Executive Director’s Message

As you read through the April (Spring) edition of the Pelican it is very likely we are in the midst of the 2019 Membership Assembly or just completed it. Spring is a time of renewal, new growth, and our transformation from the cold and dreary of winter.

In Louisiana, Spring is a time of crawfish boils, family reunions, and enjoying the outdoors before the heat of summer catches up to us. Of course, it is also time for the Louisiana Legislature to be in session. LSNA is the professional association for all registered nurses regardless of education, specialty, or work setting. Here at LSNA, we take our responsibility to advocate on your behalf and for the best interests of all Louisianans very seriously. Our partnership with Southern Strategy Group and bringing back NURSE DAY at the Capitol (April 10, 2019) are just two ways we ensure that LSNA is working with all nurses and the health community for a better, healthier Louisiana.

LSNA needs your help to achieve the vision we all share for professional nursing and better health care in Louisiana. The first step I would encourage you to do is simply take a chance on your professional association. You can strengthen our collective voice by becoming a member. We are in uncertain times politically as a state and a nation; by joining LSNA you can ensure we have resources to continue insisting that nursing be at the policy table and our voices be heard.

Take time to make sure your voice is heard! Please email me to share constructive thoughts, suggestions and considerations on how we can collaboratively strengthen LSNA. I look forward to hearing from you!

Change is not easy. Only those bold enough to envision what we can be have the courage to embrace change. My commitment is that your LSNA will always be courageous in its service to you.

Sincerely,
Dr. John E. Wyble
Certified Association Executive (CAE)
Executive Director, LSNA & LNF
ececutivedirector@lsna.org

John E. Wyble

So What IS Climate Change?
Page 10-11

Nurses!

Louisiana has a large list of nurses to keep updated and we want to reach you all. Please be sure to email lsna@lsna.org with address changes / corrections or if the nurse listed is no longer at this address.

Subject Line: Pelican News Address Change / Removal – Last, First Name

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Follow Us On
For 17 years, Nurses have been rated #1 in trust.

APRNs are the ones delivering rural healthcare.

Nurses have the knowledge and skills to provide advanced care.

They provide care wherever possible.

Disasters, schools, prisons, homes and primary care.

Nurses are on the front line everywhere.

When they are sick and they don't know why.

Nurses provide comfort and keep the patient alive.

Holding hands and explaining it will be OK.

For those mentally and emotionally unable to cope.

Dealing with reactions without disdain.

Nurses recognize discomfort and measure pain.

Regardless of income, language or name.

Caring for the patient first, before they rest.

PROUD TO BE A NURSE

Georgia Johnson, MS, RN, NEA-BC, CPHQ.

This is my last communication as President of LSNA.

Nursing has been good to me, a nurse I am proud to be. Promoting our profession is key to making a difference for you and me.

Nurses touch the lives of others - Caring for spouse, siblings, parents, and grandparent.

Nurses provide care from birth to death, Caring for the patient first, before they rest.

Nurses respect and treat patients all the same, Regardless of income, language or name.

Nurses provide healthcare in every setting, Working weekends and holidays, without regretting.

Nurses treat any illness or condition, regardless of risk. Caring for the patient with no one to assist.

Nurses recognize discomfort and measure pain. Dealing with reactions without disdain.

Nurses listen, counsel and provide hope. For those mentally and emotionally unable to cope.

Nurses deal with tears every day; Holding hands and explaining it will be OK.

Nurses provide comfort and keep the patient alive.

When they are sick and they don't know why.

Nurses are on the front line everywhere.

Disasters, schools, prisons, homes and primary care.

Nurses no longer work mainly in hospitals.

They provide care wherever possible.

Nurses have the knowledge and skills to provide advanced care.

APRNs are the ones delivering rural healthcare.

Nurses should unite for one strong voice.

The future of healthcare depends on this choice.

For 17 years, Nurses have been rated #1 in trust.

We can stand proud knowing others can count on us.

GJ

**Northshore District Nurses Association**

**Membership on the Rise:** NDNA ended the year with a great membership increase of 30 new members from Jan. 2018 to Jan. 2019! New Members during this period: Michelle Gallier, Kevin Ayestas, Karen Bonilla, Neely Estrade, Herman Frank Brent Graham, Christopher Sissell, Rachel Smith, Amanda Hoyt, Leann Pettway, Toni Rabalais, Lisa Raymond-Prinz, Tiffany Bradley, Angela Gottchalk, Luana Muller, Mar-y Peeney, Ann Gnaidy, Cassandra McElroy, Angela Toluto, Laura Martin, Randy Ducre, Nice Pajich, Laurie Charbonnet, Carol Darr, Bryan Fagot, Melissa Kappel, Lynn Strain.

**New Year, New Officers:** Elections were held at our January meeting. The 2019 Officers are: Georgia Johnson/Pres., JoNell King/VP, Allison Maestri/Treasurer, Terry Joseph/Secretary, Wills Stewart/Dir. of Transition to Practice, Angela Toluto/Dir. of Operations, Doraine Woods/Dir. Publicity, Kay Sabadie/Dir. of Programming, Janice Taulli-Lassaigne/Dir. of Community Service, Janice Augustine/Dir.-at-large.

**January Program:** Our first CE program for the year was the “Diabetic Foot: Recognition and Amputation Prevention.” The program was presented by NDNA board member, Doraine Woods, RN, BSN, MS, CDE, WCC. The program was well attended and well received.

**Newly elected officers:** (L-R) Terry Joseph, JoNell King, Allison Maestri, Angela Toluto, Kay Sabadie

**2019 Calendar:** CE Credits Awarded for this year

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<tr>
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<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>2019-2018 Use Disorder (one hr.)</td>
<td>Delaune, Georgia Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/21</td>
<td>Holiday Blues (one hr.)</td>
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<td>Adverse Childhood Experiences</td>
<td>Delaune, Georgia Johnson</td>
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**Doraine Woods, Speaker at January program**

**LSNA OFFICE STAFF**

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Kim Charbonneaux | info@lsna.org

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Kalee Clogeneration | membership@lsna.org

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Kalee Clogeneration | socialmedia@lsna.org

**GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES**

- Send all submissions to lsna@lsna.org.
- Subject line: Pelican News Submission Name of Article
- All submissions are subject to editing by the LSNA Executive Director.
- No electronic submissions are accepted and they must be an attachment to an email (Microsoft Word or PDF only).
- A submission cannot be in the body of an email.
- Must include the name of the author(s) and a title in the document.
- All pictures must have a caption with names of all persons depicted. Names must be complete and submitted at time of picture.
- Pictures cannot be embedded in article submit with the article but in a separate format (jpg, gif, etc).
- LSNA reserves the right to edit any article/news submission for space and availability and/or deadlines.
- If requested, notification will be given to authors once the final draft of the Pelican has been submitted.
- LSNA does not accept payments for articles.
- Any submissions after the deadline will be considered for the following issue.
- Please email lsna@lsna.org with all inquiries regarding the Pelican News.

**LSNA Membership**

94th Annual Louisiana State Nurses Association Convention

April 17-19, 2023

Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center

Baton Rouge, LA

For more information visit www.lsna.org

**LSNA News**

As a constituent member of the American Nurses Association, LSNA looks forward to maintaining our professionalism, high regard for publication and resource for all professional nurses in Louisiana. LSNA looks forward to providing you with news, views and ideas that will help enhance your professional growth and development.

LSNA News is published quarterly every March, June, September and December and is the official publication of the Louisiana State Nurses Association, a constituent member of the American Nurses Association.
Acadiana Black Nurses Association (ABNA) 2019 President's Scholarship Gala

Members of the Acadiana Chapter (ABNA) of the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) held its 2019 Annual President Scholarship Gala on January 12th at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Conference center with this year’s theme titled “Path We Tread.” This year’s gala was especially poignant for ABNA members in that the initial meeting for the startup chapter was held on the UL Lafayette Campus in 2011. The founding members were invited by UL Lafayette Administration and Nursing Dean to host its initial meeting on the UL Lafayette campus in 2011. Mrs. Trilby Barnes is credited for spearheading the collaborative effort to establish a chapter in the Lafayette area. This year’s program presented a duo commentary between a noted Acadiana physician, Dr. Clinton Young, and radio activist, Mr. Kenneth Boudreaux, discussing the origins and continuing health issues of African Americans and a perspective of current health issues impacting all groups in the US.

The Annual gala supports the Enrica Kinchen Singleton (EKS) Scholarship fund named in honor of Dr. Enrica Kinchen Singleton, the first African American nurse from Acadiana achieving doctoral status in a health related area. During a span of over 50 years in nursing, Dr. Singleton served in multiple roles in nursing-service, academia, research, consulting, and spiritual leadership. Her activities in service and academia exemplified those characters of scholarship, practice, leadership and service. Since 2013, the EKS scholarship has awarded to over 13 scholarships and/or stipends to ABNA student members whose academic and community profiles mirrored that of the EKS criteria-academics, service and leadership. Students receiving the EKS scholarship have graduated from BSN, Associates and vocational programs of nursing. The gala includes recognition of community and chapter members who have served in exemplary activities and roles in the Acadiana community and academic sectors.

The Community service (Patsy Bienvenue, RN), Nurse of the Year (Sharonetta Brooks, RN) and Lifetime Achievement (Lucille Woodward, RN) awards are other featured presentations of the annual gala. ABNA recognizes the efforts of mission oriented individuals (nursing/non-nursing) who dedicate volunteer service in community programs designed to address social and health disparities among minorities and underserved populations. ABNA chapter recognizes members of the Acadiana community who support national initiatives of both ANA and NBNA to include Mentorship and Violence prevention. ABNA members contribute timely, tireless collaborative hours with several community organizations to administer health education and screening services to vulnerable, underserved and minority populations. Indeed the “harvest is plentiful” but laborers from all groups are invited to join or contribute to ameliorating health issues among vulnerable community groups.

The mission of ABNA is to serve our community by providing a forum for black nurses to advocate and implement strategies to ensure access to the highest quality of healthcare for persons of color. The organization is not an exclusive black nursing organization nor an exclusive RN organization. All nurses (LPN, RN, APRNs) are welcomed to join and ABNA serves all indigent populations. Members of ABNA serve jointly as members of LSNA/ANA and other nursing organizations. ABNA has an established affiliate member status allowing for inclusion of non-nursing related individuals to join and assist in the effort to address access to care and diminish social and health disparities among minorities and underserved populations in the community.

LSNA President Installs New Board of Directors

Patricia A. La Brosse, PPMHCNS-BC

In early January, Louisiana State Nurses Association President, Georgia Johnson, traveled to Lafayette to install the 2019-2021 Officers and Board of Directors. She presented a lively program entitled, “What LSNA Does for You.” Her down-to-earth, engaging process gave all attendees food for thought as she described programs and initiatives sponsored by LSNA and ANA. In addition, she challenged them to look for other ways to support LSNA, including recruiting new members.

Newly-elected Officers and Board of Directors are: Elise Meaux-President; Sheila Pritchett-Vice President; Christy Lenahan, Secretary; Kevin Besse, Treasurer; Iris Malone-BOD; Lisa Broussard-BOD; Meghan Mattison-BOD; and Carline MacMillan- BOD. Business items included: sponsorship of Acadiana Black Nurses Association 2019 President’s Gala; LNF Nightingale Gala; 2019 LSNA Membership Assembly; Acadiana Culture of Health Summit Update; 2019 Acadiana Celebrates Nursing; LSNA Board Update and a meeting with representatives from Congressmen Clay Higgins’s office.
BRDNA: Planning for the Future

Lisa M. Deaton, BSN, RN
President BRDNA

The Baton Rouge District Nurses Association (BRDNA) held its annual meeting on election of officers January 10, 2019. Outgoing President, Mary Dudley installed newly elected Officers and Board members for the 2019-2020 term. The newly installed President, Lisa Deaton held a transition meeting in late January with board members to brainstorm ideas and develop strategies for the future of District. BRDNA continues to strive to be a strong voice for all professional registered nurses and an advocate for the citizens of the seven parishes we serve.

We have been successful in growing the district membership over the last few years, as we begin this year we hope to focus on engaging more of the membership. With the evolution of 12 hour shifts for a large percentage of the BRDNA workforce, it has become increasingly hard to engage members to attend our monthly business and CNE meetings. Therefore, the Board is exploring how we can offer other ways our members can be engaged in the work of the district. One of our goals is for BRDNA to be more visible in our community.

The BRDNA kicked off our Centennial celebration in May of 2019 and will culminate our activities as the host of the LSNA/BRDNA Carnival Cruise and Learn on October 31, 2019. The cruise is four days and leaves out of New Orleans. Our speaker will be Cynthia Bienemy, PhD, RN. Cynthia currently serves as the director of the Louisiana Center for Nursing at the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and as co-lead for LAC and is a member of the LAC Core Leadership Team. Details about her presentation will be finalized in near future. We would like to invite all Registered Nurses to come help BRDNA celebrate our Centennial Anniversary.

Please visit our website, www.brdna.org to find out much more about the activities of the district.

Members of the BRDNA are pictured at the annual business meeting held Jan. 10, 2019 at Mike Anderson’s Restaurant in Baton Rouge.

The Baton Rouge District Nurses Association (BRDNA) held its Feb. 21, 2019 meeting at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. 30 members and guests attended. Charla Johnson, guest speaker gave a continuing education presentation on The State of Delirium, particularly in post operative patients. Pictured from the left are Lisa Deaton, President and Charla Johnson, guest speaker.

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District News

New Orleans District Nurses Association: Unites and Ignites for 2019

Chantel B. Moffett, BSN, RN

On February 21, 2019, local nurses from across the New Orleans Metro Area came together to participate in New Orleans District Nurses Association’s (NODNA) Monthly Meeting and Special Program. NODNA kicked off its year of programs by inviting special guest, Andrew Mahoney, MSN, RN-BC, SANE-A, to present the topic, “Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.” Andrew’s presentation led to a great discussion about identifying potential victims in a medical setting and the nurse’s role in supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Those in attendance were eligible to receive CNE hours.

NODNA wants to give a special thank you to East Jefferson General Hospital (EJGH) for hosting and to all the nurses that came out to support NODNA as we “Unite and Ignite.” NODNA will host several educational programs throughout the year while staying true to our mission to support nurses through educational programs throughout the year while staying true to our mission to support nurses through education, health policy, leadership, and advancing health care for all people. Mark your calendars and join us for our next program. Here is a list of the upcoming programs and events NODNA will be hosting throughout the year:

- April 18th 5:30-7pm - Meeting and Program: Ending Lateral Violence and Working Toward Healthier Work Environments Eecoe Rooney, DNP, RN-BC, SANE-A, NODNA President. Hosted by: University Medical Center (Register at http://www.nolanurses.org/store/c4/Meetings_and_Programs.html)
- May 11th - 10am-12pm - Celebrating New Orleans District Nurses –Audobon Tea Room - Brunch
- June 20th 5:30-7pm Meeting and Program: LGBTQIA Populations: What Nurses Need to Know, Hosted by: Ochsner Medical Center, Jefferson Highway
- August 15th 5:30-7pm Meeting and Program: Self Care – A Requisite for Nursing Excellence, Hosted by: TBD
- October 17th 5:30-7pm Meeting and Program: Social Justice Issues in Nursing, Vanessa Shields Haas, RN Radical Nurses NOLA, Hosted by: TBD
- December 19th 5:30-7pm Meeting and Program: Exploring the impact of Emotional Intelligence (EI) interventions on academic success: A pilot study, Rose Schaubhut, DNP, MN, MPH, NEA-BC, LSU School of Nursing, Hosted by: TBD

Acadiana Culture of Health Summit

Patricia A. La Brosse, Sheila Pritchett and Mary O. Broussard

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) describes a Culture of Health as “broadly defined as one in which good health and well-being flourished across geographic, demographic, and social sectors; fostering healthy, equitable communities guides public and private decision making; and everyone has the opportunity to make choices that lead to healthy lifestyles.” (Retrieved March 5, 2019 www.evidenceforaction.org/what-culture-health).

Along with the Rand Corporation, RWJF sponsored the development of an Action Framework which includes the following: making a shared value; fostering cross-sector collaboration; creating healthier, more equitable communities; strengthening integration of health services and systems; and improved population health, well-being, and equity.

In an effort to impact health disparities in our state, the Louisiana Action Coalition (LAC) sponsored Culture of Health Summits in 2017 and 2018 by bringing together healthcare professionals, business, governmental and community leaders and other interested stakeholders, to discuss Louisiana’s health care challenges, explore partnerships and learn about collaborative projects that are building a culture of health in Louisiana. At the 2018 event, the RWJF County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, a collaboration between RWJF and the University of Wisconsin, were used to assist participants to identify state and local priorities to help lead change in their communities. Health Factors in the County Health Rankings represent the focus areas that describe how long and how well we live: health behaviors (tobacco use, diet & exercise, alcohol & drug use, sexual activity); clinical care (access to care, quality of care); social and economic factors (education, employment, income, family and social support, community safety); and the physical environment (air & water quality, housing & transit).

Following the charge at the end of the LAC Summit, a group of attendees from the Acadiana area returned to their communities to begin working on the development, coordination and implementation of their own Culture of Health Summit. Initial partners included Louisiana Action Coalition Region IV (RAC IV), Acadiana Health Coalition, the Justice and Health Collaborative, Healthy Acadiana, and Beacon Community Connections. In early December, more than 178 healthcare professionals, participants from the eight-parish region came together to discuss Louisiana’s healthcare challenges, develop partnerships and learn about successful collaborative projects. Speakers included Dr. Rebekah Gee, Senator Fred Mills, Chip Johnson, and Bruce Greenstein. Throughout the day, breakout sessions were held and Louisiana County Health Rankings and Roadmaps specific to individual parishes were provided for the purpose of identifying priorities and developing action plans, which can be found at https://www.beaconconnections.org/events. Follow-up activities are in various planning stages for each parish.

References and Resources:
- County Health Rankings Data: http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/
- Evidence for Action: www.evidenceforaction.org/what-culture-health
- Louisiana Department of Health: http://ldh.la.gov/Features/DataStatistics.html
- Louisiana Action Coalition: https://www.louisianafutureofnursing.org/
- Beacon Community Connections: https://beaconconnections.org

Contact us for more information: (318)257–2854

L to R – Cynthia Bienemy, Patricia La Brosse, Dr. Rebekah Gee, Elsie Meaux, Sheila Pritchett

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Michael Dexter, RN, CEN, CCRN, CFRN, CPEN, TCRN
Emergency Department Clinical Instructor
Willis-Knighton Bossier
318-212-7517

In November 2018, emergency nurses from across Northwest Louisiana came together to collaborate on challenges faced in our line of work and hear from several regional experts in emergency nursing. An outstanding addition to the speaker line up was a member of the community, an actual emergency department patient. He has a HeartMate II Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD). He shared his story of living with heart failure before his LVAD, described his hesitation to have an LVAD, and then spoke of his improved quality of life after receiving his heart pump. This patient, so generous to help each clinician in the room understand his health challenges, told of a very memorable trip to the emergency department after his implanted defibrillator shocked him multiple times. Pre-hospital providers took him to the emergency department. He was awake and alert, but in sustained ventricular fibrillation. In a modern medical miracle type of story, his continuous-flow heart pump was still keeping him alive as his heart was just quivering. It was wonderful to hear these stories from a patient’s perspective and learn more about a modern method of sustaining and improving quality of life. It was also distressing to hear his perception of the lack of knowledge among the healthcare team regarding his support system. This system of perfusion generally causes a lot of anxiety for nurses due to lack of familiarity with how it functions. Hearing this patient articulate specific concerns from his perspective and answer questions in a networking environment provided enhanced understanding for everyone involved.

Since the time of that meeting, there has been a tremendous response across the state as nurses ask for LVAD education for their emergency department (ED) clinicians. Population of patients having the implanted devices is rapidly increasing in the state. Any health related issue in patients with these life-saving devices would generally result in presentation at a local ED for care. So what would you do if a patient with an LVAD came to your hospital? Perhaps you will be out in your community and come across someone that has one and needs help? Here are a few key points to remember:

• Patients will generally carry a black bag or backpack with them that holds backup supplies (most will have an extra controller and extra batteries)
• That black bag should hold information on their implanting center and important contact numbers
• Some patients may have a pulse and some may not (It is always best to assess other signs of perfusion such as mental status, auscultation of the pump, etc.)
• When a patient is implanted with an LVAD, they (and at least one caregiver) are trained on the ins and outs of the equipment and care of their driveline dressing site. The patient and their caregiver can be your most valuable tool!
• Companies have a 24 hour support hotline that providers can call for assistance:
  • Abbott (HeartMate II & III): 800-465-1477
  • Medtronic (HeartWare): 877-367-4823

There are a number of resources online through the company websites where healthcare providers can request materials, complete online training, and more. Take some time to find the available resources and learn more for yourself before the emergency hits! There are many patients in our communities that desperately want you to talk to them while they are doing well, before an emergency happens. Reach out to them and let them enlighten the local healthcare community as our friend did in November.
Southern Strategy Group

The 2019 Regular Legislative Session will convene at Noon on Monday, April 8th and must adjourn by 6:00 pm on Thursday, June 6th. The legislative session in odd-numbered years are mostly fiscal in nature and legislators are limited to five “general” bills. These general bills must be filed by 5:00 pm on March 29th, but legislation that is fiscal in nature may be introduced until Wednesday, April 17th.

Southern Strategy Group (“SSG”) is always attentive to legislation that could impact nursing, but we are following seven special elections that were held on February 23rd. We have already begun, and will continue to, connect with and educate these seven new legislators on nursing issues.

Four of the seven races were won outright:
- House District 12 – Chris Turner, (Rep.)
- House District 26 – Ed Larvadain, (Dem.)
- House District 27 – Mike Johnson (Rep.)
- House District 47 – Ryan Bourriaque (Rep.)

The three remaining races will go to a runoff on Saturday, March 30th:
- House District 17 – Rodney MacFarland, (Dem.) v. Pat Moore (Dem.)
- House District 18 – Tammi Fabre (Rep.) v. Jeremy LaCombe (Dem.)
- House District 62 – Roy Adams (Ind.) v. Dennis Aucoin (Rep.)

Although legislators, lobbyists, and other interested parties have been strategizing for months, we expect the 2019 Session to be full of discussion and political intrigue because of the gubernatorial election in November, where all 39 Senators and 105 Representatives will be on the ballot. Included in that number are 16 Senators and 31 Representatives that are term limited. Many of these open-seat races have already drawn candidates and are expected to be hotly contested.

Louisiana politics constantly evolve, as shown by the high number of term-limited legislators. The elections in the Fall will see a new slate of candidates elected to the House of Representatives and the Senate. Each and every one will need to be educated on LSNA’s legislative priorities.

Governor John Bel Edward’s proposed budget includes important information impacting nursing and the healthcare businesses. The Louisiana Department of Health’s budget, as proposed, increases by more than $978 million. This would see the department’s proposed budget being almost $15 billion total, and just under 50% of the state’s total proposed budget of $30 billion. We must also consider that nurses, as lifelong learners, need to be attentive to the budget for higher education, which is nearly $2.8 billion. Indeed, it is a busy time around the Capitol and Louisiana.

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**LA04** Carolene Kelly Bacon  
**LA05** Karen L. Bonilla  
**LA06** Neely Richoux Estrade  
**LA07** Herriman Peter Frank  
**LA08** Brent Graham  
**LA09** Shirley Ann Jeandron  
**LA10** Maranda Hoyt  
**LA11** Lavon Eades Pettway  
**LA12** Toni G. Rabalais  
**LA13** Lisa Raymond-Prinz  
**LA14** Melody Annette Bailer  
**LA15** Nicole Hargrave  
**LA16** Laura Marie Kaiser  
**LA17** Melinda G. Oberleitner  
**LA18** Katie O’Donnell  
**LA19** Nicholas Saucier  
**LA20** Pamela Yvonne Anderson  
**LA21** Candycy Brown  
**LA22** Bailey Doxey  
**LA23** Carolyn M. Cardin  
**LA24** Amanda Ford  
**LA25** Dena M. Novak  
**LA26**事業 Banks  
**LA27** LaRheé E. Brown  
**LA28** Rachel Marie Cogley  
**LA29** Nicovie V. Duplessis  
**LA30** Anne Geiger  
**LA31** Mary Genovesi  
**LA32** Sophie Lang  
**LA33** Cathelin McCarthy  
**LA34** Campbell McClure  
**LA35** Shawn Weckler Owen  
**LA36** Victoria Pompey-Encalade  
**LA37** Brittany Lynn Ragas  
**LA38** Michelle Scales  
**LA39** Jerica Simpors  
**LA40** Alexes Walker  
**LA41** Dajanu LAKEITH White  
**LA42** Alicia Williams  
**LA43** Chasity Ann Wilmouth  
**LA44** Kimberly Hite Wilson  
**LA45** Barbara A. Zeugner  
**LA46** Barbara B. Barberin  
**LA47** Charlene Cavalier  
**LA48** Arie A. Celestin  
**LA49** Otis Dowden  
**LA50** Michael James Guidry  
**LA51** Keith Price  
**LA52** Robert Kelley Quinn  
**LA53** Jennie Mele Seal  
**LA54** Vanessa E. Shields-Haas  
**LA55** Latosha Mollette  
**LA56** April Edwards  
**LA57** Maegan Griffin  
**LA58** Tawana M. Harris-Glover  
**LA59** Brandy Hawkins  
**LA60** Susanna Christine Squyres  
**LA61** Christie Armstrong  
**LA62** Angela Coleman  
**LA63** Dylan Lane Sepulvado  
**LA64** Anna Vaughan  
**LA65** Jackie H. Carr  
**LA66** Sharon Johnson Lovato  
**LA67** Cynthia Coston Brown  
**LA68** Dwayne Paul Andras  
**LA69** Fiora L. Cabrera  
**LA70** Teressa Michele  
**LA71** Layne Mistretta  
**LA72** Tiffany Terpsstra  
**LA73** Elmira Walker  
**LA74** Tracy Robert  
**LA75** Kelli Freemeyer  
**LA76** Ashley J. Miller  
**LA77** Delores Wilson Emerson  

**State Only Members**

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**Established by**

Chad A. Sullivan, RN, JD

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keoghcox.com
So what IS climate change?

At a recent nursing meeting I attended I asked nurses to pair up and role play the following: “Your neighbor has just asked you – so what IS climate change?” Each nurse had to take a turn with a partner and answer that question, as though she/he were telling her neighbor the answer. After completing the role play, I asked how many of the nurses were able to answer that question with a high level of confidence and only about 10% raised their hands. When I ask how many could answer with reasonable confidence only another 10% raised their hands. How about you, would you feel confident answering the question? What everyone discovered from this activity was how unprepared many nurses are to talk about what climate change is. While nurses are more familiar with what climate change seems to be causing, such as more extreme weather events, sea level rise, and extensive wildfires, a large portion are unable to explain what climate change is in simple terms.

So, here is a little primer: The earth’s temperature has historically been modulated by the sun’s rays beating down, warming the land and water, and then radiating heat back out beyond the earth’s atmosphere. This process has kept the earth at a livable temperature for humans and other lifeforms to flourish. However, we now have a “blanket” of gases that are surrounding the earth, gases created substantially by human activities such as transportation, energy production, industry, cooking/heating, and agriculture. (See the image below) These gases are called greenhouse gases because they create the same warming effect as a greenhouse and are slowly warming the earth – both the land and particularly the oceans. And in the process, they are changing our climate. Climate is distinguished from weather in that weather is what occurs from day to day or week to week, but climate is what occurs over longer periods of time, month to month and year to year. The process is a bit like what happens to your car when you leave it outside in the sun with the windows up. The sun’s rays heat the inside of the car and that heat cannot adequately escape, so the car heats up.

Just as there is a small range of body temperatures at which humans can be healthy, the same is true for all species on earth. When human temperatures rise from 98.6 to 100.4 degrees it means the difference from feeling fine to having a fever and not feeling well. When our temperatures get even higher we begin to see bodily system distress and damage. What happens when the earth has a fever?

Barbara Sattler, RN, DrPH, FAAN, Professor, University of San Francisco, bsattler@usfca.edu and Cara Cook, MS, RN, AHN-BC, Climate Change Program Coordinator, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, cara@enviRN.org

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As the earth warms, we are beginning to see shifts in climate which are resulting in some areas seeing much more rain and others much less, some colder winters, some hotter summers.

As we encounter more extreme heat days and extended heat waves, we are going to see many more heat-related illnesses and even deaths in humans. People who work outside in agriculture, utilities, construction, gas/oil, and many other fields will be at higher risk for hyperthermia. And, of course, extreme storms and wildfires have been taking an enormous toll on human and ecological health.

Changes to the earth’s climate can have irreversible effects on plants, including our agricultural food crops. Rising ocean temperatures is affecting plankton which is the foundation of the food chain for fish and sea mammals. An estimated billion people are dependent on fish as their main source of protein. In addition to interrupting the world’s food supply, there are many other health threats associated with the changes we are seeing. For an extensive list of how climate change affects human health, visit https://bit.ly/2qNLNtW.

While there are some natural sources of greenhouse gases, the ones we have the most capacity to reduce are those that are manmade. As individuals we can assess our household’s contribution to greenhouse gases by using a “carbon footprint calculator,” such as this one from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: https://bit.ly/1WcIHPa. As nurses, we can help promote climate healthy purchasing and practices in our health care facilities, K-12 schools, faith-based organizations, universities, and any other settings in which we have influence.

The new International Council of Nurses (which ANA is a member of) announced its new position statement on climate change in September 2018 and calls on all nurses to help address climate change (see: https://www.icn.ch/sites/default/files/inline-files/PS_E_Nurses_climate%20change_health.pdf). It calls for us to heed the scientific evidence which, in the case of climate change, is abundant.

We must be able to talk about this issue with a degree of confidence and we must engage both individually and as a profession to advocate for policies and practices that will decrease greenhouse gas production from a wide range of its sources. The truth is climate change is a health issue and that’s what we nurses are all about.

For more resources on climate change and health, including nurse-focused guides and webinars, visit the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments Climate and Health Toolkit: climateandhealthtoolkit.org. To join our free monthly calls on Climate Change and Nursing please email the authors.