AMSN Volunteer Leader Overview
Welcome Volunteers

Welcome to the team of committed professionals that help to fulfill the goals of AMSN. Thank you for your willingness to share your time, skills, diversity, and innovative ideas. Our volunteers are the only way in which AMSN is able to achieve its mission to promote excellence in medical-surgical nursing.
Benefits of Volunteering

Volunteering is a professional development experience.

• Network with professionals from around the country and learn how they are managing issues and applying standards to practice
• Fine tune your clinical & professional skills
• Develop your leadership skills
• Increase your professional experiences
History of AMSN

1990 - American Nurses Association sanctioned the Council of Medical-Surgical Nursing Practice to conduct a survey. Respondents overwhelming indicated they would join a specialty professional organization for medical-surgical nurses.

1992 - The first convention was held in Chicago. The original objectives of AMSN were:

- develop standards for medical-surgical nursing practice
- create a Core Curriculum for establishing the essence of the medical-surgical nursing practice
- improve the image of the medical-surgical nurse
History of AMSN

2001- AMSN Membership requests a certification specifically for medical-surgical nurses.

2002- AMSN initiates the Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB), an *autonomous affiliate* to coordinate a medical-surgical nursing certification examination to validate knowledge in the specialty; Credential of Certified Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse (CMSRN®).

2003 – First exam certifies 702 CMSRNs.

2012 – AMSN membership exceeds 10,000. CMSRNs exceed 15,000.
The Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses is the only specialty nursing organization dedicated to the practice of medical-surgical nursing.
AMSN Mission, Vision, Values

Mission
• The mission of the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses is to promote excellence in medical-surgical nursing.

Vision
• Medical-surgical nurses use their powerful voice and focused action to continuously improve patient care.
AMSNA Mission, Vision, Values

Values

Medical-surgical nursing is a distinct specialty with its own body of knowledge. We believe patients receive better care when medical-surgical nurses:

- Engage in ongoing professional development
- Use evidence-based practices
- Speak with a unified voice
- Serve as leaders on healthcare teams
- Have the necessary resources to deliver excellent care
- Practice in a healthy work environment
How we communicate who we are

AMSN is a vibrant community of medical-surgical nurses who care about:

• Improving patient care,
• Developing personally & professionally,
• Advocating for the specialty of medical-surgical nursing,
• Connecting with other nurses who share their compassion & commitment.
This is how people recognize us.
AMSN Strategic Plan
The AMSN Strategic Plan is made up of goals and objectives.

- Goals are what the organization wants to do. They are broad-based and challenging, clearly and directly supporting the mission of the organization. They are meant to last over time and do not need to be measurable.

- Objectives are the specific actions that describe how each goal will be accomplished. They are actionable and measurable.
Goal 1: Workplace Advocacy

AMSN will support medical-surgical nurses in meeting the increasingly complex demands of their work environment.

Objectives

• 1.1 Develop knowledge-based resources for a healthy work environment (HWE).
• 1.2 Create ways to recognize healthy work environments in medical-surgical nursing units.
Goal 2: Professional Development

AMSN will foster learning and professional growth of medical-surgical nurses.

Objectives

• 2.1 Increase online resources for leadership, professional growth and education.

• 2.2 Develop resources to prepare nurses for the impact of health care reform.
Goal 3: National Leadership and Influence

AMSN will be the leader influencing decisions that impact medical-surgical nursing.

Objectives

• 3.1 Participate in strategic alliances/affiliations/relationships that are consistent with the mission and strategic direction of AMSN.

• 3.2 Support research in medical-surgical nursing.
Goal 4: Promoting Organizational Health

AMSN will have a strong, distinct identity with systems that promote organizational vibrancy.

Objectives

• 4.1 Create a volunteer management program.
• 4.2 Implement a strategy for chapter support.
• 4.3 Integrate technology throughout the association.
• 4.4 Evaluate AMSN programs and services.
AMSN Structure
Board of Directors

AMSN is managed by an eight (8) member Board of Directors:

President (2 year term)
President-Elect (1 year term before) or Immediate Past President (1 year term after)
Secretary (3 year term)
Treasurer (3 year term)
Four (4) Directors (3 year term)

Executive Director, serves as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board.

Terms are staggered for continuity.
Bylaws

AMSN is governed by a set of bylaws. Members must vote on any changes.

The complete bylaws are available on the AMSN Website.

The Purpose from the AMSN Bylaws is included below for illustration.

Article II. Purpose
• AMSN is a professional organization formed to promote high standards of nursing practice, facilitate the implementation of
• practice guidelines, provide education programs for its members, foster scholarly activity, and disseminate new ideas for all
• areas of adult health/medical-surgical nursing. AMSN collaborates with other national specialty and nursing organizations,
• medical associations, hospitals, universities, research organizations, and governmental agencies in matters affecting adult
• health/medical-surgical nursing practice.
AMSN Organizational Chart
The National Office

AMSN is supported by a Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc. (AJJ), a professional association management company located in Pitman, NJ. Their office serves as the National Office for AMSN. Staff in the National Office support the work of AMSN.
Some of our Volunteers Units (VU)

Committees
Clinical Practice Committee
Program Planning Committee
Scholarship & Awards Committee

Representatives
Ambassadors
NACNS Summit Representative
NQF/NAQC Representative

Task Forces
Groups chartered to complete specific projects like:
Position Statement Task Force
Healthy Work Environment Task Force
AMSN PRISM Award Task Force
Volunteer Units (VU)

• Each VU reports to a board liaison
• Each VU is assisted by a staff liaison
• Each VU has a role description or charter.
• All members are encouraged to apply to serve on VU via the “Call for Volunteers” system.
• Each VU will require different skill sets, experience and sometimes a mix of geography and position in order to accomplish the VU role description or charter.
Resources Available

- AMSN Website - www.amsn.org
- Volunteer Toolkit on the AMSN Website
- Board liaisons
- National office staff
Complete your Volunteer Leader Introduction

You have now completed the Volunteer Overview. Next review the Volunteer Leader Checklist to learn more about what you can find in the Volunteer Toolkit.

The information in Volunteer Toolkit will guide you through what to expect and provide many resources to help you be a successful AMSN volunteer.

Use the checklist to assess where you need information and professional development.