



There has been no opportunity for the traditional annual board group photo with Chicago as a backdrop, or the team building that occurs as a natural byproduct of being in the same physical space while digging into substantial regulatory issues. I offer you a visual reminder of the membership of the 2020/2021 board of directors.

I want to thank the board members who you see here who have unselfishly given off their time and talent in discharging their duties for the benefit of NCSBN at a time when their personal and professional lives was stretched in response to the pandemic.

My sincere gratitude to each of them and to our CEO, David Benton and the remarkable staff of NCSBN for rising to the challenge and exceeding expectations during this historic time. I do want to mention two members of the 2020/2021 board of directors who most likely will not be with us when we meet next in person.

Cynthia Labonte from Wyoming, Area 1 director who took early retirement in May 2021, and Anne Coghlan from Canada, Director-at-large, who has announced she will retire at the end of this year. The board and NCSBN have benefited from the leadership, service, and contributions and we wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

Demonstration of the values of NCSBN has provided a sound on depending and response to the most unusual year. Those values, collaboration, excellence, innovation, integrity, and transparency have certainly been reflected in the business activities of this past year.

And most importantly, in how this work was accomplished for the good of the organization. You will find a full report of the board of directors on page 12 of the Business Book. And I encourage you to read that as there is not time today for me to address every detail of the work that has been accomplished during the year of a pandemic.

I would like to touch on a few of those highlights and ask you to remember that, although our focus shifted to urgent pandemic matters, the strategic work continued, and we found that the strategic initiatives were righ

During the past year, the board of directors considered and made decisions related to the development work necessary to move the next generation NCLEX towards implementation. Leadership and examination staff have kept the board apprised of each step on the technical side, as well as the implications for the necessary policy and fiscal decisions.

The board remains impressed and in awe regarding the work of the examination team under Phil Dickinson's expert and enthusiastic leadership. You know what I mean. You will hear more about this cutting-edge approach to test design and scoring methods while considering the board of directors' recommendations to the Delegate Assembly.

Although many of us would like to be talking about matters other than COVID-19 response, it has informed our work and stretched all of us to collaborate and innovate while maintaining a public protection focus. Without a solid foundation of engagement with global and national partners, NCSBN

