

May 2010

As the year ends, I want to take time to thank all you for getting involved and being members of such a great organization. I want to personally thank the 2009-2010 Executive Board for a great year. We have been meeting by e-mail, phone and face to face throughout the year to bring the best to our members. In financial hard times, we all understand the meaning of a dollar a little more now than before and made it our passion to maximize your membership. To do this it took an enormous amount of effort on everyone's part and I really appreciate the team's exertion. I also want to thank the 2009-2010 conference committee for all of their hard work as well; they too work hard behind the scenes on a daily basis. I am truly blessed to be surrounded by so many wonderful professionals.

We have been very busy this year! To recap we have held 5 continue education dinners, a fall conference, donations to the local food bank, WakeMed Mother's Milk Bank, Family health Ministries (Haiti) which supported a student to attend nursing school, Beginnings (to support those with hearing difficulties), Stadiometer for Durham Health Initiative Project and scholarships for graduate school students. Each year we come up with new ways to improve as an organization. I recently was able to attend our national conference in Chicago and was inspired with new and exciting ideas that were fostered by other fantastic individuals. We changed in a huge way over the past year by uniting with our national organization as one, and we are continuing to foster change with the rest of this year and next! We will be bringing continuing education hours to the eastern part of the state in June, with a Saturday lunch in Wilmington. Then we will end this year with a NC NAPNAP appreciation night at the Durham Bulls in July.

The conference committee has been working hard on change as well! Our next fall conference will be located at the Hilton in Raleigh, starting on a Thursday night. This will increase our continuing education opportunities to over 20 hours! We are also launching a new program starting in the fall. The Ready, Set, Grow project encompasses the roots of nursing and promotes growth from the seed up. We will be adopting a local middle or high school to promote nursing as a profession including offering a merit and need based scholarship to a high school student who is pursuing a nursing degree. We will continue to provide scholarships to graduate students, but in addition we will provide a mentorship program for new graduates to help ease them into our wonderful profession. We are adding members to the board to include a student representative, as well as a representative from the western and eastern part of the state. We are planning to hold two Saturday conferences next year, one in the mountain region in the fall and the other in Wilmington for the spring. This is just the beginning of what we have planned.

As I said before, I was inspired at the national conference and I want to challenge each and every one of you. The keynote speaker spoke of change, and how changing the world starts with one. I challenge all of you to change one! Change yourself by getting involved with the chapter, rather it be a mentor to a new graduate, a board member, a speaker at a diner, a committee member, or a promoter for the organization by promoting its wealth to you as a person and a professional. I challenge you to change one, and I look forward to seeing that change!

I am happy to end a great year and am thrilled about the future! What a great opportunity it has been to serve such a great organization.

Thank you for this continued wonderful opportunity!

Michelle Schweitzer, President
North Carolina Chapter of NAPNAP