



The Mississippi RN

THE MISSISSIPPI NURSES ASSOCIATION IS THE VOICE OF REGISTERED NURSES IN MISSISSIPPI AND HAS PROVIDED LEADERSHIP TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALL PEOPLE FOR THE PAST 100 YEARS

Vol. 73, No. 2

Quarterly circulation approximately 50,000 to all RNs, LPNs, and Student Nurses in Mississippi.

Summer 2011

Gifts impact campaigns Candidates See More to PAC Support than Just Dollars and Cents

The more successful the Mississippi Nurses Association is in its efforts to affect political change for the profession of nursing, the more the association depends on contributions to its political action committee. It is a simple but compelling truth.

MNA competes with more than 250 other registered political action committees for the interest, support and votes of Mississippi lawmakers.

“While, MNA is not and never has been in the business of buying votes, candidates see more to the support of our PAC than just dollars and cents,” said the association’s Executive Director Ricki Garrett, PhD. “Across the state, MNA represents more than 39,000 well-educated, well-paid, well-connected registered nurses. MNA reaches out to every one of those nurses four times a year with the quarterly newsletter, *The Mississippi RN*; annually with the *MNA Convention Guide*; and monthly with the regionally distributed *Members Only* electronic newsletter; not to mention the statewide blast emails that reach each nurse in his or her personal inboxes in a matter of moments. In turn, MNA has a tremendous record of actively supporting campaigns with mass mailings, phone banks, and volunteer participation. Support from the MNA PAC is invaluable to those holding or running for office.”



Please see envelope inserted in this newsletter.

The History of the MNA PAC

In the early 1980s, MNA explored the formation of a political action committee that could secure funding to assist legislative candidates who were ‘nurse-friendly’ and could help with legislation to promote and guard the nursing profession. Under state law, a nonprofit corporation like MNA cannot contribute to a political campaign or a candidate. MNA leadership saw the need to become more politically involved and determined that an active PAC was the answer.

Gifts Impact continued on page 7

MNA Welcomes New Staff Members

Mary Pittman of Jackson and Suzanne Smith of Brookhaven have joined the Mississippi Nurses Association staff and bring with them experience and talent. Pittman will serve as the Advanced Practice Coordinator replacing Pam McLemore and Smith replaces Myrna Lea as Executive Assistant.



Mary Pittman

Mary Pittman of Madison has worked in five states and lived on four continents throughout her career. For almost eight years she worked in private schools affiliated with the American Embassies in Kuwait, Russia and Tunisia. She has a

Master’s Degree in Special Education and another 30 hours of graduate work in various fields of interest. For the past three years, she worked for the Mississippi Department of Human Resources, Division of Family and Children’s Services in their Professional Development Unit writing or reformatting curriculum; conducting research on various training issues; organizing and compiling Continuing Education hours for social workers; and designing, creating and publishing an electronic newsletter that was disseminated to over 1,000 workers in the field.

Suzanne Smith worked with Florida Nurses Association for 10 years before coming to join the MNA Staff. While with FNA, she learned to multitask in a big way, having served in various positions over the years there. Her interests include cooking, sewing and bragging about five beautiful grandchildren.



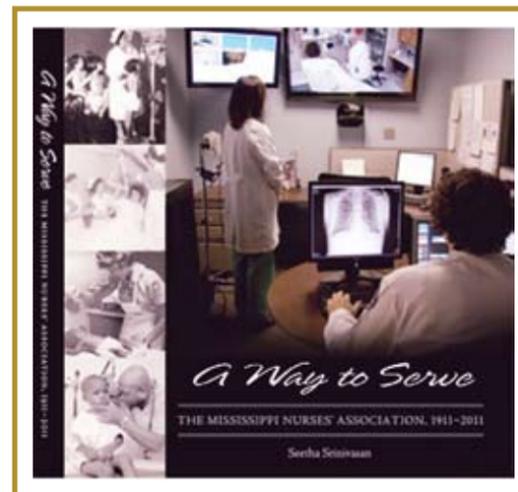
Suzanne Smith

Suzanne grew up in the Heucks Retreat Community of Brookhaven. She graduated from Mississippi State University and lived in Florida for 30 years before deciding that home really was Mississippi.

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Inside



Pre-orders of *A Way to Serve: The Mississippi Nurses Association, 1911-2011* by Seetha Srinivasan will be taken until 5 p.m., Friday, June 10 for the prepublication cost of \$24.95. Price of the book, once released, is \$27.95. Taxes will apply.

Returning Home: Join us in Natchez!

In celebration of MNA’s founding, MNA will host a fantastic weekend in Natchez. Make plans to join us for a book signing and a special tour of Natchez.

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NP Spring Convention

Nurse Practitioners from three states joined together April 8 and 9 for the MNA 2011 Nurse Practitioner Spring Convention in Point Clear.

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Running for Office: October 2011

MNA’s President, Vice President, the directors of the councils of Nursing Education, and Organizational Affairs, and three members of the committee on Nominations will be elected by the House of Delegates in October. It is not too soon to qualify.

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JOIN MNA NOW!



See our website to apply
www.msnurses.org

Executive Director's Column

by Ricki Garrett, Ph.D.

I hope all of you had a wonderful National Nurses Week and are looking forward to celebrating with us during our Centennial events over the coming months. There is no more exciting time to be a nurse and to be a part of the Mississippi Nurses Association than now. For those of you who have not joined and have not had the experience of being a part of this impressive organization, I hope you will use this Centennial year to experience it to the fullest. For the cost of \$280 a year for nurses and \$380 a year for advanced practice nurses, you actually save over \$1,100 by utilizing the discounts and other benefits. It is a truly a small price to pay for the support and protection of your profession. Membership has grown 65% over the past seven years, and we want you to be a part of that.

As we celebrate our past and look to the future of MNA, I would like to focus even more of the time



Ricki Garrett

and resources of the Mississippi Nurses Association on staff nurses. There are 39,000 registered nurses in our state and many of you work in our hospitals and clinics as staff nurses. Although it is certainly important for us to focus on all areas of nursing, the staff nurses are a critical part of the future of healthcare in our country. It is important for us to know what your needs are, how best you can serve your patients, and what role you want to play in changing the way healthcare is delivered. If you are interested in having me visit your hospital or clinic and talking to nurses about the role they play, please contact me at rgarrett@msnurses.org or call me at (601) 898-0670. Remember MNA is a professional association. It is not a union and does not do collective bargaining. However, we do want to support nurses and the work that you do.

Please join us as we celebrate our Centennial. The history of MNA, *A Way to Serve: The Mississippi Nurses Association 1911-2011*, by Seetha Srinivasan has been published and is available for purchase. It is a beautiful hardback coffee table book that you will want to own and give as gifts. You can go online to www.msnurses.org to download an order form. Mississippi Public Broadcasting is also doing a documentary on the history of MNA which will be screened for the first time at the 2011 Convention in Biloxi, October 19-22 at our Centennial Gala.

Our Centennial event in Natchez, June 10 and 11 to celebrate the place where MNA was born is not to be missed either. It will include a reception with Natchez artisans, a cemetery tour, a tour of Natchez and nursing sites, lunch at Stanton Hall, and a jazz reception and book signing with Seetha Srinivasan at the Prentiss Club. Mississippi Public Broadcasting will be there to film for the documentary, so don't miss this chance to be a part of MNA's history.

Finally, I want to welcome Mary Pittman and Suzanne Smith to the staff at MNA. They join Deborah Norman, Betty Ruth Hawkins, and Angela Weathersby in helping to make MNA the best nursing organization in the country. Thank you for all you do!



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Mississippi RN is published quarterly every March, June, September and December and is the official publication of the Mississippi Nurses Association, 31 Woodgreen Place, Madison, MS 39110, a constituent member of the American Nurses Association.

A Report from the President...

by *Gayle Harrell, President*

For a \$10 contribution, MNA's Political Action Committee could be largest in state

There are 39,000 of us in Mississippi and its election time in the state. What an amazing combination of opportunities. It means it is time to show our strength.

This summer we will be electing every member of the House of Representatives and every member of the Senate. Why is this important to registered nurses? The legislature votes on issues regarding the Board of Nursing, Medicaid, mental health, nursing homes, assisted living, hospitals, nursing education. The list is endless and every vote they take related to health care can affect our practice.

The Mississippi Nurses Association wants to help strengthen the role of nurses in the legislative process. How can you help? Simple. You can make a



Gayle Harrell

contribution today to the MNA-PAC (political action committee). MNA-PAC will review the candidates and find out who supports nursing issues and use your money to help them get elected.

Think about it. There are 39,000 of us. If each gave only \$5, that's equals \$195,000. And, that money would make a huge impact on those candidates who support nursing. However, if each RN gave \$10, the MNA-PAC would reach \$390,000 and we could become one of the largest PACs in the state.

Don't you think its time nursing started to really flex our political muscles? And for \$10 each, we could do it. We are bipartisan. We endorse Republicans and Democrats, as long as they commit to helping nursing in this state.

Please stop what you are doing and make a contribution now to the MNA-PAC. There is an envelope inserted in the fold of this newsletter. It will go a long way in moving nursing forward in Mississippi. And if you have a friend or relative who is running for the House or Senate, please call us so that we can give consideration to them.

Go ahead. Take the envelope and send your contribution today. Do the numbers. We can really flex our political muscle this year. Do your part and make our PAC the largest in Mississippi. Send what you can today.

Thank you.



MNA 2011 Spring Conference

by Michele McLeod, Director
MNA Council on Advanced Practice

The annual Nurse Practitioner Convention was held at the Grand Marriott Hotel in Point Clear, Ala., April 8 and 9. The convention coordinators greeted over 200 participants, exhibitors, guest speakers, and hard working MNA staff, attendees gathered together to be enriched by a full schedule of events. Activities began on Friday morning with registration and exhibits in the Grand Ballroom. The lecture schedule began at 8:30 a.m. offering a wide range of topics. A two hour suturing workshop was offered on Friday and Saturday with both sessions filled to capacity. A post-convention workshop on controlled substances was offered as well. Each session provided the participants CEUs with a total of 13 available contact hours.

The Keynote speaker for the Friday luncheon was Mac Fulfer, of Fort Worth, Texas. He brought his amazing face-reading talent to entertain and amaze us with his uncanny ability to describe a person's personality traits, character and general behavior just by studying their facial features. By trade, Mac is an attorney who became interested in face reading for the purpose of jury selection. After years of study and practice he takes his amazing skill on the road, and has presented over 1,500 talks on face reading. His book, "Amazing Face Reading, a guide to reading faces", can be purchased at any of his guest lecture appearances or wherever books are sold. He joins MNA to share techniques and tips that may help us in gaining insight to patients needs. We look forward to having him return in the near future.

A reception on the veranda gave all NPs time to unwind from a busy day and network with each other. Dr. Linda Sullivan, the advanced practice director at the Board Of Nursing, brought everyone up to date with information that is impacting NP practice, particularly the details surrounding the change in regulations regarding collaborating practice. It is important that we all stay current on changes regarding our ability to practice along with future activities that will move us forward in the near future. This change in regulation is a milestone accomplishment resulting from our hard work during the 2010 legislative session.

Friday concluded with three incredible dinners all sponsored by our fine exhibitors. The hotel offered fine dining at its best and left all of us full of knowledge, a delectable food, and the finest of beverage.

Saturday morning began with a breakfast meeting at which time Dr. Ricki Garrett, executive director for MNA, Dr. Tom Fenter from Blue Cross Blue Shield and I spoke to all in attendance. Dr. Fenter brought to light the impact health care reform is making on the insurance industry and how this will impact reimbursement for all healthcare providers.

Although uncertainty looms in the policy making of healthcare reform, changes are coming and the health care industry is making preparations for policies to meet the change requirements. Ricki updated us on the activities of advanced practice at the national level. Movements across the country are taking place to ensure that advanced practice registered nurses are rightfully positioned in the healthcare reform and are recognized as a valuable force in the change of how health care will be delivered.

I shared information impacting all NPs at the state level with a recap of our overwhelming success during the 2010 legislative session. Although HB605 did not make it out of committee, much was

accomplished in that regulation for collaborating agreements with physicians were changed with joint efforts by the Board of Nursing and the Board of Medical Licensure. A challenge to increase our MNA membership with 80% participation from all practicing NPs was given. We have also set a goal of \$100,000 for the PAC fund for this 2011 state and local election year. Contributions can be made to MNA/PAC. Contributions during the convention totaled near \$8,000. We are 50% to our goal now. Plans to move our profession forward are underway. Grassroots efforts, political involvement, and financial support are all strategies being put into place in efforts to stay focused on our vision for the future: To be able to practice to the full extent of our education and training by removing the barriers that prevent us from doing so and to see advanced practice registered nurses take their rightful place in health care reform. Florence Nightingale once said that to remain still is to have gone back. A true profession moves forward and strives to be all that it can be and we have our future in our hands.

On behalf of the Advanced Practice Council and association, I would like to personally thank the Sponsors and Exhibitors of the MNA Nurse Practitioner 2011 Spring Convention. Please know we appreciate your support.

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Michele McLeod, director of the MNA Council on Advanced Practice works with Karen Seago of Flora in making the correct suture during one of the two hands-on sessions presented by Larry Fontanelle, MD.



Mac Fulfer, keynote speaker and amazing face-reading surprises Kathryn Walker and MNA President Gayle Harrell, center, with an insight into her personality.



From left, MNA Executive Director Ricki Garrett, Grand Prize Winner Gayle Hamilton, MNA Council of Advanced Practice Director Michele McLeod and MNA President Gayle Harrell celebrate at the Nurse Practitioner reception.



Pscamore, LLC was just one of the exhibitors in attendance at the MNA 2011 Nurse Practitioner Spring Convention, April 8 & 9 in Point Clear, Ala.

Convention Focal Point

MNA Hosts Statewide Political Rally Oct. 21

MNA will celebrate its 100th annual convention Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 19-22 in the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi.

“The convention traditionally held Tuesday through Friday, will run Wednesday through Saturday to accommodate the Centennial Celebration,” said Mississippi Association Executive Director Ricki Garrett, PhD. “Not only do we elect both president and vice president of the board of directors, but we will host the Statewide Political Rally featuring candidates from Governor to the Public Service Commissioners.”

Politics, association or statewide, is a big focal point of a MNA Convention. In 2007, the last time the association sponsored a statewide political rally, the association made headlines with all of the statewide candidates—with the exception of one—on stage to make their pitch to some 1,500 MNA convention attendees including more than 1,100 members of the Mississippi Association of Student Nurses. “That large of a turn out among the candidates was unheard of among other state association and organizations that sponsor rallies or events,” Dr. Garrett said. “It spoke to the tremendous value nurses and nursing students have to elected officials. We expect to have everyone on the ballot to be present at the rally this year.”

The rally, scheduled from 3-5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21 is open to the public. For more information, contact Betty Ruth Hawkins at brhawkins@msnurses.org or call the MNA office at (601) 898-0670.

Candidates running for office include:

Attorney General

Jim Hood, Democrat
Steve Simpson, Republican

Auditor

Ashley Norwood, Reform
Stacey E. Pickering, Republican

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce

Joel Gill, Democrat
Cindy Hyde-Smith, Republican
Max Phillips, Republican

Dannie Reed, Republican
Cathy L. Toole, Reform

Commissioner of Insurance

Mike Chaney, Republican
Louis Fondren, Democrat
Barbara Washer, Reform

Governor

James Broadwater, Republican
Phil Bryant, Republican
William Bond Camton, Democrat
Dave Dennis, Republican
Johnny L. DuPree, Democrat
Hudson Holliday, Republican
Bill Luckett, Democrat
William D. Oatis, Independent
Shawn O'Hara, Reform
Guy Dale Shaw, Democrat
Ron Williams, Republican

Lieutenant Governor

Billy Hewes, Republican
Tracella Lou O'Hara Hill, Reform
Tate Reeves, Republican

Public Service Commissioner, Central District

Danny Ayers, Independent
Charles Barbour, Republican
Bruce Burton, Democrat
Addie Green, Democrat
Lynn Posey, Republican

Public Service Commissioner, Northern District

Boyce Adams, Republican
Marvin Cox, Republican
Brandon Presley, Democrat

Public Service Commissioner, Southern District

Leonard Bentz, Republican
Thomas “Tom” Blanton, Democrat
James M. Buckhaults, Democrat
Mike Collier, Democrat
Travis Rose, Republican

Secretary of State

Ricky Dombrowski, Republican
Delbert Hosemann, Republican
John Luke Pannell, Reform

State Treasurer

Lynn Fitch, Republican
Connie Moran, Democrat
Shawn O'Hara, Democrat
Shawn O'Hara, Reform
Lucien Smith, Republican
Lee Yancey, Republican

Transportation Commissioner, Central District

Dorothy Banford, Democrat
Marshand Crisler, Democrat
Dick Hall, Republican
Timothy L. Johnson, Republican

Transportation Commissioner, Northern District

John M. Caldwell, Sr., Republican
Ray Minor, Democrat
Mike Tagert, Republican

Transportation Commissioner, Southern District

Larry L. Albritton, Democrat
Scottie R. Cuevas, Republican
Tom King, Republican

Gifts Impact continued from page 1

The MNA board voted to establish the PAC, adopted bylaws and immediately registered the name M-NAPA, Mississippi Nurses Active in Political Activity, with the Secretary of State, a requirement of state law.

Until the late 1990s, M-NAPA remained the name until a group of progressive leaders decided that the name needed to reflect more on the Mississippi Nurses Association. The group developed new bylaws, elected officers and changed the name to MNA-PAC.

Structure of MNA-PAC

The governing body of MNA-PAC shall be the Board of Trustees, composed of nine members of MNA. Four trustees shall be appointed by the MNA Board of Directors and five of the Trustees shall be appointed by the MNA-PAC Board of Trustees. One of the four appointed Trustees appointed by the MNA Board of Directors must be a sitting member of the board. The Executive Director of MNA shall be a member ex-officio of the Board of Trustees. One member of the Mississippi Association shall be a member ex-officio of the Board of Trustees and shall be appointed by the MASN Board and recommended to the MNA-PAC Board of Trustees. (Use this link for a complete set of bylaws)

The 2010-2011 MNA-PAC Board of Trustees

1. Phyllis Johnson, Chair
2. Ann Barnes, MNA Director, Council on Health Affairs
3. Michelle McLeod
4. Arlana Hargrave
5. Pam Farris
6. Mary Walden
7. Michelle Littlefield
8. Gayle Harrell
9. Minta Uzodinma

Political Contributions

Prior to statewide elections, members of the Board of Trustees meet and prepare a questionnaire to be mailed to all legislative candidates. Because most laws affecting nursing come through the Mississippi Legislature, funding from the PAC is concentrated on those elections. Following a review of the questionnaire, and through interviews conducted by PAC Trustees, a decision is made whether to support a particular candidate. MNA members also suggest candidates with whom they are familiar or know personally. The PAC makes financial contributions, does mass mailings and makes telephone calls on behalf of the candidates. The PAC is non-partisan and contributes to Democrats, Republicans and Independents.

Contributions to MNA-PAC

All contributions to the PAC are voluntary and can be made by anyone. Any nurse or any non-

nurse may contribute to the MNA-PAC. Anyone wishing to set up a monthly draft, either through a credit card account, or bank account, may contact MNA at (601) 898-0670 or make a contribution online at www.msnurses.org.

It's a simple and easy process. Please note that by law, political contributions are not tax deductible.

Possibilities for the MNA-PAC

Nurses must compete with several large health care-related PACs in the state. However, with over 42,000 nurses, RNs and LPNs, the numbers alone can be beneficial to a candidate. MNA urges all nurses, members or non-members to consider contributing to the MNA-PAC and to make it an annual affair. MNA is the ONLY professional nursing organization with a full-time lobbyist working with the Mississippi Legislature. Contributions to the PAC help the lobbyist and the Association solidify a better working relationship with key legislators.

Microsoft® Training



The Mississippi Nurses Association will host a two-day, hands-on advanced Microsoft® workshop, **The Office You Never Knew You Had**, on Thursday and Friday, Aug. 11 and 12 at the Mississippi Center for Nursing, 31 Woodgreen Place, Madison. The workshop will focus on complex functions of four components of the 2007 Office Suite—Microsoft Word®, Microsoft Excel®, Microsoft Outlook®, and Microsoft Power Point®.

“Each year, we hear nurses, nursing support and administrative staff ask how can they do more with what they have,” said Dr. Ricki Garrett, executive director of the association. “MNA continually looks for ways to offer educational programs that will benefit nurses professionally. The Office You Never Knew You Had Workshop is an exceptional two-day program that will offer participants training and greater use of a tool they use every day.”

MNA has partnered with New Horizons Computer Centers, 1855 Lakeland Dr., in Jackson to teach the two-day workshop. New Horizons is the world’s largest IT training company delivering a full range of IT training and business skills training through flexible and innovative learning methods.

“This is a unique workshop platform for us,” said David Jones, New Horizons general manager. “This is an intense schedule aimed at providing support and administrative staff with training on complex elements of the four most frequently used components of Microsoft Office® that will allow them to expand their capabilities and enhance their productivity.”

Registration is \$250 and can be made online at www.msnurses.org/officetraining or call Suzanne Smith at (601) 898-0670.

Schedule Thursday, Aug. 11

Word 2007 2–3:25 p.m.

Session will cover mail merge, headers and footers, tables, formulas, sort order, import tables from Excel etc., charts, creation and modifying elements (titles, colors, styles); and creating quick parts and macros to speed up repeated tasks.

Break 3:25–3:35 p.m.

Outlook 3:35–5 p.m.

Session will cover using the calendar, creating appointments, creating meetings, using the schedule helper to keep everyone on the same page, sharing outlook info (folders and calendars) with others.

Schedule Friday, Aug. 12

Excel 9–11:25 p.m.

The session will cover using formulas across multiple worksheets or workbooks, using more complicated formulas, using “IF / Then” statements, VLookup / HLookup, pivot tables and pivot charts (used to see only wanted info quickly with the ability to change your view of that info almost instantly.)

Lunch Break 11:25–12:35 p.m.

PowerPoint 12:35–3 p.m.

The session will cover customizing templates for easy future use, adding special effects, multimedia (audio / video), animating pages and items on page, automating a slideshow based on speech times etc., sharing slideshows in different formats—as video files and Web pages.

For more information, contact Betty Ruth Hawkins at brhawkins@msnurses.org or call MNA at (601) 898-0670.

MNA Returns Home to Natchez, June 10-11

Flooding has not altered MNA plans

The Mississippi Nurses Association in recognition of its Centennial will host a celebratory weekend—Friday and Saturday, June 10 and 11—in the place where it all began, Natchez. Registration for the Centennial event is \$150. To download the event brochure and registration form, go to www.msnurses.org and click on Events.

The Natchez Convention and Visitor's Bureau will tip their hat to the history of the association by sponsoring a reception followed by an exclusive nighttime tour of the Natchez City Cemetery.

Saturday morning, MNA will host a Centennial Nursing History Tour that takes in some of the city's most historic spots including the site of the Natchez Charity Hospital where the association founded its first home.

Following the city tour, Stanton Hall will be the morning's final scheduled stop for a tour and lunch at the Carriage House.

After Stanton Hall and lunch, there will still be time to shop some of the city's incredible shops before arriving at the famed Prentiss Club to the sounds of the second line jazz band, Bayou Connection, under the leadership of Mr. Kimble Funchess for the gala, sponsored in part by the Delta State University Robert E. Smith School of Nursing, and the premiere of MNA's beautiful coffee table history book, *A Way to Serve: The Mississippi Nurses' Association, 1911-2011*, by Seetha Srinivasan, director emerita of the University Press of Mississippi.

Lodging

The Natchez Grand Hotel is the hosting hotel. Conveniently located in the downtown district on the river's bluff at 11 North Broadway St., just steps from dining, shopping, entertainment and many of the city's famous attractions and antebellum homes.

Guests will enjoy our incredible view of the Mississippi River and can conveniently drive the scenic Natchez Trace Parkway. Natchez Grand Hotel is a smoke FREE environment hotel. Visit <http://www.natchezgrandhotel.com>.

Rates for the event are \$119 per night. To make a reservation, call (601) 446-9994 or (866) 488-0898.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10	
6-7:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception and Registration
8-9 p.m.	Tour of the Natchez City Cemetery
SATURDAY, JUNE 11	
10-10:15 a.m.	Board Tour Buses for Centennial History Tour
10:15- 11:45 a.m.	Centennial Nursing History Tour
11:45 a.m.	Tour of Stanton Hall
12:15-1:45 PM	Lunch in the Carriage House at Stanton Hall
7 p.m.	MNA Centennial Gala at the Prentiss Club



Mississippi Nurses Foundation Deadlines to Remember

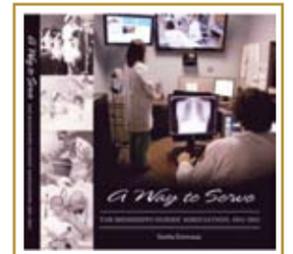
Rosalyn Howard, executive director of the Mississippi Nurses Foundation has announced deadlines for scholarships and stipends. Please mark you calendars.

Go to <http://msnursesfoundation.com/> to find details and descriptions.

- The deadline for entries for the car tag stipend is June 15 and the award date is July 15.
- The deadline for the graduate research grants is June 30 and the award date is July 31.
- The call for entries for Georgia Benard Hall Award for Excellence is August 1st, deadline is Oct.1, award date is Nov. 15.

Book Order Information

Pre-Order A Way to Serve Now at a Savings



MNA will debut its Centennial history Saturday, June 11 at the MNA Returns Home: Natchez Weekend beginning a 7 p.m., in the Prentiss Club.

Pre-orders will be taken until 5 p.m., Friday, June 10 for the pre-publication cost of \$24.95 plus tax. Price of the book, once released, is \$27.95 plus tax.

Pre-order form are available for downloading at www.msnurses.org.