PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

LOOKING TO THE 12 POINTS OF THE SCOUT LAW AS INSPIRATION

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Here we are halfway through 2021 and my year as president of the Emergency Nurses Association. I got the inspiration for this President’s Message topic as I was helping my son complete his Eagle Scout project. This message is written from the lens of my youth, my experience in scouting and some key components that factored into who I am today. I would like to acknowledge that the Scouts organization does have a past history of inequities and want to acknowledge the movement of the organization to be more inclusive. Like many organizations, communities, and individuals, we are all growing to be better around diversity and inclusion. The lessons I learned as a child in the Scouts are still relevant today and hopefully will resonate with you as well. The focus of this message is on the 12 points of the Scout Law.

The 12 points of the Scout Law were recited weekly at my Scout meetings as a youth and now as an adult leader. They are a good reminder and can serve as a compass for life. The 12 points are simple and can be examined more closely. The 12 points are recited, “A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.”

- Trustworthy: This one resonates with us as nurses because our profession has been running for 19 years as the most trusted profession. What are we doing to maintain this? Are we always offering our recommendations based on fact? Let us all do our part to keep our profession trustworthy.
- Loyal: Do we always have each other’s back? Do we return the favor for those who were there for us, and are we there for them when needed?
- Helpful: Do we take that extra step to help the person in the hospital who looks lost? Do we pick up that piece of trash along the sidewalk when we are out running errands or pick up and recycle the bottle we see on the hiking trail?
- Friendly: How are we at welcoming new members at our meetings? At taking a new nurse under our wing to ensure that they have a good transition into our department?
- Courteous: A great way to show respect for others. Do we smile and greet people who do not look like us? Do we acknowledge the stranger sitting outside the convenience store? How do we treat staff outside of our department at the hospital?
- Kind: What are we doing to seek to understand what others may be going through at the moment our paths cross? Kindness goes a long way. Personally, I recall the phrase associated with Maya Angelou, “You may not remember what a person said to you, you may not remember what a person did to you, but you will never forget how a person made you feel!” We see enough unkind things in the world around us. Be the good.
- Obedient: Are we doing our best to live within the constructs of the law? If we disagree with some laws or norms, how are we respectfully challenging them?
- Cheerful: Are we doing our best to live with PMA—positive mental attitude? We all face times when it may be difficult to be positive. Strive to build resilience in ourselves to maintain a positive mindset in the face of adversity. It will make a difference for you and others. Cheerfulness and happiness are contagious. Be infectious.
- Thrifty: Are we mindful of the resources we use during our shift at work? How are we treating our environment? How are we keeping thrifty with our time and talents? Take an inventory of what we do in a day or a week. Are we being thoughtful and not wasting time? Time check—we cannot get wasted time back.

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• **Brave:** To be brave, we have to experience fear. This fear can have many forms. Are we being brave to challenge inequities we see? What are we doing to be brave in standing up for what we know is right to make our world a better place?

• **Clean:** This is more than a shower. This is clean on the inside and out. Are we doing right? Can we lay our head on the pillow and be okay with our day? Maybe not always—we are human, but we can always strive to be better.

• **Reverent:** This can be a belief in a higher being or power. This also relates to showing profound respect. How are we reverent to our patients, our colleagues, strangers, and ourselves?

These 12 points can help us *Elevate* each day as I have challenged all of us this year of 2021. Stay positive, stay focused, and be the good!

**ELEVATE**

**REFERENCE**