



Association for Leadership Science in Nursing

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An interview with

**Patricia Stone, DNP, MSN, RN; Executive Consultant,  
Adventist Health; Contributing Faculty, Walden  
University**



**Tell us a little about your career path, background, and interest in advancing the science of nursing leadership.**

I cannot ever remember wanting to be anything other than a nurse. Honestly, no one in my family had anything to do with healthcare and I've always known it was a calling. I wanted to work in the adult intensive care units, and it took a little over a year in a telemetry unit, gaining experience, prior to being selected for training. I loved working in the ICU, the team spirit of the team and satisfaction of caring for the sickest patients and their families was extremely rewarding. Like many other nurses, I took on leadership responsibilities organically. As the need was presented, I responded. Over time I became a manager for multiple Intensive Care Units, then the Director of the ICU and Telemetry units in the hospital. After twenty years, due to my parents age and illness, I took a position in a hospital closer to home and within a few months, I was asked to take on the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) role. This was not something I planned or really desired. However, I quickly realized I could make positive changes in the lives of the staff and patients. This is when leadership became a passion for me.

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**How did you hear about ALSN and what has been your experience with this organization?**

As I grew in my role and experienced the challenge and satisfaction of mentoring other leaders, my fervor for leadership development grew. While completing my doctoral degree, I met and became friends with an ALSN leader, Lyn Losty. She has been involved with ALSN since its inception and she saw the groups' commitment to nurse leader development would be a great fit for me. It has been wonderful to have the opportunity to work with nurse leaders who are dedicated to growing leadership within all aspects of the nursing profession.

**What committee are you a member of?**

As an executive nurse leader in acute care hospitals, I developed strong financial planning and operational experience. As a result, when asked to join the Finance Committee, I accepted. This has been a wonderful experience as our group is a blend of those with academic and hospital backgrounds. I believe this adds strength to our group.

**How did you become interested in the study of nursing leadership and how has ALSN influenced this interest?**

My doctoral project was focused on authentic leadership development in frontline nurse leaders. ALSN is a wonderful networking group where I have been able to interact with others passionate about nurse leader development. The webinars and annual conference allow for a concentrated time for gathering and sharing various perspectives, and this is one of many ways that ALSN moves leadership science forward.

**What are your thoughts/ideas on how to create a better balance between academic and practice partners?**

I feel there is an opportunity for explosive synergy in developing leadership science with academic and practice partners working together. To this end, I will encourage practice partners I work with and those I am mentoring to join ALSN and provide their exceptional experience and knowledge to the growth of leadership development.

**What would you say to nurse leaders in academia or practice who are considering joining ALSN right now?**

I tell those with a passion for developing nurse leadership that they need to become part of this wonderful group. That their voices are important to the furthering of leadership science in nursing. That they will grow as leaders, and they will be part of helping build wonderful leaders for the future of nursing.

**What are 3 things that others may not know about you that you would like to share?**

Throughout my career I have been blessed to be involved in medical missionary work. This led me to work with two university nursing schools in Mexico, providing development and growth opportunities for their students. I organize several webinars each semester on topics of interest to the students, participate in curriculum for an annual international healthcare conference, and coordinate opportunities for international students to experience short term shadowing in an acute care setting. This is extremely rewarding on both a professional and personal level.

I enjoy photography and traveling in our RV with my husband and our goldendoodle, Rosie.