

Greetings Virginia Nursing Students,

I hope all of you had a smooth transition back into classes and are excited for the upcoming year. Your board of directors has been working very hard this summer to make this year a great one!

This packet contains vital information for your school's Nursing Student Association. If you are on the board of directors, a faculty advisor, or an active member please take the time to read through this packet. It contains newly updated forms and information from the VNSA that will be important to having a successful chapter this year.

This packet contains the following:

- About Us
- Constituency Process and Information
- Chapter Information Form
- Award Information
- Writing Contest Information
- Running for the Board of Directors

In accordance with constituency process, please send chapter bylaws and chapter information to VNSA!! If you have any questions about the application or anything in the packet please email me at vnsapresident@gmail.com or see our website at www.vnsa.us. Please complete the constituency checklist in order to maintain or create constituency status. Thank you and good luck on this school year!

Thank you,

Jessica Montgomery

Jessica Montgomery
VNSA President

About Us

Virginia Nursing Student Association is a student run organization that represents over 1,200 future nurses throughout Virginia. We foster the professional and personal development of student nurses by providing educational resources, leadership opportunities, and career guidance.

Our mission is to advance professional nursing practice through student mentorship, community service, and scholarship.

Benefits of Constituency:

- Scholarship monies and chapter awards
- Leadership opportunities
- Annual state and national conventions
- NCLEX reviews
- *Imprint* - NSNA's magazine. Written, edited and published by nursing students.
- Reduced rates on books, magazines and nursing supplies
- Career Center - visit the [NSNA](#) web site for assistance in planning your career and for links to hospitals with staff positions for new graduates and internships.
- Insurance and student loan programs - NSNA offers low-cost malpractice insurance, affordable health insurance, and a special student loan program just for NSNA members.
- NSNA Partnerships - NSNA members may join participating specialty nursing organizations at reduced dues.
- A voice in Richmond and Washington

MEMBERSHIP:

*To become a single member join the National Student Nurses Association at [nsna.org](#). By joining NSNA you automatically become a member of the VNSA.

*To become a constituent see constituency process form in this packet.

Constituency Process

To be considered for Delegate credentialing at our Annual State Convention, **VNSA must receive a copy of your School's Bylaws by January 15, 2007 .**

There are 3 basic requirements for Constituency status:

1. There are 10 National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) members in the school chapter by the January 15. If your chapter does not have 10 NSNA members by January 15, you will still get one vote at the VNSA convention.
2. The Bylaws must contain the areas of conformity listed in the Official Application for Constituency Status (application is in *Getting the Pieces to Fit*).
2. A school or state officer has signed and submitted the Official Application for Constituency Status and postmarked no later than the annual cutoff date. This form must be filed with the NSNA annually.

Constituency Status entitles your school to:

- Representation in the 2007 House of Delegates on the State and National levels.
- Submit a resolution for consideration by the 2007 Houses of Delegates on the State and National levels.
- Participate in the State and National Awards Program (i.e., Breakthrough to Nursing, Membership, Community health, Legislation/Education, Image of Nursing, Financial Excellence, and more).
- Eligibility for the Precious Metal Awards Program on the State and National levels.

School Membership: State Delegate Count:

1 – 10	1	delegate + corresponding # of Alternates
11 – 20	2	delegates + corresponding # of Alternates
21 – 30	3	delegates, and so on

To start or maintain membership:

- * Send bylaws and chapter information form to VNSA: PO Box 1843 ,
Charlottesville, VA 22903
- * Submit official application for constituency status and bylaws to NSNA. To find this, go to www.nсна.org, click on publication, then *Getting the Pieces to Fit*.

For questions please see www.nсна.org , www.vnsa.org, or email vnsa2ndvp@gmail.com



Virginia Nursing Students Association

vnsa.us

CHAPTER INFORMATION FORM

SCHOOL NAME: _____

CHAPTER NAME: _____

CHAPTER ADDRESS: _____

SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER: _____ - _____ - _____

TYPE OF PROGRAM (PLEASE CIRCLE): AD AS BSN

CHAPTER PRESIDENT: _____

Name

Phone

Email Address

VICE PRESIDENT: _____

Name

Phone

Email Address

FACULTY ADVISOR: _____

Name

Phone

Email Address

DEAN OR DIRECTOR: _____

Name and Degree(s) held

Phone

Email Address

Mail to: VNSA
 PO Box 1843
 Charlottesville, VA 22903

GUIDELINES FOR VNSA AWARDS

NURSING STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Nominee must be an active member of the VNSA. One faculty member and one student must fill out the nomination form. A total of two forms are required. Self-nomination is acceptable. VNSA/NSNA Board of Directors are ineligible. Nomination forms must be submitted by 10:00 am on the day of the Annual Convention.

MOST SUPPORTIVE FACULTY MEMBER

This award is given to the faculty member who has been nominated to be the most supportive of VNSA activities. Complete the application form and describe the manner in which the support has been given. Nomination forms must be submitted by 10:00 am on the day of the Annual Convention.

MOST ACTIVE CONSTITUENCY AWARD (MAC)

This award is given to the VNSA Chapter that has shown the greatest amount of activity during the past year. Written documentation must be submitted according to the criteria. Awards will be given for first place and runner up. Deadline for the submission of MAC books is 10:00 am on the day of the Annual Convention.

MAC Award Categories:

75 points	Bronze
150 points	Silver
250 points	Gold
>250 points	Platinum

MAC books must be organized in order of categories and must be pre-scored by NSA President or Faculty Advisor. **If MAC books are not pre-scored, they will be immediately disqualified.**

MOST OUTSTANDING STATE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

This award is given to the chapter whose community service project demonstrated an appropriate community needs assessment, significant scope of the problem addressed, creativity and originality of the intervention and participation in the project by a respectable number of chapter members. Documentation may be through minutes, flyers, photos, etc. Awards will be given for first place and runner up. Deadline for receipt of completed documentation is 10:00 am on the day of the Annual Convention.

SCRAPBOOK CONTEST AWARDS

Scrapbooks may include pictures and memorabilia. Outstanding covers will be recognized in the judging. Scrapbooks must be submitted by 10:00 am on the day of the Annual Convention. Awards will be given for first place and runner up. Once scrapbooks have been deposited with the Board of Directors, they will not be for public viewing until the judging has been completed.

NEW TORCH WRITING CONTEST AWARD

Short story or essays following the guidelines on this website will be judged based upon content and originality. First Place Winner will be awarded \$50 and also have their writing published in the next Torch Newsletter. Second Place Winner will receive free registration to the VNSA 56th Annual Convention. Deadline for this award must be submitted to VNSA by October 31, 2007. Send submission or questions to the Torch Editor at vnsatorcheditor@gmail.com
Or mail to :

VNSA-Creative Writing Contest: Torch Editor
P.O. Box 1843
Charlottesville, VA 22903-0543

NEW EXCELLENCE IN BREAK THROUGH TO NURSING

Excellence in Break Through to Nursing Award to one chapter who strives for excellence in BTN on a national, state, and/or local level. The project will be judged on creativity, effectiveness (number or people reached), and quality. Chapters applying for this award should submit a paper (maximum one page) describing the project and application form. The chapter must also submit a poster with brief overview and visual proof of the project. Paper, poster, and form should be submitted by 10:00 am on the day of convention.

NEW BTN Single Parent Scholarship

The VNSA Single Parent Scholarship was created to address the nursing shortage by providing encouragement and support to single parents entering or enrolled in an accredited nursing program. The recipient of this scholarship will demonstrate a passion for the nursing profession and exemplify the desire to become a nurse practitioner. The deadline to apply is December 15th every year.

Award Amount: \$1000

NEW BTN Second Degree Scholarship

The VNSA Second Degree Scholarship was created to address this need by providing encouragement and support to students who possess a four year degree or higher and are entering or enrolled in an accredited nursing program. The recipient of this scholarship will demonstrate a passion for the nursing profession and exemplify the desire to become a nurse practitioner. The deadline to apply is December 15th every year. Award amount \$500.

****** Award forms and grading criteria are subject to change. Please review www.vnsa.us for changes and forms before submitting awards this year******

VNSA Writing Contest Deadline October 31, 2007

We want to hear your story! Please submit an essay or short story following the guidelines below. Essays will be judged based upon content and originality.

First Place Winner will be awarded **\$50** and also have their writing published in the next Torch Newsletter. **Second Place Winner** will receive free registration to the VNSA 56th Annual Convention on February 3rd.

Please choose one writing prompt to write about:

1. Share your story about how and why you chose nursing as your profession.

2. Share your summer experiences in nursing, whether it was traveling, working a new job, or any special learning moments you encountered this summer.

Please limit submissions to 500 words.

Please Use form below for front cover of essay

Send submission or questions to the Torch Editor at vnsatorcheditor@gmail.com

Or mail to :

VNSA-Creative Writing Contest: Torch Editor

P.O. Box 1843

Charlottesville, VA 22903-0543

We encourage funny and serious essays! Winner will be contacted **two weeks** after submission date.

Stay tuned for more contests to come with different writing prompts!

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Virginia Nursing Students Association

vnsa.us

Writing Contest Submission Form

Name: _____ School: _____

Date: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____

Self-Bio: (please include a short bio 2-6 sentences about yourself including your year in school and your future goals for nursing)

I pledge that my submission is my own work and I give permission for my writing to be published in the Torch Newsletter.

Signature:

Date:



Are you a leader?
Do you like to travel?
Do you like to have fun?
Do you like meeting different people?
Do you want to make a difference?

If you answered **YES** to these questions, then this is **FOR YOU!!!**
The VNSA Board of Directors needs **YOU...**

We are currently accepting nominations for various positions of leadership for the **Virginia Nursing Student Association:**

- **President**
- **1st Vice President**
- **2nd Vice President**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **Legislative Director**
- **Breakthrough to Nursing Director**
- **Nominations and Elections Chairperson**
- **Torch Newsletter Editor**
- **Director-at-Large**
- **Public Relations Director**
- **Graduate Consultant**

For more information and an application, please visit <http://www.vnsa.us> or contact Brandy Terry (VNSA NEC Chairperson 2007-2008) at vnsanominations@gmail.com. Elections will be held during the House of Delegates session at the State Convention in February 2008 at the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, VA.

2007/2008 NSNA CALENDAR

Important Dates for Members

October 22, 2007	Deadline for MidYear Conference pre-registration (mail/fax)
October 29, 2007	Deadline for MidYear Conference pre-registration (online on website)
November 15-18, 2007	NSNA MidYear Conference, Kansas City, MO
December 28, 2007	Last day Foundation of the NSNA Scholarship Applications distributed by mail
January 8, 2008	Application for National Office Deadline
January 11, 2008	Foundation of the NSNA Scholarship Application Deadline
January 30, 2008	Project InTouch Deadline
March 3, 2008	Deadline for Convention pre-registration (mail/fax)
March 10, 2008	Deadline for Convention pre-registration (online on website)
March 26-30, 2008	NSNA Convention, Grapevine, TX
May 8, 2008	National Student Nurses Day
May 13, 2008	Application for Resolutions Committee
May 13, 2008	Imprint reporter positions Deadline

Important Dates for State and School Constituents

November 13-14, 2007	NSNA Board of Directors Meeting, Kansas City, MO
November 15-16, 2007	MidYear Conference Council of State Presidents and Newsletter Workshop, Kansas City, MO
November 15-18, 2007	MidYear Conference, Kansas City, MO
January 16, 2008	Deadline for submission of proposed amendments to the NSNA Bylaws
January 30, 2008	Mosby/WB Saunders Leader of Leaders Award Nominations Due
January 30, 2008	Delegate/Membership Cut-Off Date: At least 10 members must be recorded by NSNA for schools to qualify for delegates.
January 30, 2008	Winners' Way Deadline
February 11, 2008	Deadline for Receipt of Resolutions: State constituents with conventions after this date must submit resolutions within two weeks from last day of their convention. All school constituents must meet deadline.
February 11, 2008	Mosby/WB Saunders Isabel Hampton Robb Leadership Award Application Deadline
February 11, 2008	NSNA Activities Award Application Deadlines (see right for details)
March 24, 2008	NSNA Board of Directors Meeting, Grapevine, TX
March 25, 2008	Council of State Presidents, Grapevine, TX
March 26-30, 2008	NSNA Convention, Grapevine, TX
April 11, 2008	Applications for constituency status must be postmarked by this date.
April 30, 2008	States must notify NSNA of dues plans for 2008/2009

Nationally Sponsored NSNA Events

November 15-18, 2007	MidYear Conference, Kansas City, MO
March 26-30, 2008	National Convention, Grapevine, TX
November 13-16, 2008	MidYear Conference, Reno, NV
April 15-19, 2009	National Convention, Nashville, TN
Oct. 29 - Nov. 1, 2009	MidYear Conference, Phoenix, AZ
April 7-11, 2010	National Convention, Orlando, FL
November 10-14, 2010	MidYear Conference, Cincinnati, OH
April 6-10, 2011	National Convention, Salt Lake City, UT

Imprint Deadlines

June 1 - Sept/Oct Issue
July 2 - Nov/Dec Issue
Sept. 3 - Jan Issue
Nov. 1 - Feb/Mar Issue
Jan. 3 - Apr/May Issue

Compendium of Contests

NSNA members and official school and state constituents are eligible to enter contests sponsored by NSNA. Many contests are supported by NSNA's loyal sponsors. You can easily download the Awards and Honors Booklet from www.nсна.org. Click on PUBLICATIONS on the home page.

Nurse in Washington Internship Award

Prize: Trip/certificate; Open to individuals
Deadline: December 21, 2007

Leader of Leaders

Prize: Trip/plaque*
Open to faculty/deans
Deadline: January 30, 2008

Project InTouch

Prizes*: Open to individuals
Deadline: January 30, 2008

Winners' Way

Prize: Cash/plaque; Open to states
Deadline: January 30, 2008

Precious Metal

Prize: Plaques/certificates; Open to schools
Deadline: January 30, 2008

NSNA/Nursing Spectrum Writing Contest

Prize: Trip/prizes
Open to NSNA members
Deadline: February 11, 2008

Robb Leadership Award

Prize: \$1,000; Open to state presidents
Deadline: February 11, 2008

Community Health

Prize: Cash/certificates; Open to states/schools
Deadline: February 11, 2008

Breakthrough to Nursing

Prize: Cash/certificates; Open to states/schools
Deadline: February 11, 2008

Legislation/Education

Prize: Cash/certificate; Open to states/schools*
Deadline: February 11, 2008

Newsletter Contest

Prize: Cash/plaque; Open to states/schools
Deadline: February 11, 2008

Image of Nursing Project

Prize: Plaque; Open to states/schools
Deadline: February 11, 2008

Robert V. Piemonte Financial Excellence Award

Prize: Cash/certificate; Open to states/schools
Deadline: February 11, 2008

*Grand Prize includes expense-paid trip to the Annual Convention in Grapevine, TX, March 26-30, 2008



**Do you have questions
about an event shown?
An answer is as close
as your computer!
Just email NSNA at:
nsna@nsna.org.**