Becoming Advocates for Nursing Using One Strong Voice

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About me...

Goals for today

• Who is the Missouri Nurses Association?
• Politics and Nursing
• Why Your Voice Matters
• Talking to Legislators
• Our Legislative Priorities
• After Today
Who Takes Care of You?

Missouri Nurses Association
Where nurses take care of nurses

What is the Missouri Nurses Association?

- Organized in 1906 as “The voice of nursing”
- State member of the American Nurses Association (ANA)
  - Offering representation at local and national level
- Represents over 100,000 licensed registered nurses in Missouri
Our Mission
Registered Professional Nurses advancing the profession to improve health for all Missourians

Our Vision
Missouri nurses are a powerful, unified force engaging consumers and transforming health and health care.

Our Purpose
To act and speak for the nursing profession and Missouri’s professional nurses and to promote and enhance safe and accountable professional nursing practice

American Nurses Association at a Glance

• Only full-service professional organization representing every registered nurse in the nation

• The strongest voice for the nursing profession

Your Voice Matters
Politics and Nursing

• Unlikely match or perfect marriage?

• Nurses Members of the State Legislature
  – None in the Senate
  – One in the House of Representatives
    • Rep. Kathy Swan
  – However, there were 4 that ran in the 2018 election!

Legislators want to hear from YOU!

What can nurses say to make a difference to their representatives or senators?

You are the expert!
Why Advocacy?
• Present an informed viewpoint
• Represent silent or disadvantaged groups
• Broaden the dialogue to hear the dissenting voice or both sides
• Garner support from others
• Influence elections
• Influence elected officials voting
• Prepare for later dialogue and legislation
• Bring polarities to the center
• Negotiate compromise

What is a lobbyist and why do we need one?

Meet & talk to policymakers
How to reach your legislator

- Call
- Email
- Text
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Letter
- Visit

Start at the beginning: who are your legislators?
2019 Legislative Priorities:
How did MONA get here?

How do we decide what our Legislative Priorities are?
What legislative agenda items correspond with our:
- Mission
- Purpose
- Is in the best interest to the nursing profession
- For the betterment of all Missourians

2019 Legislative Priorities
- APRNs practicing to the full extent of their training and education (Support a separate APRN license; Oppose moving APRNs under the board of healing arts. Support nurses in regulations/Self regulation. Support telehealth)
- Fight the Opioid Crisis (PDMP, needle exchange, etc.)
- Healthcare Workplace Violence (Violence against nurses, safe patient handling, staffing levels)
Put it together!
Your experience and expertise with the legislative priority area.

Talking to your Legislator

- Legislators work for YOU
- Common Bonds
- Legislators are just people
- You are the expert!

Effective Meetings
DURING YOUR MEETING

- Relax!
- Be prompt & flexible
- Be organized & concise
  - Who are you?
  - Connect to the district
  - Be a plain-spoken expert
  - Leave behind 1-3 pages
    (include contact information)
- Be truthful...
  - Follow up is okay
The most important part of your visit...

“The Ask”
We need money, PLEASE.
Vote for the bill, PLEASE.
Come to this event, PLEASE.
Help convene a group to... PLEASE.
Introduce me to ... PLEASE.

“What can I do to help?”

A. We are doing just fine and just wanted to provide you with information on what we are doing

B. Uhhhh, what do you mean?

C. Thank you for your kind offer. We were hoping you would be able to...

Correct Answer?

C!
Legislators understand their positions can help constituents and agencies so they want this interaction.
Remember

- Designate a leader for each meeting
- Designate the roles for each person in the group
- Before each meeting, everyone should:
  - Know their role
  - Know their talking points
  - Know the ask
  - Annnndddd....

Leave the Nurse Calling Card

Effective Meetings

AFTER YOUR MEETING

- Use the meeting as a starting point
- Follow up on anything you promised
- Write a note, tweet a picture, etc.
- Consider:
  - “I don’t know, I will get back to you”
  - “I forgot to tell you about...”
  - “THANK YOU”
After Today...
Navigating the Missouri Legislative Process

So what can you do after today?
• Continue to engage in the legislative process. Write letters, call, email, or visit your legislators. They work for YOU.
• Find balanced and accurate information on legislative issues & talk about what you learn.
• Be visible. Attend fundraisers, rallies, town hall meetings.
• Sign up for (a few) mailing lists for issues you care about.
• Write a letter, email, tweet, blog post…
• Run for office
• VOTE

Be an active, informed voter
Register to Vote
www.govotemissouri.com

Engaging Policymakers
• Be an active, informed voter.
• Learn your issue & who can change it.
• Define a solution & understand how you fit into the landscape.
• Build a relationship with your legislators & key leaders – before you need anything.
• Be effective in meetings & giving testimony.
• Effectively use Media and Social Media
• Don’t recreate the wheel – collaboration is key.

You can’t win if you don’t play...
“WE IN AMERICA DO NOT HAVE GOVERNMENT BY THE MAJORITY. WE HAVE GOVERNMENT BY THE MAJORITY WHO PARTICIPATE.”
Thomas Jefferson
The Missouri Nurses Association is here for you!
We are looking out for you and your patients’ best interests day in and day out.

Join us...

We are one strong voice...

Thank you!!
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What does the MONA Lobbyist Need From You?:
Current Legislation
Kyna Iman, MONA Lobbyist

Restrictions on Tanning Beds
HB518- Schroer
Prohibits anyone under the age of 18 from using a tanning bed or other tanning device, regardless of parental permission.

• The youth tanning rates in Missouri are almost double the national average, with 30 percent of 12th grade girls using a tanning bed compared to the nationwide rate of 16 percent.
• People who use tanning devices before age 35 increase their risk for developing melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, by 59 percent.
• The effects of ultraviolet (UV) exposure are cumulative, meaning the earlier someone starts tanning the more likely they are to develop a potentially deadly skin cancer.

Message: The greatest avoidable known risk factor for skin cancer, the use of indoor tanning devices, is seen in Missouri with 30 percent of 12th grade girls using a tanning bed compared to 16 percent nationwide.

Narcotics Control Act
HB188- Rehder
Establishes a statewide Prescription Drug Monitoring Program or PDMP

• MO is not longer the only state that does not track addictive prescription drug prescribing or dispensing.
• Would modify current PDMP to be more comprehensive

Message: Establishing an in-depth controlled substance monitoring program will curb abuse, save lives, and fight crime.
This bill exempts any entity registered with DHSS that possesses, distributes, delivers, or sells hypodermic needles or syringes to be exempt from provisions of law prohibiting doing so.

- Syringe Access Programs (SAP)/Needle Exchanges increase referrals of people who inject drugs to evidence-based substance use disorder treatment and have a 5x’s higher rate of going into treatment.
- These programs are proven to reduce the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis, and other blood borne diseases caused by needle sharing, help prevent serious disease outbreaks, and protect non-drug users from disease.
- Research shows that SAPs do not increase drug use.

**Message:** Allowing groups to establish lawful SAP will prevent serious disease outbreaks, and protect non-drug users from disease.

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**APRN Legislation**

**HB693 - Full Practice Authority**

**HB301 & SB 400 - Mileage and Ratios**

- MONA supports these changes regarding APRN Practice Authority. In a time when health care providers’ access is most needed, excessive regulations negatively impact APRNs.
- Missouri has some of the most restrictive practices in the country.

**Message:** Missouri patients deserve access to quality health care.

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**Leave the Nurse Calling Card**

- The Nurse Calling Card is a state-issued identification card that allows nurses to perform certain tasks without supervision by a physician. It is intended to improve access to care in rural and underserved areas. The card is valid for two years and must be renewed. Nurses holding the card are required to complete continuing education credits annually. Nurses can perform tasks such as administering medication, wound care, and patient assessment under the guidance of a physician or in a health care facility. The card is issued by the Missouri Board of Nursing. Nurses must meet education and experience requirements to qualify for the card. The card is available to nurses who hold an active license in Missouri and are enrolled in an approved nursing program or have graduated from a registered nurse program. Nurses must submit an application and provide documentation to support their eligibility for the card. The application process includes submitting a completed application form, a copy of a valid Missouri nurse license, proof of residence, and a current completed application. The application fee is $50.

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