

RN NEWS

The Newsletter of the American Radiological Nurses Association

Volume 2 Issue 4

CURRENT ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2** What am I bid for...Auction '97 is raising funds
- 2** Spend some time in the booth (the ARNA booth at RSNA, that is)
- 4** Capital Update newsletter has news of importance for nurses
- 5** Chicago, Philadelphia and the Carolinas in this edition of Chapter News

The Editor's Desk

To the RNNews Readers:

I have been editor of this newsletter for the past two years, but I feel the time has come to pass the torch on to another. I have been involved with RNNews since it's inception, and have watched the birth and growth of this "vehicle of better member communication" for our association, with pride, (and sometimes trepidation).

It has been a pleasure speaking with many of you and hearing the favorable comments regarding RNNews. These comments helped fuel my enthusiasm, and kept the newsletter going and growing. However, I feel now is the time for someone else to help bring our communication further, time to let the child grow and develop under another's guidance.

With much appreciation and gratitude, I thank the ARNA Board members for their time, input and communication with and for RNNews. Also, I send heartfelt thanks to the people who wrote articles and compiled data about their chapters. This is what RNNews is all about. I hope you will continue to submit news and information to keep our publication growing and strong. Last, but not least, I want to thank the Newsletter staff who assisted me by condensing articles to include in the publication.

Anyone interested in being the new editor should contact JoAnn Belanger, RN, president-elect by fax at (919) 966-7898.

Don't forget the meeting and Silent Auction in Chicago in December. The conference is always informative, educational, and fun. You will bring back interesting information which you can share with those who were unable to attend, the auction helps with the scholarship fund, and you will return refreshed and reinvigorated..

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and with many thanks, I bid you all a fond farewell.

Bob Steel

Auction '97

The Scholarship Committee is in the midst of organizing our third annual fund raising auction: "Auction '97!". The feedback was overwhelmingly positive about the regional gift items sent to us by the 13 local chapters for last year's event...we the committee feel "why mess with success"... and are asking for your help again this year.

"Auction '97!" will be held during our 16th Annual Meeting and Educational Conference in Chicago from November 30 to December 2, 1997. We know giving is a win-win situation;

1. your Chapter will gain nationwide exposure and really have a chance to stand out. For example, a flyer distributed to our entire membership in late October with a description of all items to be auctioned. This flyer contains a "fax in

form" for bidding circulation is widespread as members bring their flyer to the workplace with the goal of enticing physicians, nurses and technologists to participate. Potentially, thousands will see your name!

2. here is a wonderful opportunity for all of our chapters to participate in the organization in a way that directly benefits the whole Association. Our membership is growing in numbers and has recently gained recognition as a specialty nursing area. To enhance and reward our professionalism, isn't it nice that we offer scholarships to our hard-working members? Your donation helps to support these two scholarships: the Dorothy Budnek Memorial Scholarship for continuing education, and the Charlotte Godwin Award to reward professional involvement in radiology nursing.

To summarize, "Auction '97!" is

seeking your help. Please consider a donation in the \$50-100 range, something that reflects the flavor (hmmmm, taste treats are good) or culture (we can all use a little culture) of your area and give Nancy a call. We can't wait to hear from you!

You can contact Nancy Scott, RN at (wp) (619) 552-8585 ext. 7801 ** preferred contact #. (wfx) (619) 552-7565. or (hp) (619) 286-4300.

ARNA Booth at RSNA

We would like to have ARNA nurses staff our RSNA booth this year. We'll need everyone's help to make this happen. Please volunteer to spend an hour or two in our booth to greet people who stop by.

Doctors often ask "How can I get a Radiology Nurse?", "What does a Radiology Nurse do?", or What qualifica-

tions should a Radiology Nurse have?" Nurses ask about what ARNA is all about and how to join. Applications, copies of "Images", "RNNEWS", and other materials will be provided in the booth but someone there to answer questions is much better.

Janet Johnson will be coordinating hours for "manning" the booth. Please contact her if you will be in the Chicago area Sun., Nov.30 - Fri., Dec. 5 and can hang out at the booth for an hour or two. Her address is: 20332 S. Graceland Lane, Frankfort, IL 60423
Phone: (815) 469-6646
Fax: (708) 503-3277
e-mail: radmri@msn.com.

RNNEWS

RNNEWS is published quarterly to keep ARNA members better informed.

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or EMail
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National Nurses in Business Association National Conference

Nurse Entrepreneurship & Career Alternatives

You Will Learn How To:

- Be a consultant and sell your services
- Start a business/expand your business
- Start a medical-legal consulting business
- Start a case management/consulting company
- Start a nursing agency/home health care agency
- Market your business, your products & yourself!

Approved for 16 contact hours!

Over **28** Sessions to choose from!

Call **NNBA** for a Brochure!

Thinking about starting your own nursing business? Already in business? Ever wished there was something else you could do as a nurse? Ever wanted more autonomy, more money, and more professional and personal respect?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, plan to come to this conference!

Highlights

- Legal Nurse Consulting Track
- Beginner Nurse Entrepreneur Track
- Intermediate Nurse Entrepreneur Track
- Advanced Nurse Entrepreneur Track
- Hundreds of Business Ideas
- Business Opportunities for Nurses
- "Ask the Experts" Consultation Center
- Network Luncheons INCLUDED

April 24 & 25, 1998

Tropicana Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, NV

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From GRASSROOTS to CAPITOL HILL



National Federation for Specialty Nursing Organizations (NFSNO) invites you to attend the

1998 Nurse in Washington Internship

March 1-4, 1998

Washington Court on Capitol Hill
Washington, DC

In this four-day intensive internship, endorsed by ANA, you'll learn about the legislative process, the political and economic forces driving health care policy and delivery, and how to become politically active. You'll even spend a day on Capitol Hill visiting senators and representatives!

Two scholarships are available for members of NFSNO member organizations: one from W.B. Saunders Company and the editors of *Policy and Politics for Nurses*, and one from the Federation. Apply now!

Early registration fees are \$595 for members of NFSNO member organizations, \$645 for SNA/ANA members, and \$695 for nonmembers. Space is limited, so register early.

For more information, contact NFSNO:
609-256-2333 • FAX 609-589-7463
nfsno@mail.ajj.com



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Capital Update

The May 1997 Capital Update legislative newsletter for nurses provided some items of importance to our practice.

President Clinton, the ANA, other health care, and consumer groups, including the Emergency Nurses Association, is endorsing this legislation.

Reported in the January RN Newsletter, Congress and President Clinton proposed to cut funding to the Nurses Education Act, (NEA), by 57 million dollars from the current 1997 budget.

Currently, two nurse Members of the House of Representatives, Carolyn McCarthy, (D-NY), and Eddie Bernice Johnson, (D-TX), sent letters regarding funding for the NEA programs in 1998, to House Members.

Their letters emphasized a drastic cut in funding for NEA would deny many Americans

access to health care. The funding reduction would further prevent nursing professionals from receiving educational assistance they need to serve the public.

The nurses' letters have been co-signed by 70 supporting Members of the House.

The ANA is grateful to these Members of the House of Representatives and will continue to work, to obtain adequate 1998 funding for NEA programs.

This spring, the House proposed a bill designed to encourage workers to save money for their retirement. The bill would require the Department of Labor to begin a public information campaign focused at educating workers about the importance of early planning for retirement years.

The ANA has been an active advocate for increased pension security for all workers, especially women. The ANA supports efforts to educate the public on increased awareness of retirement issues.

President Clinton signed into law the "Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997", a bill prohibiting funding of physician assisted suicides through Medicare, Medicaid, health insurance policies for federal employees, and other Federal programs.

Earlier this year, the ANA submitted testimony and co-authored a brief with the American Medical Association, for the Supreme court opposing physician assisted suicide.

In May, the American Nurses Association hosted a press conference in Washington, D. C. to stress the negative impact of unlicensed assistive personnel (UAPs), on patient outcomes.

ANA President Beverly Malone, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, referenced House bill .1165 the "Patient Safety Act., which was proposed earlier this year. The ANA assisted with the development of this bill

The key points of the legislation are:

-Health care institutions will be required to provide the public with specific information on nurse staffing levels, staff mix and patient outcomes.

- Medicare law to protect retribution for nurses who report or voice concerns about unsafe patient conditions.

- Any mergers or acquisitions to be reviewed by the Department of Health and Human Services. This department would also look at long-range issues related to the health and safety of patients, the community and employees.

Research recently commissioned by the ANA provided definite evidence that patient outcomes are directly related to nursing staff numbers. The study proved shorter lengths of stay were strongly related to higher nurse staffing and preventable conditions, such as decubitus ulcers, pneumonia, urinary tract infections and post-operative infections

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were inversely related to registered nurse skill mix.

The study is entitled "Implementing Nursing's Report Card: A Study of RN Staffing, Length of Stay and Patient Outcomes".

During Nurses' Week, May 8, 1997, President Clinton sent a written message to the nursing community. The message stated:

"Warm greetings to everyone celebrating National Nurses' Week, 1997. Our nation's health care is recognized around the world for its excellence, and America's nurses are at the heart of that care. Working in a wide variety of settings. From hospitals to homes to long-term care facilities, whether as members of a team or as individuals, you perform an invaluable service for patients and their families. With extraordinary skill and sensitivity, you dedicate yourselves every day to alleviating the suffering of others and improving their health and quality of life.

You can take great pride in this tradition of professional excellence and compassionate care. As our nation prepares to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century, we will continue to rely on your steadfast commitment to improving the availability and quality of health care in America. On behalf of all those who benefit from your services, I thank you for your hard work and sacrifice to ensure the well-being of you fellow citizens. Best wishes for a wonderful week."

Clinical Guidelines

The Clinical Guidelines Development Committee has recently completed and submitted for peer review Guidelines of Angiography. These guidelines will soon be available to the membership. The committee is in the process of creating or endorsing guidelines for magnetic reso-

nance safety, contrast administration, and conscious sedation.

The committee needs the membership for future topics for clinical guidelines! Guidelines are intended to act as a guide for the professional practice of radiology nursing. Guidelines provide a framework from which individual policies and procedures can be created. They are also useful as tools for nurses to evaluate their own practice.

Forward your ideas for clinical guidelines to: Donna Corman, RN
15442 Long Castle Forest Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
Fax: (314) 423-8674
email: pcorman@idt.com

Chapter News

Chicago

Windy City Regional Chapter of ARNA would like to announce their 1st

Saturday educational conference on Nov. 8th, starting at 10am.

Topics will include "Pediatric Respiratory Distress", "Vasoseal", "Thrombolytic Therapies", & "Contrast Reactions". This conference will be held at Columbia Olympia Fields Hospital in the south suburbs of Chicago.

For further info. or to RSVP, please contact Janet Johnson at (815) 469-6646 fax (708) 503-3277 or email: radmrim@msn.com.

We held elections at our last meeting. Our new officers are Chiquita Hoskins - President, Debbie Roberts - President-elect, Diane Zickus - Secretary, Lesley Elisco - Treasurer, & Board Members: Kay Adler, Nora Rabara, & Janet Johnson.

Our educational topic at this meeting was Myelograms, & we shared our forms, protocols, physician orders, & patient education materials. Hope to see you all in Chicago at the ARNA and RSNA meetings - dress warm!

Chapter News Continued

Carolinas

The CCARNA has had a great year with the spring meeting in Greenville, SC, and the fall meeting in Asheville, NC. Both meetings were very well attended with a record number of participants at the spring meeting (44). The speakers were excellent and the CEU's offered were a wonderful incentive for those of us who need them for professional advancement. Some of the topics included: Legal Issues and the Radiology Nurse, Contrast Reactions, IVC Filters, Interventional Radiology and the Biliary Tree.

Under the expert guidance of Kate Little and Delma Armstrong

(and of course many others), we were able to increase our membership our educational offerings, and our professionalism as radiology nurses.

Kate Little has been the Membership Committee Chairperson at the National level this year.

Delma Armstrong has been the Co-Chairperson of the Clinical Guidelines Development Committee this year.

JoAnn Belanger (nee Stubblebine) will take office this December as the President of ARNA. All three continue to support our organization with their knowledge, wisdom and expertise.

Elected officers for Carolinas Chapter for 1997-1998 are as follows: President: Betty Clines, RN...

President-Elect: Melissa Holbrook, RN...Secretary: Delma Armstrong, RN...Treasurer: Judy Hozy, RN...Board Members: Kate Little, RN, Janice Best, RN, Patti Buesser, RN.

Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Chapter of ARNA is holding their fall seminar, Trends in Radiology, on November 18, 1997 at Saint Mary Medical Center in Langhorne, Pa.

Topics of discussion will be, physical properties and pharmacology of CO₂, technical aspects of intravascular use of CO₂ and advantages/limitations of CO₂ as a vascular

contrast agent, assessing for complications and precautions with CO₂ contrast, how MRA relates to MRI, how MRA is obtained and clinical utility, costs, risks and benefits of MRA.

Featured speakers and Dr. Dan J. Cohen, Interventional Radiologist at Saint Mary Medical Center and Dr. Lawrence N. Ratner, Medical Director, MRI Dept. also of Saint Mary Medical Center. Registration deadline is November 11, 1997.

Anyone interested in attending the program should contact Eileen Yannarella, 753 Stryker Ave. Doylestown, Pa 18901 or you can reach her by fax at (215) 346-2596.



american radiological nurses association

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