Message from the President

The officers, board members, and members have used their synergistic power to come together to plan strategies to achieve our goals. We have demonstrated a shared purpose and I applaud the membership for their momentum, enthusiasm and pride in the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA), Inc.

The Conference Committee and the Board of Directors met with the members of the conference host chapter, Central Florida Black Nurses Association, and the co-host chapters in Florida. The Committee Chair, Dr. Bettye Davis-Lewis, Dianne Mance, NBNA Conference Services Manager and the local chapter president, Constance Brown, RN, shared a full report on the 40th Annual Institute and Conference. The theme is “The Politics of Health Care: The Role and Responsibility of Nursing,” as NBNA continues to implement strategies to increase quality and eliminate health care disparities.

The Board of Directors is in receipt of the organization’s Independent Auditor’s Report. The auditor advised that they reviewed the organization’s financial statements and it was their opinion “that the financial position of the National Black Nurses Association, Inc., as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.” The Finance Committee and the Board of Directors will continue to identify and control critical cost elements and apply creative approaches to ensure the financial sustainability of the organization.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Nursing, chaired by Rita Wray, submitted a report to the Board of Directors. The committee plans to further determine NBNA’s direction in advancing the recommendations and the organizational impact in leading change and advancing health as it relates to NBNA’s mission and members. In addition, the committee plans to formulate steps to make an impact in the areas of:

1. Promoting seamless academic progression for an increase in the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree from 50 to 80 percent by 2020.

a. Establish relationships with universities to encourage and offer innovative ways for NBNA members return to school for higher degrees.

2. Leadership, such as representation on State Action Coalitions, as well as establish a mechanism to match members with national leadership opportunities (Boards, Commissions, etc.)

a. Continue with the NBNA Leadership Institute

Birthale Archie, NBNA Historian, has begun activities for the publication of the new edition of the NBNA history book. I am confident that the book will provide a significant historical account from 1971 to the present. The history book will be a valuable asset for the organization and its members. The projected completion time for the history book is 2013.

As we continue to move forward, let's continue to focus on membership growth and retention, strengthening our regions, increasing membership engagement and benefits, strengthening existing programs and expand our programs to include diversity, and continuing to impact policy makers for improving health care for our communities. *"Together, we will soar like eagles".*

Deidre Walton, JD, MSN, RN

NBNA President