Hello Colleagues,

As I am writing this, I'm thinking about Thanksgiving dinner with my family and neighbors, and Christmas and Kwanzaa (as well as Hanukkah this year) are a month away. By the time you are reading it, the holidays will be memories and decorations are put away until next year.

As this is only my second president’s message, I’ve been having some anxiety about what I should say, so I decided that I should start by listening.

I started by listening to the WVNA Executive Board. The Executive Board is a group that is loyal and dedicated to the WVNA. We are excited about the direction that the WVNA is going. We are taking steps to strengthen our foundation, grow our membership, and capitalize on the strong presence we have developed at the WV legislature. However, not all the conversations were positive. We talked of why WV nurses are not joining the WVNA. We retold stories shared by nurses with whom we have worked.

Some of our co-workers talked of the cost of membership being too expensive but the stories that disturbed me the most were the ones that spoke of the WVNA being out of touch with the majority of nurses in WV or that the WVNA is really only concerned about APRN issues.

Then I listened to nurses that I know personally in my own community. I heard some of the same concerns, and I also heard:

• “I don’t have time”
• “I’m not really interested in politics”
• “I’ve never really thought about it”
I can see that we have work to do.

Strategic Planning

On November 15, 2019, the WVNA Executive Board met in Sutton, WV, to develop strategies to make the WVNA’s foundation stronger. This was an informal meeting and no official votes were taken; however, we did get work done.

We started by writing a new mission statement that states:

The mission of the WVNA is to support WV nurses and to work for a healthier WV.

We committed to rewriting and updating our policy and procedures to guide us to the goal of our mission. We welcome anyone who feels this is their area of expertise and would want to help with this undertaking. We will form a policy and procedure committee, and work will start after legislative session and the WVNA Policy Summit.

We want to explore ways to engage young nurses and new grads.

We committed to listening to the constituency of the WVNA, which is every nurse in WV.

We have strong committees, but we want to make sure that all the committees are in bylaws compliance and that all bylaws are current and applicable.

Membership Assembly

On November 16, 2019, the Executive Board meet officially in Sutton, WV. We voted to add a SNA non-voting position to the Executive Board. Adam Guthrie was the person appointed to this new position. The position will be further developed and will be an elected position going forward.

We voted on value pricing for the membership fees. This will give nurses an opportunity to choose different levels of membership.

Political Action Committee – PAC/BOT

There are upcoming changes for the WVN-PAC Board of Trustees (BOT). I will be leaving the position of PAC chair. Angy Nixon, who was PAC treasurer, will be going
Hello 2020! There is something invigorating about starting a new year! We have spent time with family, friends, and hopefully had a few days off to regroup. We have cleaned up our holiday decorations, re-organized our home, and purged what is not giving us joy (Marie Kondo). WVNA has set our new goals for 2020 and it includes reaching multiple nursing conferences, arranging home to become members and help to support nurses, from an Honor Flight daytrip to Washington, DC. We simply share our stories of waiting 2.5 hours for you, their patient, to return from the heart of health care.” It’s not every day that your nurse writes to us, and it continues to bolster my belief that “Nurses are the voice of the patient.”

The WVNA Policy Summit – Healthy Nurse, Healthy West Virginia: Influencing Policy, Health Care, and Self-Care, nurses are dedicated to their career and active with membership, and also reach over 1000 nurses through Nursing Network? We offer several packages – from one to ten job listings a month – and advertising includes job alerts to our WVNA members and Nursing Network audience, two biweekly email job flashes which are sent out to 1000+ WVNA members and colleagues, along with analytics and tracking systems in place to offer you advertising tracking for your job post. Basic prices are one-job-posting package for $289, three-job-posting package for $750, five-job-posting package for $1195, and 10-job-posting package for $1950.

I invite WVN members to continue checking our website for news and information. If you haven’t done so yet, I hope you log in and claim your WVN account and also to take it a step further and JOIN WVNA. We can’t represent you without your voice or without your membership.

As you may have noticed, the West Virginia Nurse has grown GREEN, and receiving a printed copy of our publication is now a WVNA membership benefit. Non-members can register for the electronic version of West Virginia Nurse by visiting our website! I can’t tell you how many nurses thought they were WVNA members because they were receiving a paper copy of the West Virginia Nurse quarterly newsletter. We welcome you and appreciate your membership!

I encourage you to look at the education tab on our website. We share FREE nursing education events and conferences, FREE webinars, and FREE CE opportunities here. You can also take advantage of discounts for online CE with Elte Education and lastly, the WVNA partnership discount link with Colorado College University under the Education tab.

I look forward to meeting new WVNA members in 2020, just as I look forward to meeting new members interested in becoming involved with our legislative leaders and editorial staff. I encourage WV nurses to get to know us, join our calls, follow our social media pages, like, share what applies to you, and learn from – and join with – the nursing leaders of the West Virginia Nurses Association! This is your nursing association and I proudly work for you!

Warmest regards,
President’s Message continued from page 1

off the committee, as her term is up. Angy served the PAC and the BOT for several years. Sandra (Sam) Cotton, who is immediate past chair, will also be going off the committee because her term has ended. Thank you, Sam and Angy, for all your insights and energy. I’ve learned so much from both of you.

If this is an area of expertise for you, and you would like to work on this committee, please contact the Central Office at centraloffice@wvnurses.org or phone/text 866-WVNURSE.

As 2020 is a state and national election year, the PAC will be busy after the WV legislative session and the primary election. We give endorsements to candidates running for WV House of Delegates and Senate as well as Governor; we endorse WV candidates for U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Any WV nurse can be a member of the PAC. Annual dues are $25/year. You can pay your dues by sending a check for $25 to WVN-PAC, P.O. Box 213, Scott Depot, WV 25560. The members of the BOT are elected from the PAC membership. All members of the PAC can be involved in the endorsement process.

Legislative Leaders (LL)

This committee consists of at least one nurse living in each WV senatorial district, of which there are 17. The role of the LL is to meet with the house and senate representatives of their districts to keep them up to date on issues/bills before the WV legislature that will affect nurses, and ultimately patients, in WV.

If being involved with your reps at the Capitol is something that interests you, and you would like to be more involved, contact Deborah Casdorph, LL Committee Chair, at deborahcasdorph@msn.com See the article on page 12 about our Legislative Leaders.

Health Policy and Legislative Chair

Toni DiChiacchio is the health policy and legislative chair for the WVNA. She watches the legislative web page and other news sources and is in close contact with our lobbyist, Hallie Mason, keeping up to date on legislative issues that could impact nurses and patients. Follow the WVNA website for updates. If you log in at the WVNA website and claim your account, you’ll get more updates.

As you can see, we are not a stagnant group. We have conference call meetings that are announced via email to the membership. Committees also have conference call meetings that are announced via email.

We receive and answer emails daily. We are an all-volunteer organization. Most of the members of the Executive Board are APRNs; however, that is not a requirement.

We would very much like to see that change, and in fact this year we elected two patient-care RNs to our board.

I have so many emotions about serving as the president of the WVNA. When I was going to D & E College in 1984 to earn my ASN degree, I was working as a scrub tech on the OB floor of our local hospital. I was married, the mother of a three-year-old daughter, and pregnant with my second daughter. My husband was an unemployed coal miner.

I worked as a bedside nurse for 18 years with that ASN degree. It served me well. It fed my family, bought our house, and gave us some security. I was not a member of the WVNA because I didn’t think it was for me. I just didn’t have time, energy, or money.

I was totally wrong about the WVNA. Yes, it is a commitment of time and energy, but more than me serving this organization, it serves me. It even served my nursing career when I wasn’t a member. The organization has always been about supporting nurses and working for a healthier WV.

All those years ago I honestly never imagined being the president of the WVNA.

Now I need you to show me the way. Let me know your issues with the WVNA. Talk to me about ways you feel the organization can be better and what it would take to get you to be a member and to be more involved.

WV nurses come from so many different backgrounds and have varied points of view, but we are all worried about the nursing shortage in WV and how that impacts our patients. Working overtime to make up for the staffing shortages impacts our families and our own health.

Some nurses in southern WV have decided to unionize. Perhaps that is the way forward for safer staffing and better patient outcomes. Maybe it’s not the way for every region in WV.

We will not always agree on controversial topics, but WV nurses always agree on our common ground: patient/staff safety, and good patient outcomes. There’s unity in that. I will listen with an open mind. Please contact me with your concerns and suggestions.

Joyce Wilson, RN
WVNA President

NEW YEAR, NEW NURSING CAREER

Join Our Winning Team

Mon Health Medical Center
1200 J.D. Anderson Drive, Morgantown

Preston Memorial Hospital
150 Memorial Drive, Kingwood

Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital
230 Hospital Plaza, Weston

Potential Benefits Include:

✓ Self-Scheduling
✓ 12-Hour Shifts
✓ Free On-Site Parking
✓ Wellness Program Discount
✓ Tuition Assistance
✓ Loan Repayment Program
✓ Certification Bonus
✓ Expanded Parental Leave

For more information on Mon Health open positions, please visit MonHealth.com/Careers.
CONFERENCES and MEETINGS

Selected nursing and multidisciplinary conferences and meetings. Let us know what conferences we should be listing to serve other West Virginia nurses. If you are a member of a group of nurses meeting in West Virginia, please share with us. centraloffice@wvnurses.org

Meetings in West Virginia

February 20, 2020 (Thursday)
WVNurse Policy Summit: Healthy Nurse, Healthy WV
(Formerly known as “WVN Nurses Unity Day”)
Embassy Suites and Capital Complex, Charleston
Healthy Nurse Healthy WV Feb 2020 Policy Day

March 28, 2020 (Saturday)
WV ACNM Affiliate
Annual Spring Meeting
West Virginia ACNM

April 24-26, 2020 (Friday-Sunday)
WVANA Spring Meeting
Daniels
WVANA Spring Meeting 2020

June 15, 2020 (Wednesday)
West Virginia Elder Abuse Awareness Day Seminar
WV DHHR
Charleston
WV Elder Abuse Seminar 2020

Meetings Beyond West Virginia

Selected conferences in “destination” locations. Enhance your professional practice by attending a conference with colleagues from around the U.S. and the world.

February 10-12, 2020 (Monday-Wednesday)
Association of Camp Nursing (ACN)
San Diego, Ca.
ACN Conference 2020

March 10-13, 2020 (Tuesday-Friday)
Transforming Healthcare: Our Past, Our Present, Our Future
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS)
Indianapolis, Ind.
NACNS 2020 Conference

April 18-21, 2020 (Saturday-Tuesday)
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN)
Annual Educational Meeting
Denver, Colo.
AANN 2020 Meeting

April 19-22, 2020 (Sunday-Wednesday)
American Nephrology Nurses Association
Orlando, Fla.
ANNA 2020 Symposium

April 22-25, 2020 (Wednesday-Saturday)
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Anaheim, Ca.
SPN 2020 Conference

April 27-28, 2020 (Monday-Tuesday)
16th Annual Clinical Nursing Research Conference
Mayfield Village, Ohio
Sigma Nursing Research Conference Ohio 2020

May 18-19, 2020 (Thursday-Saturday)
Lamaze Advocacy Summit
Washington, DC
Lamaze Advocacy Summit

May 29-June 2, 2020 (Friday-Tuesday)
American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)
Downtown Austin, Texas
ACNM Annual Meeting

June 12-13, 2020 (Friday-Saturday)
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee Conference & Convening
Scottsdale, Ariz.
US Breastfeeding Committee Conference

June 13-17, 2020 (Saturday-Wednesday)
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)
National Conference
Phoenix, Ariz.
AWHONN Convention

June 21-25, 2020 (Sunday-Thursday)
International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)
Bali, Indonesia
ICM Triennial Congress 2020

June 23-28, 2020 (Tuesday-Sunday)
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
National Conference
New Orleans, La.
AANP 2020 Conference

July 8-11, 2020 (Wednesday-Saturday)
International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA)
Annual Conference
Houston, Texas
ILCA website

July 14-17, 2020 (Tuesday-Friday)
National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN)
45th Annual Conference
Miami, Fla.
National Association of Hispanic Nurses 2020 Conference

July 23-25, 2020 (Thursday-Saturday)
Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference
Philly Trans Health Conference

July 28-August 2, 2020 (Tuesday-Sunday)
National Black Nurses Association (NBNA)
48th Annual Conference and Institute
Hollywood, Fla.
National Black Nurses Association 2020 Conference

October 1-4, 2020 (Thursday-Sunday)
American Association of Birth Centers
Annual Birth Institute
San Diego, Ca.
AABC Birth Institute

October 9-10, 2020 (Friday-Saturday)
“Breaking Stereotypes: Inequities in Appalachia”
4th Annual Conference
Appalachian Breastfeeding Network
Flintstone, Md.
Appalachian Breastfeeding Network 2020 Conference

SAVE THE DATE!

2020 WVANA Spring Meeting!
April 24-26, 2020
The Resort at Glade Springs
Daniels, WV
To register to attend or for more information, please visit www.wvana.com

This Is Where It Begins

Explore Your Career Opportunities at UHC

BENEFITS United Hospital Center offers a comprehensive benefits program including a competitive salary, health and life insurance, retirement plan, PTO and Holiday time, tuition reimbursement, and a Clinical Ladder for advancement.

Please apply online at wvumedicine.org/united-hospital-center
Now is the time to join Healthy Nurse, Healthy Nation™!

On May 1, 2017, the American Nurses Association (ANA) launched the Healthy Nurse, Healthy Nation™ Grand Challenge (HNHN). HNHN is a social movement designed to transform the health of the nation by improving the health of the nation’s four million registered nurses.

This initiative is offered at no cost and is available to everyone. What does HNHN offer to individual participants?

• COMMUNITY: Thousands of nurses and nursing students are currently engaged in a supportive and dynamic online community and a private Facebook group. HNHN features discussion boards where nurses can ask questions, post ideas, share experiences, and gain motivation.

• COMMITMENT: Participants create a profile page and post a health commitment on our Commitment Wall. They can also affiliate with their employer, school of nursing, or organization.

• HEAT GRAPH: The HealthyNurse® Survey gives participants their results immediately in a heat graph and HealthyNurse Index Score. Participants can click on any box of their heat graph and it will expand to show them the original question, their answer, the ideal answer, the national average (if available), references, and resources to learn more.

• CHALLENGES: Exciting challenges are offered monthly. These generally run from five to ten days in length. Each day during the challenge, helpful tips are sent to you to assist in building healthy habits. Some challenges feature fun contests.

• TIPS AND RESOURCES: Blogs are designed to energize your safety and wellness, as well as inspire you to try something new. Topics range from safe patient handling and mobility practices to mindfulness and resilience. A well-stocked resource library is also available.

• NEWSLETTER: Every month, a brief newsletter is sent to you. Here we share news from around the wellness world and HNHN in particular. Each newsletter features an HNHN Spotlight on nurses and organizations on their own wellness journeys. The #healthynurse stories often focus on finding more joy, weight loss, or newly discovered sport or physical activity. The HNHN Champion spotlights show how organizations promote nurse health and wellness via programs, policies, and other offerings. Healthy cafeteria food, discounted gym memberships, safe patient handling equipment, and restoration rooms, anyone?

Joining is easy! Go to hnn.org and click “Individuals.” You can then access the community by using your ANA credentials or by setting up a new account. You will be joining a community of over 130,000 participants. Join today and invite your nurse friends and co-workers to join as well.

Editor’s Note: Holly Carpenter will be the keynote speaker at WVNA’s February 20, 2020 Policy Day at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. See the executive director’s message on p. 2 of this issue.

West Virginia Midwives Meet at Stonewall Resort State Park

Special to West Virginia Nurse

Members of the American College of Nurse-Midwives WV Affiliate (ACNM-WV) and Midwives Alliance of West Virginia (MAWV) met at the Stonewall Resort State Park on October 19, 2019. Many participants had also attended the annual WV Perinatal Summit the two previous days. The Perinatal Summit is sponsored by the WV Perinatal Partnership and attracts a diversity of professionals who work with families during the perinatal period.

Unlike in most other countries of the world, where “a midwife is a midwife,” midwives in the U.S. have several paths to the midwifery profession and several possible professional credentials. However, many midwives feel the diversity of options has led to less of a collective identity and less professional strength. It’s hard to find a midwife who feels that the plethora of credentials has created clarity—for the public or for government regulators.

The most numerous midwives in the U.S. are those who entered the profession by first becoming nurses. These midwives are certified nurse-midwives (CNMs). Midwives who entered the profession directly are known as “direct entry” midwives. They most often carry the CPM credential (certified professional midwife). A smaller group are known as certified midwives (CMs). While CPMs are licensed in 33 states, CMs are licensed in just seven states (with many more having pending legislation to enact licensure).

Goals identified at the October 19 meeting include removing barriers to practice, achieving licensure for West Virginia’s CPMs, bringing CMs to the state and licensing them, increasing access to maternity care for West Virginia families, and increasing options for birth services.
Aila Accad, MSN, RN / Executive Director

The Future of Nursing WV Action Coalition (FONWV) is nurses and nursing champions working together for a healthier WV, through strengthening nursing practice, education, and leadership. Here is an update on our progress and invitation to join us toward creating a culture of health in West Virginia.

Save the Date ... Gala 2020 will be Saturday, August 29, 2020!

2020 is ANA’s Year of the Nurse! We will celebrate the first WV Nurse Excellence Awards. Nomination criteria and nomination form will be posted on the FONWV website in January 2020. The Selection Team will accept nominations from the public.

The 2019 Gala was held September 28, 2019. We celebrated our second cohort of 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders with a fabulous reception and dinner followed by dancing with DJ Robbie “E-Man” Erby from WTSQ (Charleston’s community radio station) at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. (See all photos on the website.)

We especially want to thank our wonderful sponsors, who make the Gala such a special event! The diversity of nursing – including ethnicity, gender, and roles – was represented, thanks to the nominators, Diversity Team Leader Sandra Burrell, ADN, RN, and the Awards Selection Team, led by Alvita Nathaniel, PhD, APRN. The 250 attendees enjoyed laughter and announcements with emcee Darrell Hugueley and opening remarks from the awards sponsors, represented by Mary Fanning, DNP, for WVU Medicine, and Mark Eickbush, RN, for Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC).

In addition to the award itself, presented by Gala Team member Nancy Atkins, awardees received several gifts, including a commemorative copy of Florence Nightingale’s “Notes on Nursing,” membership in the WV Organization of Nurse Executives (WVONE), discount to attend the WV Nurses Association Policy Summit on February 20, 2020, and a nursing figurine from Janice Smith. The gift bags were presented by sponsor Derrick Grant, the Allegheny regional manager of Sizewise.

Nursing Workforce Summit

The Proceedings of the 2019 WV Nursing Workforce Summit are now on the website. Watch for the Announcement of the next Summit in 2020. The Workforce Action Teams Retaining and Recruiting Nurses at the Bedside, Facilitating the Pathways in Nursing Education, Expanding the Pipeline into Nursing, and Recruiting and Utilizing Nursing Faculty will present their progress. If you are interested in joining a Workforce Team, please email your interest to Aila at futureofnursingwv@gmail.com.

Please like our page on Facebook: https://business.facebook.com/fonwv.

40 Under 40 Award Winners

Attendees at the 2019 FONWV Gala at the Embassy Suites in Charleston
The West Virginia Center for Nursing has announced the application dates for its scholarship applications for the 2020-2021 academic year. Applications will be accepted online from April 15 to June 1, 2020.

The West Virginia Nursing Scholarship Program awards scholarships to RN, LPN, master’s degree, and doctoral nursing or education students, and to LPN teaching certificate students, who agree to a service obligation in West Virginia following graduation.

The Nursing Scholarship Program has one award cycle for fall, spring, and summer semesters, so students who will meet the requirement at any point within the 2020-2021 academic year should apply. The Nursing Scholarship Program awards are made through a competitive review process, so applicants must indicate on the application each semester they want to be considered for the scholarship award.

Each year, the Center sets the GPA requirements and determines the award amounts based on the number of scholarship applications and the current funds available. Last year, students were awarded between $800-$4,000 per semester depending on their program type and length of program.

Students must be a West Virginia resident enrolled in an accredited West Virginia nursing program. In return for the scholarship award, recipients must begin employment at an eligible work site in West Virginia within six months of graduation to avoid a repayment obligation.

RN Scholarship Programs Guidelines 2020-2021
RN nursing students are eligible once they have completed one-half of their nursing program. After graduation, a recipient is required to teach full-time in an accredited WV nursing program, or work full-time as an RN in WV, for two years for each year an award(s) was received. The service requirements may be met through more than one form of employment if the equivalent is a full-time status of 36 hours or more per week.

LPN Scholarship Programs Guidelines 2020-2021
LPN students are eligible once they have completed one-half of their nursing program. After graduation, a recipient is required to work as an LPN full-time in West Virginia for one year for each year an award(s) was received. The service requirements may be met through more than one form of employment if the equivalent is a full-time status of 36 hours or more per week.

Master’s Degree or Doctoral Nursing or Education Program Guidelines 2020-2021
Students are eligible for the award if currently and continuously employed as an educator in a West Virginia school of nursing while pursuing a master’s or doctoral degree in nursing or education. A recipient is required to teach full-time in West Virginia for two years following program completion for each year in which the recipient received an award(s). The service requirements may be met through more than one form of employment if the equivalent is a full-time status of 36 hours or more per week. At a minimum, part of the work must include employment as an educator in a nursing program in West Virginia.

LPN Teaching Certificate Program Guidelines 2020-2021
This scholarship program provides funding for full-time LPN faculty to obtain a WV teaching certificate in order to continue to work in the West Virginia public education system. A recipient is obligated to teach full-time in West Virginia for one year for each year an award(s) is received. The service requirements may be met through more than one form of employment if the equivalent is a full-time status of 36 hours or more per week. At a minimum, part of the work must include employment as an educator in a nursing program in West Virginia.

Additional information is available at the Center for Nursing’s website: www.wvcenterfornursing.org or the College Foundation of West Virginia: www.cfwv.com.

We are offering increased PRN rates in lieu of benefits for LPNs and RNs.

Join an exceptional team making an extraordinary difference in the lives of our patients.

The West Virginia University Health System, the state’s largest health system and largest private employer, offers competitive benefits because we want to attract and keep the best employees who will share our commitment to the highest quality of patient care.

- Comprehensive Benefits
- RN Traveler Program
- Competitive Pay
- Full-Time Opportunities

LEARN MORE WVUMedicine.org/Careers
Call for Applicants to Serve on the WV Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses

West Virginia Code §30-7-3 outlines the method by which appointments to the WV Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses are made. The West Virginia Nurses Association is responsible for providing a list of names to the governor from which he or she makes selections for appointments.

The WVNA is currently soliciting applicants from qualified registered nurses who are interested in Board service. The qualifications defined by statute to serve on the Board are that each member must be a U.S. citizen and WV state resident; be a graduate of an accredited educational program, college, or university with a nursing major; be licensed as an RN in WV or eligible for licensure as such; have at least five years of teaching experience in a registered professional nursing program or in a combination of such teaching and nursing administration or nursing education administration; and have been engaged in registered professional nursing for at least three of the last five years preceding appointment or reappointment.

If you are interested and meet the above qualifications, please email a letter of interest and a résumé or CV by April 30, 2020, to the WVNA Central Office at WVNA Email (centraloffice@wvnurses.org). Interviews will be scheduled with qualified applicants.

Opioid Free Anesthesia

The opioid crisis continues to be one of the biggest challenges in health care in West Virginia. Nurses are at the forefront of managing this epidemic, and certified registered nurse anesthetists across the state are using advanced techniques to do our part in combating and preventing the crisis. One such technique is opioid free anesthesia.

Opioid free anesthesia (OFA) is a crucial skill for the certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) of today. By utilizing a multitude of drugs and techniques, CRNAs can help combat the opioid epidemic from the onset of care.

Traditionally, the first lines to treat pain from surgery have been opioids such as morphine, hydromorphone, and fentanyl. For most patients, the first exposure to opioids occurs in surgery.

Even when these drugs are used, patients often still experience pain from surgery, necessitating increased doses of opioids to aid their healing process. Beyond the known side effects from narcotics (respiratory depression, nausea, vomiting, pruritus, itching, tolerance, and dependence), studies have shown that this type of opioid utilization can lead to a hyper-sensitivity to pain, known as opioid-induced hyperalgesia. Opioid-induced hyperalgesia can occur after just one dose of an opioid pain relief. This means the “pain reliever” ends up being the “pain promoter.”

CRNAs across the state of West Virginia realize that opioid-based anesthesia plans are often not in our patient’s best interest. The OFA approach utilizes analgesics such as acetaminophen and NSAIDS, alpha-2 agonists such as clonidine and dexmedetomidine, as well as old drugs with new purpose, such as IV lidocaine, ketamine, and magnesium. All these drugs work in concert to block receptors before pain can be experienced and eliminate the routine use of opioids. When these pharmacologic techniques are used in conjunction with regional, spinal, or epidural anesthesia, we can manage large, complex surgical cases and never introduce an opioid to our patients.

Opioid free anesthesia has numerous benefits in and out of the operating room. OFA can provide a more hemodynamically stable surgery and decrease the risk of respiratory depression, reducing the chance of post-operative reintubation. When OFA techniques are implemented, patients have been shown to have reduced length of stay and overall improved post-operative outcomes.

The data continues to show the benefits of an opioid free approach to anesthesia care, which means that Opioid Free Anesthesia isn’t just a trendy technique. It’s the evolution of anesthesia practice. West Virginia’s CRNAs are proud to be on the front lines of this change and will continue to do our part in the fight against the opioid epidemic.

More information about OFA can be found at Society of Opioid Free Anesthesia, the website of the Society of Opioid Free Anesthesia (SOFA), which was founded by CRNAs.
January, February, March 2020

2019 WVNA Election Results

The votes are in! Thanks for voting for the nurses who will represent you in your nurses’ organization. We are grateful to those nurses who ran for office and are excited to share with you the election results.

The newly elected officers for the West Virginia Nurses Association are as follows.

Vice-President
Lori McComas Chaffins
Lori McComas Chaffins, a West Virginia native, was born in Huntington and raised in Lincoln County. Lori graduated from Marshall University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and began her career as an emergency department nurse, where she truly fell in love with the nursing profession. Lori attended the American Nurses Association Political Advocacy Institute in 2011, became a registered lobbyist, and helped to pass the legislation in 2012 that brought about the nurse health program for registered nurses in WV.

Chaffins served as Executive Director for the West Virginia Nurses Association from 2015 until 2017 and was hired as the Nurse Health Coordinator for the WV RN Board in October 2017.

Lori is the mother of four and grandmother of two. She makes God her priority and believes that everything else falls into place. She is a lover of Israel, attended the International School of Holocaust Studies in Jerusalem, Israel, and educates the public on the Holocaust here at home. Lori strives to do her best daily, she loves her job, and loves educating the nearly 34,000 registered nurses in WV.

Secretary
Jon H. Casto, RN, CRNI
Jon is the Secretary for the West Virginia Nurses Association and a Board of Trustee member with the WVNA-PAC. He is married to his best friend Krista (also an RN) and is the father of four. Jon H. Casto holds a CRNI specialty certification and he is the Nurse Manager with BioScrip Infusion Services at their Charleston, WV location. Jon received BioScrip’s 2019 Star Performer award for the Central Region as well as a BioScrip Hero award. West Virginia Nurse featured an in-depth bio on Jon in our July 2019 issue, which you can read by going to West Virginia Nurses Association and clicking the link on the left for the West Virginia Nurse.

Call for Nominations

Julie Huron, BSH, LNHA / Executive Director

The West Virginia Nurses Association will be electing new officers to its board of directors in the early fall of 2020. The positions that will be open are: President-Elect, Treasurer, Voting Delegate to the ANA Membership Assembly, and committee positions on WVNA’s Nominations and Awards Committee. Those interested in running for these positions should submit a letter of intent, a current CV, a biography, and a photo. Applicants must be a full member in good standing of both WVNA and ANA. Information is due to WVNA by April 30, 2020, and candidate information will be published in the July 2020 issue of West Virginia Nurse.

Functions of Officers

President-Elect
The President-Elect shall assume all the duties of the President in the President’s absence, shall serve as a board liaison for committee chairs, and shall be a member of both the Health Policy and Legislation (HP&L) Committee and the WVN-PAC.

Treasurer
The Treasurer shall be the Chair of the Finance Committee, shall be accountable for the fiscal

WVNA WEST VIRGINIA NURSES ASSOCIATION

BRIANNA YOUNG, RN
Mother/Toby

I love the feeling I get when I tell people, ‘I’m a nurse at Cabell.’

It’s rewarding to know I work at a hospital that the community values and respects. It gives me a sense of pride. It’s a great feeling when I meet other nurses and when they find out I work at Cabell they say, ‘I want to work there, too!’ If you want to have that same feeling and to work here, too, now is your chance. Come join us.

To become a nurse at Cabell Huntington Hospital, call 304.526.2050 or visit www.cabellhuntington.org and search employment.

Positions Available
• Operating Room
• ICU Nursery
• Emergency Department
• SCCU / CCU
• Cardio Stepdown
• Float Pool
• Oncology
• Med Surg Units
Method:
The purpose of this study was to evaluate a continuing education intervention on nurses’ knowledge and perceived competency regarding the care of hospitalized patients with substance use disorder. A pre-test/post-test design was utilized to assess changes in knowledge and perceived competency immediately before and after the intervention for 31 hospital nurses using evidence-based tools and measures.

Results:
Directly following the intervention, knowledge and perceived competency scores were significantly improved among the nurse participants, while there was no statistical significance noted between the demographic characteristics and the pre-test/post-test results.

Conclusion:
The educational intervention was found to significantly improve knowledge and perceived competency scores among nurses as evidenced by the pre-test/post-test scores. Thus, nurses working with patients diagnosed with substance use disorder could benefit from continuing education on substance use disorder.

Publication Note:
Contact WVNA to receive a copy of the publication.

Editor’s note: the author can be contacted at elkins80@marshall.edu.
Implementing a CAUTI Prevention Program in an Acute Care Hospital Setting

Annette Ferguson, DNP, MSN, RN, CNE / Associate Professor of Nursing, Marshall University

Students’ Corner

Background
Urinary tract infections are the most common hospital-associated infections reported, with 75% attributed to indwelling urinary catheters. Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) impact the health care system by increasing patient discomfort, mortality rates, cost, and length of stay.

Objectives
This capstone project had two goals:
1. reduce the number of CAUTIs and improve nurses’ knowledge of CAUTI prevention and indwelling urinary catheter care.
2. improve nurses’ knowledge of CAUTI prevention and indwelling urinary catheter care.

Literature Review
A review of current literature found that nurses and other healthcare providers’ knowledge of evidence-based practices for indwelling urinary catheter care was lacking (Jain, Dogra, Mishra, Thakur, and Loomba, 2015; Viswanathan et al., 2015; Gesmundo, 2016). There was supporting evidence in the literature that the use of a multifaceted educational program can decrease CAUTI rates and enhance nurses’ knowledge of proper urinary catheter care (Singh, Kumar, Sundaram, Kanjilal, and Nair, 2012; Purvis et al., 2014; Andrioli, Furtado, and Medeiros, 2016; Tillekeratne et al., 2014; Rosenthal et al., 2012).

Methods
In collaboration with the hospital’s infection control directors, two pilot units were selected from the target hospital based on CAUTI rates. There were 59 nurses (LPNs and RNs) who participated in the interactive educational program, which included face-to-face instruction with video clips, hands-on demonstration, and discussion. A pre-test/post-test survey was administered to measure the nurses’ knowledge of indwelling urinary catheter care and CAUTI prevention. The CAUTI rates were measured based on the CDC definition and criteria for CAUTIs. Skills competency was evaluated by the project leader by having participants insert an indwelling urinary catheter into a manikin.

Results
A total of 59 nurses completed the educational training over a three-month period. Most participates were female, registered nurses with an average of five years of clinical experience. The outcomes of the project were a statistically significant increase in nurses’ knowledge of indwelling urinary catheter care and CAUTI prevention and a decrease in CAUTI rates.

Discussion
The resources and cost needed to implement the project were minimal. In addition, the program was disseminated to all the nursing staff at the target hospital via an online learning module. This project utilized creative teaching strategies to enhance the nurses’ knowledge of indwelling urinary catheter care and CAUTI prevention through a partnership with a local acute care hospital.

References
As discussed in the president’s letter, page 1, WVNA has a group of nurses involved in legislative and policy issues, in several roles. Here is a description of who is involved and what they are doing, along with a biographical summary.

Because we are lucky to have many of these nurses in these roles, we could not fit them all into this issue. (That’s a good “problem” to have.) In the next issue of West Virginia Nurse (April 2020), we will feature the remaining nurses. The districts listed below correspond to the WV Senate districts.

Health Policy and Legislative Co-Chair

Toni DiChiacchio

Toni DiChiacchio earned an ASN from Indian River State College in Florida in 2005, her MSN with a family nurse practitioner concentration at Florida Atlantic University in 2008, and her DNP from WVU in 2014. Dr. DiChiacchio is also a CPA and received a bachelor’s degree with a double major in accounting and economics from Shepherd University in 1992. She worked in tax and accounting for 13 years before becoming a nurse. Since July 2015, Dr. DiChiacchio has served as WVU School of Nursing’s Assistant Dean for Faculty Practice and Community Engagement.

Toni is a member of, and finance chair for, the Monongalia County Health Department. Prior to appointment as WVNA’s HP5L Chair, she has served the association as President and Treasurer; she also serves as a member of the WVNA Finance Committee and WVN-PAC Board of Trustees member. She has been recognized by the WV Center for Nursing, the AANP, and Florida Nursing Spectrum magazine with clinical excellence awards. Toni was a member and an officer in her school Student Nurses Association and became a member of WVNA as soon as she moved back to West Virginia in 2009.

Health Policy and Legislative Co-Chair

Teresa Hovatter, BSN, RN

Teresa Hovatter is a nurse, entrepreneur, business owner, consultant, and a soon-to-be-published author. Teresa has an extensive background and experience both clinically as well as in consulting, innovation, and design. She received her ADN and BSN from Shenandoah University and she also has an associate degree in language arts from Garrett Community College, along with a master’s degree in organizational leadership from Wheeling Jesuit University. She is currently working on her Ed.D. in Psychological nursing. Teresa has a patented, trademarked nursing/health care product that is nearing its launch to the marketplace and she owns an online nurse coaching consulting business that is nearing its launch, too.

Teresa is the chair of the WV chapter of the Holistic Nurses Association; the WVNA voting delegate to the ANA Membership Assembly; and serves on WVNA’s Finance Committee. Hovatter became a member of WVNA in 2018 because of her concern regarding a possible bill that would have required mandatory flu vaccines for all healthcare care workers. She is a legislative leader for District 12, as well, and looks forward to continuing to grow with WVNA.

District Leaders

District 1

Billie Adams, MSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM

Billie Adams is the perioperative director at Weirton Medical Center and has been involved with WVNA since 2018. She became involved with the WVNA because one of her goals in life is to promote safe medical care access to all. She is aware of the tremendous opportunity that nursing leaders, from RNs to APRNs, have in ensuring that medical care is provided in a safe and practical manner. She views being involved as a WVNA legislative leader as a means of providing a voice for the future of nursing and health care.

District 2

Christy Priem, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC

Christy Priem has been an advanced practice provider/family nurse practitioner since 2003. She obtained her MSN with a family nurse practitioner concentration in 2003 from Wheeling Jesuit University and her BSN from WVU in 1991. She is currently employed as a travel nurse practitioner/owner of MedExpress Urgent Care and travels throughout northeast and north-central West Virginia, providing urgent care in many underserved areas of West Virginia. Christy has been a member of WVNA since 2003 and on since 1998 after returning to West Virginia. Priem become more interested in nursing policy affecting both RNs and APRNs while attending graduate school at Wheeling Jesuit University. Christy is passionate about policy, health care, and the nurse’s role regarding right-to-work laws.

District 3

Cherie Cowan, MS, APRN, NP-C, FNP-BC

Cherie Cowan is a family nurse practitioner with Copeland Health Systems, Parkersburg Family Care, in Parkersburg. Cherie specializes in diabetes management and diabetes education. She has been a member of WVNA since 1987 and believes in nurses’ unity – working together to promote our profession and participating in monitoring health care legislation that impacts our patient care and our profession and is proactive in protecting patients and our profession. She enjoys learning from other nurse leaders and she communicates health care issues as well nurse practice issues to WVNA District 3 nurses. Cherie has held dual memberships with WVNA and the Ohio Nurses Association at times throughout her career, to stay informed of issues in both states.

District 4

Billie Adams

Billie Adams is the perioperative director at Weirton Medical Center and has been involved with WVNA since 2018. She became involved with the WVNA because one of her goals in life is to promote safe medical care access to all. She is aware of the tremendous opportunity that nursing leaders, from RNs to APRNs, have in ensuring that medical care is provided in a safe and practical manner. She views being involved as a WVNA legislative leader as a means of providing a voice for the future of nursing and health care.

District 5

Tim Maynard, APRN, FNP-BC

Tim Maynard is a family nurse practitioner, owner of OnCall Health and Aesthetic Care in Ceredo, WV, a provider of aesthetic care and also provides home visits for elderly people as well as sober living homes. In addition, they provide aesthetic care for those who desire to enhance their natural beauty. Tim has been involved with WVNA for a few years with a focus on legislative issues. He became involved with WVNA because they are the primary source supporting legislative action for nurses, supporting and defending nurses in the West Virginia Legislature. This is exactly why Tim is motivated as a legislative leader: to get the word out and to identify those legislators who work for us and those who don’t. Maynard sees that his job is to make your life simpler when you have issues or are concerned about issues that affect you – whether you are an LPN, RN, nurse educator, clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist, or nurse-midwife.

District 9

Jessica Halstead Sharp, PhD, MSN, BSN

Jessica Sharp, PhD, started her career as a diploma nurse graduating from St. Mary’s School of Nursing in Huntington. In addition to the degrees previously mentioned, she obtained an FNP certificate from Marshall University and a CRNA certificate from Mountain State University. She was also inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Academy of Nurse Practitioners

Dr. Sharp is an educator – Dean and professor with Bluefield College – and she continues her FNP practice in a rural health clinic and with Welch Community Hospital. She has worked in higher education for more than 40 years. Jessica has been a member of WVNA her entire nursing career due to the advice of a friend: “All nurses should belong to WVNA.” Jessica states “at that time, I did it because Nancy told me too, but I soon learned she was correct. No one stands up for nurses, like nurses, and no one stands up for patients like nurses.” She feels that “To be a legislative leader means keeping people focused, as well as myself focused, on the goal (the goal of serving others).”
Editor's View

Moira Tannenbaum, RN

Dear Readers,

I’ve been the editor of West Virginia Nurse since late 2016. I thought it was time to write an editor’s note. As we start 2020, I did not make any New Year’s resolutions. I have learned they do not work for me. Instead, I am working on subtle behavior changes. Four months ago, I began a gratitude exercise. Every day, I stand outside – no matter where I am – stretch my arms high as I can, feel the weather – sunny or snowy – on my face, and allow gratitude to wash over me.

It’s a small thing, but on the few days I have not done it, I have not felt right. That is a sign I have internalized this behavior. By changing small behaviors at first, and sticking with it, I hope to work up to larger ones. I have learned to avoid extreme attempts, like “I won’t eat sugar for a month.” When I attempt drastic behavioral changes like that, I feel deprived. I soon start making bargains like, “I’ll take a day off,” and the next thing I know, the attempt at a new behavior is over.

Another behavior I’m working on is promptly calling out inappropriate information about nurses. My approach is to take a picture or screenshot of the misinformation and send an email or a Tweet addressing it, promptly. So often misinformation about nurses is widely distributed, and nurses may privately seethe, but the next time that journalist appears in print, the misinformation is there again.

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Editor’s View

Moira Tannenbaum, RN

January, February, March 2020

Transparency Tools: A Nursing Degree is a Great Investment

Toni DiChiacchio, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CEN / WVNA Government Liaison

If you have not been exploring information online recently regarding colleges and universities you may not be aware of some new features on College Scorecard. This site has been around for a while, but it has some new features. One of those is a display of the median wages which graduates from respective institutions of higher learning achieve within their first year after graduating, organized by degree obtained. In exploring the site, I was amazed at the vigor which nursing programs across the state show in post-graduate earnings. Here are some data.

This is not an all-inclusive list of nursing programs in West Virginia, but as you can see, nursing graduates are leading as the highest earners one year after graduation at many of our institutions of higher learning, and they command a strong starting salary. To find out more about details of higher education go to College Scorecard. Nursing is a great profession! Share this information with our potential next generation of West Virginia nurses. A nursing degree is a great investment!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Nursing</th>
<th>Median income within 12 months of graduating</th>
<th>Rank in highest median income from the institution</th>
<th>Degree type</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alderson Broaddus University</td>
<td>$60,700</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefield State</td>
<td>$49,600</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Associate’s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Valley</td>
<td>$54,300</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Associate’s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairmont State</td>
<td>$59,100, $56,600</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td>Civil engineering technologies was 3rd-highest median wage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall University</td>
<td>$56,100, $55,000</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td>Allied health was 3rd-highest median wage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd University</td>
<td>$58,300</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td>Computer &amp; information science was 2nd-highest median wage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Charleston</td>
<td>$59,100</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia University</td>
<td>$60,200</td>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td>Various engineering degrees held the top six (highest median wage $66,800; computer science was 7th at $60,300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia Wesleyan</td>
<td>$53,900</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheeling University</td>
<td>$59,200</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
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Nurses, we must use our voices. As a nurse and editor, I try to help writers improve their information about nurses. For an article in a construction trades journal, I recently changed a statement that said, in so many words, “The architectural design will address the nursing shortage.” (Any nurse knows that statement makes no sense and I did not want that info out there in circulation.) I changed the language to read that the building layout is designed to improve nursing workflow. No building design can replace nurses. As for the nursing shortage, by the time you read this, my nine-year-old niece will have opened her pulse oximeter, reflex hammer, and stethoscope gifts from me. I think often about the next generation of nurses and what their lives will be like. I hope all of us current nurses make time for ourselves this winter. Stay safe on the roads, get outside and get active, and step up for West Virginia nurses.

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The beauty of transparency, particularly of the WV State Auditor’s Office system available at [wvcheckbook.gov](http://wvcheckbook.gov), is that you can explore different revenue streams and expenditures being made by state agencies and, if you have an interest in accounting, you can stumble onto transactions that raise concern.

During the 2016 Legislative session, when West Virginia was having a challenge in putting together balanced budget transactions that raise concern.

Unfortunately, that was only the beginning. We were concerned about the relatively high carryover in the fund balance, and the potential impact that continuing to charge donations on behalf of the state, we thought that balanced budget. Having made our altruistic transfer. While unhappy about it, WVNA leadership felt it was our way to be able to chip in and assist the association didn’t make demands regarding that.

The beauty of transparency, particularly of the WV State Auditor’s Office system available at wvcheckbook.gov/, is open for anyone to see. It wasn’t something that WVNA was particularly happy about, but the state was in tough budget times, and we nurses had just gotten some significant legislation passed that vastly improved scope of practice for APRNs, so the association didn’t make demands regarding that transfer. While unhappy about it, WVNA leadership felt it was our way to be able tochip in and assist the legislators in maintaining a constitutionally required balanced budget. Having made our altruistic donation on behalf of the state, we thought that would be the end of it.

During the 2016 Legislative session, when West Virginia was having a challenge in putting together balanced budget, that excess is taken from the special fund set up for licensure fees and transferred to general revenue. (General revenue/the General Revenue Fund refers to funds at the state level that can be used for any purpose.) At the time of that transfer of excess funds, this becomes a specific tax applied only to licensed nurses in WV (or to any other licensees that may have such sweeps from their respective Board’s funds). The WVNA was able to discuss the unfair impact on us as license-paying RNs in WV with the House Finance Chair, and the committee agreed to leave it alone at the time. Thank you, Delegate Eric Householder!

However, since that time, we have found that both before and after that 2019 legislative discussion we held with Chairman Householder, there were other transfers of our licensure fees to general revenue. These have occurred outside the annual budget bill but completed internally as the law requires.

We wonder what the $1,685,087.02 from RN and dialysis technician fees has ended up paying for the last four years since our licensure fees have been swept. More importantly, why is this continuing to happen? Regardless of the what and why, it needs to be addressed, as this is an unjust way to capture additional funds to spend without those West Virginians paying these supplemental taxes even being aware, or having the opportunity for us, license-paying RNs, to have some input – or perhaps most appropriately, to have our fees lowered.

Here is a breakdown of what has left the Board of Nursing Fund in the past several years from the Auditor’s transparency website WV Auditors Website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Total Amount</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/11/2019</td>
<td>$592,182.30</td>
<td>Transfers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/11/2018</td>
<td>$533,581.90</td>
<td>Transfers</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/20/2016</td>
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Recall that the Board of Registered Nurses also regulates dialysis technicians; they too have lost their fees to the General Revenue Fund. This is a prime example of the utility of transparency in government. We would have not easily have come upon this knowledge had WV Checkbook not been available. The tool is only as good as it is utilized. I hope this inspires you to be an active civic watchdog; WVNA is always available to discuss anything concerning you may find. And we will continue to monitor this and other situations regarding nursing in WV – we take our advocacy role very seriously and want all nurses to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

We will continue to keep you informed of this and other activity that will be occurring during the upcoming legislative session. We anticipate a busy session. Please consider participating anyway you can, including donating to WVNA’s Lobbyist Fund. Much of this discovery was unearthed by our lobbyist team and we could not be successful at the Capitol without them. We welcome donations of any amount. Please let us know of any barriers you encounter – from statutes or rules – that are making your ability to care for patients more difficult than required. We want to do whatever we can to make your very important role as efficient as possible.

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</tr>
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</table>
Pursuant to W. Va. Code §12-4-16 and §30-1-10, which provides, “When the special fund of any board accumulates to an amount which exceeds twice the annual budget of the board ..., the State Treasurer shall: Transfer the excess amount to the state General Revenue Fund;...,” the State Treasurer directed the board to transfer a total of $1,127,186 (FY18 $535,003; FY20 $592,183). Additionally, in FY 2017 the RN and Pharmacy Boards were directed to transfer $500,000 each. This was the year of the budget crisis and nearly every department in the state provided funds for the shortfall.

These are funds that are not immediately available for use by the Board. They are held in a separate account and must be approved for release through the appropriate government entity. These entities include the budget office, Legislature and Governor. The majority of the monies contained in these accounts do come from the collection of licensing fees, fines and other services that are charged for by the agency. Although the money is collected by the Board, it belongs to the state of West Virginia. Public record provides the Board has an approved operating budget of $1,645,767. Each year the Board has requested to increase its approved budget/spending authority and to have the ability to access funds from the above account to implement its initiatives. There are many initiatives the Board would like to implement; however, it cannot do so without an increase in its operating budget/spending authority. Some Board requests for more funding are approved and some are not. The Board only operates on its approved budget. Board fees have not been increased since June 1, 2013. Public record indicates the Board has always been very fiscally responsible in the use of its funds. The fees are at the very minimum they can be to support the expenses that are incurred and to support the operating budget approved by the state.

Although the directing of these funds into the state’s general revenue may at times appear unfair or even appear as though the Board is being penalized for being fiscally responsible with the funds received, as a public agency the Board recognizes the financial restraints, constraints and burdens that have plagued our great state over most recent years. During a time, such as this, all public entities are called upon to work together and do whatever we can to contribute to the vitality of the state of West Virginia. While they may not seem to always benefit the individual agency, these contributions to the general revenue do benefit the greater good of the state and in turn benefit all its citizens.

It is always a pleasure to respond to members of the public. We appreciate your inquiry into this matter and we look forward to working with you in the future.

For the board,
Sue Ann Painter DNP, MSN, BSN, RN

2020 West Virginia Nurse Deadlines

We are a quarterly newspaper. Here are the deadlines for the remainder of 2020.

Apr-Jun 2020 issue
Material due to WV Nurse by Monday, Feb 24 at 5 p.m.
July-Sept 2020 issue
Material due to WV Nurse by Tuesday, May 26 at 5 p.m.
Oct-Dec 2020 issue
Material due to WV Nurse by Tuesday, Aug 25 at 5 p.m.
For submission information, see p. 2.

WARNING! DUE DATES ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR

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