

What is NADONA?

The National Association Directors of Nursing Administration in Long Term Care

NADONA thrives on educating nurse leaders. Each year they hold an annual conference. With COVID, it was delayed from 2020 and now celebrated and held in the beautiful Niagara Falls, NY. It was the first time, that many of us were in the accompany of a large crowd. There were a few nurses who passed away that were recognized in the opening ceremony. Tears dropped and voices sobbed for the nurses who passed away during this pandemic. It was a beautiful video ceremony from the Nebraska Nurse Honor Guard, and it touched us all.

This week, we all gathered, whether you were a Nurse, MD, Pharmacist, or offered products, we all had the same mission, the same goal; to improve the quality of life of our residents by providing the best care. The education provided were from those whom are considered experts in their field. The crowd was lit and engaged with Calvin Stovall and there were many questions for Deputy Director, Division of Nursing Homes Evan Shulman. Questions aroused mainly in our staffing crisis. One nurse asks, "how are we supposed to get fish out of pool, when the pool is empty". That is the main issue that we are all dealing with in long-term care. How do we compete when fast food places are paying more than what nursing homes are paying? The crowd supported her. While there wasn't much that he could say regarding this area, he did suggest partnering with colleges and schools to seek assistance. He did encourage Nurse Leaders to get back to the care areas. We call can agree that when this pandemic started, COVID became the main focus. While many of facilities were merely trying to survive a nightmare, many facilities were cited and fined. He ended with this, get back to these areas:

- Increase Vaccinations.
- Don't let your guard down on infection prevention and control.
- Maximize visitations.
- Get back to addressing care areas as you did before COVID.

There is no doubt that we are still battling this pandemic. However, it is encouraging to know that we are all here for the greater cause and that is provide the best care that we can to our residents. How do we achieve this? Through education and networking. NADONA provided education from all aspects on how facilities can improve themselves. More importantly, how nurse leaders can improve themselves. Topics on Dementia, and Covid manifestations had the audience shocked. Jennifer Pettis provided an impactful amount of information on the Five Star Quality Rating System. It was the citations on inaccuracy for assessments for me! There are many facilities with this citation. The information that she provided on how to reduce inaccurate assessments were priceless. Important areas also included utilizing interact to produce positive outcomes. NADONA also provides certification in areas of Director of Nursing, Infection Prevention and Control, Diabetes and Nurse Leader. There were also product workshops that could help reduce incontinence and falls in our most vulnerable population.

The food was amazing, the ability to network with other nurse leaders was amazing and just the interaction with the board was heartwarming. Sherrie Dornberger was definitely missed as one of her mentees received an award and spoke highly of her and how she impacted him on becoming the nurse he is today.

To end it all they held an award ceremony for nurses to receive scholarships to assist them with their education. NADONA is a family. Everyone with the same mission, all in one room working together for a greater cause.

Don't miss out next year as we are heading to New Orleans!!!!

Bilquis Ali RN CDONA, FACDONA

Welcome To Long-Term Care

