Greetings from the President

Welcome! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday. It was a memorable holiday season for me. Being with family and friends warms my heart and gives me a sense of happiness. You know, those “warm fuzzies”. Well, the New Year has begun and so has the busy season for our chapter. February will be our chapter’s annual business meeting for all members. It is a great time for visiting with friends, reviewing the chapter business, electing new officer positions, giving door prizes, and much more. There are more details in this newsletter so take advantage. In April, we will hold our annual Induction ceremony for community leaders and nursing students. April also allows us to work collaboratively with NDNA District 2 and AACN to provide you an opportunity for education with a day of scheduled educational sessions. May allows us a time to celebrate with the 3rd Annual Wine and Cheese Reception that honors all nurses and the profession of nursing. This event will promote friendship, collaboration, integrity, and praise. And of course, there is free wine, food, and gifts. We are also planning our third year for the fun run “Run for the Health of It”. This is a special event that promotes community wellness. The proceeds are donated to the Minot Community Clinic. The last two years we were able to donate $500. I would also like to thank Bonnie Ler for her excellent and well attended CNE “Nursing Challenges in West Africa” that was offered in November by our chapter in collaboration with District #2 NDNA. Another CNE will be offered on March 15, 2005. Details will come in a future mailing so put this date in your palm pilots, calendars, on the fridge, or whatever you use for tracking your busy schedule. In this message, I would like to reinforce our values as a chapter and a member. We collaborate or work together for chapter and member vitality. This is evidenced by the activities offered to our chapter members with District 2 NDNA and AACN and the community events we sponsor. We promote and provide education to our members and the community in which we live through knowledge and skills. We encourage member integrity through our honesty, sincerity, and wholeness to convey our chapters’ vision and mission. Through practice we can acquire the skills to make a difference in the profession of nursing. Research allows us to study aspects of care to enhance the health of all people. Scholarship gives us the knowledge and insight to lead change. Through your volunteerism we have been able to offer and give our chapter strength. I would like to challenge you as a member to “do one thing” for our chapter whether it be through renewal of your membership, attend chapter activities, and just by being you, a nurse.

Nancy Vitko, President
Johnson attends STTI Chapter Leadership Academy

Omicron Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International provided support for Dr. Deborah Johnson, to attend STTI’s annual “Chapter Leadership Academy” (CLA) November 4-6 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Continuing with our President’s theme of renewal and action, CLA provided information about recruitment, retention, research and volunteer involvement to over 400 attendees and 210 chapters from the US and other countries. Topics ranged from Leadership Basics to fundraising and research opportunities while maintaining STTI’s focus on excellence in nursing practice and research. Highlights of the three day event included regional and area dinners, lunch networking opportunities, a fantastic plenary by STTI President Dan Pesut about the responsibilities of leadership, a guided tour of STTI headquarters with a reception, and ended with the awards luncheon on Saturday and CLA “graduation”.

One of the most striking differences in this meeting was the positive “can do” attitude that was heard and felt throughout by attendees and staff. Absent were complaints about the problems we all know and attitudes of “nothing we do makes any difference.” Everyone had an idea about how to approach a problem with a solution, all shared willingly of problems and solutions and most left feeling energized. There are remarkable nurses accomplishing remarkable things and this meeting was a good reminder of what we can do when we focus on solutions.

For more information or further questions, please contact any board member. I gratefully thank the Board of Directors of Omicron Tau and especially Dr. Marita Hoffart whose sponsorship donation enabled our chapter to furnish the registration. I learned so much and am anxious to share the information, thoughts and ideas gained with our membership in promoting our chapter and STTI.

Deborah Johnson
President-elect

Important Reminders

Keep us up to date on You!

To change your contact info go to www.nursingsociety.org, log into the member community, click on E-Profile, and update your information!

Scholarship Opportunities are Available at

http://www.nursingsociety/careers/scholarships_opps.html
Announcements

The Chapter's Leadership Succession Committee is seeking nominations for the Vice President, Treasurer, Governance Committee and Leadership Succession Committee. If you are interested, nominations are due prior to our annual business meeting scheduled for February 19, 2005. You can submit your nomination by email to Nancy Vitko at omicrontau@minotstateu.edu. If you have questions regarding positions descriptions for any of the positions, log onto our chapter website and click on to the bylaws. The url is:

http://mail.misu.nodak.edu/~omicrontau/

The Chapter Board of Directors is seeking nominations for our chapter awards – Orchid Award and Best Practice Awards. Award descriptions and nomination forms are now available online at:

http://mail.misu.nodak.edu/~omicrontau/

Omicron Tau Spring Events

Please Mark Your Calendars for Spring Events:

February 19 – Annual Meeting 12:00-2:00, International Inn, Candlelight Room

March 15 – CNE Educational Event with NDNA District #2 (Details in future mailings)

April 14 – Induction Ceremony, Minot State University Audobon and Metigoshe Rooms, Student Union, 7:00 p.m. Chapter Award Presentations.

April 17 – Regional Workshop (All day event – details in future mailings)

May 5 – Third Annual Wine & Cheese Event, Taube Museum, Minot, 5:00-7:00 pm

June 4 – Run for the Health Of It (1.5 mi walk, 5k/10k run), Oak Park, 9:00 registration, 10:00 race start

Volunteers Needed for all Spring Events – contact Nancy Vitko at 838-0843 or vitkos@srt.com
Janet Maxson, recently received the Continuing Leadership Award from the American Heart Association’s Greater Midwest Affiliate. Maxson, a nurse practitioner in Minot, became a Heart Association volunteer in 1975, has volunteered in fundraising events, awareness campaigns, community programs and advocacy.

Beth Pross recently accepted an appointment as Chair of the Nursing Department at Minot State University. Dr. Pross has been a member of the nursing faculty since 1993. She also serves as a national evaluator for the National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission and is an appraiser for the American Nurses Association Magnet Hospital Recognition Program.

Note: If you know of a member who should be recognized, please forward that information to Stephanie Witwer at stephanie.witwer@minotstateu.edu