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SAVE THE DATE!!
Important date to remember!!

• 2010 Cruise, Thursday, November 4- Monday, November 8, 2010

Dr. Enrica Singleton Inducted into LSNA Hall of Fame!

Dr. Singleton's journey into the nursing profession began 54 years ago when she graduated Cum Laude from Dillard University. Earning a college degree in the mid-50's was a major victory for any young female but was particularly triumphant for Dr. Singleton because it was at this time that her academic voyage began.

Over the next 20 years, she continued in her pursuit of knowledge having earned 3 Masters Degrees: a Master of Public Health from Tulane University, a Masters of Science in Nursing Service Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi, and an MBA from Florida Institute of Technology. She ultimately received a Doctor of Public Health from Tulane University. The majority of her career has been in academia, having served as faculty at Louisiana State University Medical Center, and Southern University and as Dean at Dillard University. Her clinical experience has been in nursing administration.

Dr. Singleton has authored numerous manuscripts and book chapters primarily in the domain of Nursing Management, Nursing Administration, Staff Development and Clinical Leadership. She has served as keynote speaker for national forums on Transforming Nursing Education and Leadership and has presented at numerous state-wide conferences on Nursing Leadership, Organizational Structure, and Health Care Delivery Systems.

Dr. Singleton has mentored, nurtured, and educated countless undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students over the past 50 years. She is actively engaged in professional organizations and a member of numerous hospital boards. Despite having retired from nursing twice, she continues to answer the call of duty.

Dr. Singleton Inducted continued on page 4

LSNA Board Meeting Dates

June 12, 2010
September 11, 2010

Meetings are open to all. Please notify the LSNA office if you plan to attend as space is limited.

Call for Applications for LSBN Positions
See Page 8

Big News
Check Out LSNA's New Website!
STRATEGIC PRIORITY GOAL 1: Establish a succession plan for LSNA management

- Charge: Explore issues related to personnel, benefits, and salaries.
- The following objectives have been completed:
  - Developed a succession plan policy
  - Revised the job descriptions for the Executive Director, Program Coordinator and Office Manager
  - Developed an orientation program for the Board of Directors
  - Developed an orientation manual for the ANA delegates
  - Restructured Board of Directors meetings

Work is still in progress for the following objectives:
- Revise the rubric for selection of candidates for LSBN board positions
- Develop an equipment replacement plan for LSNA office (i.e. computers, phone system)
- Review the relationship between LANPAC and LSNA

STRATEGIC PRIORITY GOAL 2: Expand LSNA’s Funding Base to Sustain Current Operations and Identify Potential Financial Growth Opportunities

- Charge: Analyze current operations including recruitment and retention of members; explore marketing programs; and identify and inventory resources within membership.
- The following objectives have been completed:
  - Submitted to the 2010 ANA House of Delegates a reference proposal from LSNA: Addressing Health Literacy Through Patient Literacy
  - Nursing representation continues to increase on commissions and boards: Patricia LaBrosse, LSNA Past President appointed to Region Four Human Services District Board, Dr. Barbara Moffett, LSNA Treasurer, appointed to the Louisiana Ombuds Council, and Lisa Deaton, LSNA Health Policy Chair appointed by the Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association to the Medication Management Task Force
  - LSNA has cosponsored two bills where Representative Thomas Willmott, District 92, is the author of both bills: HB 343 (with the Orthopedic Nurses Association) amends the Louisiana state nurse practice act statute to allow RNs to maintain administration of an anesthesia agent through a perineural catheter and HB 361 (with the Emergency Room Nurses Association) which creates crime of battery for health care providers (i.e. MD, RN, LPN, EMT, Para Medics) when they are involved in their line of employment

Work is still in progress for the following objectives:
- Complete the Legislative section on the new LSNA website
- Continue to identify opportunities for LSNA to become involved in legislative and policy issues

STRATEGIC PRIORITY GOAL 3: Restructure in-state governance of LSNA

- Charge: Consider a decrease in number of LSNA standing committees and implement a task force model—specific duties, time-limited, and dissolve when work is complete; commit to a quarterly conference call with District Presidents and Officers.
- Work is still in progress for the following objectives:
  - Implement a self-appraisal of Board of Directors
  - Review and develop a proposal for the reorganization of LSNA’s governing structure, committees and councils, current district model
  - Establish a quarterly conference call with District Presidents and Officers

In closing, May 6 through May 12, was National Nurses Week—Nurses: Caring Today for Healthier Tomorrow. Over the past several weeks, many of our districts celebrated and recognized nurses for the quality work they provide everyday to people across the state by hosting various programs and award ceremonies. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to recognize each you for your tireless efforts and commitment to nursing and to LSNA.

Happy Nurses Day!

Denise Danna, DNS, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE

Denise Danna

LSNA President’s Message

June, July, August 2010

Louisiana RN License Plates

SHOW PRIDE IN YOUR PROFESSION
and SUPPORT THE LOUISIANA NURSES FOUNDATION.

All monies collected from the plates will go to the Louisiana Nurses Foundation to support nursing interests and continuing education.
Extending thanks:

The “2010 Louisiana Nursing Summit” was held on March 25, 2010 with an attendance of 239. I felt it was very successful and information and pictures from that Summit will be presented in another section of this edition. The evaluations of the Summit have not been summarized at this point, but as soon as the “Nurse Day at the Legislature” Program has been completed, which takes place on the 26th of this month, we will finalize those evaluations. However, I have personally, received so many positive messages about the Summit, I want to take this occasion to thank those folks who presented:

• Dr. Peter Buerhaus, Keynote Speaker who gave so graciously of his time—he gave the keynote address and he spent the entire day—visiting with the work groups—listening to their presentations—and then summarizing the information and correlating it to findings in his research. We really appreciate all he did and his willingness to spend his time to help us “pull together” a program for future activities.

• Barbara Morvant, LSBN Executive Director who presented demographic information from the Louisiana State Board of Nursing to give us a picture of the RN workforce in Louisiana.

• Lynn Ansardi, Compliance Director of the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners who presented information about the LPN workforce in Louisiana.

We also wish to acknowledge the efforts of the facilitators of the breakout sessions and to thank them:

• Barbara Moffett and Norann Planchock—“Issues and Trends Related to Nursing Education”

• Patricia Johnson and Pamela Simmons—“Workforce Recruitment & Retention Issues”

• Melanie Green and Melinda Oberleitner—“Faculty Recruitment & Retention Issues”

• Denise Danna and Kathy Viator—“Practice & Education: Cooperative Efforts to Educate and Retain Nurses”

They took their time to assist our efforts in presenting this Summit and I hope you will let them know how much you appreciate what they did.

Also, don’t think we have forgotten, we have the lists of people who signed up to serve on work groups to begin efforts to address some of the problems which were identified at the Summit. As of yet, because of time spent preparing for the “Nurse Day at the Legislature” Program, we will postpone getting the groups together until this program is finished, which will be next week—so expect to hear from us!

• Our “Photographers on Site!” This was one of the greatest things that has happened to me as Ed of LSNA—but it was by mistake! I had taken my camera (I am a terrible photographer—but usually get two or three viable photographs)—but this time my batteries went dead and the hotel gift shop did not have batteries that would fit my camera. Well, I panicked—but saw in the hotel lobby, folks that I knew would do anything needed—so I asked them to take some photos and please get them back to me. Well, would you believe that this resulted in a “plethora” of wonderful photographs—enough for the upcoming Pelican News and also for the new LSNA website? So, with the authority delegated to me by no one—I hereby designate the Title of “Scoop” (Special Coordinator of Operative Photography) to those individuals who were so helpful to me!

Carlene MacMillan
Ann Deshotels

Legislative activities:

LSNA needs to thank Lisa Deaton, LSNA Health Policy Chair, for her efforts in reviewing the prefiled legislation and all bills which could impact health care and nursing. Goodness knows, LSNA and the nurses of Louisiana are most fortunate to have Lisa in the role of LSNA Health Policy Chair as she brings a world of experience in the legislature, knowledge of “the players” and a willingness to provide her knowledge and expertise to LSNA’s legislative efforts.

And on another note, this week, I went to the meeting of the House Health and Welfare Committee at the Legislature—in support of Legislation that LSNA is co-sponsoring with the Orthopedic Nurses Association. I saw Charla Johnson, their representative, testify before the committee and answer their questions with knowledge and assurance. Goodness, when I was her age, I would not have been able to put one word in front of another, much less have it make sense. With young nurses such as this, our nursing profession is in good hands for the future.

Planning for 2011 ANA House of Delegates—we are beginning to plan for the 2011 LSNA House of Delegates, so start thinking about running for an LSNA office.
Louisiana State Nurses Association
Co Sponsors Two Bills!

Lisa Deaton, LSNA Health Policy Chair announced two bills that LSNA is cosponsoring. Representative Thomas Willsott® from District 92, is the author of both bills. They are:

- HB 343 (with the Orthopedic Nurses Association) which amends current nurse practice act statute to allow RNs to maintain administration of anesthesia agent through a perineural catheter.
- HB 361 (with the Emergency Room Nurses Association) which creates crime of battery for health care providers (MD, RN, LPN, CAN, EMT, Para Medics, etc.) when they are involved in their line of employment.

LSNA Board Members Appointed to State Committees, Boards!

Governor Bobby Jindal announced the appointment of Patricia La Brosse, LSNA Past President, to the Region Four Human Services District Board. The Region Four Human Services District Board serves to operate and manage community-based programs and services relative to public health, mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services for the parishes of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, and Vermilion.

Dr. Barbara Moffett, LSNA Treasurer, has been appointed to the Louisiana Obesity Council which was created by state legislation in 1999 to address the problem of childhood and adult obesity. Council members from public and private sector organizations work to strengthen the alignment, development and implementation of programs, projects and research to respond to the public health challenge of obesity.

LSNA Delegates Attend ANA House of Delegates!

The American Nurses Association holds its House of Delegates biennially and this year it will be held June 13-16 in Washington D.C. Each Constituent Member (state organization) is allotted a number of delegates based upon the number of members. Louisiana has 7 delegates which were elected at the 2009 LSNA House of Delegates. They are:

- Shelly Hebert from Shreveport, Louisiana
- Melissa Stewart from Zachary, Louisiana
- Sheri Ellis from Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Denise Danna, LSNA President, from Metairie, Louisiana
- Joe Ann Clark, LSNA Executive Director from Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Victoria Johnson, Past President of the Louisiana Association of Student Nurses from Metairie, Louisiana
- Debra Shelton, from Bossier City, Louisiana

Graduate Students Projects Assist LSNA

Beth Gardner, a graduate student from Loyola University is currently working on a project to design an orientation process for new LSNA Board Members. She is working under the guidance of Denise Danna, LSNA President and faculty member at the Louisiana State Health Science Center.

Beth Browder, also a graduate student from Loyola University is interested in the legislative process and lobbying. She is working with Lisa Deaton, LSNA Health Policy Chair.

Priscilla Jackson, Vonda L. Gaitor and Tonya Nash are graduate students from Southern University. They have completed an annotated literature review to provide background information on Workplace Violence in health care for the legislation which LSNA has proposed and a review of pre-filled bills which could impact healthcare and/or nursing. They have also done a review of all states to identify which states have workplace violence laws. They are working under the direction of Dr. Cheryl Taylor, Southern University School of Nursing faculty member.

LSNA Members in the News!

Director/Nurse Practitioner of Southern University’s Student Health Services, Shirley Wade, has been named the recipient of the Southwest College Health Association’s “New Professionals Award” to be presented at the American College Health Association’s annual meeting.

The award recognizes ACHA members who have provided services to the field of college health for five years or less and who have made significant contributions to their institutions and/or affiliates.

Dr. Singleton continued from page 1

by serving as part-time faculty at Southern University in the Doctoral Program.

Dr. Singleton has truly shared a lifetime commitment to the profession of nursing. Her pioneer work in the realm of nursing administration and organizational structure has obtained national prominence and has helped to shape the health care delivery system for the state of Louisiana. Her enduring accomplishments will certainly live on in the memory of those who has served and continues to serve beyond her lifetime. Her achievements, values of integrity, humility and civility make her most deserving of the induction into the LSNA Hall of Fame.
This second “Louisiana Nursing Summit” was held on Thursday, March 25, 2010 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The event was again sponsored by:

Louisiana Alliance of Nursing Organizations (LANO)
Louisiana Council of Administrators of Nursing Education (LaCANE)
Louisiana Organization of Nurse Executives (LONE)
Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN)
Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA)

This program was planned to “build” on the content introduced at the 2009 Summit. Dr. Peter Buerhaus was again the keynote speaker and his talk focused on the impact of the economic downturn on healthcare and nursing. Following his presentation, Barbara Mervant, Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and Lynn Ansardi, Compliance Director of the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners presented information from the data that each Board collects.

Following the presentations, the “work groups” began. They were:

“Issues and Trends Related to Nursing Education” facilitated by Barbara Moffet, PhD, RN CNE and Norann Planchack, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

“Workforce Recruitment & Retention Issues” facilitated by Patricia Johnson, RN, MN, CNEA-BC and Pamela Simmons, PhD, RN

“Faculty Recruitment & Retention Issues” facilitated by Melanie Green, PhD, RN, CNE and Melinda Oberleitner, RN, DNS, APRN, CNS

“Practice & Education: Cooperative Efforts to Educate and Retain Nurses” facilitated by Denise Danna, DNS, RN, NEA-BC FACHE and Kathy Viator, DNS, RN.

Each group discussed the issues relating to the topics, identified possible solutions to problems and barriers to solving the problems.

Following the group sessions, a summary of each was presented to the entire group and then Dr. Buerhaus summarized the reports and closed the meeting with a challenge to those present that “possibly we can see some work done toward solving the identified problems before another year goes by.” Sign up sheets were made available for each of the topics and individuals were encouraged to sign up to be a member of a “work group.” The groups will meet and further discuss the topics and hopefully arrive at some possible solutions. People who signed up for the “work groups” are: (I don’t guarantee the names are correct—some of the writing was really hard to read)

“Workforce Recruitment & Retention Issues”
Barbara Anthony Dawn Bernard
Karen Bess Connie Bouligny
Nancy Butte Richard Carrol
Donna Copper Lisa Deaton
Mary Dudley Angela Gourley
Sherilyn Green Karen Gremillion
Debra Harris Patrice Johnson
Carolyn Kelly Pauline Kibodeaux
Barbara Knight Carol Hessiion
Clair Millet Benita Nwokolo
Sharon Stone Shandra Williams

“Practice & Education: Cooperative Efforts to Educate and Retain Nurses”
Angel Alexander Monique Barconey
Mary Barrow Adrienne Bethancourt
Gracilina Breaux Juliet Burgess
Debra Copeland Mary Dudley
Barbara Hebert Carol Hession
Linda Hickman Micheline Kite
Tonda Martin Benita Nwokolo
Celeste Phillips Suzanne Riche
Deborah Skevington Pat Smart
Amy Williams

“Faculty Recruitment and Retention Issues”
Angel Alexander Monique Barconey
Mary Barrow Adrienne Bethancourt
Gracilina Breaux Juliet Burgess
Debra Copeland Mary Dudley
Barbara Hebert Carol Hession
Linda Hickman Micheline Kite
Tonda Martin Benita Nwokolo
Celeste Phillips Suzanne Riche
Deborah Skevington Pat Smart
Amy Williams

Thank You!

From: Suzanne Carpenter, PhD, RN, CNE

Suzanne Carpenter, PhD, RN, CNE would like to thank all of the LSNA members who participated in her dissertation research “Deterrents to Participation in Web-based Graduate Nursing Programs.” She successfully defended the dissertation on December 2, 2009 at LSU in Baton Rouge, LA and will walk in the May 2010 graduation ceremony. The research would not have been completed without the 281 LSNA members who participated in the survey. The dissertation was released for worldwide access through the Louisiana State University’s electronic dissertation database. Many of the LSNA research participants have asked how to view the results. Google “Suzanne H. Carpenter dissertation” or the title of the dissertation and you will be able to see a PDF full text version. Suzanne will also be presenting the results as a C.E. program at the March 30, 2010 meeting of Sigma Theta Tau in New Orleans, Louisiana.
The Nursing Community Honors Its Own. Louisiana Nurses Foundation Announces Nightingale Recipients, Awards of Quality Service in the Nursing Profession

BATON ROUGE, LA—On Saturday, February 20, 2010, the Louisiana Nurses Foundation hosted its ninth Annual Nightingale Awards Program. The event was attended by over 400 nurses, proud family members, co-workers and healthcare workers. Over 70 Registered Nurses representing a variety of healthcare institutions and schools of nursing were honored. The emcee of the event this year was Dr. Julia Aucoin, DNS, RN-BC, CNE who currently works with the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Magnet, Accreditation, and Pathway program. Julia currently holds three academic appointments and serves as Treasurer of the National Nurses Staff Development Organization and on the National League for Nursing Board of Governors.

Featuring a night to shine, dress up, and have dinner, The Nightingale Awards ceremony is a special time when the nursing profession honors its own. The program is the “academy awards” of nursing and health care which recognizes quality service, commitment, and excellence for Registered Nurses in the state of Louisiana. The Louisiana Nurses Foundation and Louisiana State Nurses Association wishes to thank the sponsors of this event for making the 2010 Nightingale Awards program not be possible. They are:

- Sharon A. Adkins, Executive Director, Tennessee Nurses Association
- Cindy R. Balkstra, President, Georgia Nurses Association
- Susan Bumsted, President, Kansas State Nurses Association
- Willa Fuller, Executive Director, Florida Nurses Association
- Ernest J. Grant, President-Elect, North Carolina Nurses Association
- Linda M. Gural, Director, ANA Board of Directors
- Jill Kliethermes, Chief Executive Officer, Missouri Nurses Association
- Donna M. Poliastro, Executive Director, Rhode Island State Nurses Association
- Norine Watson, President, Delaware Nurses Association

Entered into the prestigious Louisiana Nightingale Hall of Fame for the year 2010 was Dr. Enrica Singleton, Lafayette.

Nightingale awards were given for Nurse of the Year to Charla Johnson, Our Lady of the Lake RMC, Baton Rouge, Hospital of the Year (100 beds or fewer) to Lafayette Surgical Specialty Hospital, Lafayette; Hospital of the Year (more than 100 beds) to Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Baton Rouge; and Nursing School of the Year to Southern University and A & M, School of Nursing, Baton Rouge.

Nightingale Awards were also presented to the following recipients: Outstanding Nurse Researcher, Cheryl Taylor, Southern University A&M, School of Nursing; Rookie of the Year, Angela Dykes, Our Lady of the Lake RMC; Nursing Educator of the Year, Deborah Garbee, LSU Health Sciences Center School of Nursing; Clinical Practice Nurse of the Year, Bonnie McCarty, East Jefferson General Hospital; Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year, Corinne Riveau, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center; Nursing Administrator of the Year, Janice Kishner, East Jefferson General Hospital; Mentor of the Year, Joan Ellis, Woman’s Hospital; and Susan Steele-Moses, Our Lady of the Lake RMC; and Outstanding Community Service Award by a Registered Nurse, Coletta Barrett, Our Lady of the Lake RMC.

Additionally, it is a great honor just to be nominated for each category. The following nurses were also nominated: Outstanding Nurse Researcher: Charla Johnson, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Baton Rouge and Gayla Mills, CHRISTUS Schumpert, St. Mary, Shreveport.

Nightingale Awards continued on page 7
The Nursing Community Honors Its Own. Louisiana Nurses Foundation Announces Nightingale Recipients, Awards of Quality Service in the Nursing Profession

Nightingale Awards continued from page 6

Rookie of the Year: Patrick Largey, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Gonzales, Ashli Buckels Morals, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Gonzales, and Ramsey Schmitz, East Jefferson General Hospital, New Orleans, Metairie
Mentor of the Year: Tawanna Harris-Glover, CHRISTUS Schumpert, Highland, Shreveport, Linda Lee, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Gonzales, Tamis Quillens, East Jefferson General Hospital, Metairie, Lynn Ross, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Gonzales, Monique St. Romain, East Jefferson General Hospital, Metairie, Chrissie Wade, CHRISTUS Schumpert, St. Mary, Shreveport, Iris Wall, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Gonzales, and Irene Watson, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Baton Rouge
Nursing Educator of the Year: Monica Johnson, East Jefferson General Hospital, Metairie and Lee Ann Thomas, Baton Rouge General School of Nursing, Baton Rouge
Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year: Rosaline Darty, CHRISTUS Schumpert, St. Mary, Shreveport, Ty Gautreau, St. Elizabeth, Gonzales, Beth Lacoste, East Jefferson General Hospital, Metairie, Wendy Singleton, Woman's Hospital, Baton Rouge, and Fiona Winterbottom, Ochsner Medical Center, New Orleans
Clinical Practice Nurse of the Year: Marla Means, Heart Hospital of Lafayette, Lafayette, Kathy Redler, CHRISTUS Schumpert, Highland, Shreveport, Jason Rogers, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Baton Rouge, and Cindy Thomas, Woman's Hospital, Baton Rouge
Nursing Administrator of the Year: Deidra Dudley, Ochsner Medical Center, West Bank, Cathy Guay, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Baton Rouge, Selina Guidry, Lafayette Surgical Specialty Hospital, Lafayette, Cheri Johnson, Woman's Hospital, Baton Rouge, Claudia Kammer, Woman's Hospital, Baton Rouge, Leslie Norman, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Gonzales, and Gethyn Smith, CHRISTUS Schumpert, Highland, Shreveport.
School of the Year's: Baton Rouge General Medical Center School of Nursing, Baton Rouge and Intercollegiate Consortium for a Masters of Science in Nursing
Outstanding Community Service Award by a Registered Nurse: Jenny Poulin, The NeuroMedical Center, Baton Rouge
On behalf of the Louisiana Nurses Foundation and Louisiana State Nurses Association, we would like to congratulate the 2010 Nightingale Award winners and nominees and we look forward to the 2011 Nightingale Gala.

For more information, contact:
Carol Cairo, RN
Program Coordinator
Louisiana State Nurses Association
(225) 201-0993 or ccairo@lsna.org
Initial Call for Applications for LSBN Positions!

The terms of the following members of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing will expire on December 31, 2010:

- Patricia Johnson, RN, MN, CNA who serves in a position dedicated to “Nursing Administration” as set forth in La. R.S.37:914 (C) (1) (a). Ms. Johnson is eligible for reappointment for a second term.
- Deborah Olds, MS, RN, CPHRM who serves in a position dedicated to “Other Area of Nursing Practice” as set forth in La. R.S.37:914 (C) (1) (a). Ms. Olds is not eligible for reappointment for a second term.

Louisiana Revised Statute 37:914 (C) (1) (b) requires the Louisiana State Nurses Association to submit names of qualified applicants for each Louisiana State Board of Nursing position to the Governor’s Office of Boards and Commissions. The Governor then selects one person for each position.

Louisiana Revised Statutes 37:916 A (1-4) state the following qualifications for each member of the LSBN:

1) Be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Louisiana for one year immediately prior to appointment.
2) Hold a current, unencumbered, unrestricted Louisiana license to practice as a Registered Nurse.
3) Have had three years experience in the respective field of practice (nursing service administration for the Nursing Administrator position, nursing education for the Nursing Educator position, advanced practice for the Advanced Practice position, or other areas of nursing practice for the Other Area of Nursing Practice position).

For a nominee to be considered, all required documents must be received in the LSNA office by September 15, 2010. All applicants will be interviewed by the Louisiana State Nurses Board of Directors at a time and place to be determined. Applications are available on the LSNA website at www.lsna.org or from the LSNA office.

2010 Regular Legislative Session Update

The 2010 Regular Legislative Session convened on March 29, 2010 and must adjourn by 6:00 p.m. on June 21. This year there were more than 1900 pre-filed bills and each legislator could file 5 additional bills by April 21, 2010. There are a total of 2249 house and senate bills and 170 concurrent resolutions. At this time, we selected approximately 225 bills to monitor. These bills were selected based on the following reasons:

- Impacts healthcare professionals’ practice
- Impacts health outcome of LA citizens
- Impacts healthcare access for LA citizens

Representative Tom Wilmott has authored two bills on behalf of Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA). HB343 amends R.S. 37:935 regarding titration of anesthetic agents via a catheter for pain management. The current law allows this to occur through the use of epidural catheters. This bill amends the law by adding perineural catheters.

HB361 enacts R.S. 14:34.5.2, which creates the crime of battery of a health care provider. Health care provider means a person licensed or certified by this state to provide health care or professional services as a physician, dentist, registered or licensed practical nurse or certified nurse assistant, certified emergency medical technician, paramedic, certified registered nurse anesthetist, nurse practitioner, respiratory therapist, clinical nurse specialist, pharmacist, optometrist, podiatrist, chiropractor, physical therapist, occupational therapist, licensed radiologic technologist, licensed clinical laboratory scientist, or psychologist. HB343 has passed out of committee and on the house floor without any objection. HB 361 is scheduled to be heard in House Criminal Justice on April 29, 2010.

For the majority of the bills we are currently monitoring, LSNA does not have an official position; however, the following are bills on which LSNA is taking an official position.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Vote</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 1030</td>
<td>Representative St. Germain</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>As pre-filed we opposed; however, amendments have improved the bill, therefore we have changed our position to neutral, but will closely monitor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB450</td>
<td>Senator Cheek</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>Minors with parental consent may donate blood at age 16 —current law requires donor to be 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 312</td>
<td>Representative Smiley</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>Companion to SB450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 20</td>
<td>Representative Simon</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>Amends current statute relative to mandatory reporting of abuse of adults; amends the definition of &quot;abuse&quot;; to provide for a definition of &quot;sexual abuse.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB635</td>
<td>Representative Mills</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>Provides for the Louisiana Physician Order for Scope of Treatment (LaPOST) program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB978</td>
<td>Representative Nowlin</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>Provides relative to the employment of persons licensed by the La. State Board of Dentistry by nonprofit entities authorized under the Public Health Service Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB216</td>
<td>Senator Mount</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>Amends the nursing home resident bill of rights. These changes bring the law into conformity with federal language.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are interested in a full list of the legislation that LSNA is tracking, please email me at larma11@ad.com and I will be happy to send you the Word document. In addition, this report is being made available to all the District Presidents and our current board members. Once the revised LSNA website is completed, we will be posting the tracking form online for easy access by those visiting our website.

Please feel free to contact me at larma11@ad.com regarding the information in this article or any other issues you would like me to bring to the Health Policy Committee and/or the LSNA Board.

Lisa Deaton, BSN, RN
Health Policy Chair
Do you have professional liability insurance coverage? Have you ever considered purchasing your own private policy? Many nurses don’t always think about obtaining their own private, professional liability insurance policy because they assume that they are covered through their employer’s insurance policies. When you were hired, did you and your employer discuss professional liability coverage? What types of insurance does the employer have and how much? You shouldn’t wait until after a lawsuit is filed against you to learn the answers to these questions because by then it is too late to obtain additional coverage. Additionally, even if the nurse’s employer does have adequate malpractice insurance coverage for the nurse, it is unlikely that the malpractice policy will cover the costs associated with any complaint filed with the nurse’s licensing board, regardless if the complaint is related or unrelated to any malpractice alleged in a lawsuit.

In Louisiana, health care providers are fortunate to have the Louisiana Medical Malpractice Act, La. R.S. 40:1299.41 et seq (“MMA”), which limits the amount a patient can recover against a qualified health care provider in a medical malpractice claim. However, in order to be a “qualified health care provider” you have to demonstrate that you have obtained insurance in the amount of at least one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000.00) per claim and enroll with the Louisiana Patient's Compensation Fund (“PCF”) by paying an annual surcharge. As a qualified health care provider under the MMA, you not only get the protection of the limitation of liability, but you also get the benefit of the procedural requirement that all medical malpractice claims be submitted to a medical review panel comprised of three of your peers to determine whether or not any malpractice may have been committed before an actual lawsuit can be filed. If you do not have adequate malpractice insurance and are not enrolled with the PCF, a patient can file suit before going through the medical review panel and there is no limit to the amount of damages that can be awarded to the patient if the nurse is found guilty of malpractice.

Even if your employer does provide sufficient insurance coverage for its employees in the event a medical malpractice suit is filed, it is unlikely that the malpractice policy provides any coverage for actions taken outside of your employment, such as volunteer work, or for any licensing board matters. For example, if a complaint was filed against you with the Louisiana State Board of Nursing or the Louisiana State Board of Licensed Practical Nurses, you will have to respond to the complaint, participate in the investigation, and possibly have to defend yourself in a hearing in order to maintain your license. If you don’t have the right insurance, costs for defending a licensing board action can be very expensive as the experience is very similar to defending a civil malpractice action. Witnesses will be called to testify against you and evidence will be introduced if the licensing board believes you have committed a violation of any nursing statute or regulation.

It is important to protect your nursing license because any adverse action taken by a licensing board is reported to the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank and, as of March 1, 2010, the National Practitioner Data Bank. Adverse actions include the revocation, suspension, probation, censure or reprimand of a license. Reports to the Data Banks are accessible by Federal and State Government agencies, health plans, hospitals or the health care practitioner or provider seeking information about himself, herself or itself. Under federal law, the government has the right to exclude a health care provider, including nurses, from participation in any federally-funded health care program if an adverse action is taken against a license, such as suspension or revocation. What this means is that the government can permissibly exclude you or your employer from providing services or being reimbursed for services provided to Medicare or Medicaid patients. The government can also exclude you if you voluntarily surrender your license during the course of a licensing board investigation. Such an exclusion can make it very difficult to be employed in the health care industry given the large population of Medicare and Medicaid recipients.

In my practice as a health care lawyer where I defend providers in medical malpractice cases and in licensing board actions, it is heartbreaking to see my clients have to dig into their savings or their retirement plans to help cover the costs associated with defending these types of actions. In order to protect yourself, you need to ask your employer for information about any insurance policies covering you, what the scope of the policy is, what the policy limits are, whether the employer is enrolled with the Louisiana Patient Compensation Fund, and does the insurance policy cover any licensing board actions. Nurses should also consider obtaining their own private, professional liability policy that may help cover any malpractice claims, provide for attorney fees, pay court costs, settlements, judgments, and provide reimbursement for costs associated with defending a licensing board action.

Jennifer Thomas is a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Kean Miller. She joined the firm in 1999 and practices with the health law group. Jennifer represents local, regional and national clients in litigation and regulatory issues involving Medicare, Medicaid, HIPAA, pharmaceuticals, healthcare provider licensure, civil rights actions involving medical professionals, medical malpractice, and Louisiana health care legislation. Jennifer has handled the first U.S. Appellate Court case on private right of action under HIPAA. She can be reached at 225.388.3705 or jennifer.thomas@keanmiller.com.

Got Coverage?

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On March 6, 2010, District IV of the Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA) held their first Legislative Brunch at A La Carte restaurant in Lafayette. The purpose of the event was to have the questions and concerns of nurses in the district answered by legislators responsible for shaping health care and nursing policy, present a forum to become familiar with local area lawmakers, and take the initial steps necessary to build a collaborative relationship between the two groups. Of the twenty legislators invited within the seven parish district including Lafayette, Vermilion, Iberia, Acadia, St. Landry, Evangeline, and St. Martin Parishes, one representative attended. Over thirty nurses from the district were in attendance for the program.

The event began with Mrs. Lisa Deaton, the LSNA Health Policy Chairperson, speaking to the district nurses about upcoming legislation filed for the 2010 session relating to nursing and healthcare. There were over ten pieces of legislation filed by District IV legislators discussed. She also spoke to two pieces of legislation that the LSNA is working actively to get filed and considered this session. One concerns amending the Nurse Practice Act to include new practices for nurses relative to administration of anesthetic agent in pain management.

During the brunch, the event was unseasonably cool and comfortable. The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly and the discussions informal, allowing the legislators to get to know the nurses present and the nurses to get to know their legislators. As a result, many people I have spoken to were very surprised at all of the wonderful things being done on behalf of nurses and nursing.

At the Nightingale Gala in February, LSNA honored many outstanding nurses from our district, and we are looking forward to honoring even more of them for nursing excellence at our annual Celebrate Nursing Banquet in May. I will be representing nurses from our district at a dinner meeting with the LSNA Board of Directors next Sunday and hope to see many of you at the LSNA Nurse Day at the Legislature on the 26th. Over the past few months, I have had contact with so many of our nurses and look forward to meeting you all in person.

With banquet preparations at full-steam, we have been very busy in the Baton Rouge district. We hope to see all of you at our annual event on May 3rd at Boudreaux’s. It promises to be another wonderful evening to honor the accomplishments of our outstanding nurses here in the District, where we know we have the best nurses in the world! I look forward to reporting on these events and more at our next general body meeting in August and hope that everyone will have a safe and enjoyable summer.

A Message from the Baton Rouge District

I would like to thank all of our members for the warm welcome to the presidency. It has been an exciting first quarter in the Baton Rouge District! I am enthusiastic about the things going on in our area. With a push for membership, we gained 7 new members in January and 14 more new members in February. The trend continues and it promises to be an exciting year of growth for us.

With health care reform at the forefront of the news lately, there has never been a better time to get involved! We heartily welcome each and every new member and hope that all of our current members will help to get the word out about the importance and benefits of membership in your professional organization. I hope all of you at the event were surprised at the number of nurses and healthcare workers.

TDNA

TDNA (Tangipahoa District Nurses Association) is accepting applications for “Tangi’s Top Nurses.” These extraordinary nurses will be our guests of honor at our Awards Gala to be held on May 11, 2010, at 6pm at Twelve Oaks on the campus of Southeastern Louisiana University. Nominees will have advanced the profession of nursing in their unique manner; have offered mentoring to foster the best of nursing; and volunteered to better our community or services to others. To find out more information or to nominate a registered nurse in Tangipahoa Parish, please email our president, Jackie Lockerby Hunt, at jackie@hunbrothers.com.

Election of new officers and board members will be held in November and nominations are open for any eligible person to apply. Membership in TDNA is required and obtained by joining ANA (American Nurses Association). Please review their website (www.nursingworld.org) for membership application.

DISTRICT IV

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Our focus in the coming months will be to continue the hard work of the past several years to improve nursing practice. We are working on a number of issues that are important to nurses. One focuses on the implementation of the nurse practice act, which is currently under consideration in the Louisiana legislature. We are working with the state nurses association to ensure that the act is implemented in a way that protects the rights of nurses and patients. We are also working on issues related to workplace safety, which is a critical issue for nurses.

I am looking forward to working with all of you to continue to improve the lives of nurses and patients. It is an honor to serve as your president, and I look forward to working closely with you to achieve our goals.

Jared Aucoin, RNC-LRN, BSN
President District IV LSNA
(337) 412-2428
president@districtivnurses.com
Information in this section is the domain of the New Orleans District Nurses Association.

Happy 90th Birthday NODNA!

Thank you to Colleen Lemoine and Carol Evans for a truly touching program about the new Hospice Ward at Angola State Penitentiary. This fall, NODNA Members and guests enjoyed a personal account of the process in developing the program, as well as testimonials from the prisoners and hospice staff via video. The New Orleans Museum of Art hosted the event and Covenant House catered a delicious lunch. As one attendee stated, “it was an honor to be amongst these nurses who used their skills to empower others, they are an example for us all!”

This fall your Board of Directors has been busy developing an electronic member contact list and a website. See pictures from the fall program at www.neworleansdistrictnurses.com. The website showcases NODNA’s mission and vision statement, offers research support information, a growing membership list, program updates and our organizations Blog. We welcome your thoughts and comments on how we can continue to develop the website to support our members. Please contact Stephanie Piercer with suggestions anytime, spiercer@lsuhsc.edu.

Lastly, the BOD would like to hear your thoughts and welcome you to join our strategic planning initiative. We are asking you to assist us by answering the questions about strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to NODNA. Below you will find SWOT questions. Please answer and mail to Jennifer Couvillon at 1900 Gravier Street, New Orleans, LA 70112 or you can simply go to our new website and complete the questionnaire electronically and email to jcouvi@lsuhsc.edu.

Please join us for our next Board of Directors meetings which are always open to all and stay tuned for more information on Student Nurses Night and our 90th birthday celebration in March.

We hope to see you there!

Jennifer Couvillon, RN, PhD, CNE
President New Orleans District Nurses Association 2009-2011

We Would Like to Welcome Our Newest Members of the LSNA: 1st Quarter 2010

January

Belinda Armstrong
Veronica Barcelona De Mendoza
Bernadette Cade
Tammy DeRouen
Taggard Doss
Joan Ellis
Barbara Fanta

February

Karen Barton
Sue Billberry
Frederica Brown
Carolyn Buancore
Shetlia Burrell
Sybil Byrd
Rose Cain
Amy Cano
Nikki Christy

March

Courtney Baker
Allyson Bennett
Deidre Bosley
Nancy Boutte
Patrice Butler
Latoya Campbell
Renée Coleman
Stephanie Cooper
Lara Cormier
James Couillard
Jessica Culver
Louise Dawson
Annette Drummer
Alexis Hayes

Thank you!!

We hope to see you there!

Jennifer Couvillon, RN, PhD, CNE
President New Orleans District Nurses Association 2009-2011

Member highlight: Ellen Beyer

Ellen Beyer is the NODNA Vice-President and in-charge of planning social events. She was elected to the Board in June of 2009. Ellen has had vast experience in a nurse. She holds a MBA from UNO and an MN in Community/Public Health from LSUHSC. Ellen has a passion for literacy programs and is involved with Reach Out and Read a literacy program that provides age appropriate books for children through pediatricians’ clinics. Ellen is also a BLS instructor. Ellen is presently an instructor in Community/Public Health at LSU/H. She lives in New Orleans. She is married and has two daughters and a wonderful dog named Wilbur.

Student Nurse Night

Our Student Nurse Night was held at the Chateau Estates Country Club and was a great success. There were a great number of students in attendance and delicious food, nice bar, beautiful location, motivated speaker, fun music, dancing to a second line and for saints (that’s a first!), 52 student raffle gifts, and beautiful cupcakes in all the school’s colors.

Our Next Event

Spring event at the National WWII Museum:
The program includes “Beyond all Boundaries,” lunch and a presentation Honoring Nurses in WWI, Vietnam War and Desert Storm by Ms. Marge Kraus, Dr. Celeste Carter and Dr. Patricia Prechter.

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