

Oklahoma Nurses: Champions of Change – Let’s Claim Our National Title!



Cassidy Abbott Eng, Ph.D., RN, LNC, FAAN; President, Oklahoma Nurses Association

Fellow nurses, healthcare warriors, and proud Oklahomans – while watching the recent football championship game, I could not help but notice several parallels with the profession of nursing. Imagine this: It’s the fourth quarter of the national championship game. The crowd is roaring, the stakes are high, and our team – Oklahoma Nurses – is down by a few points. We have the ball, the heart, and the unbreakable spirit to turn this around. We have trained for this moment. We have tirelessly pursued it. Now, it is time to rise, charge forward, and seize the victory that only true legends can achieve. Oklahoma, are you ready to lead the nation in nursing excellence? We truly are stronger together!

In the high-stakes arena of healthcare, complacency is the silent killer of dreams. It is showing up to the game, going through the motions, and settling for a participation trophy. It accepts outdated policies, understaffed shifts, and a system that undervalues the very heroes who hold it together. Complacency whispers, “This is good enough,” while patients suffer, innovations stall, and our voices fade into the background. It’s the easy path, the

safe huddle – but it never wins championships or rewrites history.

We are not just caregivers; we are quarterbacks calling the plays, coaches strategizing the wins, and MVPs delivering under pressure.

Now, flip the script to true impact – that’s the thunderous touchdown, the game-winning drive that echoes through history! Being truly impactful means charging onto the field with fire in your eyes, advocating fiercely for better patient outcomes, pioneering new care models, and empowering every nurse to be a leader. It stands tall in legislative halls, demanding fair staffing ratios, mental health support, and cutting-edge training. It’s innovating in rural clinics, urban hospitals, and everywhere in between, turning Oklahoma into a beacon of healthcare excellence that inspires the entire nation. Impact is not about playing it safe; it’s about playing to win – for our patients, our profession, and the future of healthcare.

Oklahoma nurses, we have the talent, the grit, and the legacy to back it up. Think about our history: From the Dust Bowl survivors who patched communities with sheer willpower, to today’s frontline fighters who have battled pandemics and confronted disasters head-on.

We are not just caregivers; we are quarterbacks calling the plays, coaches strategizing the wins, and MVPs delivering under pressure. However, to lead the nation, we need a full team commitment to excellence. That means every nurse – from the ER to the OR, from Gotebo to Broken Bow – stepping up your game. Join forces with the Oklahoma Nurses Association: Advocate for policy changes, pursue advanced certifications, mentor the next generation, and collaborate like never before. Together, we will shatter barriers, elevate standards, and show America what real nursing power looks like.

Imagine, Oklahoma at the top of the leaderboard – highest patient satisfaction scores, lowest burnout rates, and innovations that save lives nationwide. That is not a pipe dream; that is our destiny if we commit. No more sidelines. No more “good enough.” We are built for greatness, forged in the heartland’s unyielding spirit. So, pull on those scrubs, button up those white coats, and lace up those sneakers. I encourage you to huddle up with your colleagues and together let’s storm the field!

Oklahoma nurses, it is game time. Are you in? Let us rise together, commit to excellence, and claim our national title. The future is in our hands, so let’s play like champions. ■

Ready to Make a Difference?

Join an ONA Committee or Task Force and help shape the future of our profession.

Scan the QR code to learn more and get involved today!