

NHNA HISTORY



As our state and nation were founded nursing was for the most part a personal rather than a professional commitment. There was no understanding of the disease process or bacterial infection and the American colonists witnessed distressing outbreaks of diseases.

The plight of the revolutionary soldier was particularly alarming for in addition to suffering the wounds of battle, his poor living conditions gave rise to epidemics of cholera and typhus, dysentery and pneumonia. Wives, friends and relatives of these soldiers voluntarily followed the military unit and ministered to the sick and wounded. These “camp followers”, as they came to be known, were invaluable for they kept the sick and wounded clean and comfortable and fed. Trained nurses were as yet unknown in this new land.

Almost a century later in 1861 when the Civil War began in this country there were still virtually no trained nurses in the country. Florence Nightingale was continuing her efforts to improve the care of the English soldier after the Crimea War. Her organizational skills could have been used to advantage here in America for women in both the north and the south were volunteering to care for the sick and wounded and there was great need of an organized nursing service. One of those who assumed a leadership role at this time was Clara Barton who labored diligently in war and peace for the establishment of the American Red Cross.

After the Civil War this country experienced an industrial and technological revolution. Immigrants flocked to these United States and cities grew rapidly. Public health and social problems abounded. As the nineteenth century drew to a close the needs of hospitals prompted the establishment of training schools for nurses. The first training school for nurses in New Hampshire was opened at New Hampshire State Hospital in 1888.

With the turn of the century came a beginning concept of professional nursing and nurses began to organize themselves for the improvement of patient care. The forerunner of the American Nurses Association was founded in 1896 and the forerunner of the National League for Nursing in 1893.

Here in New Hampshire nurses who had graduated from the state’s training school programs were also feeling the need to organize.

Our Association’s Founding – 1906

In April of 1906 fifty of New Hampshire’s graduate nurses met in Concord to discuss the need they felt for a state nurses association. A month later on May 28, 1906, a second meeting was held at the state hospital and a permanent association to be known as the Graduate Nurses Association of New Hampshire was formed.

The following officers were elected:

President Miss Ada J. Morey, Wilder, VT

First Vice President Miss Ida F. Shepard, Hanover, NH

Second Vice President Miss Grace Haskell, Dover, NH

Recording Secretary and Treasurer Mrs. Clara V.S. Glidden, Concord, NH

Corresponding Secretary Miss Blanche Truesdell, Concord, NH

The Executive Board of the new association included these five officers and four other members: Miss Robina Thompson, Manchester, NH; Miss Van Vranklin, Concord, NH; Miss Ida Nutter, Laconia, NH; Miss Lisle Thompson, Keene, NH.

The Articles of Incorporation were filed in the office of the Secretary of State on October 2, 1906.

The objectives of the association were centered around “the welfare of its membership and the profession, the health of mankind and the education of nurses.”

The new state organization voted to affiliate with the Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States (the forerunner of the American Nurses Association) and the affiliation was quickly negotiated in order that the new association would be entitled to send a delegate to the national convention in May of 1907.

The New Association's First Task – State Registration for Nurses – 1907

Realizing that state registration for nurses would be to the advantage of both the public – the consumer of nursing service – and the profession, the first members of the Graduate Nurses Association of New Hampshire worked vigorously toward informing both the legislators and the public of the importance of a nurses registration bill before the 1907 state legislature. Their efforts were rewarded when on May 7, 1907 Governor John McLane signed the bill into law.

The nurse registration legislation provided for:

1. state registration by examination for graduate nurses from hospital schools giving a course of at least two years,
2. a waiver clause covering a three-year period for graduate nurses already practicing, and nursing students then enrolled in schools,
3. a registration fee of \$5.00
4. the appointment of a board of five nurse examiners to serve as inspectors of schools of nursing, and
5. a regent who was responsible to see that the act was carried out.

The nurses who comprised the first Board of Nurse Examiners were Miss Blanche Truesdell of Concord, its first President; Miss Augusta Robertson of Manchester, its first Secretary; Miss Ida Nutter of Laconia, Miss Ida Shephard of Hanover, and Miss Annie Alpaugh of Portsmouth.

These nurses met as a Board for the first time on May 23, 1907, and at that time forty-six graduate nurses were recommended for registration. Provision was also made for the examination of nurses practicing in New Hampshire who were not graduate nurses. The decision was made that nurses entering training after March 7, 1910 would take an examination before being recommended for registration. The work of assisting training schools in planning educational programs was started with the preparation of a

syllabus which outlined the organization of a school, the requirements which prospective students should fulfill to be eligible for admission to a school, a minimum curriculum of three years, and a list of suggested texts and reference books.

On June 18 the first nurse registration examination was held for two nurse (a man and a woman) practicing in New Hampshire who were not graduate nurses. There was a written examination in the morning and a practical examination in the afternoon. It is interesting from the vantage point of seventy-five years later to note not only the subject matter of the examination by also the fact that men and women were asked to answer different questions on the examination. The examination was as follows:

State of New Hampshire - Examination for the Registration of Nurses

Answer 10 questions but not more. Male nurses must choose at least two questions each from divisions I, II, IV, V; female nurses at least two questions each from divisions I, III, IV, V. Answers in excess of the number required will not be considered. Check the number of each one of the questions you have answered.

Division I. Surgery.

- State how sheets, towels, sponges, instruments and utensils should be sterilized with such facilities as would be found in an ordinary private house.
- State how the nurse should prepare her hands before assisting the surgeon at an operation or dressing.
- Give the nursing care of patient operated on for appendicitis.
- How should a patient be prepared for ether anesthesia on three hours notice.

Division II. Genito-Urinary Cases.

For Male Nurses.

- State how a catheter should be sterilized and cared for.
- What precautionary measures should a nurse take against infection when caring for a specific case.
- If stipes over bladder are ordered tell how prepared, applied and how often changed.
- Mention three ways aside from catheterization by which a patient might be relieved when suffering from retention of urine.

Division II. Obstetrics

For Female Nurses.

- What articles would you tell the prospective mother would be required at the time of confinement (a) for her own use; (b) by the infant.
- State how a nurse should prepare herself for an obstetric case
- What is placenta praevia? Give the symptoms and describe the care that should be exercised by the nurse in a case of placenta praevia.
- Name some of the complications that may arise during the puerperium.

Division IV. Febrile Cases.

- Mention the precautions to be observed in nursing a case of tuberculosis.
- Outline a diet for a case of typhoid fever from its onset to the convalescence of the patient.
- Give the duration of a case of pneumonia without complications. Mention the special danger to be avoided in nursing a case of pneumonia and state the most critical period of this disease.
- Mention the complications that may arise in typhoid fever on account of poor nursing. State how these complications may be prevented.

Division V. Drugs.

- How many ounces of 95% carbolic acid would you use to fill a five pint bottle of the strength of 1 to 20?
- If 1/300 of a grain of strychnine was ordered and you had no tablets except those of a strength of 1/30 of a grain, how would you manage to give the desired dose?
- Name four drugs classed as cardiac stimulants and state the dose of each.
- What is strychnine? Give the symptoms of strychnine poisoning and name an antidote for it. 2

A similar examination was given in 1908 and 1909 and the registration of nurses moved on rapidly. In 1908 it was noted that of the one hundred and forty three members of the Graduate Nurses Association of New Hampshire one hundred and five were registered during the first ten months of the existence of the law.

The Graduate Nurses Association of New Hampshire—Its First Ten Years 1906-1915

Much of the new organization's energies were directed toward the passage of the nurse registration act and supporting its purposes once it had passed. One indication of the amount of work involved may be gleaned from the fact that the association voted to pay Miss Blanche Truesdell, chairman of the association's Ways and Means committee which had spearheaded this task, the sum of \$500.00, no mean sum in 1907.

During its first decade of life the state association continued to hold quarterly meetings at various hospitals. Then, as now, traveled distance seems to have been a problem as there was discussion of amending the bylaws to allow for the formation of county associations.

Over two hundred nurses were registered by 1910 and as the decade progressed nurses began to venture forth into new fields. Miss Mary Varney, a 1906 graduate of Manchester's Elliot Hospital School of Nursing, became the first industrial nurse at the Amoskeag Mills in Manchester and the District Nurses Associations of Manchester and Concord added tuberculosis nursing to their responsibilities.

Ever concerned about the health of New Hampshire's citizens, the Granite State's nurses were zealous on the legislative front promoting legislation which would improve that health.

Equally zealous were the nurses involved in upgrading the schools of nursing in the state. As noted earlier the first school of nursing in New Hampshire had been established at New Hampshire State Hospital in 1888. In rapid succession schools had been founded at Concord Hospital, Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, Elliot Hospital in Manchester, Elliot Community Hospital in Keene and at Laconia Hospital. During the decade between 1906 and 1915 schools were also established in St. Joseph's Hospital in Nashua and at the Hillsborough County Hospital in Grasmere among others.

Our Association: Its Second Decade 1916-1925

The entrance of the United States into World War I meant that New Hampshire's nurses along with nurses from all over the country were called upon to do heroic duty. Some served in the armed services at home or abroad. Those who did not enter the service also worked beyond the call of duty on the home front to fill the gaps left by those who had joined the service.

Nurses who entered the service, however, served without benefit of official rank and the New Hampshire Graduate Nurses Association aided in the struggle to gain rank for nurses by sending Helen Hay Greely to Washington to lend her support to other nurses working for this cause.

With the end of the war and the end of the influenza epidemic New Hampshire's nurses turned their attention to other matters. This was a time of seeming prosperity – a time when the radio, the automobile, the airplane and movies were coming into their own. We may associate the roaring twenties with the Charleston but the convention programs from the New Hampshire Graduate Nurses Association reflect a serious interest in the responsibilities for citizenship. Papers and lectures were presented on such topics as "Citizenship", "The Machinery of Political Parties" and "The Process of Enacting Legislation" by people knowledgeable on these subjects.

Members of the Association were concerned about the health and social problems of the state, the country, and the world. The Association voted to give its support to the Child Labor Amendment and passed a resolution endorsing the World Court.

In 1920 Congress passed a law providing aid to states so that better maternal and child health services might be available. Here in New Hampshire a Division of Maternal and Child Health was organized within the State Department of Health and a Division of School Nursing within the Department of Education. Nurses were now available in all of the state's schools either through the local school system or through the state's Department of Health.

Student nurses had little time for the joys of the short skirts and dangling sequins of this time of the flapper for the atmosphere in most training schools at this time was one of strict discipline and conformity to rules. Definite protocol had to be observed and students always held doors for upper classmen and stood in the presence of graduates and doctors.

Our Third Decade 1926-1935

On June 9, 1926 the NH Graduate Nurses Association celebrated its twentieth birthday at its annual meeting in Portsmouth. Papers were presented on private duty nursing, public health nursing, and school nursing and a gala lunch was served. The fledgling organization had indeed come of age.

As the Association began its third decade both private duty nurses and public health nurses felt the need of having a place to share their own specific concerns. So a Private Duty Section and a Public Health were organized within the Association.

“The Great Depression” of the thirties brought difficult times for nurses and non-nurses. As the Association celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1931 it was busy helping its members as well as other nurses who were unemployed. At this time schools of nursing were encouraged to curtail the number of students being admitted as a step toward relieving the oversupply of nurses.

Several “Registries” were set up to assist private duty nurses find cases and to help the public find private duty nurses. There were probably several such registries during this time, some of which were approved by the professional association. We know of such registries in Concord, Manchester, and Hanover. The rates for private duty nurses in Hanover in 1933 were:

24 Hour Duty \$6.00/day

12 Hour Duty (day or night) \$5.00

Mental and Communicable Cases \$7.00/day

In 1931 there were twenty-two schools of nursing in the state, all of them hospital based. There was one each in Berlin, Claremont, Dover, Exeter, Franklin, Grasmere, Hanover, Keene, Laconia, Littleton, Portsmouth, Whitefield and Woodsville. There were two hospital schools in Nashua, three in Concord, and three in Manchester. (By 1956 there would be half as many diploma schools and a baccalaureate program at St. Anselm’s.)

Our Fourth Decade 1936-1947

As the Association began its fourth decade of life there was a marked effort within the state to improve nursing education. There was discussion of establishing courses in nursing and allied subjects at the state university. There was also mention of the need for a graduate program of study within the state in order that nursing instructors might be better prepared. But World War II intervened before these and other ideas could be implemented. Once more a world conflict made its demands upon nursing and nurses. A large number of nurses joined their country’s service and served throughout this country and the world. Once more the nurses who remained at home doubled and redoubled their efforts to provide the nursing services that were needed on the home front.

In order to help provide those services nurses aides were recruited, trained, and supervised by professional nurses; home nursing courses were taught; and students were recruited for the Cadet Nurse Corps which came into existence to educate nurses to fill the depleted ranks. In 1945 there were 753

such students enrolled in the state's nursing schools. Once more New Hampshire's nurses rallied to meet a crisis.

During the war years the New Hampshire Graduate Nurses Association carried on its activities and did all it could to assist the state's nurses even to the extent of paying the dues for those nurses in the service who had been members before Pearl Harbor.

A New Hampshire council of Catholic Nurses and the New Hampshire Industrial Nurses Association were formed during the war years and both these groups affiliated with their national associations.

As the Association prepared to celebrate its fortieth birthday an Institutional Nurses Section was organized within the association which by now had changed its name to the New Hampshire State Nurses Association. The purpose of this section, which included all institutional nurses except nursing school instructors and personnel was to promote better care for the patient and to improve working conditions for nurses. The NHSNA like other state nurses associations was concerned about the economic and general welfare of its members and its non-members. A committee from the Institutional Nurses Section began working on some recommended personnel policies.

Concomitant with this concern for the working conditions of nurses there was also a concern for the caliber of nursing education in the state. Both these concerns were discussed at some length and with some heat by the state's newspapers.

An Interim Commission on Nursing Education was created by the 1945 legislature and the Commission report would call for an extensive survey of the present needs for nurses in the state and of the cost of educating those nurses, and it would also suggest public cooperation in the financing of nursing schools.

The ultimate aim suggested by the report was the establishment of larger schools of nursing with well-qualified faculties and the facilities commensurate with the purpose of a professional school. Toward that end the report recommended several intermediate steps including the closing of the "weaker" schools of nursing, combining the facilities of some schools with "necessary additions", and the establishment of at least one degree granting program. It also suggested the establishment of one or more practical nursing schools.

Our Fifth Decade 1946-1955

The hue and cry prompted by the Interim Commission report continued into the fifth decade of the association's life. A Coordinating committee with membership from the New Hampshire State Nurses Association, the New Hampshire Hospital Association and the New Hampshire Medical Society proposed that the Governor appoint a Commission composed of representation from the aforementioned groups and the New Hampshire Board of Education, the New Hampshire Board of Nurse Examiners, and the New Hampshire Department of Health "to submit to the Governor not later than July 1, 1954 the results of its findings on all phases of nursing education in New Hampshire."

Such a Commission was indeed appointed with representatives from the suggested groups and some additional members appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate.

The Coordinating Committee of representatives of the NH State Nurses Association , the NH Hospital Association, and the NH Medical Society did review the personnel policies recommended by the Institutional Nurses Section of NHSNA mentioned earlier and suggested some changes. Whether these changes were made by that section is unknown but the final statement of personnel policies was approved by the constituent organizations. It was then sent to the administrators and directors of nursing of the forty-four general hospitals in the state in 1948. A follow-up questionnaire sent in 1949 indicated that there had been little change in the personnel policies of those hospitals.

In 1948 NHSNA's President, Mrs. Carrie Price outlined her objectives for the Association as follows:

1. to continue to work for economic security for nurses,
2. to propose new legislation for the licensing of practical nurse,
3. to provide a full time Executive Secretary for the Association,
4. to provide a public relations program,
5. to revise the bylaws of the Association to meet existing needs, and
6. to increase membership through an active membership campaign.

One of Mrs. Price's objectives became reality when Mrs. Mary T. Madden became the full time Executive Secretary of the Association. A one-room headquarters office was set up on 3 North Main Street in Concord in May of 1949 with a part-time secretary. In 1954 the headquarters office was moved to larger quarters at 5 North State Street and a full time secretary was employed.

Another of Mrs. Price's objectives was attained when a bill establishing the licensing of practical nurses passed the legislature in 1954. And yet another one of her goals was reached when the state was divided into seven district nurses associations so that the work of the Association might be brought closer to its members.

The pace of the Associate's activities continued to pick up. A Professional counseling and Placement Service was made available at the headquarters office. A Student Nurses Association was organized. And within NHSNA itself sections were organized for General Duty Nurses and for School Nurses. The Educational Administrators, consultants and Teachers Section of the Association was working on a study of employment conditions, standards and qualifications of teachers and administrators.

In 1954 the American Nurses Association granted NHSNA a Nursing Functions Research Grant in the amount of \$8,500 to study the functions of nursing personnel in the state. Dr. George Theriault, PhD., Professor of Sociology at Dartmouth College was appointed director of the study.

As the NH State Nurses Association prepared to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in 1956 it could look back with pride on its many accomplishments in improving the caliber of nursing service and nursing education within the state. And the state association could take pride, too, in its ability to help New Hampshire's nurses meet the needs of the people of the state while working for the advancement of the profession.

Our Sixth Decade 1956-1965

The New Hampshire State Nurses Association celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary at its fall convention October 3 and 4, 1956. Miss Agnes Ohlson, then President of the American Nurses Association was the banquet speaker. She emphasized the strength that nurses have when they act collectively both to

improve the health and nursing care of all the people and also to improve their own professional and economic status. Miss M. Olive Cummings was chairman of the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee and was responsible for preparing both the convention program and the very informative history of the association's first fifty years, a history which this author has used extensively.

During the sixth decade much of the Association's energies were directed toward legislative action. With the able leadership of Executive Secretary, Mrs. Mary T. Madden and its various legislative committees, bills were passed which provided for scholarship help to both professional and practical nursing students and mandatory licensure laws were passed for both professional and practical nurses.

In 1958 Dr. George Theriault, PhD. Published the report of the nursing function study which he had conducted in eleven of New Hampshire's hospitals. He reported that "the changing status of the institutional nurse in hospitals required a higher standard of individual performance, a clarification of the professional nurse's duties and rights, and a firmer and more responsible delineation of the functions to be performed by practical nurses and nurses' aides. The time has come to arrest and reverse the trend toward the lowering of professional standards of nursing that has been in evidence during and since World War II." 4

In order to do this Dr. Theriault suggested that "a more mature attitude regarding the education and training of nursing personnel requires a hard look at nursing service requirements and a closer matching of educational background and job specifications." He did not think that bedside nursing required a college degree but he did think that "the increasing complexity and specialization in large modern hospitals did require college educated and specially trained professional personnel for supervisory, administrative and teaching positions." 5

Dr. Theriault also reported that registered nurses interviewed for his study were "seriously concerned that salaries in the nursing profession are inadequate, lagging markedly behind the progress being made in such comparable professions as teaching that salary differentials between levels of nursing personnel were too small." 6

A report entitled "Toward Quality in Nursing" was published in 1963 by a group appointed by the US Surgeon General. Miss Dorothy M. Breene, then Director of Nursing Service at New Hampshire Hospital, was a member of the group which conducted that study. Their assessment of the national situation was similar to that of Dr. Theriault's study at the state level and some of their recommendations were similar to those of the state study.

As a result of this study, which made important recommendations involving proposed federal legislation to meet the projected nursing needs of the country by 1970, several groups throughout this state met to study the implications of this report for nurses and nursing in this state.

In the meantime a Professional Practice Committee which was made up of representatives of the New Hampshire Nurses Association (the word State had been dropped from its name in 1961), the NH Board of Nursing Education and Nurse Registration, the NH League for Nursing, the NH Medical Society, and the NH Hospital Association were working to clarify some of the so-called "gray areas" or areas of dependent function in nursing practice.

Other association activities include the reorganization of the Nurses Professional Registry in Concord, the only NHNA approved registry in the state; the approval of the Private Duty Section request for a

raise in their recommended rates (to \$20.00 for an 8 hour shift, \$26.00 for a 12 hour shift, and \$38.00 for 24 hour duty); and some internal organizational changes.

Membership figures for the Association have been hard to come by but we do know that in 1956 there were 1206 NHNA members. Two years later, as the result of an intense membership drive there were 1543 members. But membership then started to decline and by 1965, at the close of the Association's sixth decade NHNA membership was down to 778.

NHNA members were also busy supporting the activities of the American Nurses Association. New Hampshire's nurses raised over \$6,000.00 in support of the American Nurses Foundation, whose purpose was to receive and administer grants for research in nursing.

NHNA was proud of the election of one of its members and past presidents, Miss Ruth Bagley, to the Board of Directors of the American Nurses Association. Miss Bagley, then Director of the Department of Nursing at St. Anselm's College, was first elected to the ANA Board in 1958 and re-elected in 1962. In her eight years on the Board she served as chairman and member of many ANA committees and on the board of the American Journal of Nursing and the American Nurses Foundation.

Several other members of the New Hampshire Nurses Association also served on some of ANA's many committees during this decade.

Our Seventh Decade 1966-1975

As the year 1966 began the NH Nurses Association joined with many other people to honor Miss Cecilia Sinclair, Executive Secretary and Director of Nursing Education, NH Board of Nursing Education and Nurse Registration, who was retiring from that position. In her seventeen years in that position Miss Sinclair had done a great deal to improve nursing education and practice in New Hampshire. Miss Marguerite Hastings, RN, M.Ed was appointed to succeed Miss Sinclair, and she, too, would do much to elevate the standards of nursing education and practice until her own retirement in 1980.

Three tragic assassinations marked the sixties and the social unrest which this country experienced then continued into the seventies, aggravated in the part by the country's seemingly never-ending participation in a southeast Asian war. The technology of the Space Age, the so-called "civil rights" movement, and the effects of the "me" and "now" philosophy were felt throughout the nation, the world, and the nursing profession in the sixties, the seventies and the eighties.

That the New Hampshire Nurses Association was able to play a meaningful role in the development of nursing in New Hampshire in those sometimes turbulent times was a tribute to its leaders, its members, and its Executive Directors.

Mrs. Mary T. Madden had faithfully served the Association for twenty years when she retired in 1969. Shortly thereafter Sister Mary Augustine San Souci became Executive Director and she served for nine years before leaving the position in 1978. Both of these dedicated nurses contributed much to the development of the Association.

In 1971 the organization established a Commission on Practice in order to most effectively address nursing practice issues. Comprised of representatives from the various areas of practice, this group dealt

with both the long and short term issues facing nurses in their day-to-day practice. A Council on Concerns, functioning under the aegis of this Commission, formulated some “Guidelines for the Utilization of Registered Nurses” which were approved by the Board of Directors and circulated throughout the state.

Seeking the best way to help New Hampshire’s nurses in the area of Economic and General Welfare, groups of nurses in various hospitals and agencies organized into chapters for the purpose of improving patient care and promoting the professional position of registered nurses in practice settings. Representatives of these chapters served on the Council of Concerns whose efforts were supported in part by a special grant from ANA.

Legislative committees of the Association were increasingly active in lobbying for changes in the Nurse Practice Act and for proposed laws affecting health.

In 1974 the federal government funded a grant which the Association had submitted and which would provide for a Statewide Inter-disciplinary Planning Project for Nursing and Nursing Education in NH which involved planning until the year 2000.

This decade (1966-1975) saw the closing of yet more of the state’s diploma schools of nursing but it also saw the continued development of the baccalaureate programs and programs of continuing education at St. Anselm’s College in Manchester and the University of New Hampshire in Durham. An associate degree program was started at the New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord.

Our Eighth Decade – Its First Half 1976-1981

The NH Nurses Association began its eighth decade by celebrating its seventieth anniversary and the country’s two hundredth birthday with a convention based on the theme “A Past to Remember: A Future to Shape”.

A Commission on Continuing Education was established and in 1979 it received ANA accreditation as both an approver and a provider of continuing education offerings. This Commission chairman meets regularly with the chairmen of the Commission on Nursing Education and the Commission on Nursing Practice to discuss mutual concerns.

The desire to see the American Association quality Assurance Model implemented in the three states of New England’s upper tier resulted in the writing, approval and funding of a federal grant directed toward that end. As a result of that project which extended from 1978 to 1981, a cadre of Quality Assurance consultants was developed to assist in the implementation of that model in the health care agencies and institutions in those three states. Upon the expiration of the grant the Commission on Practice of NHNA once more assumed the responsibility for quality assurance in nursing in New Hampshire.

The ever-increasing involvement of state and federal government in health affairs meant that nurses needed to increase their participation in health planning efforts. NHNA was pleased to have one of its members, Mrs. Nancy Watkins, serve on the first Council of the United Health System’s Agency of New Hampshire and to have past NHNA President Mrs. Patricia Waite serve on the State Health Coordinating Council.

The Association's many activities were facilitated by the purchase of a headquarters building at 48 West Street in Concord. Ever increasing rent and the need for more space made this venture seem a wise investment in the future.

Following the resignation of Sister Augustine as Executive Director in 1978 Mrs. Ann Carnaby, RN, MA served briefly as Executive Director. She was replaced in 1980 by Miss Lois Murphy, RN, MS.

Faced with a declining membership, NHNA decided that the Economic and General Welfare of New Hampshire's nurses should be a priority for the 1979-1980 biennium. In 1980 NHNA's members were asked if they wanted NHNA to engage in collective bargaining. The answer was "yes" but the association was in no position financially to take on that task. In 1981 the Association's Board of Directors voted to participate in a tri-state economic and general welfare project with Maine and Vermont with the clear understanding that NH's involvement was to only include educating New Hampshire's nurses about economic and general welfare issues.

In an attempt to make the organization more responsive to the needs of the nurses in the state a new organizational structure was implemented in 1980. Once more the Association's Board of Directors would be comprised of representatives from the state's various geographic areas.

The federally funded Statewide Interdisciplinary Planning Project for Nursing and Nursing Education in New Hampshire (SIPPNE) originally funded in 1974 presented its first report in 1977. Continued funding then made it possible for the planning process to continue until 1980, when another federal grant made it possible for the implementation of the goals of SIPPNE.

As the New Hampshire Nurses Association prepared to celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary it could indeed reflect on its proud heritage as it shapes its future and the future of nursing in New Hampshire.

Footnotes

1. NH State Nurses Association Fiftieth Anniversary Booklet, page 8.
2. op.cit. pages 12-14.
3. Our thanks to St. Joseph's Hospital in Nashua for sharing their scrapbook with us.
4. NH Nurses Association Sixtieth Anniversary Booklet, page 11.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.

Acknowledgements

In writing this history I have relied extensively on the Association's Fiftieth Anniversary booklet written by Miss Olive Cummings and the Association's Sixtieth Anniversary booklet written by Miss Ruth Bagley, Dr. Mary Bruton and Miss E. Mae Davis. My thanks to them for their endeavors and my special thanks to Miss Marguerite Hastings for her patience in researching our records.

While I am grateful to all these people for their assistance, I alone must accept the responsibility of this history.

Marilyn E. Bushnell

PRESIDENTS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE NURSES' ASSOCIATION

1906 Miss Ada J. Morey

1907-1908 Miss Grace Haskell

1909-1910 Miss Della Streeter

1911 Miss Carrie M. Hall

1912 Miss Ada A. Nutter

1913 Miss Anna C. Lockerby

1914 Miss Jennie B. Messer

1915 Mrs. Eva Crosby

1916-1917 Miss Elizabeth Murphy

1918-1919 Miss Nancy V. Curtice

1920-1921 Miss Ida Shepard

1921-1923 Miss Anna C. Lockerby

1924-1926 Mrs. Ethelyn Dutcher Jenkins

1927-1929 Miss Elizabeth Murphy

1930-1931 Miss Louise Thompson

1932-1933 Miss Marion Garland

1934-1935 Miss Lillian Williams

1936-1937 Miss Rose Griffin

1938 Miss Ruth Whitcomb

1939-1940 Miss Dorothy Parsons

1941 Miss Elizabeth Murphy

1942 Miss Minnie Wilder

1943-1944 Miss Maude A. Miles
1944-1946 Miss Florence M. Clark
1946-1948 Mrs. Lillian April
1948-1950 Mrs. Carrie C. Price
1950-1951 Miss Marie V. Dowler
1951-1953 Mrs. Elizabeth H. Hay
1953-1955 Miss Ruth E. Bagley
1955-1957 Mrs. Ella T. Fowler
1957-1959 Miss Kathleen Clare
1959-1961 Miss E. Mae Davis
1961-1963 Mrs. Mabel M. Johnson
1963-1965 Miss Olive Cummings
1965-1967 Mrs. Cecile Kidder
1967-1969 Miss Rose Freeman
1969-1971 Miss Mary Louise Fernald
1971-1973 Mrs. Marianne Gagne
1973-1975 Mrs. Patricia Waite
1975-1977 Mr. Stanley Plodzick
1977-1979 Ms. Muriel Derosier
1979-1981 Mrs. Sarah Hubbard
1998-2002 Mrs. Sally Patton
2002-2006 Mrs. Susan Fetzer