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and Licensed Practical
Nurses in South Dakota



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President's Message

Margie Washnok, APRN, MS, DNO



Margie Washnok

The November 2015 issues of American Nurse Today included a supplement of "The Essence of Nursing Advancing the Art and Science of Patient Care Quality, and Safety." The six key points to provide the essence of good care are that were shared by a variety of nurses included: "be proactive, prevent patient harm, wash your hands, keep patients moving, engage patients, and promote sound nutrition." I would like to add "spirituality" as another key point.

For a nurse to be proactive, the nurse needs to build a caring culture and maintain a healthy work environment. I believe an important part of building a caring culture includes listening to the patient and family, and remembering the little things mean a great deal to the patient and family. Make sure you are the nurse the family

remembers for the "care" you put into caring for their loved one. When the work environment is healthy, then the care for the patient and family is also healthy.

One of the most important nursing interventions is to prevent patient harm. Remember, falls are the principal adverse event in hospitals and long term care facilities. Strive to prevent falls by assessing your patient and reviewing the types of fall risk factors common to the patients. One of the best methods to prevent falls is to educate the patient and family about fall risks and how to prevent them. Another aspect of preventing patient harm is to prevent pressure ulcers for all patients. This is part of our code of ethics to "do no harm."

One of the most important methods to care for a patient and to prevent harm is by practicing good hand hygiene. Remember to wash hands before touching a patient, performing procedures, after touching a patient, after touching patient's surroundings, and after working with body fluids. CDC has excellent tools to incorporate into education of hand hygiene. These can be found at cdc.gov/handhygiene/. Often, hand hygiene education needs to be provided for the patient and family to prevent spread of disease/illness.

Keeping patients moving is vital to prevent decubiti, contractures, and other alterations in mobility. This is a concern for patients in the ICU, post-op, long term care facilities, as well as; patients who are paraplegics or quadriplegics. Patients and family may also need education on range of motion exercises and other methods to increase mobility.

We can engage our patients by listening to them and their families. Patients and families also need to be kept informed of changes in the medications, treatments, procedures, and improvements. This also includes educating the patients and families what the diagnosis means, why medications are prescribed, and what the patients need to do before a procedure or treatment is implemented. All these measures will help patients recuperate faster and with less complications.

Promoting sound nutrition is important to enhance healing. To do this, the patient must be assessed for difficulty chewing, swallowing disorders, weight loss, skin integrity, edema, electrolyte imbalances, and ability to feed him/herself. Good nutrition provides the building blocks for muscles, energy, and healing.

I believe spirituality is a part of the "essence of good nursing care" because spirituality is part of holistic patient care by focusing on the patient's understanding of illness and change. Often spirituality perceptions and practices help reduce the patient's anxiety related to the physical condition. Assessing the patient's spirituality will assist the nurse to understand the patient's values, beliefs, and practices, and how these can be incorporated into the care.

The "Essence of Nursing" is to provide care that is proactive, prevents harm, includes good hand hygiene, keeps patient's moving, engages patient's, promotes sound nutrition, and incorporates spirituality. Nurses are in control to carry out the "Essence of Nursing" for individuals, groups, families, and communities.

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2015 deadlines for articles submitted to the *South Dakota Nurse*: Jan. 12 – March issue, April 13 – June issue, July 13 – Sept. issue, and Oct. 12 – Dec. issue.

The *South Dakota Nurse* accepts and encourages manuscripts or editorials. We will determine which letters and articles are printed by the availability of publication space and appropriateness of the material. We welcome signed letters of 300 words or less, typed and double spaced and articles of 1,500 words or less. All materials should be mailed to: South Dakota Nurses Association, P.O. Box 1015, Pierre, SD 57501 or e-mailed to: contactus@sdnurses.org.

The views expressed in the articles and editorials are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of SDNA.

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SDNF Scholarships Make a Difference

By M. Claire May, South Dakota Nurses Foundation Community Board Member

South Dakota Nurses Foundation, a charitable organization established in 1999, with a goal of supporting education through advancement of nursing and health-related learning has awarded 25 scholarships in the last nine years. Again, in the fall of 2015 multiple SDNF scholarships were awarded to qualifying South Dakota nurses. Recently, several former recipients responded with reflections on how they continue to make a difference in South Dakota health care.

Robin Arends, DNP, CNP, FNP-BC

When Robin Arends received her 2007 SDNF scholarship, she was employed at Falls Community Health in Sioux Falls and also served in the school-based clinics at Terry Redlin and Hawthorne Elementary schools. Since then she has far exceeded her goals “to continue to work with the underserved population of Sioux Falls and surrounding communities and to help educate the future nurse practitioners of South Dakota.”

The SDNF scholarship, which focuses on education, research and scholarship, helped her complete her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree (DNP) from SDSU in 2014. “For this degree, I completed a DNP Project that focused on diabetic nutrition education for low income patients. I continue to work on incorporating evidence-based research into practice through the grants I am currently working on. I share my passion and love for the profession through educating our future practitioners. I continue to seek out new opportunities to learn and grow in my practice.”

She is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor at South Dakota State University teaching in the nurse practitioner practicum courses, graduate pharmacology, and the DNP project courses. She is also the Graduate Curriculum Committee Chair and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Curriculum Coordinator. Additionally, she is the Project Director for the Advanced Nursing Education (ANE) grant that focuses on introducing Telehealth into the APRN curriculum and strengthens clinical partnerships. Arends is also Graduate Curriculum Leader for a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration.

Arends’s practice site is at Avera eCare (delivering 24-hour access to specialty care) in the eLTC (Long Term Care) program. “We provide Telehealth services to geriatric patients in long term care facilities. We also provide Telehealth services to Correctional facilities through eCorrections and to the public through AveraNow.”

Arends described her role as Executive Director of the Nurse Practitioner Association of South Dakota. “I assist with the publishing and editing of the newsletter and promote our educational events. I assist with membership recruitment and maintain our membership database. I work to update and maintain the website. I promote legislative activities to enhance Nurse Practitioner practice.”

In addition, Arends is the South Dakota State Representative for the American Association of Nurse

Practitioners. “I am the liaison between the organization and the nurse practitioners in our state.”

Arends’s concluded with a firm recommendation. “I highly encourage nurses to be involved with their professional organizations and policy. Decisions are made that involve your practice and it is important that you have a strong voice to advocate for you. There are many ways to be involved from supporting the work of the organization through your membership to serving on committees to running for office. You should have a seat at the table when decisions are made that affect your practice.”

Kathleen Zambo, DNP, RN, MS

“I was a lucky SDNF scholarship recipient when I was in the DNP program back in 2009!” remarked Kathy Zambo, who at the time of receiving the scholarship had also been selected as the first cohort in the three year SDSU Doctorate in Nursing Practice program, while maintaining a very busy family nursing practice.

“I kept working but the scholarship helped and was a “God send!” Then and now Zambo works for Indian Health Service (IHS) at Cheyenne River Service Unit in Eagle Butte. “Obtaining my DNP was a professional goal of mine but all my colleagues confirmed it made me an even better clinician,” said Zambo. Her capstone project in the DNP program was to design and implement an Electronic Health Record (EHR) adult obesity template and toolkit for providers which was a first of its kind and now is reimbursed for certain Medicare patients. Not only does it provide the necessary elements for counseling with positive patient outcomes, it is a revenue-generating component of the service unit, and a model for other service units in IHS.

Zambo stated, “Advancing our knowledge, education and expertise as NPs of SD [so as to] give the very best medical care to our patients is very important and the SDNF scholarship makes that possible and ‘happen.’”

Arlene Horner, DNP, RN, GCNS

“The South Dakota Nurses Foundation holds a warm place in my heart,” commented 2011 SDNF scholarship recipient Arlene Horner. Having completed her DNP in August 2013 at the University of Minnesota, Horner acknowledged, “Pursuing higher education is somewhat daunting from both a time and a resource perspective. I am so grateful for the generous scholarship support and ongoing friendship from SDNF.”

While in school, Horner authored a chapter in Kreitzer and Koithan’s *Integrative Nursing* (2014), “Transforming the Healthcare Environment Through a Hospital-Based Integrative Health Initiative.” She remarked, “I found this educational opportunity to be a life-changing experience.”

As a nurse leader at Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, her clinical focus is Integrative Health and Geriatrics. Horner said, “I work with geriatric clinical issues as a majority of our hospitalized patients are older adults who might be vulnerable to clinical complications and also mentor nurses to become Certified Gerontological Nurses.”

“By infusing integrative health within the nursing scope of practice, I educate and encourage nurses to offer non-pharmacologic modalities for patients that are

evidence-based, safe and effective,” Horner clarified. She also teaches Mindfulness classes that emphasize participants maintaining a moment-by-moment awareness of their thoughts, emotions, bodily sensations, and surrounding environment to reduce anxiety and increase general well-being and overall happiness in mind, body and spirit.

As before, Horner continues to be active in community service through Meals on Wheels, and as a docent at the Sertoma Butterfly House and Marine Cove in Sioux Falls.

Dawn Warren, EdD, RN, CNE

A 2013 SDNF Scholarship recipient, Dawn Warren continues as a Nurse Educator at the University of South Dakota Department of Nursing in Rapid City, a position she has held for over 20 years. As the Rapid City Campus Coordinator, she is responsible for assisting the director with some of the day-to-day duties of the campus, especially those that are clinical related. Presently, she also teaches students in the first and third semesters of the BSN program. She remarked, “This includes teaching in theory courses, clinicals at Rapid City Regional Hospital and Sturgis Regional Hospital, as well as teaching simulations, seminars, and more.” Additionally, she is active on multiple committees, two being USD Nursing and USD Health Sciences Committees.

Warren is a leader of nursing in South Dakota and regionally. Her dedicated involvement with the South Dakota Nurses Association District 1-3 has resulted in her recent selection as the SDNA District 1-3 Nurse of the Year.

Her primary areas of scholarship in the last couple of years have been to complete her EdD through USD, May 2014. As a leader in nursing she has been selected as a conference presenter in Breckenridge, Colorado July 2014 and recently chosen for a poster presentation at the 16th International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare in San Diego January of 2016.

“I am very thankful for the South Dakota Nurses Association and the South Dakota Nurses Foundation for all the opportunities they have given me. The SDNF Scholarship that I was awarded was very helpful to me to help cover some of the expenses of my EdD, and I greatly appreciate that this organization offers this scholarship to nurses.”

SDNF Scholarships continued on page 4



the summer camp

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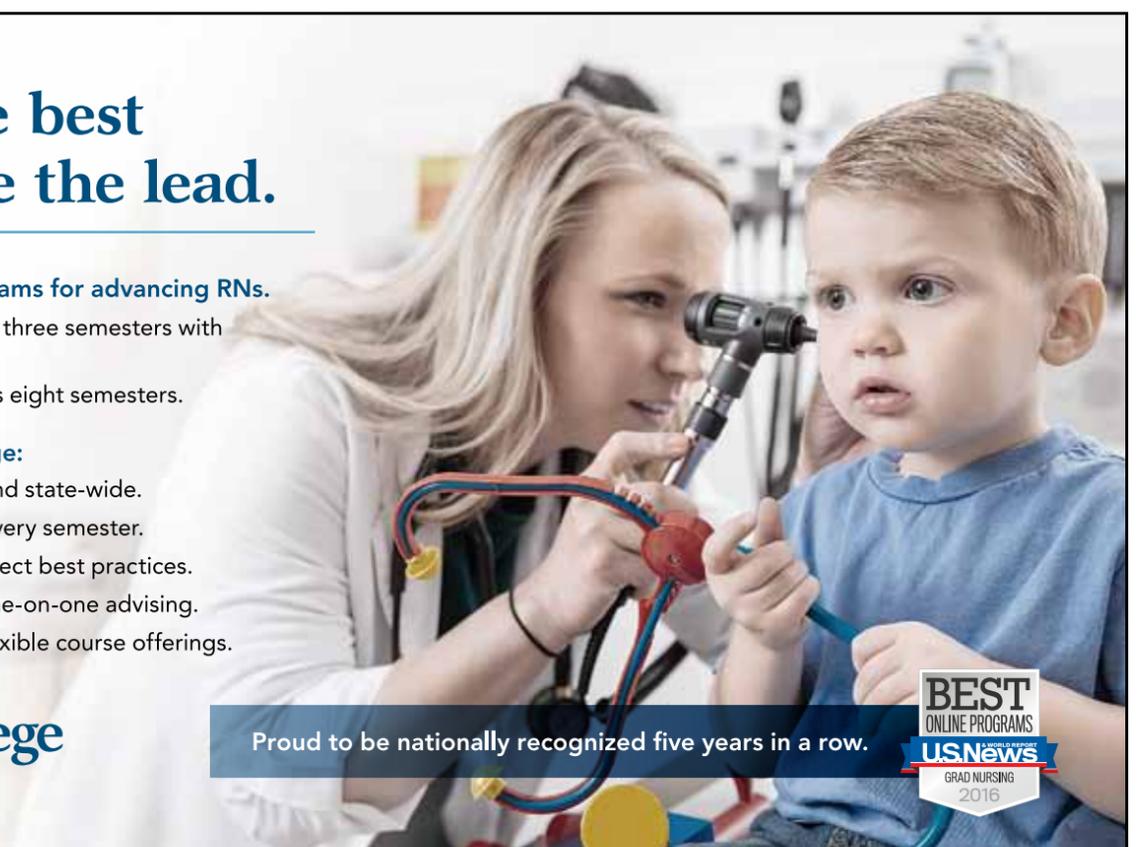
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SDNF Scholarships continued from page 3

Afton Sue Zediker, BSN

The 2014 SDNF Rita H. Walsh Scholarship recipient Afton Sue Zediker just wishes she could bottle her six and four year old daughters' energy. A year ago, Zediker started teaching in the LPN program at Southeast Technical Institute through a grant to bring healthcare to rural areas of South Dakota. She works with rural LPN students through online course work with on site labs and simulations in Chamberlain.

"It is a really great and challenging position. I am able to continue my education while promoting the field of nursing to future nurses. It is very rewarding," Zediker confided. "I also like being able to reach more students who aren't able to go to Sioux Falls or Rapid City to pursue their dreams of becoming a nurse. I think that this position has really sparked my interest in working to continue educating new nurses but also serving in areas who need advanced practitioners."

She continues to work with Sanford Wound and Ostomy Care Center as needed. "I can continue to work directly with patients. It is a great place to work and it is very specialized," she replied. "There is still so many things to learn and helps keep me on my toes and asking questions. Plus I am one of the crazy people that thinks ostomies are interesting."

Amber Eggert, RN

Continuing full time at Sanford Clinic Neurology, 2014 SDNF Rita H. Walsh Scholarship recipient Amber Eggert reflected on the significance of the scholarship. "This scholarship helped me to finish my Bachelor's Degree," she stated. "Each day I strive to be the best nurse possible. I only hope that I am half the nurse that Rita Welsh was as the scholarship was in memory of her."

Again, Eggert continues as primary nurse for one of the Sanford Clinic neurologists, which includes managing his phone calls and clinic along with calls for another provider. She continues coordinating the medical student schedules in the Sanford Clinic Neurology.

Kimberly Nerud, PhD, RN

Dr. Kimberly Nerud's 2014 SDNF Scholarship was helpful in completing her studies for her PhD in Nursing at South Dakota State University. "The SDNF scholarship allowed me to help fund my dissertation research by

providing a small cash incentive to my participants, statistical support, and tuition support," she stated. "I defended my dissertation work in May, graduated and am now referred to as Dr. Nerud."

Presently Dr. Nerud continues as an assistant professor at University of South Dakota, with the RN-BSN program. As assistant professor she is responsible for the education, advisement and mentorship of RN-BSN students in their final capstone course of the nursing program. Nerud is active with curriculum development, involved in various nursing and university committees, and currently exploring possible research opportunities focusing on childhood obesity.

"I took a nursing career path, advancing my degree one [degree] at a time from LPN, AD, BSN, MSN, to PhD, while raising a family and working in the nursing profession as my degree advanced me," Dr. Nerud stated. "I would like to encourage any nurse at any level that is thinking about advancing your education to take the plunge. You will never make a better investment than an investment in your education and yourself. You never know what doors of opportunity might open for you!"

Robin PetersonLund, PhD, RN, CNS, FNP-BC

"[Because of the SDNF Scholarship] I have been able to complete my dream of graduating with my PhD and becoming a nurse scientist and professor. I love my teaching, as my reward is in my interaction [with] my students in a teaching-learning environment. I equally appreciate the opportunity to have a program of research and theory development for frontier nursing," remarked 2008 SDNF Scholarship recipient Dr. Robin PetersonLund, who serves future nurses at SDSU College of Nursing, Rapid City. This industrious professor continues to maintain her national family nurse practitioner certification and state license in addition to fulfilling her online and classroom-teaching responsibilities in both the PhD and APRN programs. She is also advisor/Chair to PhD, DNP, and Masters NP students. Add to the aforementioned her role as DNP Coordinator. Dr. PetersonLund oversees the coordination of the APRN curriculum, clinical sites and preceptors in the West River program.

"It is exhilarating to engage with students in the class. When I consider these students who will go on to graduate and accomplish great things for the nursing profession, I am enthused and confident about the future of nursing," she remarked.

Duties do not end after lights out in the classroom. Dr. PetersonLund clarified her role as a SDSU College of Nursing and Sanford interventional research team member. She commented about her research role, "I analyze data, develop media targeted toward educational needs for Native American living kidney donation; completes data analysis and manuscript on [her] study on the living experience of suffering with Lakota persons."

Dr. PetersonLund continues to develop her frontier nursing theory. "The purpose [of this research] is to understand the unique cultural aspects of those living in the frontier. The aim is to provide nurses with information to understand the frontier culture to improve health care and reduce health disparities with this underserved population."

As a Native American (NA) advocate, Dr. PetersonLund co-founded with six others the first regional Great Plains Native American Nurses Association. Furthermore, she is Principal Co-Investigator of the Wokunze Wicaske Alliance, a Bush Community Innovation Grant funding a partnership between SDSU College of Nursing with regional tribal and community partners formed to support Native American nursing students.

She clarified, "This support is to assist NA nursing students overcome barrier and challenges to succeed and become licensed Registered Nurses. This outreach is a team effort of key people and organizations who believe in supporting those who strive and dare to dream to make a difference in the health care for their people (oyate)."

On a personal note, Dr. PetersonLund offered, "[Two] of my favorite roles have been mother and wife. My children Arne III and Skye have both applied to graduate school and are living in Lincoln, Nebraska. My husband, who is retired, remains my best friend and accompanies me on my many trips within the state and national conferences."

In conclusion, Dr. PetersonLund has encouraged all her students to apply for various SDNF scholarships. "I have been a recipient of [one of] the scholarships and know how well this support led to my successful completion of my PhD degree. This specific support by nurses for nurses is invaluable," she submitted. "When we experience and see studies of nurse incivility to each other, this proves the opposite. What a power nurses is when supporting each other. I know as I was a beneficiary of this through the SDNF scholarship."



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Core Issues Task Force

Marie Cissell, Core Issue Task Force Chair

What are the current issues in nursing for 2016 in South Dakota? The American Nurses Association website, nursingworld.org, lists the following topics under the practice of nursing: 2016 Culture of Safety, nurse staffing, nursing quality, professional standards, health IT initiatives, improving your practice, workforce, education and finance and reimbursement. The Culture of Safety is an upcoming campaign to decrease adverse events through "emphasizing safety over competing goals."

Nurse staffing is an issue that affects safe nursing care. According to the website, rising acuity and shortened length of stay are aspects that contribute to staffing concerns. Another issue is informatics. Nursing professionals need to have input into nursing language and other aspects of informatics. How nurses engage with other professionals in improving patient care is crucial as informatics gain widespread use.

Workforce issues are another area of concern. According to the ANA website, "there will be far more registered nurse jobs available through 2022 than any other profession... and 500,000 RNs are anticipated to retire by 2022." How does this impact you?

These are only some of the issues facing nursing in the coming year. I would like to know what your thoughts are and the areas of interest for you as a nurse practicing in South Dakota. I welcome your thought and ideas. You can contact me at marieanncissell@gmail.com.

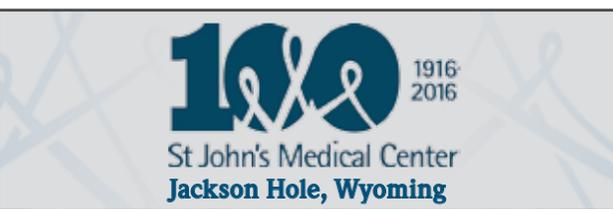
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District News

District 1, 2, 3 Report Winter 2016

Our annual Dessert with the Legislators was held on November 19 with excellent attendance by legislators and members and a very informative discussion of legislative issues including nurse practitioner practice to the full extent of licensure, and Medicaid funding. This meeting is always a highlight of the year for our district. We held our district meeting on January 12. Several members participated in Nurses' Day at the Legislature on February 8-9.

District meetings for Spring 2015 are scheduled for Tuesday, March 8 at 5:30 pm, and a May celebration of our 100th year of SDNA. We will plan to repeat our successful fundraiser of last year by again volunteering at the Central States Fair in Rapid City in August (look for a July meeting and sign-up opportunity for this fun event). For details of program and location or any updates, watch for your emailed meeting announcements. All members and non-member nurses are encouraged to attend, especially those new to Districts 1, 2, or 3 or recently renewed. If you are looking for a place to share your talents to support nursing, join us in SDNA and the local district's activities! The SDNA Website at www.sdnursesassociation.org and the remainder of this issue of the *SD Nurse* will provide you with a wealth of information about our wonderful organization.

Contact information: Pat Shaver, Outgoing President, District 1, 2, 3 will be glad to connect you with the new 2016 officers. shaverpatnurse7@gmail.com (605)347-7681

SDNA District 4 Update

Happy New Year! We took a short break over the Holidays to spend with our families and loved-ones. We are definitely in the midst of winter now. We have had a few, "below-zero" days. The good news is, the days are slowly getting longer now. Spring will be just around the

corner. Many nursing students have returned to school from winter break.

On December 10, 2015 we held a "Welcome to the Profession" breakfast for the SDSU-Accelerated program, nursing students. The event was held in conjunction with Sigma Theta Tau International- Rho Xi Chapter members. The SDSU students were well-prepared to present their Quality Improvement (QI) posters. We could have spent more time with the students, but they were preparing for graduation that evening. We have awesome, individuals entering the profession of nursing.

The first District 4 meeting for 2016 is set for January 25, 2016. We continue planning for the "Dinner and a Movie" night. We are considering holding the event in May-2016, sometime during National Nurses Week. We are also looking forward to Nurses Day at the Legislature (NDL) in February. We will begin receiving and reviewing updates on the issues involving health care within our state. We want to be prepared to meet with our state senators and representatives and express our knowledge and concerns regarding the issues.

I hope many nurses are able to attend NDL! Our district nominated and voted in Dr. Sandra Welling to the Government Relations Committee (GRC). We will also begin planning for the upcoming Brown County Fair 2016, where the district nurses volunteer to staff the First Aid Booth for the week of the fair.

We appreciate the work and commitment of new and present members. We extend an invitation and encourage other professional nurses in the area to join. If there are any nurses in the Aberdeen, SD or surrounding counties in Northeast SD who are interested in joining SDNA District 4, please contact Janice Noonan at Janice.Noonan@presentation.edu or at mikejn@alliancecom.net or call (605) 951-3000.

Submitted by Janice Noonan, MSN, RN,
SDNA District 4 President

District 5/7 Report

The members of District 5 and District 7 have volunteered on various committees and begun work on the 2016 SDNA Convention to be held in Mitchell on October 2nd and 3rd. The theme is "Celebrating SDNA's 100th Birthday," to honor members and friends of nursing for this occasion. Marla Weston, PhD, RN, FAAN, Chief Executive Officer of the American Nurses Association will be the keynote speaker. The committee is extremely grateful to fellow SDNA members who have offered their expertise in securing speakers and assisting with committee work.

Pat Sudbeck
President District 5/7

District 8/9 Report

Hopefully the new year is going well for all so far. Our district was able to celebrate Christmas together at Roberta and Dave Olson's home. A short business meeting was held along with a great pot luck meal. The officers for the group will remain the same as 2015. We also looked at our 2016 calendar, Our November meeting was in Madison and consisted of touring the new Madison Regional Health System. It is wonderful to have this new facility in our area. We followed the tour with Mexican food.

We are not planning on having a meeting in the deep cold of January. Our next meeting will be on Feb 23. We hope to have someone speak to us about the activities of the GRC in our state. Our March meeting is scheduled for March 22. Remember: Watch for SDNA email notifications for information.

Sincerely, Eileen Bruner-Halverson

District 10

Save the date for the Spring Workshop for Thursday May 12, 2016. The event will be at Ortopedic Institute auditorium from 8am-4pm. The theme will be "New Frontiers of Nursing!"

Marian Eberhard
District 10 President

District 11

On December 1, 2015, District 11 hosted Deb Fischer Clemens for her presentation "Human Trafficking: It is Right in Front of Us." Approximately 50 people attended, including RNs, LPNs, student nurses, other interested parties, as well as a staff member for the Yankton Press & Dakotan. The newspaper featured Deb on the front page of the December 2nd edition. As usual, Deb captivated the group with her stories, statistics and other interesting features. Comments after the meeting were very favorable but as one person stated, "This speech doesn't leave you feeling good."

After Deb's presentation, we held our December meeting. The total income for the free clinic in Yankton, the Servant Heart Clinic Pizza Ranch fundraiser was 582.00. The group was very pleased with these results. We have scheduled South Dakota Senator Jean Hunhoff for our March meeting, scheduled for March 17 in Yankton.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Jorgensen,
District 11 SDNA President

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- OR - over 62 years of age & earning less than maximum allowed receiving Social Security benefits
- OR - enrolled in baccalaureate, masters or doctoral program, at least 20 credit hours per year
- OR - RN FIRST YEAR, WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION
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SDNA ONLY MEMBERSHIP	\$16.04	\$186.50

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Welcome New Members

District 1, 2 & 3

Robin Lund
Gus Bell
Brenda Bonnichsen
Alison McPherson
Jennifer Veldhuizen
Sara Bear
Sarah Schryvers

District 10

Whitney Smidt
Sarah Dekramer
Jackie Small
Tiffany Johnston

District 11

Karla Warvarovsky
Carrie Mastalir

District 4

Lindsay Peterson
April Moeller
Kimberly Kaufman
Stephanie Kravik
Lindsey Helm

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South Dakota Nurses Return To The Capitol City

The 41st Annual Nurses Day at the Legislature (NDL) was held in Pierre February 8-9, 2016 with over 200 nurses and nursing students from across the state in attendance.

The first day of the NDL was held in Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center. The kickoff for the event was a luncheon. During lunch, Carrie Clausen Hansen, Chair of the Government Relations Committee (GRC), Deb Fischer-Clemens, SDNA N-STAT Coordinator and GRC member, and Brittany Novotny, SDNA Lobbyist, provided an overview of SDNA's Health Policy Agenda, the legislative priorities for 2015, and Orientation and Advocacy session. The session included information on how a bill becomes a law, testifying before a legislative committee, becoming a politically active nurse and effective lobbying strategies. The SDNA Nurses Strategic Action Team (N-STAT) then provided an update on federal legislation. Deb Fischer-Clemens gave updates.

The lunch concluded with updates from Kim Malsam-Rysdon, Secretary of the Department of Health, and Lynne Valenti, Secretary of the Department of Social Services. Following the luncheon, all attendees went to the Capitol building to be recognized by both the Senate and House of Representatives.

Next, all attendees returned to Ramkota hotel for the 2016 Legislative Update. Carrie Clausen Hansen and Brittany Novotny gave updates. The day concluded with a Legislative Chili Social where attendees worked hard to educate legislators on several important issues to nurses in South Dakota. This session was well attended by legislators, nurses and nursing students.

Tuesday morning began bright and early. Attendees were invited to the Capitol at 7:00 a.m. for a continental breakfast with the legislators. Following breakfast, many attended committee hearings throughout the morning. The day concluded with a group picture with Governor Dugaard on the Capitol stairs.

Nurses Day at the Legislature provided attendees with valuable knowledge about the legislative process and SDNA's 2016 legislative agenda. It also provided nurses and nursing students an opportunity to network with colleagues and friends. Plans are already underway the 2017 Nurses Day at the Legislature. We hope to see you there!

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GRC Legislative Report

Brittany Novotny, JD, MBA

This article is due mid-January to meet the deadline for the March edition of the SD Nurse, so I've kept the content brief and generic.

The Government Relations Committee (GRC) consists of a geographic representation of politically active nurses from across the state. The primary functions of GRC include: studying the need for legislative action; reviewing proposed federal, state and local legislation to determine the impact on nursing and overall health in SD; identifying possible legislative priorities consistent with SDNA's Legislative Agenda and advising the Board of Directors on legislative matters.

The five basic tenants of the SDNA Legislative Agenda are to support: professional nursing practice, access to quality and affordable health care, public health, occupational and environmental health, and human rights. The full version of the Legislative Agenda can be found on the SDNA website www.sdnurses.org.

Legislative Updates were e-mailed out to membership weekly during the legislative session. We hope you found these updates helpful and informative. Thank you to everybody that responded to our Action Alerts. Legislators appreciate hearing from their constituents and we appreciate you taking the time to represent the nursing profession.



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South Dakota Nurses Foundation Awards 2015 Scholarships

*Carman Timmerman, EdD, RN
SDNF Treasurer and
Scholarship Committee Chair*

The South Dakota Nurses Foundation (SDNF) awards scholarships to nurses who reflect the foundation's purposes of education, research and service. As SDNF president Tom Stenvig said, "Not long ago the South Dakota Nurses Foundation was just a dream, but we now have an established track record and are making a difference for nursing and healthcare in the state." Since the foundation formed in 1999, our goal has been to award a scholarship to recipients who demonstrate SDNF purposes of leadership in practice, education, and scholarship. Through the generous donations of SDNA nurses, as well as friends and families of nurses, the South Dakota Nurses Foundation is honored to be able to offer these significant scholarships.

The four 2015 South Dakota Nurses Foundation scholarship recipients are:

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Employment: Instructor, Lake Area Technical Institute and University of South Dakota

Dr. Carl and Leona Stadler Scholarship \$500

Recipient: Steven Zehms, Sherburn MN
Program of Study: South Dakota State University College of Nursing, Accelerated Option

Rita H. Walsh Scholarship \$1000

Recipient: Melissa Coull, Volga SD
Program of Study: South Dakota State University College of Nursing, RN to BSN
Employment: Clinical Outreach Coordinator, South Dakota Department of Health

Rita H. Walsh Scholarship \$1000

Recipient: Anne Simonsick, Brookings SD
Program of Study: South Dakota State University College of Nursing, RN to BSN
Employment: RN, Sanford Clear Lake Medical Center and Interim Healthcare

Past South Dakota Nurses Foundation Scholarships

In 2005, SDNF awarded its first scholarship to Christina Plemmons (formerly Erickson). Since then, the foundation has awarded 28 scholarships totaling \$25,750. The fact that SDNF has been able to give these scholarships is because of your sustained generosity and demonstrates your appreciation of the SDNF purposes of education, research and service.

Would you consider a gift to the South Dakota Nurses Foundation? Your gift will help sustain the foundation's efforts to endorse the nursing profession as SDNF promotes positive health care changes in South Dakota. Please make your check payable to South Dakota Nurses Foundation Fund and send your check to South Dakota Community Foundation ~ Box 296 ~ Pierre, SD 57501.

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SDNA 2016 Calendar of Events

If you have events that you want posted on the SDNA Calendar of Events, please contact the SDNA Office at (605) 945-4265 or by email at contactus@sdnurses.org.

March

March 11
Last day of the 91st South Dakota Legislative Session

April

April 18
SD Nurse Article Submission Deadline – June Issue

April 25
SDNA Board of Directors Meeting

May

May 6-12
National Nurses Week

SDNA Nurses Week Celebration
May 6-12

SDNA District 10 Spring Conference
May 12

Memorial Day, Observed
May 30

June

2016 ANA Membership Assembly
June 24-25

July

SDNA Consent to Serve Forms Due
July 1

Independence Day
July 4

SD Nurse Article Submission Deadline – September Issue
July 18

August

Awards Nominations Due
August 1

SDNA BOD Meeting
August 22

September Labor Day
September 5

October

SDNA Board of Directors Meeting
October 2

SDNA Annual Convention
October 2 & 3
Mitchell, SD

Native American Day
October 10

SD Nurse Article Submission Deadline – December Issue
October 17

November

Veterans Day
November 11

Thanksgiving
November 24

December

District Leadership Reporting Form Due to SDNA Office
December 1

Christmas Day
December 25

SDNF Donors

A special “Thank you!” to the following individuals who have donated to the South Dakota Nurses Foundation since January 1, 2015. The great support is appreciated!

Carrie Clausen Hansen
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