

## **INVOLVEMENT: THE PROFESSIONAL IMPERATIVE**

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While attending a recent poster session at an educational conference, I came across an alarming piece of information: only about 7% of nurses are members of professional nursing organizations (Beauregard et al., in Boswell, Cannon, & Miller, 2005). How many of us can proudly proclaim we are among that puny percentage?

Your membership in the Wisconsin League for Nursing (WLN) is a wonderful way to demonstrate personal and professional activism. There are many ways to participate in and support WLN, and the benefits of involvement are many.

The simplest and most basic way to participate is to maintain active membership. The support of dues-paying members is vital to continuing our work and to helping us grow in the future. One of our strategic goals is to sustain a robust scholarship program to support nursing education. These efforts will be made possible only by sustaining a healthy chapter, so that our donors can see that our constituent league is viable.

Another meaningful way to participate is to attend WLN functions, such as the annual meeting and fall program. Earn CEUs and network with your nursing colleagues from around the state!

Certainly we welcome your participation in other ways, too. You can become a committee member. You can become an officer. Either way, your contributions are valued. And you have the added benefit of developing your own professional leadership abilities while bolstering your curriculum vitae.

Please ask yourself this question: “Do I want to be among the 7% of nurses who are vital members of professional organizations, or am I content to be among the 93% of those who don’t?” Reflect on the reciprocal benefits of participation in the WLN – it’s good for you and great for your professional organization.



### Reference

Boswell, C., Cannon, S., & Miller, J. (2005). Nurses’ political involvement: Responsibility vs. privilege. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 21(1), 5-8.