



Wesley D. Willis, President
Adrial Lobelo, Secretary
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Suzie Marriot, Member-at-Large
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Fellow APNA-NYS Member:

As the President of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association for New York State, it is my honor to address this letter to everyone who has contributed, volunteered, funded, and has made this organization into what it is today: a leading resource center in mental health nursing. This association is the bridge between mental health and nursing—it is both the first and last step towards health, wellness, care, treatment, and prevention of mental health problems.

In the years that I served as part of this community, I noticed the tremendous growth and awareness that we have brought to the public regarding this association's mission and core values. We work towards an inclusivity and innovation in the mental health field that no other organization can compare to, because of the quality of service and knowledge that we provide to patients and to one another. We are the source of answers to the difficult questions that others are afraid to answer: Who am I now? What is this kind of medication? Why do I need it? Will I get better? Our answers are the very medicine and comfort that patients seek.

I want you all to be aware of something vital in our cause to treat, research, and bring awareness to the world of the misconceptions of mental health illnesses: you are all champions in what you do in this association. Each and every one of you has contributed part of their time, efforts, energy, passions, and dreams into creating a diverse and revolutionized path to knowledge, treatment, and care. To be a part of this cause means to be a part of an indefinable recognition as an individual, whose prominent and progressive ideology will form a path that will help millions of patients, and will provide positive and new results in studies about mental health.

As mental health nurses and practitioners, we have developed an instinct, an awareness, and a level of analysis and empathy that no textbook can teach you—we are conscious of others' mentalities and we respect them as unique human beings first and foremost. To this day, this field lacks the resources and studies that would help it become a well-recognized field, but it is through the very actions that you take today that we can make the greatest difference in the lives of our patients tomorrow.

I appreciate and respect each and every one of you who has trusted me, assisted me, and worked beside me as my equal in our common goal to increase our newsletters, our resources, our services, our continuing education opportunities, and the impact that mental health nursing has in our communities. To sign up for notifications of statewide events and become active in your chapter, please email me at wwillis24@aol.com or voice at (718) 869-6993.

Yours,

Wesley D. Willis, Psy.D, MSW, LCSW, BSN, RN-BC, CCM
Chapter President