President’s Column

Anna Mackevicius, BSN, RN
President, NNA

As many of you are aware, the American Nurses Association (ANA) has designated 2017 as the “Year of the Healthy Nurse.” Expanding on that designation, ANA created the theme for National Nurses Week, May 6 – 12, “Nursing: the Balance of Mind, Body, and Spirit” and it’s all about celebrating nurses who lead the charge for health and wellness.

I am reminded of the Disney movie, Pocahontas, from 1995 and the scene when Grandmother Willow asks Pocahontas and John Smith what they see as she dips her tree limb in the water. Pocahontas replies, “The ripples.” John Smith asks, “What about them?” Wise Grandmother Willow explains, “So small at first, then look how they grow. But someone has to start them.”

Just imagine a nation of 3.6 million nurses, each taking steps, even little steps, to improve our personal health and wellness. Now image how many people those 3.6 million nurses have contact with every day – in the clinic, hospital, or our communities. We have a unique opportunity to start the ripples, to influence positive lasting changes in our country. The benefits and long term effects are mind-blowing as I thought about the ever widening effects of the ripples – decrease in chronic illness, a shift from emergent to preventive healthcare activities, lower healthcare costs, lower healthcare insurance (wouldn’t that be nice?)

Research shows that nurses are more likely to be overweight, have higher levels of stress, and get less sleep. I’m three for three here – not the kind of batting average I want. Grandmother Willow is right; someone has to start the ripples. Who else but the most trusted profession in the country for the last 15 years? The stars are aligned…start small but start. Visit http://www.healthynursehealthynation.org; you will find information about the Healthy Nurse, Healthy Nation™ Grand Challenge; ANA’s initiative to connect and engage nurses, employers, and organizations around improving health in five areas: physical activity, nutrition, rest, quality of life, and safety. Let’s embrace this challenge, unite our ranks, and start making ripples!

Other thoughts and comments

– My thanks to the sponsors for 2017 Nurses Day at the Legislature; the day was a great success; we could not hold the event without you: Organizational Sponsors: Arthur L. Davis Publishing Agency, Inc., Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN), Chapter 2801, Omaha, ANNA Platte River Chapter 324, Bryan Health, Banner Health, Clarkson College, District 1, Nebraska Organization of Nurse Leaders, Methodist Health System, Nebraska Action Coalition- Future of Nursing, Nebraska Coalition- Future of Nursing, Nebraska Nurses Foundation in partnership with the Nebraska Nurses Association

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celebrate 2017 as the “year of the healthy nurse” by discussing nurse advocacy, leading from the bedside. There will also be professional development sessions in pain management, assessment, and pharmacology. Of the conference will address clinical topics such as during the conference. Speakers at other sessions “Finding Your Nursing Voice,” both of our keynote “Nursing Ethics” while Dr. Fitzgerald will speak about.

“Standing on Common Ground” features two keynote speakers: Leah Curtin, ScD(h), RN, FAAN, and Margaret Fitzgerald DNP, FNP-BC, NP-C, FAANP, CSP, FAAN, DCC. Dr. Curtin’s keynote subject will be “Nursing Ethics” while Dr. Fitzgerald will speak about “Finding Your Nursing Voice.” Both of our keynote speakers will be presenting during break-out sessions during the conference. Speakers at other sessions of the conference will address clinical topics such as pain management, assessment, and pharmacology. There will also be professional development sessions discussing nurse advocacy, leading from the bedside, and social media and marketing skills. We will also celebrate 2017 as the “year of the healthy nurse” by offering a pre-conference fun run/walk on October 4, as well as morning yoga sessions to get your day off to a great start. Networking is one of the most rewarding opportunities of face-to-face conferences and “Standing on Common Ground” rises to the challenge. The conference will feature networking breaks, opportunities to dialogue with vendors, as well as social events that honor and recognize our members. The Nebraska Nurses Foundation along with the Nebraska Nurse Practitioners will host a silent auction to benefit the organizations. The NNA-PAC will also host a social event to celebrate the work of the NNA-PAC and to facilitate future PAC initiatives.

Perhaps the most important aspect of this inaugural event is the opportunity for collaboration. Not only is the conference about standing on common ground as nurses, it is also about speaking with one voice. When nurses in all areas of the profession speak with one voice to address issues faced by our colleagues and our patients, our influence is multiplied. “Standing on Common Ground” provides an opportunity to learn from each other about policy priorities that will improve the lives of our patients and our profession. The “Standing on Common Ground” conference will be held October 4-6 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. Registration, Sponsorship, and Vendor information will be available soon. Watch www.nebraskanurses.org and www.nebraskapnp.com for news and updates.

Standing on Common Ground

Melissa Florell, MSN, RN
Director of State Affairs

A new opportunity for Nebraska Nurses is just around the corner. The Nebraska Nurses Association (NNA) and Nebraska Nurse Practitioner (NNP) Association have come together to offer a robust learning and networking opportunity. The “Standing on Common Ground” Conference combines the NNA Convention and Annual Meeting with the NNP Annual Education Conference. The joint planning committee has been meeting diligently for nearly a year to plan an exciting and informative event. Priorities for planning have been to honor the important traditions and content for each organization, while creating an environment that allows for personal growth, networking and collaboration.

“This Standing on Common Ground” provides an opportunity to

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E -  Education

This newsletter is a service of the Nebraska Nurses Association and your receipt of it does not mean you are automatically a member. Your membership in support of this work is encouraged; please visit www.nebraskanurses.org.

Writer’s Guidelines:

Any topic related to nursing will be considered for publication in the Nebraska Nurse. Although authors are not required to be members of NNA, when space is limited, preference will be given to NNA members.

Photos are welcomed, digital is preferred. The NNA assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged photos. Submitted material is due by the 12th of the month in January, April, July and October of each year. You may submit your material in the following ways: Prepare as a Word document and attach it to an e-mail sent to admin@nebraskanurses.org.

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Published by: Arthur L. Davis Publishing Agency, Inc.
The Legislative Advocacy and Representation Committee consists of 10 elected members representing the four regions of the state. The group also includes Melissa Florell, NNA State Director; Don Wesely, our lobbyist; and invited guests including Anna Mackevicius (NNA President), Douglass Haas (NNA President-elect), and Ben Garcia (ANAI Fellow). The group has been involved in (1) engaging in legislative advocacy on behalf of the Association, and (2) supporting the 2017 Nurses Day at the Legislature and giving input for early planning for the 2018 event.

2017 is the “long session” of the Nebraska legislature; which means the legislature will meet for 90 days concluding on June 2, 2017. The LARC has been active with providing testimony and monitoring key issues that align with the NNA Legislative Platform. Here is an update on key legislation:

**LB 73** raises the legal age to sell cigarettes, cigars, vapor products, alternative nicotine products, and smokeless tobacco from eighteen to twenty-one. NNA testified in support of this legislation which remains in committee at time of this writing.

**LB 88** which was originally introduced to specify standards and procedures to issue temporary credentials for military spouses under the Uniform Credentialing Act. LB88 has been amended to incorporate many key issues LARC has supported this session. The other legislation amended into LB88 are 1. LB283 – Remove LPN-C designation and move all LPNs to having IV training, 2. LB342 Adopt the Nurse Licensure Compact, 3. LB425 updates education requirements for APN-NPs, clarifies the transition-to-practice requirement of new graduates, and simplifies licensure requirements for experienced APRN-NPs moving to Nebraska from other states. LB88 has advanced to Enrollment and Review for Enrossment at time of this writing.

**LB 255** creates the Dialysis Patient Care Technician Registration Act with the purpose of the Department of Health and Human Services to create the Dialysis Patient Care Technician Registry in order to maintain an updated record of registered Dialysis Patient Care Technicians in the state. LB 255 also clarifies that dialysis patient care technicians may administer hemodialysis under the authority of a registered nurse licensed pursuant to the Nurse Practice Act. As of this writing, the Speaker has picked LB255 for Consent Calendar with the amendment that will make it effective immediately upon signing by the governor.

**LB 368** would have repealed the helmet requirement for motorcycle riders over 21 years of age. NNA opposed this bill and NNA has a long history of supporting the helmet requirement laws of Nebraska. LB 368 advanced to general file but failed to receive the 33 votes needed to achieve cloture.

**LB 439** addresses the licensure and regulation provisions for assisted-living which will also remove barriers to the ability of registered nurses to practice fully within their level if licensure in the assisted-living facility. NNA testified in support of the bill which is still in committee at time of this writing. If you have questions or feedback for our committee, feel free to reach out to one of the committee members or email the committee at larc@nebraskanurses.org.

Thank you to the dedicated, elected volunteers who help me on this committee: Linda Stones, Linda Jensen, Lori Kelley-Norton, Jordan Colwell, Niki Eisenmann, Anne Obermiller, Terri Mitchell, Kathy Davis, Joan Nelson, and to Kari Wade who has provided her support and expertise testifying on behalf of the Nebraska Nurses Association.

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2017 Nurses Day at the Legislature

Linda Stones

Nurses Day at the Legislature 2017. What an incredible day! Over 450 nurses and future nurses joined together to learn about advocacy and making a difference in our State. The energy and the power of these nurses was great. We heard from a nursing leader and experienced advocate, Mary Behrens from Casper, Wyoming. She inspired us to get involved in shaping our world. Ann Oertwich, Executive Director of the Board of Nursing shared information on scope of practice and the importance of understanding and protecting those things that make Registered Nurses unique. The guest of honor at lunch was Nebraska’s first lady, Susanne Shore. The first lady reminded attendees to take pride in being a nurse and to never underestimate the impact nurses have on our patients and their families. Congressman Jeff Fortenberry addressed the group.

Joan Nelson, Jackie Steckleberg and Pam McNally were recognized for their role in providing compassionate testimony on the issues surrounding mandatory reporting and the untoward consequences of standing up. These 3 individuals were recognized for sharing their stories which led to the introduction of LB 750 which allows for anonymous reporting under the Uniform Credentialing Act. This bill was introduced during the 2016 session by Senator Brett Lindstrom. For his work with LB 750 the Nebraska Nurses Association recognized Senator Lindstrom as Senator of the Year.

Words really can not express the incredible sense of pride and hopefulness communicated during Nurses Day at the Legislature. While there are many issues that need to be addressed and opportunities for improvement, when we come together as a nursing community and put our passion and energy into finding solutions, we can make a difference. Nurses make up the portion of the health care workforce and together we can have a tremendous impact! Be part of the solution! Make plans to join us at Nurses Day at the Legislature on March 1, 2018!
The Nursing Professional Development Committee (NPDC) is one of 4 committees within NNA. The focus of the NPDC is to plan and implement activities related to nursing professional development and NNA events. The work for the NPDC centers around NNA event proposals, evaluation and selection of scholarship applicants, and reviewing and presenting nursing excellence awards yearly at the Annual Membership Meeting. As chair of the committee for the last 3 years it was a pleasure to facilitate the work of this group, but during that time I discovered that many NNA members were not aware of how to fully interact with the NPDC.

The group is made up of 9 members with subdivisions balanced with 3 members who have expertise in staff development, 3 who are currently in active clinical practice at the bedside, and 3 nursing faculty members. There is also a requirement to have at least 2 members on the committee who live in a rural area of the state. Meetings are held monthly with an agenda focusing on how best the group can promote the understanding of nursing professional practice responsibilities as defined by the most recent versions of the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act, the ANA Scope and Standards of Practice, the ANA Social Policy Statement and the ANA Code of Ethics for Nursing.

So, Registered Nurses of Nebraska, my plea to you is to start making us work for you! We want your questions, your concerns, your wants, and your needs. What professional conundrums are filling your daily practice and making you enjoy your job less? What are the good things in your practice that you feel should be shared with the other 26,000 registered nurses in the state of Nebraska? Who is a nursing mentor or outstanding newly licensed RN that you want to recognize not only within your place of practice, but across the state? The NPDC is here to help you with all of these things, and we really want to hear from you all year long at NPDC@nebraskanurses.org, or on the NNA Facebook Page and Twitter - search @nebraskanurses. There are always reminders sent out close to the Annual Membership Meeting requesting nominations for nursing awards, but did you know those nominations can be submitted all year long. Why wait for a specific time each year to recognize outstanding excellence in the profession of nursing? The awards and descriptions are listed on the NNA website at www.nebraskanurses.org as well as instructions for submitting those applications. The other requests we want from you are ideas for events that should be happening across the state to promote excellence, professionalism, and continual learning. The NNA Board of Directors budgets for event expenses each year and we want to help bring nurses together, whether around a CE, a nursing prom/dance party, a fun run 5k, or a social hour with colleagues. Let NNA support you! We are ready to work hard for the professional nurses of Nebraska, tell us what we can do for you!
Linda Stones, NNA PAC Chair

The Nebraska Nurses Association Political Action Committee is making great strides. While the NNA Legislative Advocacy and Representation Committee is involved in legislative issues, the NNA PAC supports candidates who support nursing. Our work is to understand the candidate’s positions and to help the individuals who are elected understand issues related to nursing and health. The NNA PAC has 3 major responsibilities, (1) Evaluation of candidates running for office, (2) Educating candidates on issues of importance to nurses and (3) Fund raising to allow us to effectively meet responsibility 1 and 2.

NNA PAC wants to ensure that we have elected officials who understand issues that are important to nurses. We do this work by questioning candidates on issues. This can be through personal meetings or through surveys. We also evaluate incumbent candidates by looking at their record of supporting issues consistent with nurses.

We have begun our work on the 2018 election cycle. Three incumbent Senators have received support from NNA this year. Senator Merv Rieppe, Senator Roy Baker and Senator Brett Lindstrom. These Senators have shown support for nurses in their activities at the State Capital. We support their bids for re-election. As soon as candidates announce their intentions to run for office, the NNA PAC will be working to evaluate their position on nursing issues.

We would like to help facilitate nurses meeting with candidates who are running for State Legislature. If you reside in a Legislative District and would like to meet with candidates, please reach out to us and we will work with you to support this process. We will also be developing a nursing survey for all candidates to complete. These surveys will be published on the NNA PAC website prior to the 2018 election. We hope that you will use these to be an educated voter.

Through the process of evaluating candidates we can also educate them on issues important to nurses. However, the best way to ensure that nurses voices are heard in the capital, is to have a nurse elected to a Legislative seat. There are currently 3 nurses serving in our federal government. Congresswoman Karen Bass of California, Congresswoman Diane Black of Tennessee and Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas. On a State level, 62 nurses serve in State Legislatures. Minnesota having the highest nurse count with 6 nurses seated, one of whom has declared her intention to run for governor of Minnesota. Nurses are not represented in State Legislatures in 16 states, including Nebraska. It is time for Nebraska to elect a nurse into a legislative seat. If you are interested in running for a legislative office, we would like to know and explore how we might support you.

In order to do the work above, we have to raise funds. While all of the administrative work done by the PAC is through volunteer hours, we still can’t accomplish our mission without financial support. Donations for the PAC can be made through the NNA PAC website. Just go to our website http://www.nebraskanurses.org/page/NNA PAC and click on Donate NOW. Your support is greatly appreciated and will help nursing in Nebraska. NNA PAC members are planning a fundraising event during the upcoming meeting, October 4-6 in Kearney. Details for the event will be forthcoming and will also be available on the website.

Together nurses can make a difference. Please consider what you can do to help. Whether it be a financial donation, running for office or just being an informed voter, you can make a positive difference for nurses in Nebraska. For more information, nnapac@nebraskanurses.org.

Nebraska Nurses PAC is BACK!

Send your Financial Support to NNA PAC
Mail to Kari Wade, NNA PAC Treasurer
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NNA Member, Ronnette Sailors Honored with Wilkerson-Droege Award

Ronnette has been a life-long developer, promoter and supporter of health ministry and faith community nursing (or parish nursing). She was a charter member of HMA and has held several leadership positions in the national organization. As well as being a national leader, Ronnette has been instrumental in the development of faith community nursing in Nebraska and Western Iowa. She has worked regionally since the 1980s to support the practice of faith community nursing with (then) Alegent Health and also the Nebraska Health Ministry Network through Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska. Most recently, Ronnette has coordinated the CHI Health-Faith Community Health Network. This network provides education, consultation, resources and support to faith community nurses across the state of Nebraska and western Iowa.

Faith community nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as well as the promotion of wholistic health and prevention or minimization of illness within the context of a faith community. (Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, Second Edition, 2012) If you are interested in learning more about this specialty practice, go to www.chihealth.com/faithandhealth.
January events started off slowly when the Panera Networking Breakfast scheduled for Monday, January 16th had to be cancelled due to the ice storm. But members and guests enjoyed Learning to Dance with the Jitterbugs, at the Omaha Eagles Club (201 S. 24th Street, Omaha; cost $5.00). This weekly Friday night dance session starts at 8:15 pm with a free lesson, and offers a low-stress and fun way to get out and get some exercise. All dance levels are welcome!

Among those attending were Lin Hughes and husband Denny, Terry and Dennis Anderson, and Victoria Vinton and Jay.

Lin was the lucky winner of the door prize drawing for two free tickets to return! Beverages are available at a GREAT price, and the dancing got better as the night progressed! Several of us will be going back!

A small and proud group of certified nurses joined us for the photo on March 19th at Memorial Park. Attendees each received a $5 gift card to Subway courtesy of the NNA! Hopefully more nurses will join us next year.

Left to Right: Kathy Manley, CPN, Urgent Care, Children’s Medical Center; Teresa Anderson, NE-BC, Nobl Health; Jodeena Kempnich, NE-BC, CHI-Health

Alice Kindschuh and Terry Anderson discovered their hidden talents and “beach therapy” at Paint Nite on March 20th.

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The Nebraska Nurses Foundation (NNF) is a recognized public benefit corporation, organized exclusively for charitable purposes within section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The purpose of the organization is to serve nurses and the public by providing information and resources to improve health care and to support nursing, including scholarships, practice grants, and research support.

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Criteria
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2. Each grant will range from $500 - $1000 based on project needs and funds available through the Foundation.
3. Grant proposals will be accepted between October 1 and December 1 of the calendar for funding beginning the next calendar year.
4. A Nebraska Nurses Association (NNA) member in good standing must be the primary project lead or co-lead.
5. Fund disbursement will be split with half of the requested funds provided at the onset of the project and the remaining funds distributed with approved and completed dissemination.
6. Approved applicants must agree to allow NNA/NNF to use their identifying information and project results in marketing materials, the website, and official publications.

Proposal Requirements
1. The grant is designed to provide funding for new intervention projects that have not yet been initiated or implemented at the clinical or educational department level, that will directly or indirectly influence patient care or nurse/student competence:
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   b. Performance or Quality Improvement project
   c. Innovation project which may include pilot studies/projects
2. The project must go beyond assessment to the implementation phase with a measured outcome.

The Proposal Submission Format can be found @ http://www.nebraskanurses.org/page/NNF

For more information contact
Terry Anderson  Teresa@tlandersonconsulting.com
Alice Kindschuh  alice.kindschuh@methodistcollege.edu

Nebraska Nurses Foundation Board is Seeking a New Member – Is it YOU?

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ANA is the only professional association that serves the interests and professional needs of all 3.6 million registered nurses in the United States. As a nursing you have a lot at stake. We give you what you need to take the best care of your patients. And we help you stay safe on the job and keep a healthy balance between your home and work lives.

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