

## OFFICIAL APPLICATION TNSA CONSTITUENCY STATUS (2012)

### WHAT IS A TNSA CONSTITUENT?

A TNSA constituent is any school chapter in a state-approved program preparing students for licensure as registered nurses that meets the annual constituency requirements detailed below. Only TNSA constituents may be represented in the TNSA House of Delegates, and only TNSA constituents qualify for prizes and awards issued by TSNA. If you have questions please call the TNSA office at: **972/435-2216** or **e-mail** to: **tnsa@flash.net**

### HOW TO BECOME A TNSA CONSTITUENT:

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. THIS APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY JANUARY 5, 2012.**

Schools become TNSA constituents when they submit the Official Application for TNSA Constituency Status (the “application”) and membership data verifies a minimum of 5 TNSA members at the school on a date eight weeks prior to the first meeting of the Annual House of Delegates. Schools with enrollment under 15 must notify the TNSA office directly with a letter of verification by the dean or director of the program. The application contains the areas of conformity listed in the Bylaws. By submitting this, schools agree to abide by these areas of conformity by incorporating them into their own bylaws. Elected school officers are responsible for signing and submitting the application.

### DELEGATE REPRESENTATION

<u>School Membership</u>	<u>Delegate Count</u>
5	1+ Corresponding number of alternate
25	2+
45	3+
65	4+
85	5+
105	6+
125	7+
145	8+
165	9+
185	10+

Please print or type the following information as accurately as possible. Consult faculty for clarity of information (proper name of school, nursing organization), if necessary. Please do not use initials for schools as this may delay processing.

**State/School Association (Please Spell Out Completely)**

**School Address (Campus, If Needed), City, State, Zip**

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE AND FUNCTION**

The purpose of the \_\_\_\_\_ is:  
(Use Chapter Initials Here)

- A. To assume responsibility for contributing to nursing education in order to provide for the highest quality of health care.
- B. To provide programs representative of fundamental and current professional interest and concerns.
- C. To aid in the development of the whole person, and his/her professional role, and his/her responsibility for the health care of people in all walks of life.

The function of the \_\_\_\_\_ is:  
(Use Chapter Initials Here)

shall include the following:

- A. To have direct input into standards of nursing education and influence the education process.
- B. To influence health care, nursing education, and practice through legislative activities as appropriate.
- C. To promote and encourage participation in community affairs and activities as appropriate.
- D. To represent nursing students to the consumer, institutions, and other organizations.
- E. To promote and encourage recruitment efforts, participation in student activities and educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, economic status, age, or lifestyle.
- F. To promote and encourage student participation in inter-disciplinary activities.
- G. To promote and encourage collaborative efforts with the National Student Nurses' Association, American Nurses Association, National League for Nursing, International Council of Nurses, Texas Nurses Association, Texas League for Nursing, as well as other nursing and related health care organizations.
- H. To disseminate information to the school chapters regarding ethical and legal concerns of nursing at the state and national levels, continuing education, and current nursing roles.
- I. To promote participation in professional organizations after graduation.

## **ARTICLE III - MEMBERS**

### A. Categories of Constituent Membership.

Members of the constituent associations shall be:

1. Active Members.
    - A. Students enrolled in Texas Board of Nursing approved programs leading to licensure as a Registered Nurse.
    - B. Registered Nurses enrolled in programs leading to a Baccalaureate Degree with a Major in Nursing.
    - C. Active members shall have all the privileges of membership.
  2. Associate members.
    - A. Pre-nursing students, including Registered Nurses enrolled in college or university programs designed as preparation for entrance into a program leading to an associate degree.
    - B. Associate members shall have all the privileges of membership except the right to hold office as President or Vice President at state and national levels.
  3. Individual Members.
    - A. Individual members shall be open at the state and national level to any eligible student when membership in a constituent association is not available.
    - B. Individual members shall have all the privileges of active membership.
- B. Active, associate, and individual membership shall be renewable annually.
- C. Active, associate, and individual membership may be extended six months beyond graduation from a students program in nursing, providing membership was renewed while the student was enrolled in a nursing program. Subscriber membership shall be renewed annually.

## **ARTICLE IV - CONSTITUENT ASSOCIATIONS**

### **SECTION 2. STATE CONSTITUENT ASSOCIATIONS: TNSA**

- A. The division of TNSA shall be local chapters.
- B. Recognition - school chapters where membership is composed of active or associate members and whose bylaws have been approved and remain current, and upon meeting other such policy regulations as the Board of Directors have determined, shall be recognized as a constituent member.

- C. Requirements - for initial recognition, a school chapter shall be composed of at least five (5) members from a school or the total enrollment if less than fifteen (15) persons. Once a school is recognized as a constituent, membership may drop below fifteen (15) as long as the school sends its TNSA CONSTITUENCY FORM to TNSA every year, and sends its NSNA CONSTITUENCY FORM to NSNA every year.
1. If the membership falls below five (5), the school still has a qualified chapter but may not have a voting delegate at convention.
  2. If a chapter's constituency is revoked for any reason, it shall be necessary to file for initial recognition with five (5).
  3. There shall be only one chapter on a school campus.
  4. All TNSA constituent schools are encouraged to have faculty advisor (s) who hold current membership in Texas Nurses Association and/or Texas League For Nursing.
- D. Application for charter of bylaws - for initial recognition as a TNSA constituent, local chapters shall be required to submit their bylaws, which shall include the following areas of conformity for active and associate members, purpose and function, membership, dues, and representation.
- E. If a local chapter fails to submit a TNSA Constituency Form by the deadline date, that chapter will forfeit its delegate seat (s) in that year's TNSA House of Delegates.
- F. A local chapter which fails to comply with the Bylaws and Policies of TNSA shall have its status as a constituent revoked by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors provided that written notice of the proposed revocation has been given at least two months prior to the vote and the constituent association is given an opportunity to be heard.
- G. School chapters and state associations are entities separate and apart from TNSA in their administration of activities, with TNSA exercising no supervision or control over these immediate daily and regular activities. TNSA has no liability for any loss, damages, or injuries sustained by third parties as a result of the negligence or acts of school chapters or state associations, or the members thereof in the event any legal proceeding is brought against TNSA as a result of such acts of omissions, or commission by a school chapter, said chapter will indemnify and hold harmless the TNSA from any liability.

## **ARTICLE VII - CONVENTION**

### **SECTION 3. TNSA CONSTITUENTS**

- A. A school chapter recognized as a TNSA constituent chapter, according to these Bylaws, shall be entitled to one (1) voting delegate and alternate, and in addition, shall be entitled to one (1) voting delegate and alternate for each twenty (20) members (above the required five (5) member minimum) up to a maximum of ten (10) delegates.

- B. The school chapter delegate and alternate shall be members in good standing in the chapter and shall be selected and/or elected by members of the school chapter at a proper meeting.

<b>ARTICLE X - DUES AND FINANCES</b>
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<b>SECTION 2. DUES</b>
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- A. NSNA and TNSA dues shall be payable directly to NSNA. NSNA shall remit to each state constituent the dues received on behalf of the constituent. School dues shall be collected separately.
- B. Any member who fails to pay current dues shall forfeit all privileges of membership.
- C. TNSA Subscriber member dues shall be thirty (\$30) dollars.