



NCSBN
Leading Regulatory Excellence

The NCSBN Founders: An Audacious Vision for Public Protection Video Transcript

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♪ [music] ♪- [Corinne] Boards of Nursing really began meeting together almost from the early times when the first laws were passed in 1903. So, there's a long history of the groups coming together but it was always under the aegis of either the NLNE, as it was then, or the ANA.

- [Mildred] When I became executive secretary, I was aware that the executive secretaries of boards of nursing had to be approved by the American Nurses Association and I thought, "There's something wrong here. This alliance isn't quite right."

And at the same time, there were movements going on, questions being raised about the governance of the professions and were these boards of the professions serving the profession or serving the needs of the people of the state? So, I began to think, "We need our own organization."

That was a very radical idea. I had told my fellow members of the council I want to introduce this motion that we implement the action that would make us a separate organization. To think that we would be separated was very traumatic.

It was very obvious that a learning experience had to take place and it required time.

- We watched the progress of this through attempts to get a motion to do something until finally in 1977 the ANA council adopted the motion to form a task force to look into establishing a free-standing organization.

♪ [music] ♪- [Sharon] There was also a real dichotomy here. You have four RNs who are very dedicated to their profession, but these women were visionaries. They saw beyond the immediacy of their own needs.

They not only worked on this task force but they also had a full-time job as an executive director.

- Mildred Schmidt and Elaine Ellibee and Pat Keefe and Trudy Malone saw the handwriting on the wall and said, "It's worth it. Whatever it takes."

- Elaine Ellibee was fearless. She was not afraid of anything or anybody. She was unstoppable. Mildred Schmidt was what I call a visionary of the group. They all had their own visions but I think she was the

visionary in looking at the future and the possibility of what the national council could do and become.

Trudy was a warm, warm caring person. She had quiet strength and she was what I would call a nurturing professional. Pat Keefe, she was a no-nonsense person. I think of the group, she displayed the most courage because at times she was not sure about this change in organizational structure for the council.

♪ [music] ♪ They were extremely selfless in their time and energy, and they kept on working. What I learned from that is if you gain some ground, be prepared to lose some ground the next meeting.

Their discussions were limitless and they had to do that but then they had to come back to the reality of the day and had to set up an organization that would be acceptable to the majority. -

[Elaine] The underlying concern was where was the money coming from. We needed, of course, funding. Well, the checkbooks came out. All of us contributed to that very beginning pot but Joyce is the first one. So, we continued to work and the money kept coming in. We were granted \$25,000 from the Kellogg Foundation and by 1978 in June when we met at the hotel in Los Angeles...

- Well, you can imagine the members of the task force were really excited. Here we were going to introduce this resolution. Oh. ♪ [music] ♪- The vote was 83 in favor and 8 opposed, and we were ecstatic.

- We were beyond being ecstatic. Quite honestly, we mostly sat there and cried, and it was wonderful. ♪

[music] ♪- The council was independent. The first thing we had to do in this was, of course, decide how we were going to handle the examination and to hire an executive director for the independent council.

- We were very aware of any decisions we made, we had to think about the future and what it meant.

- There was a lot of strain with the separation of the ANA council state boards from the American Nurses Association.

- I think forming the appropriate relationships with other organizations was big and a high priority.

- I asked, "To whom is the NCSBN accountable?" Because that's what people were asking. "Well, if you're not accountable to the ANA, who are you accountable to?" So, I pointed out, "We're accountable to the people of the state, to make sure that the nursing profession is responsible, that these are people who are professional people, know what they're doing, they're licensed in the state, and they're going to be accountable to the people of the state."

♪ [music] ♪- We had dreams of what we wanted the organization to do and it's just been so exciting to see how this organization has grown.

- At this moment, I am so in awe, literally, of what the National Council has done and accomplished far beyond what we thought of. ♪ [music] ♪