

Dear members of IANA-NC,

I wish you a blessed and happy New Year 2017.

IANA-NC is entering its seventh year and fourth term of operation as a professional organization. I remember attending one of the initial planning meetings in 2010 at the residence of our former president Sumana Gaddam. Little did I know that one day I would be at the helm leading the organization. It is a great honor for me to serve you as the president of IANA-NC and I am proud to be a part of this nationally acknowledged chapter hallmarked for excellence.

According to Churchill and Lewis (1983) the stages of organizational growth progress from Existence (stage 1) to Survival (stage 2), to Success (stage 3), and Take off or Thriving (stage 4). As a result of the efforts and hard work of visionary leaders, IANA-NC was able to establish its presence at the local, national and international levels and among the various professional, academic, religious and community circles. Hence we can boldly declare that IANA-NC is at the thriving stage of organizational growth. It is time for us to soar to new heights and branch out. So let us set our goal for this term as the ‘Strive to Thrive’.

I firmly believe that we can thrive by employing critical thinking, collaborative actions, and by being empowered. Now, below are some specific actions that members can take to make IANA-NC thrive.

First and foremost, **be informed** about the changes in the national, regional, and local politics that will affect health care delivery, and the nursing profession. I encourage you to follow the health care related news and be aware of the position statements on current issues by major professional organizations such as the American Nurses Association (ANA), American Hospital Association (AHA), and National Association of Indian Nurses in America (NAINA) etc.

Second, thriving is the stage of rapid growth and involves massive marketing efforts. This means that each one of you will **take ownership** to grow IANA-NC in size, strength, and maturity by engaging in activities of the organization and bringing new members into the organization.

Third, utilize the **networking** forums within and outside of your organizations that will give opportunities to hold dialogues on issues in health care and prompt creative thinking to find solutions. ‘Nurses day/night at Legislature’ on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, is one such opportunity for networking we have in North Carolina.

Fourth, be a **part of decision-making** bodies, which can influence the policies related to a health care delivery and the nursing profession. Volunteer to be on to the governing boards within and outside organizations such as PTA. This is in alignment with the efforts of National Coalition for Nurses on Board, which has launched efforts to place 10,000 nurses on Governing Boards by 2020.

Lastly, **be prepared to embrace change**. Equip yourself with the right attitude, acquire new skills and knowledge and make yourself versatile and marketable. In short, I firmly believe that by stepping out of your comfort zone and prioritizing the relationships with the organization, we can change the professional and social environment of nurses to a more productive and encouraging one.

A wise person once said that “Life is not about winning the race, but life is about finishing the race with grace and helping other people finish the race”. As nurses, we are privileged to help other human beings in completing this race called life. Let us remind ourselves to be a resource for our patients, families and our fellow nurses and help them grow and mature as a human being.

At this time I want to acknowledge the great assets of IANA-NC; (i) the past leaders who formed, shaped and nurtured IANA-NC before me. I want to give special credit to our honorable past president Letha Joseph for her visionary leadership that led the path to collaboration with educational institutions, professional organizations and cultural and non-professional organizations. Letha Joseph set a high bar of excellence for IANA-NC, which motivated us to aim for the stars; (ii) IANA-NC Governing Body (GB), who is committed to serve the organization. I am eager to tap into the potential and expertise of my team members in the GB. (Please see attached list of IANA-NC Governing Body members for this term. or visit the IANA-NC website for more information);

(iii) every member of this organization- IANA-NC is rich with seasoned nurses who offer resilience and wisdom and novice nurses teaming with innovative ideas and novice nurses teaming with innovative ideas. Through IANA-NC we have a unified voice and a platform to share our ideas. We, the GB, rely on open constructive feedback, timely resolution of conflicts and meaningful engagement so that we can successfully lead IANA-NC to thrive. When nurses are united, we are unstoppable!

Thank you all for being a Nurse and being a part of IANA-NC.

Sincerely,

Usha Koshy Cherian, DNP, RN, CNL, CCRN, NEA-BC  
President, IANA-NC  
February 6, 2017