

The Missouri Nursing Students' Association (MONSA) is planning for the upcoming National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) 57th Annual Convention to be held in Nashville, TN April 15-19, 2009. Missouri nursing students are **"Making it Big"** this year, by **"Stepping up and Stepping Out"** for a number of exciting events. If you recall, two of our students were elected to national office in 2008. Kenya Haney, from St. Louis was elected as the Breakthrough to Nursing Director and Jill Phillips, Cape Girardeau, was elected to the national Nomination's Committee. They have indicated that the experience has been very rewarding for them. They have met student nurses from across the nation and have learned a great deal about the wonderful opportunities available in the nursing profession.

This year, we are thrilled that two Missouri students have declared candidacy for national office. **Evette Eubanks** from Kansas City, Missouri is running for Director-North. Evette is a junior pursuing a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) from Research College of Nursing. Evette attended the NSNA Mid-year meeting in Reno, NV in November 2008. It was there that she became aware of the opportunity to serve at the national level. She was able to meet with Kenya and Jill and then attended a session on "Running for National Office". She decided to take the leap and is now slated for a board position. **Kenya Haney** has been active at the state and national level since she started nursing school. Having served on the MONSA Board, she saw the benefits of being active and immediately began her journey into serving at the national level. Kenya has made a decision to run for national office again, this time as a candidate for **NSNA President**. Kenya is a junior pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at the University of Missouri- St. Louis, MO. This is the first time a Missouri nursing student has run for the office of President. This definitely is an exciting time for Missouri Nursing Students.

The Mineral Area College (MAC) nursing program will be sending a contingency of students via private bus to convention this year. In fact 20 students and two faculty advisors will be attending. The students will be presenting a resolution at the national House of Delegates. This has been a long standing tradition for the MAC students. This year the theme of the resolution will be about **"Mandatory Continuing Education for Nurses"**. Be sure to support the resolution as it is debated in the House. As a delegate to the convention, you can attend and vote on vital issues relative to nursing. Make sure your voice is heard. If you are not a delegate, you can attend and also speak to the issues.

MONSA is planning a series of events at the NSNA convention for Missouri Nursing Students. First MONSA will have a student activity table in the convention center to sell items and to raise awareness for a community service project. MONSA has adopted an international community service project called: **Blood: Water Mission**, whose focus is to raise awareness and necessary funds for the provision of clean water and blood in sub-Saharan Africa.

Their international headquarters is based in Nashville due to the founder, a multi-platinum, **GRAMMY Award**-winning band called **Jars of Clay**. The members of the band are committed to share the often-untold stories: those of creative, compassionate, hard-working Africans bringing health, hope, and healing into their respective communities. You can learn more about this effort on their website: <http://www.bloodwatermission.com/>. Missouri Nursing Students' Association has adopted this organization for one of their community service projects and are passionate about others learning about their mission.

MONSA is asking Missouri convention participants to visit the Missouri Student Activities Booth in the general convention area. You will need to ask at registration where they are located. In addition, Missouri is planning for a **“Meet and Mingle”**. This event will be on **Thursday, April 16, from 11:30-1:00 P.M.** It will be a time to meet and network with Missouri convention attendees and delegates. A special event will be the opportunity to learn about MONSA's community service program. Special guests will be members of the Blood: Water Mission, who will give a special presentation about their work in Africa. In addition, it is possible that one or some of the band members from **Jars of Clay** will make an appearance at this event. Kenya Haney and Evette Eubanks will also be available to answer any questions and to solicit your participation for their campaign. We will also have a limited number of box lunches available, so be on time and make every effort to attend this event. More information will be available at the Missouri student activity table.

Looking ahead in the Fall 2009. Missouri Nursing Students Association is planning annual convention at the Holiday Inn Select-St. Peters, Mo on October 16-17, 2009. The MONSA Board is actively planning the event. More information will be posted on the MONSA website: www.monsa.org. So make plans to attend and to encourage students to attend and to run for state office. We look forward to meeting you in Nashville and back in Missouri. Please contact us for additional information at monsas@charter.net or by calling 573-979-2468 . Have a great rest of semester!!

Royceann Palmer, President

Missouri Nursing Students Association

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