



Tell us what you think, see page 11.

Volume 55, Issue 2

Fall 2008

**Inside this issue:**

Greetings from the Consultants 2

Greetings from the President 3

A message from the Executive VP 4

Secretary, Legislative VP, and Parliamentarian 5

Find your region 6

Regional Directors 7

Projects, BTN and STAT Editor 8

How the SNA hierarchy works 9

The NCLEX Monster and Sharing the NCLEX experience 10

How to contact the Board of Directors and Tell us what you think 11

## WNA / WSNA Convention

The 2008 Wisconsin Nurses Association's annual and the Wisconsin Student Nurses Association's midyear Convention, "Nurses Advancing a Culture of Safety", is scheduled for

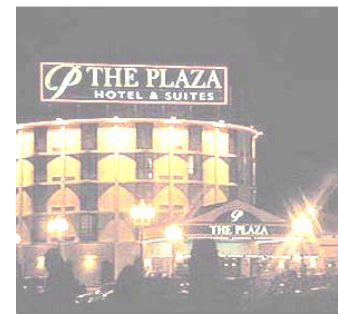
**Thursday, October 16 - Saturday, October 18, 2008, at The Plaza Hotel & Suites Conference Center**

**in Eau Claire.**

You can find the Conference brochure and online registration information by following the link provided. Sponsor and exhibit registration information can be found there as well.

[www.wisconsinnurses.org](http://www.wisconsinnurses.org)

On the left of that website, you will want to click the link that reads, "Conferences/Events - WNA" then click "WNA/WSNA Annual Meeting And Conference."



**Address:**  
The Plaza Hotel & Suites,  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
1202 W Clairemont Ave  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Image from trails.com

The U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that the annual earnings of registered nurses in 2006 was a comfortable income. As nursing students in an ever changing work force, it should be one of our goals to watch statistics like these in order to be in the know about the profession we have chosen.

Sharon Vandenberg,  
WSNA STAT Editor

Median annual earnings of registered nurses were \$57,280 in May 2006. The middle 50 percent earned between \$47,710 and \$69,850. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$40,250, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$83,440. Median annual earnings in the industries employing the largest numbers of registered nurses in May 2006 were:

Employment services	\$64,260
General medical and surgical hospitals	58,550
Home health care services	54,190
Offices of physicians	53,800
Nursing care facilities	52,490

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Greetings from the Consultants...



***“If you feel like giving up, and you think you can’t do it anymore... Take two fingers, and gently place them over your carotid... if you have a pulse, then you CAN do it!”***

***Lizzy Pieper***

### WNA Consultant

Nancy Noble

WNA stands for Wisconsin Nurses' Association and is the professional organization for nurses in the state. I am the consultant from WNA appointed to WSNA. My responsibilities include providing an interchange of information between WNA and WSNA, and to provide advisement and direction to the WSNA board of directors. As the school year begins, be sure to get involved in your local Student Nurses' Association. Continue to belong to WSNA and NSNA and encourage your peers to join also. The joint convention of WNA/WSNA will be held in October and is an excellent opportunity for you. This issue of STAT should provide information on this. This convention is a great opportunity to network with both nurses and student nurses. I encourage you all to attend. Have a great school year and GET INVOLVED and support your organization!

Nancy Noble



### WLN Consultant

Twila Schesky

I hope that everyone had a good summer, I won't say restful because I know many of you were working. I would like to encourage WSNA members think seriously about running for a state or national offices. You don't have to be a State Officer to run or win a National election. It looks very good on your resume to have been active in the student nurse organization.



### Elected Consultant

Hello.

My name is Lizzy Pieper, and I will be serving as the Elected Consultant for WSNA this year. Last year I served as the WSNA STAT-editor, and in May I graduated from Marian College with my BSN. I am currently a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac. As a former board member, my job as the Elected Consultant is to work with the other consultants in order to offer guidance & support not only to current WSNA members, but to chapter advisors as well. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. I look forward to meeting many of you at the WSNA conventions this year!

Lizzy Pieper, RN, BSN



## From the President...

### **President**

**Vicki Hutterer**

Hello WSNA members! My name is Vicki Hutterer. I am your WNSA President. I am eager to continue working with WSNA. I have previously held positions as the Northern Regional Director and Treasurer.

I am currently taking classes at Bellin College of Nursing.



I hope everyone enjoyed their summer breaks. I know that it has been much needed and deserved time off. Now we are buckling down to start our 2008-2009 school year. As we get back into the swing of Fall Semester, please take a few minutes to check out what WSNA will be offering this year. We are currently preparing for the WNA/WSNA midyear convention at the Plaza Hotel and Suites Convention Center in Eau Claire, WI. Midyear Convention will be held October 16-18. This is a joint convention with WNA and it's a great opportunity to build knowledge of professional nursing and network with prospective employers. We're planning for a great convention. You can find complete convention details at [www.wnsa.net](http://www.wnsa.net) or [www.wisconsinurses.org](http://www.wisconsinurses.org).

Midyear convention is also an opportunity to get involved. We will have three positions available for elections. You can run for President-Elect, Executive Vice President-Elect, and STAT Editor-Elect.

Good luck this semester! Congratulations to all those who plan to graduate this December! Remember that you can contact me with any WSNA questions or concerns.

Vicki Hutterer  
WSNA President 2008-2009  
[vicki.hutterer@bcon.edu](mailto:vicki.hutterer@bcon.edu)

## A message from the Executive Vice President

### Executive Vice President

**Barb Schumacher**



Hi! My name is Barb Schumacher and I am the Executive Vice President for the 2008-2009 school year. I hope that everyone has enjoyed their much needed, as well as genuinely deserved, summer break. Summer is almost at an end...so it's time to start thinking about getting organized and "buckling down" for the 2008-2009 school year. Just a little bit about myself - I am married and currently a full-time 4<sup>th</sup> semester student at Gateway Technical College in Burlington and will be graduating this December with my ADN.

I'm really excited and honored about being able to plan our 60<sup>th</sup> WSNA Annual Convention. As WSNA Executive Vice President, I have the responsibility of planning and organizing the annual convention held each February. Vicki Hutterer, WSNA President has been busy "showing me the ropes" and getting everything underway for another exciting convention to be held at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells, February 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The entire BOD is diligently "brain storming" to make it another great convention experience. Also mark your calendars for the upcoming WNA/WSNA Midyear Convention to be held in Eau Claire on October 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>.

As we get back into the swing of the Fall Semester, take a few minutes to check out what the WSNA has to offer you! Further information and updates about the annual convention can be found online at the WSNA website, [www.wsna.net](http://www.wsna.net). I encourage all of you to be involved in WSNA and attend conventions. It's a great opportunity to build knowledge of professional nursing and network with your peers. It will also provide you with many fantastic educational sessions and an opportunity to talk with exhibitors.

Please feel free to contact me by phone at 262-275-2962, email: [shoey72@verizon.net](mailto:shoey72@verizon.net), or mail: N898 Ridge Road, Walworth, WI 53184. Good luck to all of you as you begin the Fall Semester.



## Salutations from the Treasurer



### Treasurer

**Georgia Brockway**



Hi, my name is Georgia Brockway and I am the WSNA Treasurer. I am a Senior at Marian University formerly "Marian College School of Nursing". If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. I hope you all had a great summer vacation from the books and are ready to start the new semester refreshed.

## A message from the Secretary, Legislative VP, and Parliamentarian

### Secretary

Emily Oldenburg

Hello Nursing Students! I hope that everyone has relaxed, enjoyed their summer vacation, and that all of you are re-energized for the new and exciting school year. Welcome back!

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Emily Oldenburg and I am your Secretary for the 2008-2009 school year. My duties will include attending the Board Meetings and recording these minutes. I am currently a Senior at Marian University, graduating in May of '09. I am also the Secretary for our local Student Nurses Association Chapter at Marian. It is a magnificent feeling to have a voice in the nursing profession to share ideas and learn from others. Outside of my positions as Secretary and going to school full-time, I work as a Nurse Extern at St. Nicholas Hospital of Sheboygan, WI, where my experience has surpassed what I had ever expected!

It has been an exciting few months already discussing the Conventions coming up this year in October and February for WSNA! We all hope to meet our fellow nursing students at these upcoming events. This is a great opportunity to explore the world outside of your area!

(It is also a fun mini-vacation!)

My current position as Secretary will again be up for re-election in Spring of 2009 where you will work with me for a couple of months to learn the ropes where you will then be officially taking over the position in Spring/Summer. I encourage all of you to look into this position and consider this to be a wonderful experience, professional development, and a great resume builder! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact me at [eaoldenburg@marianuniversity.edu](mailto:eaoldenburg@marianuniversity.edu).

Have a wonderful Fall Semester and study hard!!



### Legislative Vice president

Breana Ohlemiller

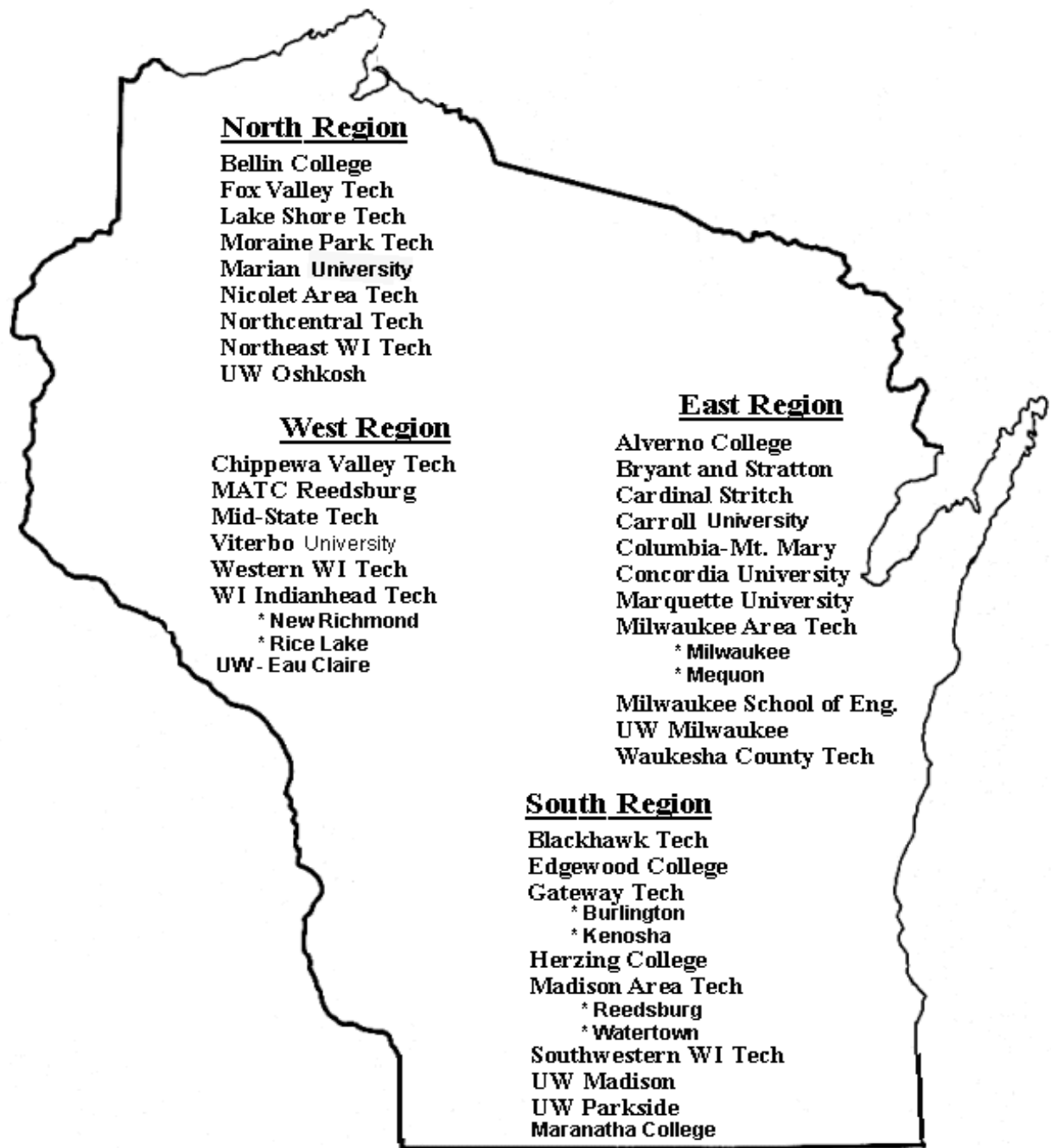
Hello,

My name is Breana Ohlemiller, I am this year's Legislative Vice president. I have served on the board for three years and I love being a part of such a wonderful organization. I am very thankful to have another year working on the board. I hope that everyone is having a wonderful summer. If anyone has questions regarding any legislative business feel free to drop me an email. Remember to live life to its fullest and enjoy every moment you can.



### Parliamentarian

Hello, my name is Michelle Ritchie and I am the WSNA parliamentarian for 2008/2009. I am a senior at Bellin College of Nursing and will be graduating in May 2009. I stay very busy with my family, work, and school. I am also Vice President for my schools nursing association. Let me explain a little about what Parliamentarian is in case you're wondering. My job is to maintain order at all WSNA meetings and at the House of Delegates (HOD) so procedures are followed. We use Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure to guide meetings. I hope everyone had a great summer. I look forward to a great year and hope to see you all at convention.



**North Region**

Bellin College  
Fox Valley Tech  
Lake Shore Tech  
Moraine Park Tech  
Marian University  
Nicolet Area Tech  
Northcentral Tech  
Northeast WI Tech  
UW Oshkosh

**West Region**

Chippewa Valley Tech  
MATC Reedsburg  
Mid-State Tech  
Viterbo University  
Western WI Tech  
WI Indianhead Tech  
\* New Richmond  
\* Rice Lake  
UW - Eau Claire

**East Region**

Alverno College  
Bryant and Stratton  
Cardinal Stritch  
Carroll University  
Columbia-Mt. Mary  
Concordia University  
Marquette University  
Milwaukee Area Tech  
\* Milwaukee  
\* Mequon  
Milwaukee School of Eng.  
UW Milwaukee  
Waukesha County Tech

**South Region**

Blackhawk Tech  
Edgewood College  
Gateway Tech  
\* Burlington  
\* Kenosha  
Herzing College  
Madison Area Tech  
\* Reedsburg  
\* Watertown  
Southwestern WI Tech  
UW Madison  
UW Parkside  
Maranatha College

**Northern Regional Director****Toni Pluess**

Hello!

My name is Toni Pluess, I am a senior this fall at Marian University. I am also the service coordinator for my school's chapter. I am honored to be serving another term with WSNA as your Northern Regional Director and am very excited to work with the new board in bringing you great opportunities! I hope everyone had a great summer, and I look forward to meeting you in the future.

**Eastern Regional Director****Melanie Sinclair**

Greetings to all! My name is Melanie Sinclair. I am currently a junior at Carroll University. I am a 8 year Navy veteran, mother of 4 and a future ER Nurse. I am looking forward to a very exciting and fresh year with the WSNA team!



We have lots of great ideas brewing and I am very excited to be part of it. I am very excited for the 2009 WSNA conference and hope to see everyone from the Eastern Region there representing our region and their college! I am looking forward to another exciting year for WSNA.

**Southern Regional Director****Amanda Reda**

Hello! My name is Amanda Reda and I am serving as the WSNA Southern Regional Director. I am a junior at Milwaukee School of Engineering. I currently work at UW Hospital in Madison as a Nursing Assistant and I love my job but I cannot wait to get my BSN. I am very interested in working in the Emergency Room when I am finished with school at UW Hospital. I am very passionate about helping others and about nursing. After getting my BSN I plan on going back to school and getting my CCRN and also getting my Nurse Practitioner but I am not exactly sure what my focus will be. In my free time I love to spend time with my family and friends. I love to cook and bake food and watch movies. I hope everyone is as excited about the 2008-2009 school year as I am.

**Western Regional Director****Jeni Kessler**

Hello

I am Jeni Kessler, the Western Regional Director. Schools in my region are MATC Reedsburg, Mid-State Technical, Chippewa Valley Technical, Viterbo University, Western WI Technical, WI Indianhead Technical and UW-Eau Claire. I am a 4th semester student at Western Tech in La Crosse, WI. When I graduate I am planning to finish my BSN and eventually MSN so I can teach future nursing students. I am looking forward to meeting many nursing students this year. Please contact me if you have any questions or I can help you in anyway.



**Projects Director****Jillian Flood**

Hello fellow WSNA members!

My name is Jillian Flood and I'm pleased to be serving as your current WSNA Projects Director. As an upcoming December graduate from Alverno College, I know and have lived first hand the emotional rollercoaster nursing school can become. Nursing is not for the faint of heart. Whether the nursing profession was a childhood calling or a long awaited realization brought on from some life-changing circumstance, it requires practical skills, critical thinking, and a profound love for caring that not everyone shares. I believe we are a unique bunch destined to change others' lives for the better. I am proud to be a nursing student and am even more excited to see and hear from all the other nursing students that share this passion.

Over the past several months I have been working hard, along with the rest of the dedicated board directors, to create the most worth-while conferences for our fellow students and advisors. I am extremely excited for the upcoming speakers, what they have to share, and the entertainment we are planning.

**BTN Director****Kimberly Bertram**

Hey future nurses!

My name is Kim Bertram and I am the Breakthrough to Nursing Director for WSNA the 2008-2009 academic year. I am excited to be on the Board of Directors of WSNA and I hope that I can help all of the chapter BTN directors out by answering any questions. Currently, I am a Junior at Viterbo University and although nursing school can be hectic I am loving it. I work as a Patient Care Tech at Franciscan Skemp Hospital and when I am finished with nursing school I want to work in the Obstetrics Department. My career goal is to become a Certified Nurse Midwife!

I will be getting in contact with the chapter BTN directors but if anyone has questions feel free to contact me at: [kjbertram@viterbo.edu](mailto:kjbertram@viterbo.edu) or call me at 608-574-5778.

Good luck in the upcoming school year, when classes and clinicals have you stressed just remember what you're working for!

**STAT Editor****Sharon Vandenberg**

Hello WSNA members! I hope that you had a wonderful break and are ready for the new school year. I am happy to be helping the WSNA, as the STAT Editor.

The position of STAT Editor-Elect will be up for election at the October convention. As the STAT Editor-Elect you would work with me for the next few months and learn the ropes, officially taking over the position of STAT Editor in Spring. It's an exciting and fun thing to do! I have worked hard to find interesting and useful information for you, and hope to see you at the upcoming conventions!



## So, how does the SNA hierarchy work?

Many students have wondered about student nurses associations, and have said that they are not sure about which organization is which. Here is a quick and easy to understand break-down of the hierarchy:

- Local student nurses association (your college's group)
- State student nurses association (your states group)
- National student nurses association (the United States group)

You do not have to belong to all, but some colleges enroll their nursing students into the national SNA. In Wisconsin, if you are a member of the National Student Nurses' Association, you are automatically enrolled into the State level. So ask your SNA president or advisor if your college or SNA automatically enrolls you into the local and/or National SNA. Use this opportunity to become actively involved. What does it mean to be actively involved? Lend your time to your SNA's bake sale, candy sale, or other activities. These activities are usually fund-raising events to help raise money to go to state or national conventions. At conventions, you can network, and begin to collect information about potential future employers. Have fun! Now is the time to do it!

## Become the Newest Member of the Board of Directors... Here's How!!!

October 16th-18th will be the date of the WNA/WSNA mid-year convention in Eau Claire, and WSNA will be filling three elect-positions on the board of directors at this time. If you are interested in becoming more involved as a WSNA member, Mid-year convention is your opportunity to become a part of a great team! Joining the board of directors will give you an opportunity to meet and learn from other nursing students from throughout Wisconsin. You will gain leadership skills, confidence, and a sense of pride and professional accomplishment. In addition to all that, your experience will be filled with fun and new friends! Elect-positions are voted on in fall in order to give the candidates an opportunity to observe the current board members. The President-Elect, Executive Vice President-Elect, and STAT Editor-Elect will spend the remainder of the school year learning the ropes of their respective positions, and will take office after the WSNA annual convention in spring. Descriptions of each position are given below.

### **President-Elect:**

Upon becoming the President, duties include presiding at all business meetings of the association, the Board of Directors, and the executive committee. She/He is responsible for directing the House of Delegates and seeing that the decisions of the Board of Directors are carried out.

She/He also serves as a motivator and guide for the other members of the Board of Directors and is the correspondent with the NSNA. The president is responsible for the running of all meetings and agendas for the Board of Directors.

### **Executive Vice President-Elect:**

The Executive Vice President is responsible for planning, organizing, and scheduling a WSNA convention in the spring and working with the WNA to plan a convention in the fall. The Executive Vice President is also responsible for correspondence with potential exhibitors, advertisers, and meal sponsors. She/He is responsible for working with the STAT Editor to promote the convention and provide registration material.

### **STAT Editor-Elect:**

The STAT editor is responsible for arranging, printing, and distributing a tri-annual publication of the WSNA STAT newsletter. This includes gathering written contributions from board members and other WSNA members, as well as educational and informational nursing articles, and compiling them into a professional newsletter. The STAT editor consults with the Executive VP to obtain ads for the STAT.

## The NCLEX Monster

NCLEX: Five little letters that can put any nursing student into a cardiac arrhythmia. It's not even a real word, just a big scary acronym (NCLEX stands for National Council Licensure Examination), and yet it brings nursing students to their knees begging and pleading for mercy. This horrible 5 letter acronym decides the fate of every student who survives nursing school. We surveyed a variety of recent graduates who have survived this horrible NCLEX monster, and we would like to share their responses with you. ENJOY!

Lizzy Pieper, RN, BSN; WSNA Elected Consultant

### A new RN shares her NCLEX experience...

- \* Your Name: Christina
- \* Your Nursing School (& if it was ADN or BSN): Marquette University BSN
- \* How long after graduation did you wait before taking your NCLEX? 2 weeks and 5 days
- \* Would you recommend waiting longer or taking Exam sooner? The sooner the better
- \* Did you take an NCLEX review course?  
Which one & would you recommend it to others?  
I took the Kaplan NCLEX review course with the Q bank and online study materials. The classes with the instructor were okay. I didn't think they really prepared you for what was going to be on the exam. Learning the strategy did help and going over question after question was helpful as well.
- \* How did you study for the NCLEX / how much time did you spend studying?  
I reviewed each one of the online classes on Kaplan along with the book, highlighting areas noted for importance in the video and things I had to review.  
I then took the Question Trainer tests and did most of the Q bank questions.  
I was able to do an online class everyday and do some questions. I took the Kaplan course the day after graduation for the whole 4 days and then took the exam 2 week after.
- \* What did you do the night before the Exam (spa, watch a movie, etc)?  
I drove to the testing site so I would know where it was and just relaxed the whole day
- \* How long did you wait for your results & what did you do to occupy your time while you waited?  
I took my exam on a Friday so I was able to get my quick results and pay \$7.95 on Monday
- \* How did you get your results (pay to view online from Pearson, call the 1-800 number, wait to look it up in the state registry)?  
I paid Pearson online. I just had to know.
- \* What was the first thing you did when you got your results?  
A huge sigh of relief and then started letting family and friends know I passed!!
- \* Any other study tips, advice, or words of wisdom you would like to share with future NCLEX-takers?  
Do as many questions as you can.
- \* Any other comments you'd like to share about NCLEX?  
The NCLEX is just one of those things you have to do. I personally don't think that it is a good measure of whether you are a safe or satisfactory level nurse. Some of the questions I got were things I had never heard of before but I worked through them and just moved on to the next question. I got 76 questions when the computer shut off and thought I had failed but I did indeed pass.

## HERE'S HOW TO CONTACT THE BOARD:

<b>President:</b> Vicki Hutterer Vicki.hutterer@bcon.edu	<b>Legislative VP:</b> Breanna Ohlemiller Bmohlemiller57@marianuniversity.edu	<b>Executive VP:</b> Barb Schumacher shoe72@verizon.net
<b>Secretary:</b> Emily Oldenberg eaoldenburg@marianuniversity.edu	<b>Treasurer:</b> Georgia Brockway gabrockway74@marianuniversity.edu	<b>Projects Director:</b> Jillian Flood floodjt@alverno.edu
<b>BTN Director:</b> Kim Bertram kjbertram@viterbo.edu	<b>STAT Editor:</b> Sharon Vandenberg vandensr@gmail.com	<b>Northern Region:</b> Toni Pluess Tlpluess41@marianuniversity.edu
<b>Southern Region:</b> Amanda Reda redaa@msoe.edu	<b>Eastern Region:</b> Melanie Sinclair Msinclair@cc.edu	<b>Western Region:</b> Jeni Kessler kesslerj@students.westerntc.edu
<b>Parliamentarian:</b> Michelle Ritchie rn09@new.rr.com	<b>WNA Representative:</b> Nancy Noble nnoble@marianuniversity.edu	<b>WLN Representative:</b> Twila Sheskey jtsheskey@sbcglobal.net
<b>Elected Consultant:</b> Elizabeth Pieper ejpieper@marianuniversity.edu		

### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK.

The WSNA Board of Directors would like to know what you think about receiving the WSNA STAT publications via email instead of US post? Most of the publications are already available via internet, pdf download.

We would like you to email us at: vandensr@gmail.com, and speak to us at the upcoming October convention in Eau Claire Wisconsin.

Thank you, we look forward to your feedback.

Sharon Vandenberg  
 WSNA STAT Editor

**WISCONSIN  
STUDENT  
NURSES'  
ASSOCIATION**

WSNA STAT Editor  
Sharon Vandenberg  
P.O. Box 252  
Bristol, WI 53104

Phone: 262-818-6884  
E-mail: vandensr@gmail.com

**www.wsna.net**

**STAT : "Standing Together Assuring Tomorrow"**



**Upcoming Events**

**2008 WNA/WSNA Annual Convention**

October 16-18, 2008

Eau Claire, WI

[www.wisconsinnurses.org](http://www.wisconsinnurses.org)

**NSNA MidYear Conference**

November 13-16, 2008

Reno, Nevada

[www.nsna.org/meetings](http://www.nsna.org/meetings)

**WSNA Annual Convention**

Kalahari Resort

Wisconsin Dells

February, 2009

[www.wsna.net](http://www.wsna.net)



**BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER- GET INVOLVED!**

