A Message from the President

Jennifer Hitt, RN, MSN, CNE

Fresh off the heels of another successful ANA Membership Assembly, the lesson I learned this year was the art of music. As Dr. Carl Mangum (delegate), Teresa Malone, and I entered the Membership Assembly in Washington DC this past June, we were greeted by all the familiar things-campaign materials, information on upcoming events, position statements data, and a string quartet. Yes, seated in front of each of us was an instrument. Some delegates had drums, while others had tambourines. Carl, Teresa, and I each had a viola, an instrument I had never held in my life. Some delegates had drums, while others had tambourines. Carl, Teresa, and I each had a viola, an instrument I had never held in my life. Together the Membership Assembly would be something as simple as attending a local meeting or recruiting a new member. The small acts are not lost on the big picture. As MNA works to accomplish policy changes that affect the profession and the care we provide, we need each nurse to have a part. We must also learn to listen to the beat around us. In this team building lesson the percussions provided the rhythm, while the strings provided the harmony.

Both groups had to listen to the other. Working out the rhythm, while the strings provided the harmony. In this team building lesson the percussions provided the rhythm, while the strings provided the harmony. The team building activity presented to us was complex. Together the Membership Assembly would play Pachelbel's Canon in D. No to a group of people, who I could only assume were not music majors in college, the task was met with some skepticism. Would it be possible, in 30 minutes, to learn an instrument and play as a group a piece that has taken people years to master?

We quickly learned that the key to completing this task was not complex. Everyone had a different part to master? When we practiced in a separate room from the other groups, it was hard to hear a cohesive piece of music. It was not until all of the groups came together to play in unison that the beauty of the piece came to fruition. What could this lesson teach us about nursing? It taught us the art of working together in a profession and an organization. Monumental tasks are not accomplished by one person. Rather we must break things down, get to the basics, and then come together to accomplish our goals.

It also taught us the value of the individual contribution. Had the drums not joined in or the tambourines decided to sit out, the piece would have lost its flow. Everyone in the room had a part. Much like nursing and health care, everyone plays a role in the piece.

Applying this lesson to the success of MNA is quite simple. We need each individual to participate. It may be something as simple as attending a local meeting or recruiting a new member. The small acts are not lost on the big picture. As MNA works to accomplish policy changes that affect the profession and the care we provide, we need each nurse to have a part. We must also learn to listen to the beat around us. In this team building lesson the percussions provided the rhythm, while the strings provided the harmony. Both groups had to listen to the other. Working out of synch from each other would have been a musical disaster. Much like in health care, listening is key.

Moving forward we must remember to stay in synch, listen to our colleagues and play along. We can no longer afford to sit in the back and not participate with the music. The song has already started. Will you join in?

New ANA Board Members

A special welcome to newly elected ANA President, Pamela Cipriano, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN. Dr. Cipriano serves as senior director at Galloway Advisory by ivantage, which helps hospital groups, health care payers and providers improve their operations, outcomes and profits. She is also a research associate professor at the University of Virginia School of Nursing, served as the inaugural editor-in-chief of ANA’s official journal, American Nurse Today, and is a member of the Virginia Nurses Association. She oversaw more than 3,000 University of Virginia Health Systems employees as the chief clinical officer and chief nursing officer. She earned her doctorate in executive nursing administration from the University of Utah in 1992 and a master’s of science in physiological nursing from the University of Washington in 1981. Dr. Cipriano previously served two terms on the ANA Board of Directors, including one term as treasurer, and has served for more than 30 years on state and national committees for ANA and the American Academy of Nursing.

MNA also welcomes new ANA Board members Vice-President: Cindy R. Balkstra, MS, RN, ACNS-BC, Georgia Nurses Association; Secretary: Patricia Travis, PhD, RN, CCRP, Maryland Nurses Association; and Treasurer: Gingy Harshey-Mead, MSN, RN, CAE, NEA-BC, Ohio Nurses Association and Indiana Nurses Association.
Central Europe Classic Christmas Markets Tour Strasbourg, Wurzburg, Nuremberg, Munich & Innsbruck

Lobby Day
Section C of the 1st floor Rotunda at the Mississippi State Capitol

2015 Legislative Nursing Summit

Legislative Reception Fairview Inn

Travel Tour: Mar. 19-28, 2015

Travel Tour: June 14-22, 2015

Note: If you need to take this course, contact our office at (662) 756-4361.
2014 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Special Thanks
to the Provider Unit Committee and the Convention Planning Committee members for their dedication in planning a great 2014 Annual Convention!

Provider Unit Committee
Director, Council on Education:
Deloris Slade, FNP, BC

Provider Unit Chairperson:
Marilyn Ellis, MSN, ANP-BC

Members:
Sheila Adams
Diane Blanchard
Lisa Byrd
Mary H. Connor
Paula DeCanter
Anne Everett
Monica Jones
Robbie Jones
Bettye Logan
Lora Lonidier
Cynthia Luther
Deb Miranda
LaDonna Northington
Linda Sullivan
Betty Sylvest
Teresa Tittle
Tyrongilia Walton

Convention Planning Committee
Director, Council on Organizational Affairs:
Amber Arnold, BSN, MSN, DNP

Chairperson:
Teresa Standford, RN, FNP, DNP

Members:
Michelle Atkinson
Bess Blackwell
Sandra Coleman
Mary Crump
Cynthia Dean
Paula Decanter
Anne Everett
Amy Forsythe
Sarah Howell
Alicia Ishee
Robbie Jones
Pamela Lee
Alice Messer
Ka Russum
Mary Scott
Jennifer Stephen
Linda Sullivan
Elizabeth Tinnon
Jan Todd
Michelle Welander

The Future of Healthcare is upon us and the MNA 103rd Annual Convention is approaching fast! Calling all registered nurses - you don't want to miss this exciting event! What an exciting time to be a part of MNA. This is my first year to serve as your Director of Organizational Affairs, and I can tell you - we have a fantastic Convention Planning Committee working hard to provide you a sensational convention experience. Each year, MNA’s Convention offers numerous opportunities for you to become more knowledgeable in your profession, and this year is no exception. There are so many exciting events planned, and of course, we have a line-up of exceptional speakers to bring you the latest in technology and information available.

Our theme this year is “Trek into the Future of Healthcare!” Be ready for a convention you won’t forget! Don’t miss out on our “Galactic Cruise” on the Captain Pete! Break out your most futuristic attire and get ready to set sail. We’ll have karaoke, dancing, and great food! Door prizes will be given for Best Costume and Karaoke Winner. You don’t want to miss this “out of this world” cruise!

Our 2014 Convention will be filled with poster presentations, education opportunities, networking, relationship-building, fun, and the list goes on! Be sure to tell all your colleagues about this wonderful opportunity to expand your knowledge and have great fun! Also, don’t forget to visit the Marketplace as we have some exciting new goodies that will be available for purchase.

I would like to thank our Provider Unit and Deloris Slade for working so hard to obtain distinguished speakers, the Nursing Research Council and Mary Stewart for providing us with a unique poster session, and a special thanks to our Convention Planning Committee led by Teresa Stanforf for working countless hours to create a synergistic and meaningful convention for all of us!
2014 Annual Convention Sponsorships

ARPEN BREAKFAST SPONSOR

The Headache Center (THC) is the only headache specialty care clinic in the state of Mississippi devoted solely to the treatment and care of headache patients. The Headache Center has a sophisticated, state-of-the-art, six-exam-room clinic, and is equipped to provide urgent care to patients in need of acute or chronic headache treatment for refractory headaches. THC has over 70 years of combined nursing experience. Christina Treppendahl, FNP-BC, opened The Headache Center in October of 2013.

TOTE BAG SPONSOR

MORA / Donate Life Mississippi is a not-for-profit organization which sole mission is to inspire all Mississippians to save and enhance lives through organ, eye and tissue donation. www.msora.org, www.donatelifems.org

PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP SPONSOR

Mississippi Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Nursing Council

The Mississippi Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Nursing Council (MBHDN) is committed to improving health care and enhancing professionalism in nursing. We find collaborative, innovative educational solutions to health care needs. By working with others to improve the practice of nursing and providing leadership, we prepare graduates who provide quality, complex care across the state of MS.

DIAMOND SPONSORSHIPS

At William Carey University, we believe in high standards for innovative nursing programs delivered in a Christ-focused environment. In response to community need, we offer the following programs via a student friendly hybrid format: RN-BSN, MSN, MSN-MBA, and PhD.

The University of Southern Mississippi
College of Nursing

Southern Miss College of Nursing: Breaking New Ground Transforming Health Care by providing accessible and innovative higher education, Southern Miss is preparing leaders critical for implementation of health care delivery through research, teaching, and community partnerships. Check out our website for program offerings at www.usm.edu/nursing.

Mississippi Vein Institute

The Mississippi Vein Institute is a premiere center for the diagnosis and minimally invasive treatment of venous disorders. The Mississippi Vein Institute was founded in July 2008 to provide patients with the latest in diagnostic tools and treatment options for spider veins, varicose veins, venous ulcerations and unsightly hand veins. We provide comprehensive diagnostic evaluation and treatment for: Varicose Veins, Spider Veins, and Venous Ulcers etc. We also provide several aesthetic procedures including Botox and dermal fillers. Visit our website at: www.mississippiveininstitute.com

University of Mississippi Medical Center
School of Nursing

Mississippi's flagship nursing school, The University of Mississippi School of Nursing offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs. To learn more about the School of Nursing, located on the state's only academic health science campus, and its flexible, accessible and achievable programs, visit www.umc.edu/srn.

Amedisys, Inc. is the leading national provider of care in the home. Ranging from skilled nursing to intensive physical, occupational, and speech therapies, Amedisys provides the highest care in these fields utilizing the latest in patient care management and technology.

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A healthy Mississippi begins with living a healthy lifestyle. Start by eating healthy, exercising regularly, avoiding tobacco use and having an annual preventive wellness exam.

Now more than ever, it’s good to be Blue. Learn more at www.bcbsms.com.
Memorial Hospital at Gulfport is proud to sponsor MNA. Memorial serves the Mississippi Gulf Coast and offers a wide spectrum of positions from entry-level to highly specialized. To learn more, visit our website at www.gulfportmemorial.com or call 228-867-4266.

The Mississippi Nurses Foundation (MNF) is a 501(c)3 charitable organization established by the Mississippi Nurses Association (MNA) in 1982. Headquartered at the Center for Nursing in Madison, Mississippi, MNF is governed by a Board of Trustees, appointed by the MNA Board of Directors. The primary programs administered by the MNF include scholarship, educational support, continuing education (CE), nursing research, health promotion, and professional development.

At River Oaks Health Systems, we are five great hospitals with one single focus - providing the best care possible to our patients. River Oaks Health Systems includes River Oaks Hospital Flowood, Central Mississippi Medical Center, River Oaks Medical Center Madison, Woman's Hospital, and River Oaks Hospital Crossgates.

Forrest General Hospital

Forrest General is a 512-bed facility located in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, that provides regional health services to a 19-county area. Generations of Pine Belt residents have counted on Forrest General, and today's generations continue to rely on the comprehensive care offered through the hospital's constantly expanding range of healthcare services. Please take a look at our website at www.forrengthenal.com for some exciting opportunities in nursing leadership or email your resume to Tanisha Hamilton at thamilton@forrestgeneral.com.

You want to live a full life. Humana will partner with you to make it happen. Mississippi can count on us to help you and the people you care about live healthier lives, and to be your best. If it's important to you, it's important to us. Learn more at Humana.com.

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TUESDAY EVENING RECEPTION SPONSOR

At William Carey University, we believe in high standards for innovative nursing programs delivered in a Christian environment. In response to community need, we offer the following programs via a student-friendly hybrid format: RN-BSN, MSN, MSN-MBA, and PhD.

For more information or a transcript evaluation, please contact: Lynn Buckalew RN-BSN Track Coordinator Box 4037, Clinton, MS 39058 Ph: 601.925.3392, Fax: 601.925.3379 buckalew@mc.edu, www.mc.edu

WEDNESDAY EVENING RECEPTION SPONSOR

The University of Mississippi Nursing Alumni Chapter and Kim W. Hoover, Ph. D., R.N. Dean, School of Nursing at the University of Mississippi Medical Center invites you to the Nursing Alumni and Friends Reception during the Mississippi Nurses Association Annual Convention. Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. The Redding House, Biloxi, MS Please reply if attending to sjkelly@umc.edu, or call us at 1-800-844-5800 or 601-984-1115.

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2014 Mississippi School Nurse Association Scholarship Recipient

The Mississippi Nurses Foundation is currently piloting a tobacco cessation program at Delta State University (DSU). The Foundation has partnered with the Delta State University School of Nursing to implement a pilot program that is preparing nursing students to address tobacco cessation using an evidence-based curriculum. The DSU faculty was trained to implement the curriculum. The curriculum was taught over the course of two semesters for the first cohort; the second cohort is currently being trained using the curriculum. For each cohort, students will complete a knowledge-based pre-test prior to any exposure to tobacco related content. A post test will be completed at the end of the each cohorts training period. Additionally, students will complete follow-up permission form. Once students have graduated from DSU and have the opportunity to put into practice information gleaned during the pilot program MNF will conduct a follow-up assessment. Follow-up will be conducted to assess utilization of information learned as well as to assess skill development. These results along with insight from the faculty will be used to further refine the curriculum from the initial pilot. The first cohort has completed the program. The average score of the pre-test was 55; the average score of the post-test was 80. These results suggest that the pilot program was successful in providing the information necessary to prepare nursing students for the practice of tobacco cessation in the field.

Mississippi Nurses Foundation News

The Mississippi Nurses Foundation will host its annual Philanthropy Day Reception Thursday, November 13, 2014, from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm at Table 100 in Flowood, MS. The reception is in honor of all nurses, donors and supporters of the Mississippi Nurses Foundation.

Mississippi Nurses Foundation

Car Tag Stipend

I am very grateful to have been a recipient of the license tag scholarship. At the time I was awarded this scholarship, I was a single mother of four daughters working hard to get through nursing school. This scholarship not only provided income that eased my financial burden, but it also encouraged me to move forward with confidence in my field. Knowing that others saw potential in me provided me with the opportunity to enhance my research by hiring a professional editor and having my capstone project prepared for submission to publication. My capstone project has been accepted for publication later this fall. Thanks to Mississippi Nurse’s Foundation and the Arthur L. Davis Scholarly Writing Award for making this dream a reality.

Leigh Gault

Arthur L. Davis Scholarly Writing Award

Having been a recipient of the Arthur L. Davis Scholarly Writing Award was such an honor and blessing. This prestigious award afforded me the opportunity to enhance my research by hiring a professional editor and having my capstone project prepared for submission to publication. My capstone project has been accepted for publication later this fall. Thanks to Mississippi Nurse’s Foundation and the Arthur L. Davis Scholarly Writing Award for making this dream a reality.

Tyrongilia Walton, DNP, APRN, FNP-C

Visit us on the web anytime... anywhere...

www.msnurses.org
The Mississippi Nurses Foundation awarded $78,000 in nursing stipends. Stipend funds were raised through the State of Mississippi Nurses Car Tag Program—Nurses Touch Lives and awarded to registered nurses and nursing students enrolled in an accredited Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters or Doctoral Nursing Program in Mississippi.

After a thorough review of applications, 13 recipients were chosen. As full-time students, the recipients will be awarded a total of $6,000 to be received in increments of $500 each month for 12 months beginning in August, 2014 through July, 2015. Recipients are required to sign a contract with the Mississippi Nurses Foundation to work as a full-time nurse in Mississippi within the first two years following completion of the program.

The 2014 Stipend Recipients are as follows:

**Associate Program**
- Ashley Triolo, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

**Baccalaureate Program**
- Rainee Davis, Mississippi University for Women
- Darries Johnson, Mississippi College
- Chandler Robertson, Mississippi University for Women
- Melissa Smith, Mississippi College
- Dawn Turner, University of Southern Mississippi
- Kendall Wilcher, University of Mississippi Medical Center

**RN to BSN Program**
- Griselda Miranda, Mississippi University for Women

**Masters Program**
- Melissa Culpepper, University of Mississippi Medical Center
- Christy Davis, Mississippi University for Women

**RN to MSN Program**
- Estorya Michelle Hughes, University of Mississippi Medical Center

**Doctoral Program**
- Lynn Buckalew, William Carey University
- Katherine Rigdon, University of Mississippi Medical Center

Congratulations to our 2014 Car Tag stipend recipients!

The Mississippi Nurses Foundation’s mission is to raise, accept and disperse charitable donations to promote professional nursing and better health in Mississippi.

The Mississippi Nurses Foundation hosted its brick garden ceremony Saturday, May 10, 2014 at the Mississippi Center for Nursing in Madison, MS. The ceremony, during nurses week, paid tribute to someone “IN HONOR” OR “IN MEMORY” who had significantly impacted a nurse or a friend of nursing’s personal or professional life.

Dr. Tonya Moore, Chief Learning Officer at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, provided an overview of the purpose and history of the garden ceremony, and encouraged the audience to leave a legacy in nursing that will have a lasting impact.

The bricks purchased in **Honor** are as follows:
- Nurse Gadge Clayton
- Nurse Kelli Conn
- Nurse Kim Hoover
- Rosalyn Howard
- Nurse Shirley James
- Nurse Geneva Rainey
- Nurse Melinda Rush
- Nurse Jean Vickers

The bricks purchased in **Memory** are as follows:
- Nurse Joyce Keen Booth
- Nurse Myrtle Estes
- Nurse Gerry Cadenhead Fletcher
- Aileen Morrison Nurse Carie Pittman
- Nurse Mary Rushing
- Nurse Mary Babbe Sutherland Sissmore
- Hobson and Annie Swindle
- Nurse Linda Wiggins

A special thanks to Dr. Kaye Bender for sponsoring the event. To learn more about purchasing a brick, please visit [www.msnursesfoundation.com](http://www.msnursesfoundation.com) or call 601-898-0850.

**Raffle Ticket BOGO Blowout Sale - Buy One Get One**

Get them while they last – This sale won’t last long. The raffle will end October 24, 2014. Proceeds benefit programs and services of the Mississippi Nurses Foundation.

The options are as follows:
- **The First Prize Option**: Get excited about the 2015 Volvo XC60!
- **The Second Prize Option**: A seven-day Caribbean or Alaskan Cruise
- **The Third Prize Option**: A $10,000 cash prize

Cost: $50.00 (two for one)

For more details, please call 601-898-0850 or purchase online at [www.msnursesfoundation.com](http://www.msnursesfoundation.com)

**NOTE**: YOUR FREE TICKET WILL BE MAILED TO YOU.
Challenging Traditional Nursing Practices

Sandi Arnold, RN, BSN
Director of Council on Nursing Practice

Nurses today need to challenge nursing practice traditions. There is an old saying “just because you have always done it that way, doesn’t make it right.” Well, that is true especially in the nursing practice. According to an article in the American Nurse Today (2013), “To meet the needs of patients and their families, health care practice must be based on current research and the best evidence.” (p.10). This is called evidence-based practice. German author, Goethe, said, “Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do” (2010).

In order to stay current with nursing practices, all nurses must critically examine how we perform nursing care. It is no longer acceptable to resist changing current nursing practices because, “That was the way I learned it in nursing school 10 or 20 years ago.” For the nursing profession to move forward, changing current nursing practices, or are you practicing as you learned in the nursing practice? (p.10) this way? "Are you willing to challenge and change traditional nursing practices to incorporate evidence-based nursing practices, or are you practicing as you learned back in nursing school 10 or 20 years ago?"


Mississippi Nurses’ Association presents...
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(601) 898-0670

Book by 10/20/2014 & Save $250 Per Person

Teresa Malone

Executive Director’s Column
If you are looking for outstanding educational and networking opportunities, then the MNA Convention Trek into the Future of Healthcare is the place you need to be! We are looking forward to another exciting Convention and are delighted that the Mississippi Association of Student Nurses (MASN) will be joining us! To welcome the MASN back, we have structured event sessions to allow for more opportunities for interaction between our attendees and the attendees of MASN. Don’t forget to take advantage of attending our Pre-Convention Workshop on October 21st. The Opening Session on October 22nd will kick-off the Convention and motivate you with some surprise entertainment! Our Expo will provide you an opportunity to network with numerous vendors. To provide you an opportunity to relax and enjoy the beautiful Gulf Coast, join us for our “Galactic Cruise” on Captain Pete. Sing to the stars in our Karaoke Contest and dress for the future in our Costume Contest. From start to finish, the Provider Unit and Convention Planning Committee have ensured this Convention is an event you don’t want to miss! Trek into the Future of Healthcare with us!
September, October, November 2014

Linda Sullivan, RN, BC, DSN, FNP/PNP

So what did you do on your summer vacation? Remember when you were in school and that first day there was the essay you had to write and then read to the class? We all hoped to have some fabulous story to share but often it went something like this: “We went to the beach and saw my grandma and my aunts at the beach!” Boring but boy was it fun.

Well, the APRN group has been doing more than that this summer. The APRN group hosted an incredibly successful meeting in April. APRNs throughout the State attended and shared their knowledge. Now it is time to get ready for the fall annual MNA convention. So what have we been up to on our summer vacation? We’ve been working diligently to get ready for fall convention and for the legislative session that will be here before we know it.

The fall convention will provide many opportunities for learning and sharing, for hands on classes as well as lecture sessions and for time to collaborate and network with your fellow colleagues. We are excited to be offering a great selection of Skills Workshops. We will have offerings for family, adult/geri, pediatric, mental health, other subspecialty areas and more so plan on attending the entire convention as well as the APRN portion! Join us on October 21-24, 2014, on the beautiful coast of Mississippi.

The APRN Council met on August 16th at the Mississippi Center for Nursing in Madison, Mississippi. During this meeting we discussed plans for our legislative agenda for the fall, as well as reviewed the current issues facing APRNs in this state. We also discussed the current national trends and how these may be incorporated into our agenda for action this year. We developed strategies for addressing the current concerns and discussed plans for addressing our legislative agenda. If you are not a member of the APRN Council but would like to join, please contact MNA and request a Consent to Serve form. This is an important council and members are routinely asked to participate in numerous activities and meetings.

So what did we do this summer? We held many educational sessions, attended District meetings and answered your questions about what is happening in Mississippi and nationwide. We provided NRCME/ FMCSA DOT Medical Examiner course to many of you, provided controlled substance workshops and other educational classes and provided you the opportunity to attend our recently developed Pharmacology Summit that you requested to help meet your recertification needs.

A special thanks go out to those of you who have volunteered your time and energies by providing many of the educational offerings. I would like to give special recognition and appreciation to Deloris Slade who organized, presented and shared her expertise in such a generous way.

That research paper isn’t going to write itself. Visit www.nursingALD.com to gain access to 600+ issues of official state nurses publications, all to make your research easier!
Linda M. Watkins, RN, NP, DNP, was re-elected as the Mississippi State Representative of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). Dr. Watkins began her term of office on June 21, 2014, following the Annual Membership Meeting at the AANP Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Watkins joins a distinguished list of nurse practitioner leaders who are committed to raising awareness of the exceptional care NP’s provide and advocating for legislation that improves patients’ access to care.

Linda M. Watkins Re-Elected Mississippi State Representative of AANP

Running for Office 2014

Vice President:
Debra Allen, MSN, RN ............... District 21

Treasurer:
Ann Barnes, RN, BSN ............... District 13

Secretary:
Tyrongial Walton, DNP, APRN, FNPC ............... District 31

Director, Council on Advance Practice Nursing:
Linda Watkins, DNP, FNP-C ............... District 13

Director, Council on Health Affairs:
1. Juanita Graham,
   DNP, RN, FRSPH ............... District 15
2. Tonya Harbison, MSN, RN ............... District 6

Director, Council on Nursing Practice:
Sandi Arnold, RN, BSN ............... District 7

Director, Council on Nursing Research:
John Hodnett, DNP, M. Ed, MSN, RN, LPC ............... District 12

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NOTICE OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING

The Mississippi Nurses Association’s House of Delegates will convene on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Watkins is an emergency nurse practitioner at the Jackson Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She earned a Bachelor of Science and a Masters of Science in Psychology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a Bachelor of Science of Nursing from the University of Maryland. She has a Masters of Nursing Degree from the University of Mississippi and earned a Doctorate of Nursing Practice at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In 2004, Dr. Watkins received the Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award for her care in the emergency department and her collaboration with colleagues. She has served as a delegate to the Mississippi Nurses Association House of Delegates, and has been a long-standing member of the MNA Advanced Practice Council.
The Mississippi Association of Student Nurses (MASN) is an organization that unites nursing students enrolled in both associate and baccalaureate degree programs across the state. MASN contributes to nursing education by aiding in the development of the whole person and their professional role as nurses. This organization works to influence the education process, health care, nursing education, and nursing practice through legislative activities. A major focus of MASN is the active participation of nursing students in community health care projects. Each year, a group of students is elected by their peers at the state convention to serve for the state board as leaders of MASN.

Over the past year, MASN has been working hard to achieve its set goals. Several members of the state board were able to attend the Student Nursing Association’s National Convention held this past April in Nashville, Tennessee. Here, the board was able to represent all of the MASN by passing a resolution promoting the need of increased education of the new guidelines on treating hypertension. MASN’s Breakthrough to Nursing Committee has diligently been working on a state wide community service project. This project encourages nursing students to contact their community’s local high school to serve as mentors to high school students wanting to pursue a career in nursing.

MASN is pleased to announce that the 2014 annual convention will be returning to Biloxi this October. Our convention’s theme “What’s your script?” is meant to both inform and guide students on various aspects of nursing so they may reach their professional goals. The keynote speaker of this year’s convention is Patrick House, the season ten winner of the reality television series, “The Biggest Loser.” The MASN board is very excited about the convention and is looking forward to seeing nursing students from across the state there this fall.

Continuing Nursing Education

The Mississippi Nurses Foundation, Inc. is accredited as an approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation and is dedicated to evaluating and approving continuing education activities, and increasing the quality of care provided to clients.

There are two types of continuing education activities:

- EDI Provider paced activities (example: live seminars, live webinars)
- EDII Learner paced activities (examples: online courses, e-books, self-study modules)

A Continuing Education application can be obtained at www.msnursefoundation.com or by contacting Kasey Dorr, administrative assistant, at ksdorr@msnurses.org or 601-898-0850.

Applications ($150) submitted less than 45 days before the presentation date will accrue a late fee of $60.00. Please contact Dr. Susan Hart, CE Accreditation Administrator, at dr.susanhart@gmail for additional details and assistance.

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