RESOLUTION 1

WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT

WHEREAS, Part of the Mission and Goals of the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) is to maintain and strengthen nursing’s role in client advocacy for consumer safety and quality health care, and

WHEREAS, Many of the quality and safety initiatives identified by the National Quality Forum (NQF), the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), the Joint Commission’s National Patient Safety Goals, and the CMS Never Events are directly related to nursing care activities, and

WHEREAS, Federal and State regulations and the Joint Commission accreditation program require healthcare institutions to establish facility-based Safety Committees to oversee the safe delivery and quality of patient care, and

WHEREAS, Registered Nurses, because of their expert knowledge, technical skills and patient care experience have an important role and much to contribute as active members of these facility-based Safety Committees (including, but not limited to facility-based patient safety committees, safe-patient handling committees and safe staffing committees), and

WHEREAS, New evidenced-based research is emerging almost daily that supports the important role that nursing care contributes to the safety and quality of patient outcomes,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That WSNA actively encourage, promote, and support WSNA members to actively seek and maintain positions on their workplace safety committees, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That WSNA staff work in collaboration with Local Unit leadership and other WSNA members to identify and develop a roster of registered nurses participating in Health and Safety committees at their place of work, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the WSNA Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Committee (OEHSC) and staff develop strategies to assist WSNA members who serve on these Safety committees and provide them with additional education, research and networking opportunities and other skills to support their safety committee role, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That WSNA members serving on these Committees be encouraged and supported in taking active leadership roles in improving policies and procedures such as infection control programs, safe patient handling, fatigue reduction, safe staffing, and disaster and emergency preparedness.

CONTACT: Ed Dolle, Chair, Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Committee (catspawz000@msn.com)
APPROVED: Bylaws / Resolutions Committee 1/21/11
APPROVED: Board of Directors Executive Committee 2/18/11
APPROVED: Board of Directors 3/25/11
ADOPTED: General Assembly 4/28/11