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LPNs
SERVING LPNs ON THE EAST COAST

ADVANCE for LPNs is the only newsmagazine in the nation exclusively devoted to practical nurses. *ADVANCE* provides regional and national news, practical information on clinical and professional issues, job listings, upcoming events, forums, CE offerings in print, online and at local job fairs. *ADVANCE* is the source practical nurses rely on to enhance their careers.

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Now We're Talking

They say "talk is cheap," but sometimes talking about a topic is enough to set the wheels in motion.

And I'm crossing my fingers that, if enough of you keep talking, real change could occur in the LPN community.

The reason for my optimism is based on the bevy of responses we've received from more than 100 nurses concerning a story we ran in our June issue. The article that's being talked about from coast-to-coast focuses on a petition which proposes that LPNs with 10 years experience have the opportunity to challenge the RN boards ("Testing the Waters").

You've Got Mail

While I still don't agree with all the principles of the doctrine, in my editorial last month, I commended the efforts of the initiative's leader, Lisa Morell, LPN, for having the guts to tackle this issue.

I soon discovered Morell isn't the only LPN willing to put her neck on the line. Many of you have since contacted me to state your case for (and against) the initiative. Some of you who've tried the educational route to RN shared your personal accounts of the struggles you've faced in going back to school, encountering such issues as numerous prerequisite requirements, sky-high tuition and family issues.

And LPNs aren't the only ones who have something to say about "Testing the Waters." When our sister publication for RNs recently ran the story on its Web site (www.advanceweb.com/Nurses), 36 readers offered their opinions in the "Post a Comment" section. True, not all of the responses are positive, but some of the RNs do support the testing-out idea. Others just wrote in to express their respect for LPNs and their belief that practical nurses should have a stronger role in healthcare.

Make Some Noise

Whatever path her testing-out proposal leads her, Ms. Morell has already accomplished something: she helped open the eyes of the healthcare community to the wants and needs of LPNs.

For those who are simply longing for more respect and better pay, I hope you use this "movement" gives you the courage to stand up for your profession and for LPN's rightful place in all areas of care.

I look forward to hearing about your efforts.

Tom Kerr, Editor

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