

Collection #
SC 3241

**INDIANA STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
ADDITION, 23 OCTOBER 2009**

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

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HISTORICAL SKETCH

During the late nineteenth century a significant improvement in the quality of nursing training care came about as nursing schools multiplied, the use of nursing textbooks increased and longer, improved training courses were developed. As more nurses graduated from training schools they began to see need for an organization to advance the interest of the nursing profession. The first professional nursing organizations were associations of alumnae from hospitals and training schools. In Indiana, for example, there was the Indianapolis Graduate Nurses Association, composed of graduates of area training schools, which was organized in 1899. In 1897, these individual associations united in the Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada. The Indiana State Nurses Association was an outgrowth of these alumnae associations. The Indianapolis Graduate Nurses Association, as a unit, never joined the national organizations, individuals however, joined the state organization.

The 1903 Nurses Associated Alumnae Annual Convention called for the formation of state nurses associations. E. Gertrude Fournier, representing the Hope Hospital Alumnae Association of Fort Wayne, took the initiative in Indiana and convened a meeting of nurses and alumnae associations on September 3, 1903, which was attended by sixty three nurses who elected officers and established a charter membership. At a third meeting, held in Indianapolis on February 22, 1904 the Indiana State Nurses Association was incorporated and the motto "Memor" adopted. Since its beginning, the Indiana State Nurses Association has been affiliated with the Nurses Associated Alumnae, and its successor after 1911, the American Nurses Association (A.N.A.).

One of the first important goals of the state association was to secure legislation providing for registration of nurses, to legitimize their profession in the eyes of the people. In Indiana Mrs. Sarah Belk Brown, Chairman of the Association's Committee on Legislation, drafted a bill which the group presented to the Indiana General Assembly in 1904. Influenced by lobbying of both the nursing and medical profession, the legislature passed the Nurse Practice Act in February 1905, which required registration and examination of all trained nurses and established a State Board of Registration and Examination to oversee this work. In one of its first acts, the State Board established a uniform curriculum for nursing schools in 1907. In 1921 the Legislature raised admission requirements to nursing schools and set mandatory course requirements. In 1949 the Legislature further amended the 1905 Nurse Practice Act by making the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) a professional nursing position, open to those who had passed a state examination.

In addition to lobbying the state legislature on behalf of nursing issues, the Association has involved itself in a wide range of activities. In 1924, the Association established permanent headquarters in Indianapolis, making it the fifth state association to do so. In 1937, the Association began publication of its official magazine, the Lamp, known as the Indiana Nurse starting in 1951.

In 1946, the Association opened the Professional Counseling and Placement Service of Indiana as a nursing employment and recruiting service. In 1949 the Association started a Public Relations Program to interpret the nursing profession to the public and allied

professions, as well as carrying out effective public relations with hospitals, agencies and institutions employing nurses. In 1953 the Association formed the Intergroup Relations Committee to ensure equal opportunity in nursing, and the Economic Security Division to improve the economic status of nurses through insurance and savings plans and by better working conditions and salaries. In the late 1960's the Association started the Inactive Health Personnel Project to develop courses in continuing education for nurses wishing to re-enter the profession.

Much of the Association's work has been accomplished through committees. During World War I the Red Cross Nursing Service and the Association's Red Cross Committee served as the recruiter of all nurses for military service from Indiana. In the 1920s, the Association formed a committee on education to promote a graduate program for nurses as a result of the committee's work, Indiana University started the first graduate nursing program in the state in 1932. In the 1960's the Association joined with the National League of Nursing to form the Indiana Committee on Nursing (ICON), an advisory group to the nursing community and the state.

As the organization enlarged, nurses who shared a common interest in a particular aspect or type of nursing started forming sections. The first was the Public Health Section, formed in 1917 for nurses working in the public sector with tuberculosis and infant and maternal hygiene. Since many nurses worked on private cases, the next section to organize was the Private Duty Section in 1920. Early goals of the Private Duty section were obtaining a twelve-hour working day and establishing Professional Registries where nurses could obtain short-term assignments. In 1939 the Industrial Section formed, reflecting the increased use of nurses in business and industry. The Institutional Section formed in 1947 to benefit and support nurses working in hospitals and institutions. In 1951 the Institutional Section was sub-divided into the Administrative and General Duty Section. In 1952 the Administrative Section was dissolved and three new sections emerged: special groups; institutional nursing service administrators; and educational administrators, consultants and teachers.

When the Association was first organized it was made up of seven regions in the state, representing the location of major hospitals. The Association is subdivided geographically as well as by special interests. In 1957 the Association was redistricted into eighteen numbered districts and in the 1960's four new districts were created. Membership in the organization is based on the district of residency.

Sources:

Indiana State Nurses Association Records Collection Guide.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection addition contains an issue of the Indiana State Nurses Association's publication *The Indiana Nurse*. The issue is from the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Members on 23 October.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

"The Indiana Nurse," 23 October 2009

CONTAINER

Folder 1