RESOLUTION 2

DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

WHEREAS. An online survey was sent out to the members of WSNA by the Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Committee in July 2010 to identify nurses responses to a variety of questions regarding their knowledge, experience, and personal/professional preparedness plan to use in an emergency or disaster situation, and

WHEREAS. Of the nurses surveyed, 89 percent were unaware that WSNA has a web page specifically devoted to emergency preparedness/disaster, and

WHEREAS. Of the nurses surveyed, 58 percent do not have a personal and/or family disaster preparedness plan in place, and

WHEREAS. Of the nurses surveyed, 89 percent are not registered as a volunteer responder with official agencies, such as State of Washington’s Medical Research Corp (MRC), Washington State Health Volunteers in Emergency (WHAVE), American Red Cross (ARC) or other emergency agencies, and

WHEREAS. Of the nurses surveyed, 81 percent stated they need more training in natural disaster preparation, especially for earthquakes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED. That WSNA educate nurses using a wide variety of methods, about the WSNA web page specifically devoted to emergency preparedness/disaster, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED. That WSNA develop and widely disseminate educational information and CE courses for nurses on how to develop a personal and/or family plan for disasters and emergencies, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED. That WSNA promote registration as a volunteer responder with an official agency to all registered nursing specialties, via emails, fliers, website, and published links to these organizations, and

BE IT RESOLVED That WSNA identify and review educational content of courses in emergency and disaster preparedness/management by other groups, so that WSNA can endorse appropriate offerings that are in line with this strategic objective, and

BE IT RESOLVED That WSNA will collaborate and partner with local agencies, such as DOH, MRC, Red Cross, WSHA and nursing organizations, such as the Washington State Emergency Nurses Association to develop awareness of their programs, and the need for nurses to register, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the WSNA Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Committee, a sub-committee of the Professional Nursing and Health Care Council, continue its work making recommendations to the PNHCC and the Board of Directors as necessary on emergency and disaster preparedness needs and related advances in nursing practice in Washington State.

Submitted on behalf of the WSNA Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Committee
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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