



SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL
HONOR SOCIETY OF NURSING

Presidential Charge

by Fay L. Bower, RN, EdD

Presented to the
1993 House of Delegates
December 3, 1993

The commitment of Sigma Theta Tau to knowledge development, dissemination, and utilization and to resource development, human or otherwise, assists its members to improve the health care of people worldwide. The Society advances the scientific base of nursing practice and facilitates nursing leadership and scholarship. The organization furthers the use of nursing research in health care delivery and public policy.

The Action for the 1990s presented the Society with the challenge to transform statement of intent into specific programs. The past two bienniums of the 90s have focused on initiatives which opened the Center for Nursing Scholarship; initiated and expanded the Virginia Henderson Library and its resources; implemented governance changes following evaluation; developed leadership programs and opportunities; increased nursing's visibility through multimedia use; implemented new information technology resources and education programs; and launched a \$7.5 million campaign to provide ongoing resources and to celebrate the Society's 75th Anniversary in 1997.

In the 1993-95 biennium, we will continue to support these established programs and initiatives and develop new ones that implement strategies for the 1990s. We will look to future, reaffirming our commitment to leadership and scholarship. Using the scientific base of nursing knowledge, a new era of nursing leaders and leadership will emerge. Nurse scholars and leaders will be proactive and innovative, guiding the improvement of health care of all persons. The theme of "Leadership: Creating an Era" has been established for this biennium and I invite you to join me in making this challenge a reality as we pursue the following goals and objectives.

— Goals and Objectives —

- I. **Advance the Action for the 1990s, emphasizing scholarship and leadership as pathways for change.**
 - A. Increase utilization of nursing knowledge to influence health promoting public policy through publications, communications and public relations.
 - B. Promote development of models for knowledge dissemination, and utilization and for leadership advancement.
 - C. Communicate nursing research findings to multiple, diverse audiences worldwide.
 - D. Initiate strategies for the future which emphasize use of nursing scholarship while increasing the community of nursing leaders.
- II. **Develop leadership activities for preparation of leaders in nursing as path builders in any health care change.**
 - A. Convene Arista II as a "think tank" where leadership initiatives will be designed for use and dissemination by the membership.
 - B. Develop initiatives which join leadership and scholarship and focus on nurses as innovators and change agents.
 - C. Continue the Sigma Theta Tau Leadership Extern program with four externs being involved in a variety of leadership activities.
 - D. Expand the Leadership Extern program to include additional chapters so that more members have access to leadership development opportunities.
 - E. Carry forth the biennium theme of "Leadership: Creating an Era" to the Regional Assemblies, their programs and activities.
 - F. Select another Sigma Theta Tau Scholar who will carry forth the biennial theme in the activities pursued.
 - G. Promote research that focuses on leader development and leadership, identifying resources for leadership funding.
- III. **Continue expansion of the Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library, its capabilities and services, bringing research findings to a greater number of scholars and disciplines.**
 - A. Expand the clinical databases in the Library so that current nursing research is readily available for practice utilization.
 - B. Add subscribers to the Library system so that the dissemination of knowledge will reach more nurses and other scholars.
 - C. Initiate a program of marketing for the Library.
- IV. **Promote the development activities of the Society so the real assets (properties and endowments) are protected and the programs and activities to meet the goals of the Society are enhanced.**
 - A. Promote Planned Giving opportunities so the membership can support the Society's goal of raising \$7.5 million by its 75th anniversary celebration in November 1997.
 - B. Continue efforts to reach the goal of \$4 million for the Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library.
 - C. Award the third Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award to a person who has provided outstanding leadership in health care or a related field.
 - D. Establish a task force to assess future development needs of the Society with recommendations due to the Board of Directors by mid-biennium.
 - E. Pursue grant support for Society activities.
 - F. Recognize the contributors and supporters of the Society who are outside of nursing through presentation of Archon Awards in April, 1994.
- V. **Evaluate the structure and governance of the Society in order to determine ways to improve efficiencies and operations.**
 - A. Institute evaluation of the structure and operations of the Board and its members to determine if the format is functional and appropriate for the work of the Society.
 - B. Continue evaluation of the committee structure to determine if there are clear delineations of responsibilities and whether all the goals of the Society are being addressed.
- VI. **Pursue further options for expanding the dissemination of nursing research findings.**
 - A. Request the Sigma Theta Tau International Publications Committee to pursue this initiative and to bring recommendations to the Board of Directors about ways to extend the dissemination of nursing research findings.
 - B. Develop other options for research dissemination in the programming activities of the Society.

Fay L. Bower

President, Sigma Theta Tau International

1993 - 1995

Fay L. Bower has been active in Sigma Theta Tau International activities since her induction as a baccalaureate student in 1964. At that induction ceremony, she was also installed as the first President of Alpha Gamma Chapter at San Jose State College, the first chapter in California. For six years she served as an officer of that chapter, remaining active until her move to the University of San Francisco where she became involved with the Beta Gamma Chapter. Currently, Dr. Bower holds dual membership in both chapters, having served them in many roles.

Dr. Bower was involved in the 70's in the first Writers Seminar presented by the Society. As a speaker in San Francisco for Region 1 and later presenting before Region 2 at Omaha, Nebraska and Region 6 in New Orleans, Louisiana, Dr. Bower spoke on "How to Write". This series of seminars was the first of many sponsored by the Society in the years that followed.

At the 31st Biennial Convention, Dr. Bower and her colleagues from Beta Gamma received an award for publication of the outstanding chapter newsletter as well as a Key Award. Dr. Bower had a pivotal role in receipt of this chapter recognition through her development of the newsletter format and her contribution of many of the articles. As President of the Beta Gamma Chapter, Dr. Bower was also instrumental in the development of annual chapter research conferences, involving multiple chapters, that are now established annual events.

At the international level, Dr. Bower has been a contributing member of the Society's Public Affairs, Development, Nursing Approach Advisory, and Search and Screen Committees. As President-elect of the Society from 1991-1993, Dr. Bower continued her leadership at the international level by serving on numerous committees, as well as being a member of the Leadership Institute Task Force. In addition, she was a favored speaker, giving speeches to eight chapters, installing three chapters and presenting as the speaker at the region 2 Assembly.

Dr. Bower has also been active at the state and national level with other organizations. She served as chair of the advisory committee for California's *NurseWeek* magazine for six years, was president and board member of the California League for Nursing and has held numerous positions with the



National League for Nursing. Currently, she is a site visitor, member of the board of review, chair of the executive committee of the Council of Constituent Leagues, and a member of the board of governors of NLN.

Dr. Bower is an author of numerous books and articles on such diverse topics as women and mentoring, shared governance, student recruitment and managed care. Currently she is conducting research on patient controlled analgesia. In addition, Dr. Bower has served as a consultant to over 250 colleges, universities and patient care agencies on curriculum and program planning. Her major areas of interest are administration and consultation.

Dr. Bower has been recognized in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in American Women*, *Two Thousand Notable American Women* and *Who's Who Worldwide*. She was inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Nurses in 1978 and additionally listed in *Who's Who in American Nursing*, *Who's Who Among Contemporary Nurses* and *Who's Who in Health Care*. She serves as a board member of the Association of Episcopal Colleges and Universities and was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society for academic excellence in 1965 and into Phi Gamma Executive Honor Society in 1991.

Dr. Bower is currently President of Clarkson College, a health science institution of higher education in Omaha, Nebraska. She previously held positions as university planner and Director of Institutional Research, Academic Vice President, and Dean of Nursing at the University of San Francisco, and coordinator of the graduate program and Chair of the Department of Nursing at San Jose State University. With over 30 years in higher education, Dr. Bower is an experienced, dedicated administrator, academician and teacher. In fact, even today, she is actively involved in teaching as she believes, "The classroom is the core of what the university is all about, and without that experience, it is easy to forget what the system is supposed to accomplish."

Dr. Bower is also quite proud of her family. Pictures of her four children and five grandchildren adorn her office. Bob, her husband, accompanies her whenever possible on her many travels. Their favorite activity is ballroom dancing and they also raise quarter horses.



SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL
HONOR SOCIETY OF NURSING

— PRESIDENTS —

1929 - 1934	Dorothy Ford Buschman (<i>Alpha</i>)
1934 - 1938	Florence Parisa (<i>Delta</i>)
1938 - 1941	Ruth P. Kuehn (<i>Epsilon</i>)
1941 - 1947	Kathreine Densford (<i>Zeta</i>)
1947 - 1951	Frances George (<i>Eta</i>)
1951 - 1955	Thelma Dodds (<i>Zeta</i>)
1955 - 1957	Myrtle K. Aydelotte (<i>Gamma</i>)
1957 - 1959	Lois Austin (<i>Epsilon</i>)
1959 - 1962	Edna Treasurer (<i>Kappa</i>)
1962 - 1965	Catherine McClure (<i>Eta</i>)
1965 - 1971	Virginia Crenshaw (<i>Iota</i>)
1971 - 1975	Ruth Hepler (<i>Alpha Epsilon</i>)
1975 - 1981	Sr. Rosemary Donley (<i>Eta</i>)
1981 - 1983	Carol Lindeman (<i>Beta Psi</i>)
1983 - 1985	Lucie S. Kelly (<i>Alpha Zeta</i>)
1985 - 1987	Vernice D. Ferguson (<i>Kappa</i>)
1987 - 1989	Angela Barron McBride (<i>Alpha</i>)
1989 - 1991	Billye J. Brown (<i>Epsilon Theta</i>)
1991 - 1993	Beth C. Vaughan-Wrobel (<i>Beta Beta, Gamma Xi</i>)
1993 - 1995	Fay L. Bower (<i>Beta Gamma, Alpha Gamma</i>)

Copies available from:
Sigma Theta Tau International
550 West North Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202