November 15, 2018

Dear Colleague:

The Missouri Nurses Association is sponsoring the 33rd Annual Missouri Nurse Advocacy Day “Legislative Advocacy: The Who, What, Why & How Nurses Should Be Involved” on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, in Jefferson City, Missouri. Come learn how to advocate for nurses and patients using the political process. Registration is scheduled from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the lobby of the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W. McCarty Street. The day’s activities will adjourn around 3:00 p.m. The following is important information you will need to prepare for the activities of the day.

**Featured Speakers:**

Heidi Lucas, MPA, State Director for the Missouri Nurses Association will discuss the importance of advocacy and specifically what nurses can do to advocate for the profession and impact health care policy in preparation for participants’ experiences at the Capitol. Heidi along with other nurse experts throughout the day will be sharing their personal experiences of different aspects of the political process and explain the many different ways that nurses can make a difference in the lives of their patients and in the profession by being involved in legislative advocacy activities. Nurses can and do make a difference. Nurses can advocate for their patients, healthcare and professional nursing in various ways. Come learn how these individuals have made a difference.

The Missouri Nurses Association develops a legislative agenda annually. You will find current legislative priorities for the 2019 legislative session posted very soon as well as past achievements by the Association by visiting our website at [www.missourinurses.org](http://www.missourinurses.org). It is critical for all who attend to access the state website at [www.mo.gov](http://www.mo.gov) prior to the event to get information about their legislators or find out who their legislators are. Click on the Government tab at the top of the page. From there click Legislative Branch and under Popular Links select, Find Your Legislator. You will be asked for your full 9-digit zip code. **We encourage you to contact your legislator’s office and make an appointment to visit with them on February 20th.** You can also access information about the Missouri House or Missouri Senate by visiting [www.moga.mo.gov](http://www.moga.mo.gov) and follow the prompts that will give you information about your legislators, pending legislation and current legislative activities. Participants will fully experience the political process and enhance their learning experience by preparing themselves with the above information for Missouri Nurse Advocacy Day.

**School Registration:**

Registration costs for the event are $40.00 Students, $60.00 Faculty-MONA Members and $85.00 Faculty-Non Members. We expect more than 800 RNs and nursing students to attend. Therefore, we ask that you pre-register students and faculty as soon as possible.

Groups of 20 or less may register online – [click here](http://www.missourinurses.org) – or may register using the registration form and list attached.

Larger groups of 20 or more must register by completing (must be typed) the attached registration form and registration list and return them to the MO Nurses office. The deadline to register is January 23, 2019.

**It is important that payment be in the form of ONE check (no individual student payments please), money order, or ONE credit card covering all attendees from your school.** Please contact our office if you require other payment arrangements. Meal reservations and participant packets will not be prepared until the group registration fee and completed registration list is received. Please also list any special dietary requirements on the registration form. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the needs.

*The Midwest Multistate Division is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.*
To facilitate registration of the schools, we assemble packets by school and ask that each school designate one person to pick up and distribute them to your students. Please let us know the name of the person picking up the packets for your school.

**Preparation for the Event**

Please visit the “Student/Faculty Guide for Missouri Nurse Advocacy Day” on our website at [www.missourinurses.org](http://www.missourinurses.org) to see optional activities before, during and after Missouri Nurse Advocacy Day that will enhance your experience. Please use this information to prepare your students for the event. History has shown that this educational activity is enhanced when a faculty member shares the experience with their students.

**Directions & Parking:** Please see the attached information.

**Activities:**

1. **Capitol Objectives** - Students will have ample opportunity to observe the legislative process in action. Using their time at the Capitol, students can observe floor debates in either the House or Senate Gallery, attend hearings scheduled during the time of our group’s visit and meet and visit with their legislators. MONA has assigned volunteers to help direct students as they experience the Capitol activities. Students will receive detailed instructions prior to walking to the Capitol.

2. **Legislators** - We are again encouraging you to contact your legislators for personal visits as well as invite them to attend the 1:00 p.m. luncheon. Legislative Awards will be presented during this time and past award recipients recognized. To invite your legislator to lunch, you should make personal contact with him/her and include their luncheon fee with your registration form. It would also be helpful for us to know the name of your legislator and the name of the person s/he is meeting at the luncheon so that we can facilitate your meeting at the hotel.

3. **Exhibits** - Recruiters, pharmaceutical companies and book companies from all parts of the state have been invited to visit with the nurses and nursing students and display information on career options, as well as product information.

**Professional Attire & Conduct Suggested:**

We encourage students to choose professional dress (no blue jeans, please) for their attire. Remind your students that as they circulate the halls of the Capitol and visit their legislators, they are representing the profession of nursing.

**MONA Membership Encouraged:**

Please take the opportunity to discuss the advantages of Missouri Nurses Association membership with your students, giving spring graduates a voice in shaping the future of nursing. MONA/ANA membership dues are more affordable than ever – at only $15.00 per month! Attached is a copy of the member benefits flyer and application for you to share with your students and colleagues, including details on how to join online. Membership staff will be on site during the event to address any questions your group may have about their options.

**Additional Information/Assistance Contact:**

Please contact me at the Missouri Nurses Association office at 573-636-4623, or by email at sara@midwestnurses.org if you have questions about registration for Missouri Nurse Advocacy Day.

Sincerely,

Sara Fry, BS
Professional Development Director
Missouri Nurses Association & Midwest Multistate Division