

## NOVA Silver Star Chapter Award

**Abstract:** NOVA has many outstanding local chapters. These chapters are the backbone of the organization. Local chapters are “where the action is.” Members meet, share ideas, have fun, learn from educational speakers, share nursing stories and innovative ideas, enjoy food, plan legislative activities and carry on the work of the organization. Several chapters have been outstanding over the years.

### Selection Criteria:

- The Chapter needs to be recognized by National Office as an “active” Chapter (bylaws on file, more that 10 members, etc.).
- The Chapter needs to fill out the application and send it to National Office by June 01, 2010.
- The Membership Committee, with the Executive Director, will review the applications and select the winner.
- The winning chapter will be notified by the Membership Secretary via email, telephone or regular mail.
- An article on the chapter will appear in the summer issue of NFN.

### Application Questions:

**How many years has your Chapter been active?**

1-10 years  11-20 years  20-24 years  25 years

**What percentage of Chapter members attended the previous NOVA annual Meeting?**

10%

**Briefly describe your local meetings:**

We meet once a month  We meet Quarterly  We meet randomly

**What percentage of your members attend these meetings?**

5-10%  10-25%  25-30%  30-50%  greater than 50%

**Have any of your Chapter members served on the National Board of Directors?**

0  1-5  5-10  10-20  not sure

**Briefly describe your educational events:**

In the past two years chapter 226 has had two day long programs.

1. “Shaping the Future of Nursing” with three guest speakers: Cathy Rick, Ceci McVey, and Christine Canavan, a Massachusetts State Representative, along with speakers from the local VA. The conference included many participants, from many Vas throughout VISN 1.

2. The second program was held in June, at the Hyatt Hotel on Boston Harbor, “Controlling the bugs: The Buzz on Infection Control” The speakers included members of the Infection Control Team, and Chief of the microbiology lab. This conference brought in members of infection control teams from 2 Vas within the VISN.

We have had a number of 'Meet and Greet' programs to educate nurses regarding NOVA. We met monthly during the last year to increase RNs awareness to NOVA. We also have a monthly newsletter to go to all units. The newsletter discusses chapter updates, meeting dates, and also reminders of the next 'National Meeting' in Miami.

**What is your grassroots approach in the legislative arena?**

Keeping members aware of issues affecting VA nurses through sharing of Hot News items and other health related topics (i.e VA news items)

As mentioned under education, included local state representative active in nursing issues to speak at educational forum.

**How does your Chapter support the NOVA Foundation?**

Boston has a large group that attend the NOVA foundation activity during the National Conference. The Boston chapter donates a gift for the silent auction. There are many individual donations from chapter members. There are chapter members that have been selected to be reviewers for scholarship applications.

**Describe other Chapter activities that support nursing recruitment and retention, such as local Nurses Week activities, community involvement, articles in the local newspapers, etc:**

Many chapter members are members of the Recruit and Retention Committee and have been very instrumental in Nurses Week activities, including having small gifts for the off tours and delivering gifts and food to the nursing staff off tour. Some members have attended local Job Fairs with the Nurse recruiter as well as visiting nursing schools.

**Describe your Chapter passion for NOVA and tell us why your Chapter merits this award.**

The Boston Chapter has been active since the early days of NOVA. Despite undergoing many changes, not the least of which has been a major upheaval in our integration of 3 sites under one healthcare system, the presence of a NOVA chapter has always remained. Membership may have waxed and waned as we went through changes but has always remained with our current membership at an all time high.

We strongly believe that NOVA is THE professional organization for our nurses; we may belong to other professional organization but it is NOVA that truly represents the uniqueness of the VA nurse and best represents our interests and that of our patients.