

Finding Your Political Pulse: A Nurse's Guide to Legislative Advocacy

NYSNA Continuing Education

The New York State Nurses Association is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

This program has been awarded .50 contact hours. In order to receive contact hours participants must view the on-demand webinar in entirety and submit an evaluation. Contact hours will be awarded until March 26, 2016.

All American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) accredited organizations' contact hours are recognized by all other ANCC accredited organizations. Most states with mandatory continuing education requirements recognize the ANCC accreditation/approval system. Questions about the acceptance of ANCC contact hours to meet mandatory regulations should be directed to the Professional licensing board within that state.

NYSNA has been granted provider status by the Florida State Board of Nursing as a provider of continuing education in nursing (Provider number 50-1437).

No commercial support was received.

How to Take This Course

Please take a look at the steps below. These will help you to progress through the on-demand module, complete the course examination and receive your certificate of completion.

1. REVIEW THE OBJECTIVES

The objectives provide an overview of the webinar and identify what information will be covered. Objectives are stated in terms of what you, the learner, will know or be able to do upon conclusion of the presentation. They let you know what you should expect to learn by viewing this particular webinar and can help you focus your study.

2. WATCH THE WEBINAR

View the recorded webinar in its entirety.

3. COMPLETE THE COURSE EXAM

After watching the webinar, click on the "Course Exam" option located on the course navigation toolbar. Answer each question by clicking on the button corresponding to the correct answer. All questions must be answered before the test can be graded; there is only one correct answer per question.

HINT! You can print and review the exam questions before viewing the webinar and answer the questions as you move through the webinar. Just remember to submit your final answers online.

4. GRADE THE TEST

Next, click on "Submit Test." You will know immediately whether you passed or failed. If you do not successfully complete the exam on the first attempt, you may take the exam again. If you do not pass the exam on your second attempt, you will need to purchase the program again.

5. FILL OUT THE EVALUATION FORM

Upon passing the course exam you will be prompted to complete an evaluation. You will have access to the certificate of completion after you complete the evaluation. At this point, you should print the certificate and keep it for your records.

Introduction

The practice of nursing is greatly impacted by the laws and regulations put in place by our state government. This legislative process greatly affects health care today. Budget changes, patient satisfaction scores, and staffing ratios directly impact quality health care. It is vital for all nurses to be aware of what legislative issues are at the forefront of their nursing practice.

Registered nurses must learn the process of influencing our decision makers who support or oppose legislation that impacts our profession. Becoming empowered to address these issues and communicating knowledge to peers is the first step in impacting our legislative process. Lawmakers need to hear our stories, our concerns and personal knowledge in order for important legislative priorities be supported and become laws.

Webinar Objectives

At the conclusion of this webinar, the learner will be able to:

- Describe your role as an advocate for registered nurses.
- Identify past legislative victories for registered nurses.
- Apply lobbying techniques to conduct a successful meeting with your legislators.

About the Presenter/Authors

Sally Dreslin, MA, MS, RN

Sally is currently an Associate Director, Policy in the Strategic Research, Policy & Labor Education Department at the New York State Nurses Association. In this role she reviews legislation and health policies to assess their impact on the nursing profession, nursing education, labor relations and on patient care. She writes memos and policy documents that communicate the Nurses Association's positions; educates legislators and policymakers on issues pertaining to the nursing profession and to patient care, and represents the Nurses Association in various statewide coalitions.

Prior to her governmental affairs work, Sally was a Nurse Educator, both hospital-based and at the Nurses Association.

Kristin Salvi

Ms. Salvi is an Assistant Director in the Political and Community Organizing Department at NYSNA. In the recent past she has worked in the development of the online course, *Political and Legislative Activity: Why Nurses MUST Be Involved*, offered on the e-learn™ web site. Ms. Salvi has worked closely with the New York State Legislature for over three years and with NYSNA's legislative and lobbying efforts for the past five years.

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Ms. Cashman-Peck was instrumental in both the content development and presentation design of the webinar.

The presenters have declared they have no vested interests.

Recorded: April 8, 2013

Duration: 16 minutes

The recording may be accessed from:

<https://nysna.webex.com/nysna/lsr.php?RCID=7f64d8f882706cd5177f9eacc9b0fcd9>

Resources

The following list of resources was compiled from the webinar.

New York State Nurses Association

Political and Community Organizing Department

Phone: 800-724-6976 ext. 283

E-mail: legislative@nysna.org

Web site: www.nysna.org

References

Please refer to the Resources page for further information.

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Course Exam

After viewing the on-demand webinar, please select the best answer to the questions below.

Note: Contact hours will be awarded for this online course until **March 26, 2016**.

1. New York's Nurse Practice Act was enacted in what year?
 - A. 1970
 - B. 1903
 - C. 1938
 - D. 1988

2. Whistle-blower Protection was enacted to protect health care workers who face retaliation for addressing issues effecting patient outcomes in the workplace.
 - A. True
 - B. False

3. Registered nurses who refuse to work overtime can be charged with patient abandonment.
 - A. True
 - B. False

4. NYSNA's legislative priorities are Safe Staffing and Safe Patient Handling.
 - A. True
 - B. False

5. For a bill to become a law in New York State it must pass through either the Assembly or the Senate with a signature by the Governor.
 - A. True
 - B. False