



70th Anniversary Of The Student Nurse Association Of North Carolina

By: Phoebe Pollitt

Abstract

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70th Anniversary of the Student Nurse Association of North Carolina

By NCNA Member Dr. Phoebe Pollitt, RN; Nursing History Council Vice-Chair

The upcoming 2019 NCNA Annual Convention marks 70 years since delegates to the 42nd Convention, held in High Point in 1949, voted to sponsor a statewide Student Nurse Association. Four months later, on February 8, 1950, 136 student nurses and 15 faculty members gathered in High Point for an organizational meeting of the Student Nurse Association of North Carolina (SNANC). Twenty-seven schools of nursing were represented.

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Because the North Carolina State Nurses Association and the North Carolina Association of Negro Registered Nurses, Inc. merged in 1949, the new Student Nurse Association of North Carolina (SNANC) was never segregated and may have been the first pre-professional organization in the state open to all students regardless of race. Dorothy Inscore, a white student at N. C. Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, was elected President and Alberta Leeper, an African American student at Good Samaritan Hospital in Charlotte, was elected first Vice-president.

The group's purposes included promoting interest and participation in the professional nursing organizations; providing opportunities for social contact among student nurses; encouraging student government in schools of nursing; preparing student and new graduate nurses to work on problems affecting nursing and community affairs; providing leadership opportunities at the local, state and national levels; and recruiting young women into the nursing profession.

The first Annual Business Meeting of the SNANC was held with 309 students on Wednesday the 25th, 1950, in conjunction with the 43rd NCSNA Annual Convention in Winston-Salem. The Duke University student nurse glee club opened the meeting and were followed by a keynote address by Dr. Elizabeth Kemble, dean of the new UNC School of Nursing.

SNANC coordinated with the Good Health Association to promote the annual Miss North Carolina Student Nurse pageant for several years. The winner went on a two-week speaking/recruiting tour of high schools across the state. Each Miss North Carolina Student Nurse won an all-expenses-paid week at Wrightsville Beach including a new beach wardrobe in addition to a \$150 scholarship.

The organization grew and prospered. In 1951, SNANC celebrated the first "Student Nurses Week" from May 6-13. In addition to a proclamation from the governor, student nurses across the state were interviewed on radio shows, wrote newspaper articles, spoke in high school classrooms and gave tours of their schools. In 1952 their first publication, *The Hypodermic* was sent to every member.

Today the organization is thriving and known as the North Carolina Association of Nursing Students (NCANS). Over 100 students representing 14 nursing programs attended

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Miss NC Student Nurse Competition, circa 1948 and 1949. From the North Carolina Good Health Association Records, #3550, Southern Historical Collection.

2019-2020 Statewide Elections — Vote Now!

We want you to help choose NCNA's next leaders! Our slate features an outstanding list of qualified candidates for President-elect, Secretary/Treasurer, the newly created Member at Large positions, CAPN chair, the newly created Nominations committee positions, Bylaws chair, and ANA membership assembly. Those on the ballot have already proven their dedication to the association and have a strong desire to lead Nursing Forward®!

Pictured here are our candidates for President-elect, two of our current Regional Directors, Meka Douthit EL and Thompson Forbes. Other information and photos for all candidates can be found in the candidate profile book. If you're planning to join us for NCNA's Annual Convention in Winston-Salem, be sure to stop by the "Meet the Candidates" table and meet them in person!

Online voting began on August 1. We encourage all members to make their voices heard and help shape the future of the association. The voting period goes through 5:45pm on September 19th and the newly elected positions will be sworn in the next day during our statewide membership forum.



Meka Douthit EL



Thompson Forbes

<http://bit.ly/NCNAelections>

The slate of candidates this year features many members who routinely put a lot of time and effort into making NCNA a great organization. We are grateful and optimistic that trend will continue no matter who is elected. For more information — including candidate profiles — and to vote visit <http://bit.ly/NCNAelections>. ■

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the 2019 conference. The *Hypodermic* is published quarterly. Continuing in the traditions of the last 70 years, student nurses continue to recruit new nursing students, assume leadership positions in the profession and advocate political changes benefiting the nursing profession and the health of all North Carolinians.

Are you interested in joining the Nursing History Council? We would love to have you! NCNA members are welcome to join any council they wish. To change your council status, simply update your Member Profile at www.ncnurses.org or email kristingoins@ncnurses.org.

The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the North Carolina Nurses Association or its board of directors. ■

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The North Carolina Drug Card is a statewide prescription assistance program open to all residents of North Carolina. There are no applications, no waiting periods and no enrollment forms to fill out.

Savings can be up to 75% off brand and generic Rx medications at over 68,000 pharmacies nationwide. Every time the card is used in a pharmacy NCNA gets \$1, and you and your family can use the card too! Go here for more information: <http://bit.ly/NCdrugcard>.

