issues have been or may be addressed by the New York State Nurses for Political Action raised a further question regarding the relationship between the Association and the New York State Nurses for Political Action.

In its comprehensive exploration of the matter the Board of Directors identified these implications for the Association:

- (a) involvement by the Association in "partisan political-social" activities appears unrelated or even contradictory to its primary organizational nature and purpose;
- (b) such involvement could pose serious legal and organizational problems for the Association; and
- (c) these "unrelated" activities require financial and time commitments which could subject the Association to charges of failure to give proper attention to professional issues, failure to carry out its responsibilities, failure to represent all its members and other similar charges.

In addition, the Board formulated this analysis of the Association's role vis-a-vis professional issues and activities and "partisan political-social" issues and activities:

A. Professional Issues and Activities

The primary purpose of the organization is to attend to professional affairs within the context of its obligation to society at large. The Association has the obligation to encourage nurses as professionals to participate in the collective affairs of the profession and thereby take collective positions on professional issues. By its nature, the Association then has the right to assume these professional positions on behalf of its members.

B. "Partisan Political-Social" Issues and Activities

By their very nature, partisan social, political, religious, moral and ethical issues are matters of individual conscience, belief or preference. The Association has the obligation to encourage nurses to exercise their responsibilities as citizens to participate in "partisan political-social" activities. However, by its nature, the Association has neither the responsibility nor the right to impose particular social or political positions upon its members. Adoption by the Association of partisan positions on these issues extends beyond the Association's primary purpose for existence and results in alienation of individuals or groups of members and in further divisiveness within an already fragmented nursing community.

SUBSEQUENT ACTION AND RATIONALE

Upon completion of its exploration the Board concluded that in the interest of organizational integrity and perpetuity resolution of requests or complaints of a "partisan political-social" nature must be in keeping with the primary nature and purpose of the Association. The Board further concluded that despite the Association's firm belief that nurses should become more politically astute and more active in the political arena, and despite the Association's wholehearted endorsement of the activities and accomplishments of New York State Nurses for Political Action, it has become clear that official identification of NYS-NPA as NYSNA's political action arm is a source of confusion and controversy regarding the primary nature and purpose of both NYSNA and NYS-NPA. Therefore,

ACTION The NYSNA Board of Directors unanimously rendered the opinion that it is not in the best interest of either NYSNA or NYS-NPA that NYSNA have an official political action arm.

NYS-NPA was advised of the Board's action and following communications between representatives of both groups it was agreed that the NYSNA Board of Directors and the NYS-NPA Board of Trustees would meet jointly to again consider the relationship between the two organizations. The joint Board meeting was held on October 16, 1978 and the discussion was direct, earnest and forthright on both sides. The NYSNA Board reiterated and reaffirmed its position that it is not in the best interest of either NYSNA or NYS-NPA that NYSNA have an official political action arm. The NYS-NPA Board reiterated its concern over the NYSNA Board position and requested reconsideration of the position. In addition, the NYS-NPA Board stated that it was introducing a resolution on the matter to the NYSNA Voting Body. *continued next page*

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NYS NA/PNA

BY THE 1978 VOTING BODY

At the October 1978 NYSNA Convention, the New York State Nurses for Political Action presented to the Voting Body a resolution entitled "Re-establishment of New York State Nurses for Political Action within NYSNA's Organizational Structure." The resolve stated:

That it is the sense of the Voting Body that NYSNA give favorable consideration to:

- a) Re-establishing a formal affiliation with New York State Nurses for Political Action;
- b) Supporting the activities of New York State Nurses for Political Action, both philosophically and financially, within the limits of the laws; and
- c) Establishing a joint Task Force of NYSNA and NYS-NPA to implement a) and b).

Following a lengthy and vigorous debate, the Voting Body approved the resolution by a vote of: 182 yes; 104 no; 3 abstentions.

NYSNA BOARD POSITION

At its November 20, 1978 meeting the NYSNA Board of Directors considered the resolution passed by the 1978 NYSNA Voting Body on the matter of the New York State Nurses for Political Action. Following a lengthy and concerned discussion the Board of Directors re-emphasized and re-affirmed: (1) its unequivocal support for increased involvement by individual nurses in "partisan political-social" activities through mechanisms or forums of their choice; (2) its deep conviction that involvement in such activities by NYSNA extends beyond the scope of its central purpose and nature and jeopardizes its organizational integrity and perpetuity; and (3) its strong opinion, based on its corporate responsibility, that it is not in the best interest of either NYSNA or NYS-NPA that NYSNA have an official political action arm.

Therefore, the Board of Directors took the following action in response to the resolution passed by the Voting Body that NYSNA give favorable consideration to:

- a) Re-establishing a formal affiliation with New York State Nurses for Political Action

ACTION (1) Clarified for the record the point that NYS-NPA is not now and has never been a structural unit within NYSNA.
(2) Authorized that NYSNA not have an official political action arm.
(3) Directed that NYS-NPA be strongly encouraged to continued to function as an independent political action committee.

- b) Supporting the activities of New York State Nurses for Political Action, both philosophically and financially, within the limits of the laws

ACTION (1) Directed that through implementation of NYSNA's legislative program nurses be encouraged to (a) be knowledgeable about the political as well as the legislative process and (b) assist candidates for political office and elected officials in understanding and supporting the Association's legislative goals.
(2) Requested that NYS-NPA clarify the particular aspects of political action for which NYS-NPA assumes responsibility.
(3) Directed that NYSNA through its legislative program continue its liaison relationship with NYS-NPA.
(4) Directed that in keeping with the Association's obligation to encourage nurses to exercise their responsibilities as citizens, every NYSNA member be informed of the existence of NYS-NPA and of

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the opportunity to voluntarily join and contribute to NYS-NPA.

(5) Reaffirmed its philosophical support of NYS-NPA's goals and objectives and authorized financial support for NYS-NPA's political education activities to the extent consistent with NYSNA policies and resources as well as applicable law.

c) Establishing a joint Task Force of NYSNA and NYS-NPA to implement a) and b)

ACTION (1) Approved establishment of a joint Task Force of NYSNA and NYS-NPA to implement Board action on a) and b) of the resolution and to explore future relationships.
(2) Directed that its Executive Committee constitute NYSNA representation on the joint Task Force and that a joint meeting be sought with NYS-NPA as soon as possible.

II. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO FORMULATION OF NYSNA BOARD STATEMENT

JOINT NYSNA - NYS-NPA MEETING TO DISCUSS NYSNA STATEMENT

At its January 12, 1979 meeting the NYSNA Board of Directors adopted the foregoing statement re: "Relationship Between the New York State Nurses Association and New York State Nurses for Political Action" and directed its Executive Committee to meet with NYS-NPA to present the Board's position and to serve as NYSNA's representatives on the proposed joint Task Force.

The Executive Committee met with the NYS-NPA representatives on the afternoon of January 12 and President Hageman presented the Board's position. The NYS-NPA representatives expressed serious concern that the NYSNA Board position "undermines the intent" of the Voting Body resolution because it calls for NYSNA and NYS-NPA functioning as independent groups. Further, NYS-NPA representatives reiterated their previous statements that they "do not intend to continue in existence as an independent political action committee" and stated they see no point in establishing a joint Task Force given the NYSNA Board position.

The NYSNA Executive Committee emphasized that the position statement clearly conforms to the Voting Body resolution's call for:

- (a) philosophical and financial support of NYS-NPA by NYSNA; and
- (b) exploration of future NYSNA and NYS-NPA relationships.

The Executive Committee also emphasized that the Voting Body resolution cannot be taken out of context and that NYSNA's participation in the joint Task Force must be consistent with Association policy.

NYS-NPA Acting Chairperson Mary Foley stated that, in the opinion of the NYS-NPA representatives impasse had been reached and that following discussion with the NYS-NPA Board of Trustees a decision would be made whether to participate in the joint Task Force.

DECISION OF THE NYS-NPA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On March 27, 1979 NYSNA President Hageman received a letter from NYS-NPA Acting Chairperson Mary Foley informing him that:

- (1) "The Board of Trustees of NYS-NPA met on January 31, 1979 to consider the action taken by the NYSNA Board on the October 1978 resolution and the discussions of January 12, 1979;
 - (2) It was the considered opinion of the NYS-NPA Board that the January 12, 1979 Board action fails to address the extent of the resolution passed by the 1978 NYSNA voting membership;
 - (3) It was, therefore, unanimously decided that NYS-NPA will not participate in the task force proposed by the NYSNA Board since its responsibilities were substantially altered from those proposed in the resolution, specifically in the area of review of reaffiliation;
 - (4) It was also decided by the Board of NYS-NPA that the status as a political action committee be
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maintained, that all campaign-related activities remain in suspension, that political education of nurses continue as a major focus, and that efforts of the NYS-NPA be otherwise directed toward a formal, legal, reaffiliation with NYSNA."

DECISION OF THE NYSNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At its April 5-6, 1979 meeting the NYSNA Board of Directors reviewed the January 31, 1979 decision of NYS-NPA Board of Trustees and took this action:

- (1) commended the decision to maintain the status of NYS-NPA as a political action committee;
- (2) expressed strong disappointment regarding the decision to continue suspension of all campaign-related activities;
- (3) commended the decision to continue political education activities;
- (4) expressed strong disappointment regarding the decision not to participate in the Joint Task Force;
- (5) reaffirmed its January 12, 1979 position statement;
- (6) reaffirmed NYSNA's philosophical commitment to NYS-NPA through reiteration of its belief in the need for a strong, viable independent political action committee of nurses in New York State and directed that a notice be placed annually in Report informing members of the existence of NYS-NPA and encouraging them to join; and
- (7) reaffirmed NYSNA's financial support of NYS-NPA activities within the limits of applicable law and approved:
 - (a) an annual contribution of \$5,000.00 for NYS-NPA political education activities; and
 - (b) making NYSNA services available to it at cost.

Further, in view of the decision to suspend "all campaign-related activities", our Board questioned the intent or focus of NYS-NPA's decision to continue "political education of nurses". NYSNA's strong support of an independent political action committee is based on its view that there is an urgent need for nurses to become more aware of and involved in political activities and processes. In our Board's view political education extends beyond and encompasses more than legislative processes, issues and activities. NYSNA, through its legislative program, does inform nurses about the legislative process and nursing's goal; but its activities do not and should not include political education. The Board believes that is the particular and unique domain of NYS-NPA. Hence, our question regarding the contemplated focus of your organization's political education of nurses.

III. SUMMARY OF MAJOR ISSUES

- (1) In 1971 NYSNA strongly supported formation of "Nurses for Political Action," the first nursing political action committee in the country. At that time, NPA founders and NYSNA agreed it was in the best interest of both NPA and NYSNA that the two organizations be formally independent. Eventually NPA became N-CAP.
- (2) In 1976 NYSNA encouraged and facilitated the establishment of NYS-NPA. NYS-NPA's bylaws state: "It is a voluntary, unincorporated non-profit organization of nurses and others interested in nursing and health care issues...its functions shall be independent of any organization, association or group...its policies shall be in harmony with but not limited to the goals of the legislative program of the New York State Nurses Association." NYSNA endorsed these bylaws and since NYS-NPA's inception has provided it with financial and administrative support services.
- (3) NYSNA is a professional membership organization. It is responsible for assisting the nurse as a professional to become more aware of and involved in improving nursing practice and nursing care services. The primary goal of these efforts is to assure adequate nursing care for the people of this state.
- (4) NYS-NPA is a political action committee. It is responsible for assisting the nurse as a citizen to become more aware of and involved in political activities and processes. The primary goal of these efforts is to assure increased participation by more nurses in the political and governmental affairs of this state.

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- (5) NYSNA strongly supports NYS-NPA's continued existence and functioning as an independent political action committee. It has repeatedly affirmed this commitment through both philosophical and financial support. However, NYS-NPA has stated it can not or will not function independently and is seeking "formal, legal affiliation" with NYSNA. It is the considered opinion of the NYSNA Board of Directors that the two organizations, because of their distinctive purposes and roles must remain separate and independent. This is essential to permit each to freely do "its own thing".
- (6) NYS-NPA alleges that the NYSNA Board of Directors is "politically naive," that the Association has no "political clout" and that its legislative goals can only be achieved through a different relationship with NYS-NPA. NYSNA is not a political organization; political activity is not its mission or responsibility; its legislative record over 75 years speaks for itself.
- (7) NYSNA urges NYS-NPA to get on with its political responsibilities - teaching and assisting nurses as citizens how to become involved in local political clubs and organizations; teaching them how to become nominated for and elected to office; assisting them in accepting the hard work and realities of knocking on doors, soliciting funds and gaining community visibility and support; teaching them how to get politicians elected or defeated; teaching them how to be an active, progressive citizen in New York State. If NYS-NPA is successful in these efforts, progressive professional legislation such as NYSNA's 1985 Proposal would pass in a breeze.

Independence is not synonymous with isolation or conflict. NYSNA and NYS-NPA as separate organizations can continue to work cooperatively, encouraging nurses to participate more fully in both professional and political affairs.

E&GW NEWS, CONT.

represented by NYSNA have won a lump sum payment for incumbents during the first year of their new two-year contract, with a wage reopener to come in the second year. Salaries for new hires are also much improved by the new pact.

The agreement also provides dramatic major medical coverage improvements, educational differential of up to \$900 for VNS experience and an increased transportation allowance.

NEW OZANAM RNs AWARDED RETROACTIVE MONEY

Three LPNs who had received their RN permits grieved and were awarded proper RN salaries after an NYSNA grievance at Ozanam Hall Nursing Home, Queens. The facility had attempted to continue to the RNs LPN wages.

ST. JOHN'S - ERRATUM

In the last issue of *Report*, the story entitled "Economic Win for St. John's Nurses" concerned St. John's Hospital, Smithtown, not Brooklyn. *Report* regrets the error.

TWO METHODIST RNs WIN LONGEVITY PAY

Two registered professional nurses employed by Methodist Hospital had been demoted into the bargaining unit from management positions and were denied their proper longevity pay.

NYSNA grieved the matter and won the much deserved longevity money for two experienced professionals at the Brooklyn facility.

LARGE TURNOUT FOR NYSNA WORKSHOP

A large audience of registered professional nurses heard Sister Marie Celeste Allen, NYSNA's Nursing Practice and Services Program Director, discuss several pressing practice issues at an NYSNA-sponsored workshop at Maimonides Medical Center on April 30th.

Informed consent, chart documentation, nurse liability and malpractice issues were among the problems addressed.

BOARD ACTION, CONT.

- D. Received progress reports from: (1) Committee to Study District Boundaries; (2) Board Committee to Review Proposed ANA Structural Changes; and (3) Task Force to Study Organizational Implications of the 1985 Proposal.
- E. Directed staff to explore feasibility of pro-rated membership fees for part-time employed nurses.
- F. Authorized Board member Iris Brice to attend the conference sponsored by the ANA Commission on Human Rights as NYSNA's official representative.
- G. Reviewed the response of the NYS-NPA Board of Trustees to its statement on the relationships between the two organizations and: (1) reaffirmed its position; and (2) directed that its statement and action related to statement be published in the next *Report* (see page 6).
- H. Authorized annual membership in Nurses House.
- I. Unanimously approved sponsoring President Hageman's admission to the American Academy of Nurses.