



NCSBN

Leading Regulatory Excellence

Past Event: 2025 NCSBN Annual Meeting - President's Address Video Transcript

Event

2025 NCSBN Annual Meeting

More info: <https://www.ncsbn.org/events/2025-nlc-annual-meeting>

Presenter

Phyllis Polk Johnson, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, President, NCSBN Board of Directors; Executive Director, Mississippi Board of Nursing

- [Phyllis] Wow, good morning. Good morning, NCSBN. Where them fans at? This song gives me energy. And if you want to blame anybody about this song, blame the President, because I asked for it. It gives me energy.

It plays in with the theme of going beyond and what we, your board of directors, have been doing over the past year. I just love that song, "Boots on the Ground". I walked out here to Boots on the Ground because that's exactly where we've been this year. Boots on the Ground, kicking up some dust, and doing the work together.

That song just gives me energy. Can you feel it? I saw it in the room. And let me tell you something, the energy in this room right now, the energy that you've brought to everything we've done this year, that's what One NCSBN feels like in action.

Energy is so, so, so important. It's the key to going beyond. I see some new faces in the crowd.

I've met many of you. It's good to see new attendees, welcome. New attendees, wave your hand, wave your fan, whatever you want to do. Thank you for being here. I also see some of my favorite faces have returned.

- [Marlene] Thank you.

- Marlene, out in the audience, the board of directors who put up with me every other month. I look at all of you and I see you have that energy. You all look so wide awake. That's good. Friends, this is our 47th annual meeting.

And you guys look phenomenal. None of you look a day over 27, so that's a good thing. I thank you for traveling here and for participating. This is where we make the key decisions that impact nursing regulation.

What we do here and what you do every day is so, so important to public protection and the health and welfare of the world. Never, ever forget that.

This year, we focused on going beyond. How do you go beyond expectations? How do you go beyond previous ways of thinking, our previous ways of doing things? You know how we do that?

We do it together as One NCSBN. You saw the highlights for the past year. You saw the group that came before me, the trio, trying to get the energy in the room. And since our last annual meeting, we didn't just talk about being one organization, we lived it. We needed to hear from each and every one of you in this room.

And you know what? We listened. We listened to what you needed, what you wanted, and what you thought would make all of us better. We looked at how we can change how we work together. And you know what?

It's been a beautiful thing to watch. You felt it at mid-year and the EO Summit. Didn't you feel it? A different type of energy. That sense of being included, engaged, and most importantly, valued. The focus groups, the interactive sessions, the exercises for your ideas can shape what we're doing.

Members came up to me and said, "This feels different. We feel heard. We feel valued." We also changed where we put our energy. We made a shift from strategic planning to strategic thinking. The board of directors has devoted much time and energy to understand the bigger picture of the organization, where it needs to go, and how it will get there.

We reaffirmed our core mission, vision, and values, and how we can use a strategy statement to realize those. This strategic thinking will allow us to focus our objectives, define our scope, and leverage our advantages.

The board of directors and the chiefs will participate in a strategy-setting meeting October to assess the status of current work, review all your input and how to best put it to action, and put our energy behind it. Here's what I can promise you, we'll keep listening, we'll keep changing, and we'll keep going beyond, and we'll keep bringing our very best.

But it's One NCSBN. So, none of us can stop now. This energy, this engagement, this feeling of being connected to each other, and our mission, we've got to carry this forward. Change is always coming, and you're going to be a big part of that change.

Because if you don't change, you don't grow. And we're not done growing, right? So, here's what I need from you. You've got to bring it, your personal best, your ideas, your energy, your willingness to keep pushing beyond what we've always done.

I need your energy in making sure your nurses know what the NCSBN idea is and to sign up for Nursys e-Notify. I need your energy to help shape the Journal of Nursing Regulation, take part in those virtual, feedback sessions that you will see in your packet and out at the JNR booth.

I need your energy to get ready to pursue leadership positions for next year. I need your energy for recognizing the great work that is being done by sending in your nominations for the NCSBN awards.

By the way, those nominations open on October 1st. I need your energy to make sure all our state boards participate in our annual report program. I just need your energy to take advantage of the learning and the development NCSBN offers through ICRS. Energy is so, so important.

We talked about having it, putting it to best effect, and now, I want to add that it also needs to be positive, positive energy. I want to share one of my favorite quotes with you from one of my favorite actors. It's from Denzel Washington.

He said, "At the end of the day, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished, it's about what you've done with those accomplishments. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you have given back."

This is the true spirit of One NCSBN. This is how we go beyond. Let's break this down a little bit. It's not about what you have or what you've accomplished. It's about what you've done with those accomplishments.

You know, credentials are hard earned and they're necessary. But it's how we use our expertise, our experience, and our influence to make nursing regulations stronger for everyone. What you have or what you accomplished in your career is the result of your desire to effect, what, positive change and help others.

That's the call of nursing. It's also the calling of nursing regulation. Denzel said, it's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. As a leader, and every one of you in this room are leaders, when your head hits the pillow at night, that's what makes the day worth it.

Did you leave them better than you found them? Like our seasoned EOs mentoring new ones. Like our members, each of you sharing best practices across state labs. Like all of us in this room making NCSBN better by bringing our voices, our ideas, and our, what, energy. Denzel ended with saying, it's about what you've given back.

Everyone here has given back this year. And for that, I say, thank you, members. It's been a joy. You've given your time. You've given your thoughts. And most importantly, you've given your trust.

You've participated in focus groups. You've engaged in sessions. You've shared your challenges, and you've shared your solutions. Now, I must admit, it hasn't been easy. It's been a challenge, but it's also been a joy.

Over the four decades of annual meetings, so many people who have come to these meetings have given so much of themselves to nursing regulation. Pioneers, change makers, and, yes, even new faces. And so, that's One NCSBN.

We lift each other up. We make each other better. We give back to something larger than ourselves. Now, let's have an amazing meeting and keep that energy so you can all lift each other up because we are one, One NCSBN.

The 47th annual session of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing will now come to order.