



The NAPNES Overview

The National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service, Inc.

(NAPNES) is the oldest organization focused on the education and practice of licensed practical or vocational nurses (LP/VNs) in the United States.

NAPNES was founded in 1941 by a group of registered nurse (RN) educators for the purpose of improving and extending the education of the practical nurse to meet the critical need for more nursing personnel.

The Work of NAPNES

The objectives of this Association are directed toward the development of sound practical/vocational nurse education and the promotion of LP/VNs as important members of the health team, concerned with the health and welfare of all people.

In furtherance of its objectives, the work of the Association is to:

- Establish sound standards for practical/vocational nurse education and service.
- Initiate and foster research in practical/vocational nurse education and service.
- Promote the philosophy and the opportunity for continuing education among LP/VNs.
- Further recognition by health agencies of practical/vocational nursing services, especially their substantial contribution to communities at a local level.
- Endeavor to increase the number of dedicated and well-prepared LP/VNs.
- Represent the interests of practical/vocational nurse education, and service on committees concerned with health, education and service.
- Advise LP/VN associations on matters pertaining to organization activities.

NAPNES Speaks For

NAPNES speaks for LP/VNs at federal and state levels on such matters as licensing, laws governing LP/VN practice, educational opportunities for the LP/VN, and matters of general welfare. Additionally, NAPNES publishes the Journal of Practical Nursing quarterly.

Individual membership in NAPNES is open to all, including:

- LP/VNs.
- *RNs.*
- Nurse educators.

- Physicians.
- Hospital and nursing home administrators.
- Lay citizens interested in LP/VN's role in the health field.
- Students in schools of practical/vocational nursing are welcomed as student members.
- Agency membership is open to hospitals, nursing homes, schools of practical/vocational nursing, alumni groups, civic organizations, and others interested in the objectives of NAPNES.

History

The history of NAPNES is an extraordinary example of teacher mentoring and impartation of knowledge for a higher cause – the service of nursing. Present-day, well-educated, competent practitioners of licensed practical/vocational nursing owe a deep debt of gratitude to the dedicated RNs from the 1940s that made it all possible. ***The 70-year tradition of open membership and teamwork between the two distinct levels of licensed nursing, LP/VN and RN, is a sacred trust that the current NAPNES protects and promotes at every possible turn.*** From the 1940s to the present day, the NAPNES story is replete with acts of unselfish sharing of knowledge and expertise from RNs to LP/VNs, and it is cherished. The NAPNES founders set the stage for the long-term success of NAPNES by incorporating the expertise of faculty in the practical nursing schools, hospital administrators, and lay citizens to create the organization that is the living record of their faith, support, and perseverance. This NAPNES tradition continues to benefit LP/VNs and the people for which they provide the service of nursing.