SHOULD YOU HAVE A SPEAKERS’ TABLE?

To the Editor:

I just read the article regarding speakers’ tables (DeSilets, 2012). I have been speaking nationally for almost 10 years. Two years ago, I left my day job to start my own company. I now speak and consult professionally. I love it!

I really thought about the article from a speaker’s perspective and from a conference planner’s perspective. (I have been the chair of the Academy of Medical Surgical Nurse’s program planning committee for their convention several times.) Although I don’t think it’s necessary to have a designated speakers’ table, I do think it’s important to reserve a seat for the speaker, especially if he or she is coming in just to speak.

Personally, I’ve never used the speakers’ lounge and always participate in the conference, time permitting. I enjoy listening to the other speakers and don’t view myself as “special.” The most important things to me are making sure everything is set up and having a person to contact for any problems. When I am managing a convention, I always make sure that speakers have a way to get in touch with me, that the equipment is set up and working, and that speakers have water. In my opinion, the speaker who expected a “place of honor” was just being a snob.

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REFERENCE


The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing is interested in hearing about your best practices for working with speakers. For example, someone recently gave our editor-in-chief a cell phone number in case she needed something during the night. Please e-mail your thoughts to jcen@healio.com.

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