Team MARN Volunteers: Medical Tent B Boston Marathon

It was a cold wet day, but that didn’t dampen the spirit of the MARN Nurses who volunteered at the Boston Marathon. We saw hypothermia, blisters, and exhaustion...we met so many dedicated athletes from around the world; men and women who challenged their bodies to perform extraordinary feats for so many reasons besides being the first to cross the finish line. Some did not speak English but there was no doubt about what they needed or what they felt as they expressed their gratitude for the care we provided.

My back was sore for days after the experience but I know that I will be back next year because I met so many great nurses and other health care professionals and I want to be a part of the Team! I hope to see the new friends I made and YOU next year!

Barbra Gray, our IV Certified Nurse

The calm before the storm

Getting Directions
Mourning the Death of Marie Snyder, J.D.

I cannot tell you how saddened I was to hear of the November death of Marie Snyder, J.D. Marie and I were roommates at Boston University where we both earned our MSNs in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing. She was a special friend, colleague, and expert clinician in her mental health practice and her law practice. Marie and I were in touch every Christmas where we would catch up on each other’s lives in our holiday card and letter. If we were lucky, we would see each other at a national meeting and have a chance to share a hug and conversation. Not only will the professional world of nursing miss her warm smile, sense of humor and intelligence, her personal friends will always have her in their hearts.

Lucille C. Gambardella, PhD, RN,CS,APRN-BC,CNE
Chair/Department of Nursing
Wesley College
Dover, DE 19901
President’s Message

Toni Abraham MSN, APRN-BC

I am excited to be completing my first year as your MARN president. Upon reflection, it now seems to have gone by very quickly. I would like to sincerely thank the MARN Board of Directors and all the extremely dedicated Committee members for their patience and guidance as I attempted to represent and serve the MARN membership as well as all nurses in Massachusetts. The organization wouldn’t function without our quality staff, Mary Manning has been both my right and left arm during this first year. She has been both educator and supporter and I graciously thank her. I also want to thank Cammie Townsend, Karen Daley and Mary Manning for their dedication to detail and commitment to MARN.

A special thank you the MARN members and students who contributed to our quarterly newsletter this past year. Every insight and poem brought us all closer to the essence of nursing and I thank you.

Volunteerism

I believe that most of us don’t realize we volunteer in many ways throughout our lives. I wanted to bring that part of nursing more into focus, both as a commitment to serve and as a means for us to share in a worthwhile effort while getting to know one another. On April 20, 2009, Team MARN volunteered to use their nursing expertise in one of the Medical tents at the Boston Marathon. All of the members of Team MARN had a great day!

Recipients of the President’s Award exemplify the meaning of volunteerism. Both Jeanne Gibbs and Sandra Reissour have dedicated immeasurable hours to the CE Committee. They were the leaders who developed the MARN Approver unit and were so integral in achieving accreditation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. To date, the MARN CE Committee has reviewed over 100 provider applications and more than 300 single applications. We are so eternally grateful to them and to the Committee members who supported their efforts.

MARN Sponsored Events

The fall Simulation Conference proved to be a huge success. The conference planning committee did an outstanding job in presenting a timely and extremely worthwhile event. The evaluations of that program were outstanding.

In February MARN hosted a Health Policy Forum entitled “Advocacy Beyond the Bedside: Nurses Influencing Health Care Policy in Massachusetts.” We were privileged to have as panel speakers State Representatives Christine Canavan RN, Mary Grant RN and Kay Khan RN. The panel discussion was enlightening and stimulated members to consider joining our Health Policy Committee. Many students and faculty members attended the program. The Spring Convention Committee once again provided extraordinary topics and speakers. MARN continues to support the Massachusetts Student Nurses Association in holding our annual meetings together. Many MARN members provided scholarships for students and new graduates to join us at this event and all the students agreed that this was a great introduction to volunteering to join a professional organization. Thanks to each and every one of you who has supported our future nurse colleagues.

Nurse Advocacy

As nursing’s representative, I have been participating on the Massachusetts Health Council Board of Directors. In October, I was asked to submit my application to serve as a member of the Governors Health Care Advisory Council.

During the last legislative session MARN had advocated for a revised Safe Staffing bill that would incorporate the critical elements for an effective staffing bill as determined after a MARN extensive analysis of both the House and Senate Safe staffing bills. Although there had been considerable change to the original Senate version of the staffing bill, the legislative session again ended in stalemate between the proponents of the two different bills. MARN expressed its gratitude to the senators who supported the revised Senate staffing bill. In January 2009, two safe staffing bills were filed again and reflect the bills that died at the end of the 2008 legislative session. MARN will continue to advocate for safe staffing legislation that will insure patient safety and the safe practice of nursing.

The Health Policy Committee continues to review and prioritize the bills that have been filed for this legislative session. We look forward to increased MARN presence at the State House this coming year.

Mentoring Matters: A Pilot Program for Novice Nurses

MARN is very proud to be the recipient of a grant from the Center for American Nurses to conduct a pilot mentoring program entitled, “Mentoring Matters: A Pilot Program for Novice Nurses.” The pilot program was developed by the MARN Mentoring Task Force. MARN has hired a Mentoring Program Coordinator Lynne Wagner, EdD, RN, MSN to guide the selected mentor/mentee pairs during the upcoming year. Stay tuned as we move forward with this exciting new program this coming year.

National Involvement

In June 2008, MARN sent a delegation of MARN members to the ANA biennial House of Delegates (HOD) in Washington DC. It was a lively exchange with more than 600 delegates from across the country participating. MARN Executive Director Mary Manning and I also attended the Constituent Assembly held in the fall and again in May 2009 to discuss proposed ANA bylaws prior to their consideration at the next House of Delegates in June.

Later this year, members will be given the opportunity to submit their names to the ballot for election as a MARN delegate to the ANA House of Delegates. MARN provides a stipend to elected members to represent MARN at ANA. I urge members to run for MARN delegate and join nurses from across the United States as we work together to shape the future of nursing.

Several MARN members have been appointed to ANA positions. Karen Daley was elected to the ANCC Board. Dr. Rachel Spector was appointed to a two year term on the Subcommitteee of the Pearl McIver Public Health Nurse Award. Cidalia Vital was appointed to a two year term on the ANA Delegate Credentials Committee. Congratulations to them all.

Strategic Planning

MARN’s Continuing Education Committee, for 6 months, met monthly at MARN member Jeanne Gibbs’ home. They not only provided MARN with excellent work, but had the most fun of any committee I know. It was a time for social as well as very professional exchange. MARN has now hired Judy Sheehan, MSN, RN as the new Nurse Peer Review Leader. Jeanne Gibbs will share the position of Nurse Peer Review Leader with Judy until we have our accreditation site visit with ANCC this spring.

We are moving to expanding our web-based capabilities. Starting with the 2009 election, MARN members can vote and register for MARN conferences online. Most of the Award applications are now received via the internet. As well as being more user friendly, this update enables MARN to be greener and more fiscally responsible to its members. Emails are regularly sent to members informing them of available employment opportunities throughout the state. Legislative issues are posted as well as links to ANA. If you haven’t checked it out recently, please do so. It is interactive and informative (www.MARNonline.org).

Financial

Looking to our coming year, the economy is on everyone’s mind. We ended the last fiscal year in the black and the FY 2009 budget continues this positive trend. The Board will continue to work hard to keep our organization fiscally sound.

The coming year will continue to bring new opportunities, challenges and changes. I encourage everyone to become part of the process. There are so many avenues available where your contribution is needed. All nurses are welcome...all you have to do is join!
STEP Forward: The Volunteer Commitment

Myra F. Cacace, GNP-BC

Summer time…summer time…summer time…

This is my favorite season of the year! Summer is the time to sit back and relax…to take a well deserved break from the frenzy and to rejuvenate body and soul. There is nothing better than sitting in a refreshing body of water (my favorite is the ocean), drinking your beverage of choice (I have two: margaritas & mojitos), reflecting on your successes of the past few months and thinking about how you plan to survive the hectic sprint to the end of the year. There is still time to think about how you plan to survive the hectic summer time…summer time…sum, sum sum. 

Every time I agree to volunteer I understand that I am making a commitment and that I cannot change my mind later and decide NOT to show up. This is what makes the role of volunteer unique. I know that although I am not an option. For example, Monday, April 20th was a gray, cold and drizzly day. I could have easily pulled the blankets back over my head, rather than force myself to get up and take the two hour trip to Boston to volunteer in the medical tent at the Boston Marathon. But if I decided to bag the day I would have missed a great time, would not have made new friends and would have missed the opportunity to strengthen my friendships with other members of Team MARN. Besides, we were really busy and needed every nurse, physical therapist and doctor to do the work that needed to be done. Be sure to catch the story and pictures about Team MARN on page 1.

Part of the pleasure of working with volunteers is the knowledge that volunteers are making a choice to be present and are motivated to do a good job. Are there any Volunteer Coordinators who can relate their experiences about managing a volunteer group? What are your thoughts about motivating an unpaid workforce? How important is it to you that the volunteers honor their commitments? What do you do if there are volunteers who are lax in their responsibilities? Please consider writing an article for the next issue of the MAssachusetts Report on Nursing. Send your article to me at newsletter@MARNonline.org or contact the MARN office at info@MARNonline.org or send mail to PO Box 285, Milton, MA 02186.

Editorial

For the next two editions in 2009, the newsletter team is looking for articles about your thoughts and experiences as volunteers. I invite you to make us aware of volunteer opportunities in your area where nurses can help make a difference. We are interested in knowing how nurses use their unique skills to work outside their work place. I have used my nursing skills at Girl Scout Camps/Campouts, on High School Band trips, as a school volunteer and as a member of my town's Board of Health. For the most part all of these experiences have brought me great enjoyment and changed my life.

Opportunities to be a volunteer are countless and only you can decide how much of a commitment you can make. You can contribute your time and talent right in your workplace by volunteering as a member of a patient care committee, or by helping to plan a party for the nurses or families of the patients on your unit. The possibilities to do a little extra are endless; the work does NOT have to be hard and the satisfaction you derive from helping out is hard to beat!

Remember, in these tough fiscal times, organizations must rely more heavily on volunteers to provide crucial services. There is so much work to be done to enhance our workplace, to improve the way we care for vulnerable people who need our help. So step forward and make the commitment to give some extra time to others in need.

When you decide to do something extra, it does not have to be a lengthy commitment. You can volunteer to participate in a small time limited activity such as planning one unit event or working on one part of a larger project. Many hands make short work and any commitment is a worthy endeavor.

Achieving balance in your life is important and it is absolutely necessary in order to prevent burnout, so feel free to set limits in order to feel good about helping others while protecting your sanity.

Read about how other nurses are finding the time to volunteer in the Featured Article Section: "STEP Forward MARN Volunteers, Make a Difference" on pages 6-8. There are so many options to choose from…you can join a MARN Committee! This is a great way for members to meet other nurses who are committed to MARN and ANA’s success. Supporting a professional organization allows every nurse to feel secure that there is someone at work in the national and international arenas promoting nursing, while we do what we do every day! Become a part of MARN (see the membership application on page 19.)

Do it! Take that step and make a commitment. Tell your story! Take some pictures! Voice your opinions! Start slow and soon you will feel that sense of gratification that comes from knowing that YOU make a difference.

We publish quarterly newsletters and there are many ways for you to contact members of the newsletter team. You can write to me at:

• newsletter@MARNonline.org
• info@MARNonline.org
• PO Box 285, Milton, MA 02186.

Please remember that it is our stated policy that we welcome all opinions. The Newsletter Committee wants to let the voices of every nurse in the Commonwealth be heard. However we do require that letters to the editor be signed in full in order for them to be included in the newsletter.

Please note that we are changing our deadline dates for you to submit articles, pictures, announcements and advertisements!

The new dates to get your contribution to the Newsletter team are:

July 1, October 1, January 5, and April 1

We look forward to hearing from you!
Massachusetts Nurse Awarded Prestigious Fellowship...

Voice for 12 Million Nurses

John Shaw
Marketing & Communications Manager

To some, being the lone voice representing 12 million professionals would be a daunting challenge.

Not to Dr. Sheila A. Davis.

Dr. Davis, an assistant professor of nursing at MGH Institute of Health Professions, (and a MARN member) recently was tapped to be in the initial class of just 20 individuals—and the only nurse professional—awarded a Charles Wilkens Fellowship from the Washington, DC-based Genocide Intervention Network.

The fellowship award will help train emerging leaders to build lasting networks of citizens who believe that protecting men, women and children from the slaughter of genocide is a world-wide societal responsibility.

“Nurses have the professional responsibility to become engaged in the anti-genocide movement by viewing health as a human right and seeing genocide as a force preventing that right for many in the world today,” said Dr. Davis. “I am excited to be the voice for the country’s 12 million nurses and I plan to work hard at bringing this huge issue to a wider audience.”

This is just the latest in a series of causes Dr. Davis has championed, having been actively involved in human rights, social justice, and global issues for more than 20 years. She also is the co-founder and current board member of Sibusiso, a Boston-based, non-governmental organization (NGO) working in South Africa and the Boston area.

Additionally, Dr. Davis is an adult nurse practitioner at Mass General, where she specializes in HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases. She also has an active clinical practice in the MGH Infectious Diseases outpatient clinic, where she is the program director for The Women’s Place, the HIV+ Women’s clinic. She was one of the first graduates from the MGH Institute’s initial Doctor of Nursing Practice program last fall.

The fellowship is named in honor of Carl Wilkens, the only American to remain in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide. This selective year-long, part-time program is designed to fit the schedules of busy people with full-time personal and professional commitments.

“This prestigious fellowship is recognition of Dr. Davis’s strong commitment to and advocacy of human rights, and reflects positively on the entire Institute,” said MGH Institute President Dr. Janis P. Bellack. “Her connection with the program will no doubt benefit her students and colleagues here, and we look forward to supporting her participation in the program.”

Davis began her fellowship in February.
When I was a teenager deciding what career I wished to pursue, I quickly gravitated to the idea of nursing. My mother, smart woman that she was, introduced me to the daughter of a friend who happened to be the director of nursing at our local hospital. This DON encouraged me to volunteer at the hospital in order to learn if I “was cut out for” working with people who were ill. So, I became a Nightingale (the Valley Hospital, Ridgewood, NJ, version of a Candy Stripper). That was my first taste of both health care service delivery and volunteering—a few hours every Saturday morning for 2+ years until I graduated from high school. Somewhere along the way, with the encouragement of people I met at the hospital, I decided that my high school needed a Future Nurses Club and, lo, I did NOT just want to join the already established Future Physicians’ Club, thank you very much....so I started this club under the mentorship of the school nurse.

This was the start of my commitment to volunteering. I gave a few hours on Saturday morning and I found a lifetime career, meeting many inspiring people along the way.

Over the years, I have felt privileged to have been able to use my basic education as a nurse and parlay that into many re-inventions of myself as I grew professionally. From a staff nurse in a hospital setting, to staff and management roles in community health, to health care marketing, on to consulting and then to quality management to ensure that the people receiving services are being helped to achieve their health and recovery goals. So, to balance what I have been given I have chosen to continue to give back to the community which has enabled me to have such a satisfying life work. It’s one of the circles of life.

I began working with the cancer society to provide the public with education on prevention and early detection of cancer. Following this I provide the public with education on prevention which has enabled me to have such a satisfying goals. So, to balance what I have been given I have to ensure that the people receiving services are

developed a Health Ministry at my parish, with the support of a great pastor. I am currently on the executive committee of my local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). In this role I work with my town to ensure that all our citizens will be prepared in the case of a public health emergency such as a pandemic, a “Katrina,” a major industrial accident etc.

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Mission is: To provide support services to public safety departments and town officials in the event of an emergency or disaster situation for the betterment of the town’s citizenry, through a citizen volunteer corps of medical and lay residents, delivering emergency preparedness education and general health care support and awareness.

Over the past 2 years I have devoted a few hours each month and received so much personal gratification in return.

• I met neighbors—never knew, since I work outside of town
• I had the opportunity to teach people how to prepare for emergencies by developing a Family Plan and putting together a 72 Hour Emergency Kit
• I participated in a drill to test our fire department’s ability to respond to a major accident
• I led the clinical effort at a town-wide flu clinic, where almost 400 people received flu shots in a three hour span of time. (I knew I could work so fast!)

But for all the fun and personal rewards I have received through my volunteer work I have had one major disappointment...so few of the nurses in my town knew in our efforts. It just doesn’t take much time— if I can do it in addition to a more than full-time job, a long commute and a household to run, then anyone can. I’m not special. I’m a nurse who thinks her community and the people in her town deserve to be educated and safe.

Please consider joining the MRC in your community. You can get more information by contacting your local Board of Health or log onto this website - www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Kathleen Janssen, RN, MS is the Director of Quality Management at Riverside Community Care in Dedham.

MARN Committees: Working for You!

Kathleen Janssen, RN, MS

Nurse-Managed Health Services for Seniors: Volunteerism and Interdisciplinary Health Professionals

Ellie Venezian, RN, BS, MS, PhD

Population forecasters predicted a sharp increase in the number of aging Americans for the better part of the twentieth century. Health services, based on ANA’s Scope and Standards of Practice, to resident seniors visiting the town’s Senior Center on a no-fee basis.

Planning began by identifying a voluntary multidisciplinary—nurse, physicians, a psychologist and other health care providers. All resided in the town and shared a long-standing interest in expanding and developing more relevant the health-related activities offered at the town’s Senior Center. With the consent of the Council on Aging, a series of steps were taken to develop policies and procedures for offering health services to seniors with chronic health conditions that required on-going monitoring. Knowing that chronic illness interferes with a person's ability to function independently, the expected outcome of such services was to ensure the likelihood that seniors remained in their homes and continued their chosen lifestyles without interruption.

A call for applications was made to recruit and hire a registered nurse with advanced preparation in gerontology. Funds for the RN were provided anonymously by a retired couple who resided in the town and were committed to the delivery of the nursing care services. This voluntary support continues since the opening of the nursing center eleven years ago.

The Advisory Group, whose volunteer efforts established the Nursing Center, continue to provide advice and support to the nurse who manages Senior Health Services. Their role includes advice on clinical policies, scope and standards of practice, as well as an annual evaluation of the services provided. Made up of community members, the voluntary Advisory Group also serves as a liaison to community health organizations. The co-chairs of the Advisory Group convene monthly meetings, set agendas, and review established policies of the nursing center. Members of the group serve as long as their interests and the needs of the nursing center coincide.

MARN Committees: Working for You!

VOLUNTEERISM

Kathleen Janssen, RN, MS

Please consider joining the MRC in your community. You can get more information by contacting your local Board of Health or log onto this website - www.medicalreservecorps.gov

MARN Vision Statement

MARN is committed to the advancement of nursing standards and practice, and to continuing professional development of registered nurses across the Commonwealth who share the belief that greater achievement occurs in an environment that embraces mutual respect of diverse perspectives, a spirit of collegiality, and the advocacy role of the nurse to individually and collectively shape quality health care.

This contemporary organization provides a virtual home for the nurturing and development of its membership. As a constituent member of ANA, the membership proactively responds to regional and national issues in ways that produce rippling outcomes in larger communities of professional nurses, health care decision makers, and citizens. Membership initiatives serve to strengthen enduring partnerships with other stakeholders in health care.

Step Forward continued on page 7
MARN continues to grow and remains fiscally sound and ended the FY 2008 fiscal year with a profit. As the current economic climate brings finances to the forefront, MARN continues to look for ways in which we can continue fiscal stability while making wise investments that help our money to grow.

During the past year, the MARN Finance Committee met several times to research sound investments, create a balanced budget for FY 2010, and help to brainstorm new revenue streams for the organization. Our first annual live online voting helped to save MARN printing, time and postage costs. MARN joined Commonwealth Purchasing Group to be a member of a larger group purchasing network. Our website has enabled our organization to increase our income in a variety of ways.

The Finance Committee members, Patricia Bowe MARN Treasurer, Theresa Spinelli, Susan Conrad and Mary Manning will continue to identify strategies to reduce costs and increase savings, identify areas to increase non-dues related income to lessen our reliance of membership based revenue, and move MARN in a fiscally sound direction.

Bylaws Committee
Cammie Townsend, MS/MBA, RN, Chair

This committee reviews MARN Bylaws annually to create and propose changes and additions as suggested by the membership and/or Board of Directors and to maintain compliance with ANA Bylaws.

Committee members, Claudia R. Ellis, RN, BSN, CRNO, Mary J. McKenzie, EdM, MS, RN, Theresa M. Spinelli, RN, ANP and Rachel E. Tierney, PhD, RN/PC, BC, submitted changes to the Mission statement and associated functions which were debated and passed at the 2008 annual meeting. Those bylaws changes allowed electronic voting for meeting notices and was successfully implemented this year with an online ballot. An electronic meeting was held and the MARN bylaws were reviewed for congruence with ANAs bylaws. The committee reports no changes are currently necessary to meet this requirement. No member inquiries were made or changes requested. We will continue to monitor MARN bylaws for congruence with American Nurses Association (ANA) bylaws, and respond to Board of Director and member inquiries. The committee welcomes new member input and participation.

We meet in person as necessary (usually once per year) and by teleconference and email as necessary to prepare for the Annual Meeting. Members are expected to attend the Annual Meeting held during the Spring Convention. For more information, please contact Cammie Townsend at CTownsend@mghihp.edu or 617-990-2856.

Spring Convention Planning Committee
Peggie Griffin Bretz, MSN, RN, CNAA, Chair

The Spring Convention Planning Committee plans and executes the Annual Spring Convention and Business Meeting. The committee includes the very active members who are already hard at work planning for next year’s Spring Convention. They are Cathleen Bergeron, Maura Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Grady, Mary Hanley, Cynthia Lasala, and Mary Manning. The speakers, the Jean Steel Lectureship, the Awards Gala Celebration, the physical location and the smooth running of each event speaks volumes about the dedication of this committee to keep members and non-members involved in the decisions around improving all aspects of our profession.

New members and ideas are always welcome. Responsibilities include site selection, speaker selection, developing contact hour application, assisting with marketing and on-site registration. The Committee meets monthly by teleconference and/or email to plan. For more information, please contact MARN at info@MARNonline.org or 617-990-2856.

Continuing Education Committee/ Accredited Approver Unit
Sandra Reissour, BS, RN, Chair

This has been a busy year for Continuing Education Committee member Jeannine Gibbs, MS, RN (Nurse Peer Review Leader), Patricia Bowe, MS, RN, Peggie Bretz, MSN, RN, CNAA, Deborah Diebrot, MS, RN, Barbara Gardner, MS, RN, Mary Ann Kieran, MSN, RN, and Andrea Stanley, MS, RN, BC, and for Cammie Townsend, MS/MBA, RN, (MARN staff).

Our accomplishments reflect MARN’s commitment to providing quality nursing continuing education in the Commonwealth.

First and most important, MARN continues to be the only American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Accredited Approver Unit in MA.

The committee also hired a CE Unit Director/ Nurse Peer Review Leader, hosted the 6th Annual Provider Forum for approved providers of nursing continuing education and potential providers of nursing continuing education (on May 21, 2008), reviewed Activity Applications and Provider Applications (FY 2009), began exploration of using an electronic activity application process, conducted annual evaluation of Approver Unit including an annual review of entire Approver Unit, Manual, submitted Annual Accredited Approver Report to ANCC as requested, generated revenue for the association ($29,145 to date in FY 2008-09 and $201,128 since inception), Requested, collected, collated and performed QI of annual report data from current MARN Approved Providers and generated revenue for the association ($29,145 to date in FY 2008-09 and $201,128 since inception).

We are always looking for the coming year, including:

- Modify the activity and provider applications based upon 2009 ANCC Manual for Accredited Approver Unit and Provider Applications
- Create and post samples of completed activity and provider applications on the MARN website
- Host the Site visit, a component of the re-application process for ANCC accredited to providing excellence in nursing continuing education
- Offer an interactive on-line activity application on the MARN website
- Identify a mechanism to insure compliance of all approved providers to current ANCC criteria
- Continue to offer the Annual Provider Forum
- Continue to market the Approver Unit to potential customers
- Support future educational endeavors of the association.

Contact MARN today (info@MARNonline.org) if you are interested in stepping forward to become part of the team!

Health Policy Committee
Angela Nannini, PhD, FNP, Chair

This year’s Health Policy Committee has been busier than ever, reviewing and discussing legislation and nursing and healthcare delivery policy initiatives and changes at the state and national levels. Members of the committee include Margaret Blum, MA, RNC, Karen Daley, RN, MPH, MS, PhD(C), Gayle Petersen, RN, Patricia Ruggles, RN, BSC, CRNO, Maureen Macloughlin, MSN, RN, CPAN, Linda Pitter, MSN, RN, and Frances Scullay, MSN, RN. Throughout the year, they have researched and analyzed pending legislation and policy and made recommendations for action to the MARN Board of Directors. Members actively represent MARN at public hearings, conferences, collaborative health care forums and presentations. Maureen Macloughlin was sponsored to attend the annual ANA Lobbyist meeting in Washington DC.

On February 6, 2009 the committee hosted a successful event entitled “Political Advocacy beyond the Bedside”, Three Massachusetts legislators including Christine Canavan, Mary Grant, and Kay Kahn discussed their experiences as nurses who advocate for nurses in the political arena. Numerous nurses, including 70 MARN members, students, faculty and nonmembers attended this presentation.

The committee continues to track the Senate and House Staffing Bills (S. 1244 and HB 2059) and other key issues affecting our profession using a framework created in 2008. The Committee represents MARN at public hearings, conferences, collaborative health care forums and presentations.

Our strategic plan for 2009-10 includes hosting another continuing education political forum, and continued tracking and analysis of all high priority bills using our established legislative framework. Specific members will be assigned to track bills. With Board of Director approval the Health Policy Committee will continue to build partnerships, educate nurses and the public, and maintain an active network with legislators.
Step Forward continued from page 7

and articulate endorsement or opposition to particular legislation that directly impacts nursing, healthcare delivery and health policy in the Commonwealth. The committee will facilitate its on-going work and efforts through telephone contact, written communication, informational packets and testimony at public hearings.

The Health Policy Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday evening of each month by teleconference (7-8pm) and plans to meet quarterly in person. For more information, please contact MARN: info@MARNonline.org or 617-990-2856.

Membership Committee
Cidalia J. Vital, RN, MS, CNL, Chair

Since its creation MARN has had a steady climb in membership. The Membership Committee, Karen A. Cervizzi, MSN, RN, CRNP, CAN; Joanne H. Evans, EdD, RN, CRNP, FAHA; Barbara J. Grewe, BS RN, Justine Mize, BS, RN and Margie L. Sipe, MS, RN, continues to solicit membership at different events including conferences and volunteer opportunities. Emails, letters and personal phone calls are made to increase retention. The MARN Board of Directors continues to call and welcome our new members.

During the 2008-2009 academic year MARN presentations were made at Boston College, Holyoke Community College, Springfield Technical Community College, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Elms College, Curry College, Northeastern University, and Middlesex Community College. Members share information and discuss the benefits of joining a professional nursing organization. An annual “Free MARN Membership Raffle” for graduating students was established in 2007. This year’s winner is Carolyn Murphy. We welcome Justine Mize new graduate Board member to our committee.

The new MARN website was redesigned including the new member benefits page and membership information. In MARN’s effort to “Go Green” new member packets are condensed to decrease paper and mailing costs. New members all receive MARN “Go Green” bags as a welcome packet.

Our future goals include recruiting additional committee members, increase the number of speaking engagements at schools of nursing across the state, look for additional opportunities and other venues to promote MARN, and continue to provide unique member programs in an effort to increase nursing faculty involvement. In the future, new members can look for their names in future editions of the MA Massachuetts Report on Nursing.

The Membership Committee develops new membership initiatives, reviews membership statistics, and contacts new members to welcome them to the Association, visits schools and colleges of nursing, attends other professional organizational programs and meetings to promote MARN and the importance of professional organizational membership. Meetings are monthly by teleconference (5:30-6:30pm) and quarterly in person. For more information, please contact Cidalia Vital at info@MARNonline.org or 617-990-2856.

Nominating and Elections Committee
Karen Manning, MSN, RN, CRNP, CNA, Chair

Once again the Nominating and Elections Committee members, Maura Fitzgerald, MS, RN, Patricia A. Edwards, EdD, RN, CNAA, and Judith Sweeney, RN, MS, GNP, successfully recruited eligible candidates for the open positions through email, phone calls, the MARN website and direct MARN mailings. The Committee worked diligently to present a ballot that was representative of both the current MARN agenda as well as that of ANA. On April 4, 2009 a new Board of Directors was elected. They are (*) indicates newly elected:

President: Toni Abraham, MS, APRN-C
Vice President: Anne Manton, PhD, APRN, RN, FAAN *
Treasurer: Trish Bowe, RN, MS
Secretary: Lindsay Gainer, RN, MSN, CPON
Directors: Susan Conrad, RN, PhD
Barbra Gray, RN, BSN
Kathryn McNamara, RN, ANP
Theresa Spinelli, RN, ANP
Yolanda Starling, BS, RN

The implementation of Online Voting was this year’s challenge and the committee is proud of all their efforts to provide a smooth transition into a new paperless era. Postcards were mailed to every MARN Member in January announcing the new plan to vote online, with an invitation to request a paper ballot from MARN if they preferred to vote in the traditional manner. Several email alerts were sent out to all members providing clear instructions about accessing the online ballot through the Member Login, as well as the steps on how to request a paper ballot if preferred. Our online election was conducted on March 1 through March 23, 2009.

MARN Awards Committee
Maura Fitzgerald, Chair

The Awards Committee develops criteria for and selects winners for three annual nursing excellence awards, two scholarship awards and the Living Legend awards. The committee meets quarterly by teleconference and email and once/year in person to prepare for the Awards Luncheon/Dinner. Members are expected to attend the Annual Meeting and Awards Gala Celebration during the Annual Spring Convention.

For more information, please contact MARN at info@MARNonline.org or 617-990-2856: Attention: Maura Fitzgerald, Chair.

MARN Fall Clinical Conference Planning Committee

This committee plans and executes an annual Fall Conference focused on topics of clinical relevance. Responsibilities include site selection, speaker selection, developing contact hour application, assisting with marketing and on-site registration. The committee meets monthly by teleconference and/or email to plan. For more information, please contact MARN at info@MARNonline.org or 617-990-2856.
Excellence in Nursing Education

Susan Emery, CRNA, MS

Susan Emery is Clinical Associate Professor and the founding Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at the William F. Connell School of Nursing at Boston College. She is an expert in the field of planning, the development of an anesthesia program, and teaching anesthesia to students. She is a creative classroom teacher, engaging her students using a variety of methods. Her teaching techniques involve the use of Jeopardy as a way to engage students in learning key anesthesia concepts. Her use of game Jeopardy as a way to engage students in her classroom is an adaptation of her previous work in marketing. Her passion for teaching and her ability to connect with students have earned her the respect and admiration of her peers and students.

Scholarship Award

Rebecca Leach

Each year the Arthur L. Davis Scholarship is provided by the Arthur L. Davis Publishing Agency. This year's recipient, Rebecca Leach, is from a family of nurses. Her two great-grandmothers and one of her grandmothers were nurses and her mother, Lorraine Loretz, is a nurse practitioner. Rebecca wrote that she “liked to play hospital in preschool and to watch her mom at work.” When Rebecca was a high school freshman she cut her foot and her mom, “brought me to her clinic, numbed my foot and gave me eight stitches. Mom knew exactly what to do and I knew being a nurse was exactly what I wanted to do when I grew up.”

Rebecca is currently a senior at Shrewsbury High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society with a 4.9 grade point average. She is finishing AP Calculus and psychology courses. Her guidance counselor Gerald O’Connor writes “Miss Leach would thrive in any nursing program and contribute to the classroom in a positive way. She has passion to help others and the intelligence to master the skills and knowledge content needed for the nursing profession.”

Rebecca is a well rounded young woman who has many talents and a variety of interests. She is the lead editor with the Youth Ballet of Worcestershire. She is a Girl Scout who has earned her Bronze and Silver Awards and is currently finishing her Gold Award project (the highest award in Girl Scouting). In her spare time she volunteers at UMass/Memorial Hospital. Jody Stark-Cornetten, Director of Volunteers writes “Rebecca understands protocol and is very caring, conscientious and dedicated to the volunteer commitment to the hospital, volunteering over 67 hours of her precious time”.

Rebecca has been accepted at Northeastern University, UMass/Ashland and Pace University. MARN wishes her luck in her endeavors.

2009 Ruth Lang Fitzgerald Memorial Scholarship

Georgia P. Ameia Yen-Patton, RN, CS, MS, GNP

This year’s recipient of the Fitzgerald Scholarship definitely carries on Ruth’s work of advocating for elders. Georgia Ameia Yen-Patton is a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner who has practiced in a wide variety of settings and as a nurse researcher with the University of Lowell Geriatric Nursing Program.

Currently Georgia is a Doctoral candidate at the University of Lowell in the Nursing Health Promotion Program and wants to address the “present care gap crisis in long term care here in the United States” (Stone 2007, 2008). “Care practices have frequently been identified as a primary factor in the quality of life of the long term resident & resident care (Castle & Engberg, 2008). Georgia plans to use the Fitzgerald scholarship to help her develop & validate the dimensions of the Nurse-Caregiver Reciprocity Scale (N-CRS). Georgia hopes that use of the Nurse-Caregiver Reciprocity Scale will provide the information and insight for interventional strategies to understand the nature, the issues and challenges of professional long term care giving. Thus nursing can be proactive in addressing the elements of retention, reduction of turnover, work stress & promotion and consistency of care giving & receiving.

The Fitzgerald Scholarship was established in 2005 by the generosity of Ruth Lang Fitzgerald, a long time member of the American Nurses Association and a founding member of the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses. Ruth was proud of her 62 yrs as a Registered Nurse & her service to her country as a 1st Lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps in the South Pacific during Wart World II. Later in her career she worked as a Health Care Quality inspector of long term care facilities for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. During her retirement Ruth was an advocate for seniors as a member of the Silver Haireled Legislature.

Mary A Manning Mentoring Award

Ed Coakley, RN, MSN, MA, MEd

The Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses Mary A. Manning Mentoring Award was established by MARN member and past president Karen Daley to support and encourage mentoring activities. This monetary award in the amount of $500 is given annually to a nurse who exemplifies the ideal image of a mentor and has established a record of continued mentoring by being involved in mentoring for 5 years or more in practice or in the pursuit of advanced education.

Throughout his long and distinguished career at Massachusetts General Hospital—as a nurse manager, mentoring director, mentor, director of major nurse mentoring programs, mentor, sponsor, teacher, culture broker, truth teller, transformer, preceptor, theorist, innovator, bridge person in the mentoring organization heretofore, mentorship. The program comes at a critical time, the crisis in long term care here in the United States” (Fitzgerald, 2005 by the Fitzgerald family in memory of Ruth Fitzgerald, a long time member of the American Nurses Association and a founding member of the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses. Ruth was proud of her 62 yrs as a Registered Nurse & her service to her country as a 1st Lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps in the South Pacific during Wart World II. Later in her career she worked as a Health Care Quality inspector of long term care facilities for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. During her retirement Ruth was an advocate for seniors as a member of the Silver Haireled Legislature.

Ed Coakley is a mentor extraordinaire—an innovator and a visionary. His mentoring to all but he does not judge when nurses are not receptive or ready to accept new ideas or suggestions. He understands the totality and individuality of nurses’ developmental trajectories. Ed has the ability to see “next steps” for individual nurses in regard to their career development. He values diversity and is inquisitive of the uniqueness of the person so that all who come in contact with him feel valued and respected. A colleague said of him, “He is a truth-teller. He uses theories such as complexity theory and network theory as ways to understand a large organization, so that his critique is never personal. Stepping back and looking at our organization from this perspective allows us all to be successful.”

Ed Coakley is a mentor extraordinaire—an innovator and a visionary. His mentoring to all but he does not judge when nurses are not receptive or ready to accept new ideas or suggestions. He understands the totality and individuality of nurses’ developmental trajectories. Ed has the ability to see “next steps” for individual nurses in regard to their career development. He values diversity and is inquisitive of the uniqueness of the person so that all who come in contact with him feel valued and respected. A colleague said of him, “He is a truth-teller. He uses theories such as complexity theory and network theory as ways to understand a large organization, so that his critique is never personal. Stepping back and looking at our organization from this perspective allows us all to be successful.”
Efficacy of Nursing Coaching to Aid Ambulatory Surgery Patients, conducted at the Massachusetts General Hospital. This research focused on the value and unique knowledge of nurses that contributes to and improves the health and well being of people. Other areas of her research include: continued testing and development of the Functional Health Pattern Screening Assessment Tool across populations and cultural groups, evaluation of the Professional Practice Model, and the impact of nurse empowerment, decision-making and satisfaction and development and testing of a practice model grounded in Margaret Newman’s Theory of Health as Expanding Consciousness.

In her position as Director of the Yvonne Mann Center for Nursing Research, Dorothy leads and mentors nurses in a professional environment and conducts scholarly inquiry directed toward supporting evidenced based practice and also the development of nurse researchers’ ability to develop their own research. As Professor of Nursing at BC, Dr. Jones cultivates an environment in which nurses and aspiring researchers can not only flourish, but also explore how to demonstrate qualitatively and quantitatively how nursing makes a difference in the health care of people. Because of her numerous contributions to the body of nursing knowledge and in her roles within organizations promoting nursing research, Dr. Jones is indeed a worthy recipient of the 2009 MARN Excellence in Nursing Research Award.

Dr. Gordon’s impact on nursing language development is legendary. She was the first President of NANDA-I, the North American Nursing Diagnosis Association-International in 1982. Today, NANDA is an international organization advancing nursing language around the world. The organization is currently involved in facilitating the integration of nursing language into the Patient Electronic Medical Record, assisting information system developers to integrate nursing languages into their programs. This would not have been available without the vision and efforts of Dr. Gordon.

Dr. Gordon was an early entrant into the American Academy of Nursing. She is in the truest sense a scholar, who has a distinguished record of service in her roles within organizations promoting nursing knowledge, language and cultural groups, evaluation of the Professional Practice Model, and the impact of nurse empowerment, decision-making and satisfaction and development and testing of a practice model grounded in Margaret Newman’s Theory of Health as Expanding Consciousness.

Typically, Dr. Jones’ research focuses on the value and unique knowledge of nurses that contributes to and improves the health and well being of people. Other areas of her research include: continued testing and development of the Functional Health Pattern Screening Assessment Tool across populations and cultural groups, evaluation of the Professional Practice Model, and the impact of nurse empowerment, decision-making and satisfaction and development and testing of a practice model grounded in Margaret Newman’s Theory of Health as Expanding Consciousness.

In her position as Director of the Yvonne Mann Center for Nursing Research, Dorothy leads and mentors nurses in a professional environment and conducts scholarly inquiry directed toward supporting evidenced based practice and also the development of nurse researchers’ ability to develop their own research. As Professor of Nursing at BC, Dr. Jones cultivates an environment in which nurses and aspiring researchers can not only flourish, but also explore how to demonstrate qualitatively and quantitatively how nursing makes a difference in the health care of people. Because of her numerous contributions to the body of nursing knowledge and in her roles within organizations promoting nursing research, Dr. Jones is indeed a worthy recipient of the 2009 MARN Excellence in Nursing Research Award.

Dr. Gordon is a most deserving recipient of the MARN 2009 Living Legend Award in Nursing.
Celebration of Nursing

Award for Excellence in Nursing Research
Rorry Zahourek, PhD, APRN, BC, HNC

In thinking about this award I was reminded of a saying that was shared with me early in my nursing career: “There are three kinds of people in the world: those who make things happen; those who watch things happen; and, those who wonder what happened”. Dr. Rothly “Rorry” Zahourek is clearly a member of the first category—she MAKES things happen. Dr. Zahourek is an exemplar of innovation and research process into nursing practice, scholarship and professional service. She is a proponent, generator and practitioner of evidence-based nursing practice (long before that terminology was coined). Her advancement practice psychiatric-mental health nursing career, began with her international nursing participation on clinical research teams that used their findings to improve patient care. She is a member of the Western Interstate Nurse Council for Nursing Research, Rorry and other like minded clinical research colleagues influenced that group to include studies from basic clinical researchers as well as academic researchers in its national conference proceedings.

In the 1970s, Rorry helped to conceive and develop one of the first private nursing practices in the country. Since that time, she has continued to maintain a private psychotherapy practice wherever she has lived. Dr. Zahourek's doctoral dissertation at New York University was a grounded theory study on “intentional communication” in health care—because Rorry wished to increase our understanding of the process and usefulness of language and hypnosis in psychotherapy. Her groundbreaking work has numerous applications to clinical practice in any specialty area. Her dissertation research was acknowledged with the coveted NYU School of Nursing Martha E. Rogers award.

Dr. Zahourek is a prolific writer, and has published in 22 different national and international journals. In 1989, Dr. Zahourek’s book, Relaxation and Imagery Tools for Therapeutic Communication and Intervention, won an ANA Book of The Year award. She has participated in numerous presentations and consulting projects, which includes activities related to substance abuse, pain management, hypnosis and relaxation techniques, and has become a leader and mentor of nursing students as the President of the American Holistic Nurses Association. In addition to these accomplishments, Rorry is an active member and leader in several professional nursing and healthcare organizations. She has shared her clinical expertise in numerous ways, including volunteering in post-Katrina crisis intervention activities.

Still going strong, Rorry continues her own research studies while facilitating the development and mentoring of a new generation of nurse researchers. She is an expert clinician, a valued professional colleague, a role model, mentor and dear friend—one who makes things happen.

2009 President's Award
Sandra Reissour, BS, RN & Jeanne Gibbs, MSN, RN

This year MARN President Toni Abraham chose two extremely dedicated nurses whose monumental efforts created the MARN Continuing Education Approver Unit. Working in an organization with only women hosted representatives from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), twice and both times the MARN CE Approver Unit received high marks for excellence in running our unit!

Cammie Townsend notes that both Sandra and Jeanne “are very detail-oriented people. At one time, ANCC came out with changes to their accreditation manual—highlighted, sticky noted, and well-read. Sure enough, Jeanne pulled hers out too. And they discovered that a second version of the manual had been released with conflicting information!” Indeed, detail-oriented.

Jeanne hosted monthly meetings (which Sandy drove to from Springfield) and stored boxes of materials at her house (in fact, Jeanne’s house became known as MARN’s Milton Office)! It is also well known that her husband’s sanctuary, his basement office, was stripped from him to become the official office while the Gibb’s dining room table became the conference space. Jeanne and Sandy had discussed turning the reins over to other people shortly after our Spring Convention last year. In so doing, they have reflected on the accomplishments of each other and of the committee. Some of the many accomplishments include:

- Heading a task force to look at the feasibility of MARN becoming an ANCC Accredited Approver and Provider
- Recommended pursuit of Accredited Approver status
- Obtained “provisional” approval from ANCC to operate an Approver Unit based upon the collective experience of the initial CE players
- Operating an approver unit in a “virtual” organization
- Applying for and receiving a 6-year Accredited Approver unit term, the highest possible outcome!

In addition to being professional & innovative, Jeanne and Sandy have shown an extraordinary amount of sensitivity and compassion.

Cammie wrote: “I have found both Sandy and Jeanne to be wonderful professional colleagues and incredibly supportive friends. During a difficult time, Sandy was one of the first people to call me and offer me support in a unique and beautiful way. I think that each of the committee members can share the same personal experience—they are committed not just to professional development and MARN, but to each of us individually.

Mary Manning noted that “without their ‘too many to count’ volunteer hours, MARN would not have a CE unit. It has been truly a work of love for them—a gift to MARN.”

We all agree it was an exciting journey. Sandy and Jeanne are ready to pass their duties to Judy Sheehan. They will each remain CEC members and peer reviewers. I think everyone hopes that the reins will be held in the “Milton office” but who knows. I just can say that any meeting at Jeanne’s promises to be a fun time that is punctuated by her knowledge and good will. It appears that they have brought a unique blend of professionalism and joy to the very challenging roles they filled for seven years. I deeply thank them for their true expression of volunteerism and am honored to present The President’s Award to Jeanne Gibbs and Sandra Reissour.
When the BIHSON closed in 1967, primary sources were discarded or displaced. Ethel Mascioli Ryan mined the archives that alumnae held in their memories. These oral histories are recorded in Ryan's *Recaptured Memories* (2001). She and the Alumnae of the BIHSON have preserved an essential part of the profession's narrative.

By the time the Beth Israel Hospital School of Nursing opened in 1907, the history of the new hospital at 45 Townsend Street in the Roxbury section of Boston was almost two years old. If the hospital was new, the idea of a Jewish nurse was still more novel. In 1918 Boston had only six Jewish registered nurses. By the time the BIHSON closed in 1967, it had graduated 1264 nurses, only a small percentage of whom were Jewish.

The new hospital and its nurses aimed to help the sick without regard to class, color or creed. To that end Jewish nurses, like those treated at the Massachusetts General Hospital, at St. Elizabeth's, at the Carney Hospital where they counted as 10% of the charity patients. The few Jews who were trained at the BWH feared that the food compromised their dietary obligations. More worrisome was the horror of dying in a non-Jewish setting.

The lack of English was still another problem: A Yiddish-speaking Jew conveyed his problem to an English-speaking doctor who could not understand nor converse with the patient. To cite one of many consequences of such communication problems, a doctor researched a cluster of symptoms that appeared at the BWH. The patients were Jewish and the symptoms were consistent with Jewish dietary obligations. More worrisome was the problem of not being able to speak the language could care for Jewish patients. This proposal was rejected outright, pleasing proponents of nurses taking care of their own, a situation that the nurses thought of as a Jewish “hereditary” tradition.
The swine flu outbreak has grabbed the state's attention and on April 26th it stirred the Massachusetts Senate to pass pandemic and disaster preparedness legislation. Until now, the House had taken a back seat, unable to find common ground on this legislation for years, despite pleas to act from public health professionals. This globally recognized health crisis has caught the attention of many here in Massachusetts.

Pandemic influenza is classified as a global outbreak of disease that occurs when a new influenza strain emerges in humans, causes serious illness and then spreads easily from person to person. According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, swine flu is a respiratory infection caused by influenza type A viruses that regularly cause outbreaks of influenza in pigs, but human infections can occur and typically involve people who have had direct contact with pigs. Recently however, human to human transmission is suspected among the 642 cases of swine flu in the British Isles. High noted there is no vaccine for the swine flu strain, antiviral medication can treat the symptoms. United States. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius was in Washington, DC this week in an effort to stress the importance of antiviral drugs to help fight the 2009 H1N1 flu. She held a press conference in an effort to update the nation on the status of the influenza A (H1N1) strain. She then announced that the federal government will spend $251 million to purchase another 13 million treatment courses of Tamiflu to help fight the spread of the virus. The new treatment courses will replenish the Strategic National Stockpile, which released 11 million of its 59 million treatment courses to the states and another 400,000 to Mexico during the last week of April to help stop the spread of the virus.

Most public health experts believe it is not a matter of IF a new strain of flu will begin to spread across the globe, but WHEN. For several years, Senator Richard Moore, Senate Chair of the Joint Health Care Financing Committee, has sponsored legislation to update the Massachusetts laws in the event of just such a pandemic outbreak and public health emergency. According to Moore's office, Massachusetts has experienced several serious flu outbreaks, most notably in 1957 and 1968. However, Massachusetts has never experienced an influenza Pandemic Epidemic, which killed over 50,000 Commonwealth residents. Many of our state laws that govern public health emergencies have not been updated since 1950 and are in dire need of modernization.

Sen. Moore's legislation provides for, and revamps the outdated laws to include some of the following changes:

- Authorizing the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health to do whatever is necessary to protect public health after the Governor has declared an emergency. Such actions may include: closing or evacuating buildings and facilities; decontamination of property and materials; procuring, storing and distributing any anti-toxins, serums, vaccines, immunizing agents, antibiotics, and the isolation or quarantine of individuals;
- Authorizing the Department of Public Health to specify responsibilities of health care providers, medical examiners, local public health authorities and others to report diseases, injuries, health conditions and threats to the Department;
- Requiring the Department of Public Health to establish a registry of volunteer personnel, the Massachusetts System for Advance Registration, to be activated during an emergency;
- Offering liability protections to physicians, health care providers and others in their roles as health care providers in the event of a public health emergency. This protection would extend to include their volunteer time, expertise and property in response to any such emergency;
- Allowing for health insurance to waive administrative requirements and other protocols during public health emergencies, implementing a 180 day reconciliation period for charges and reimbursements after the declared end of a public health emergency.

The bill text of S. 2028 can be reviewed at www.mass.gov/legis. It now proceeds to the House of Representatives for their consideration. When asked if the House had plans to take up the Senate bill, a spokesman for House Speaker Robert DeLeo, said in an e-mailed statement to the State House News Service: "The House recognizes the importance of this legislation and pandemic preparation, especially in light of the swine flu outbreak. While Commissioner Auerbach has cautioned against being overly alarmed, we are relieved by DHPP's efforts to minimize illness and harm to the public.

The House plans to have the bill under review as soon as possible." Any nurse interested in advocating for the passage of this legislation, and the potential implications for their state representative as a next step. To identify your state lawmakers, please utilize the state website at www.mass.gov/legis and select "legislators by city/town.

Marla J. Weston Named Chief Executive Officer for American Nurses Association

SILVER SPRING, MD—The Board of Directors of the American Nurses Association (ANA) takes great pride in announcing that Marla J. Weston, PhD, RN has been named chief executive officer (CEO), effective June 14, 2009. As CEO, Weston will be responsible for providing visionary leadership and building a firm dedicated to credible, assertive advocacy and to the dissemination of reliable public policy information.

Weston was named chief executive officer at the Arizona Nurses Association, a constituent member association of ANA located in Tempe, Arizona. For over five years, she led the statewide professional association for registered nurses, with duties that included managing and coordinating staff and volunteer programs to promote and advocate for the ANA and its members. Weston was named chief executive officer at the American Colleges of Healthcare Executives, the American Organization for Nurse Executives, and Sigma Theta Tau.

Weston earned a bachelor of science in nursing from the University of Arizona, a master of science in Nursing from Arizona State University, and a doctorate in Nursing from the University of Arizona.

Mark Your Calendar

This program has sought approval by the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses, an accredited approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

STRESS RESOURCES LLC

MINDFULNESS-BASED STRESS REDUCTION PROGRAM

The internationally recognized MBSR program will help you create calm within crisis, something we can all use in these challenging times! The MBSR program consists of 8 weekly 2-hour classes, taught by stress management expert and board-certified holistic nurse, Pamela Katz Ressler, RN, BSN, HN-BC

Fall 2009 classes begin on September 17 in Concord, MA. Thursday p.m. or Friday a.m. classes are available.

CE: 16 contact hours. This continuing nursing education activity was approved by the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses, Inc., an accredited approver of the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Tuition: $350 (includes CDs, manual, and text), BCBS discount available

Contact: Stress Resources
(www.stressresources.com) or 978-369-5243

Policy for Accepting Announcements for the Newsletter:

MARN encourages organizations of higher education to submit announcements about continuing education opportunities and upcoming events that are of interest to nurses. Fees must be included with submissions.

The Fee Schedule is as follows:

Non-MARN Approved Providers/Sponsors—$50
MARN Approved Providers/Sponsors—$25

Payment can be mailed to MARN, PO Box 285, Milton, MA 02186. Please include a copy of the announcement and contact information (name, address, telephone, Email) with the check. Please email copy to www.MARNonline.org.

Announcements are limited to 75 words.

ATTENTION POTENTIAL PROGRAM ADVERTISERS

Please be sure to clearly state if your educational program is approved by the MARN Approver Unit in all program submissions!

CE RESOURCE CENTER

FUN – FAST – AFFORDABLE HOMESTUDY CE COURSES

For almost 15 years, Lorand Health has offered nurses and allied health professionals innovative homestudy continuing education resources with a special emphasis on child/adolescent psychiatric issues. Please visit our nurse-friendly website to learn more about our programs (or) you may call us at (319) 832-1957 (CST) (M-F: 9 AM-5 PM). We look forward to assisting you with your continuing education needs.

www.ceresourcecenter.com
P.O. Box 10391
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52410

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Nursing Continuing Education Activity
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2009
Location: MCPHS—Worcester
19 Foster Street, Worcester, MA

Schedule:
8:00 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast
9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. CE sessions
12:15-1:00 p.m. Lunch buffet and networking
Continuing Education: Three contact hours (.3 CEUs)

How to Register: Program descriptions and registration flyer available online at http://alumni.mcphs.edu/ContinuingEducation

Visit MARN Website
www.MARNonline.org

Go to the URL: http://understandingsleep.org.

website

make the videotaping and this project

hospitality and time you have given to

issues. Thank you for all of your warm

and inspiration to others with sleep related

Your segment will be a valuable resource

“Dear Barbara,

education, and charitable arm of ANA.

Nurses Foundation, the research,

will also serve as CEO of the American

enterprise. In her new role, Weston

progressive leadership for the ANA

for providing visionary, strategic, and

2009. As CEO, Weston will be responsible

executive officer (CEO), effective June 14,

pride in announcing that Marla J.

The Board of Directors of the American

to the

Commonwealth

has been appointed by

Governor Deval Patrick to the Commonwealth

Healthcare Workforce

Advisory Council

Jayne Sportelli
Associate Producer

Need Sleep? Web site
LIVE and available to the public!

MARN’s own Barbara Gray from MARN
Board of Director’s participates.
Go to the URL: http://understandingsleep.org.
Also available at http://healthysleep.med.
harvard.edu/need_sleep

“Dear Barbara,
Your segment will be a valuable resource
for providing visionary, strategic, and
progressive leadership for the ANA
organization. In her new role, Weston
will also serve as CEO of the American
Nurses Foundation, the research,
education, and charitable arm of ANA.

The Board of Directors of the American
Nurses Association (ANA) takes great
pride in announcing that Marla J.
Weston, PhD, RN has been named chief
executive officer (CEO), effective June 14,
2009. As CEO, Weston will be responsible
for providing visionary, strategic, and
progressive leadership for the ANA
organization. In her new role, Weston
will also serve as CEO of the American
Nurses Foundation, the research,
education, and charitable arm of ANA.

ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES OF
ST ELIZABETH’S HOSPITAL SON
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS!

As you know, our school of nursing closed its
doors in 2000, after 105 years of education and
service to the nursing profession. In 2008, your
Alumni Association Board brought you our own
website: a place for our graduates to “connect” with
other alumni, explore available resources, share
ideas and learn about upcoming social events.

Please join/rejoin and see the site.
http://www.stelizabethsalumni.org

ATTENTION POTENTIAL PROGRAM
ADVERTISERS

Please be sure to clearly state if your
educational program is approved by the
MARN Approver Unit in all program
submissions!

Check MARN Out
On Facebook

New CEO for ANA

The Board of Directors of the American
Nurses Association (ANA) takes great
pride in announcing that Marla J.
Weston, PhD, RN has been named chief
executive officer (CEO), effective June 14,
2009. As CEO, Weston will be responsible
for providing visionary, strategic, and
progressive leadership for the ANA
organization. In her new role, Weston
will also serve as CEO of the American
Nurses Foundation, the research,
education, and charitable arm of ANA.
MEMBER BENEFITS
Your guide to the benefits of ANA/MARN membership...
It pays for itself

- **Dell Computers**—MARN and ANA ANA are pleased to announce a new member benefit. MARN and ANA members can now receive 5%-10% off purchases of Dell Computers. To take advantage of this valuable offer, or for more details, call 1-800-695-8133 or Visit Dell's Web Site at www.Dell.com

- **Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Hotel**

- **Professional Liability Insurance**—a must have for every nurse, offered at a special member price.

- **Nurses Banking Center**—free checking, online bill paying and high yield savings all available to you 24/7 to fit any shift or schedule at an affordable price—Liability/Malpractice, Health Insurance, Dental and Vision.

- **CBCA Life and Health Insurance Plans**—Disability Income, Long Term Care, Medical Catastrophe, Medicare Supplement, Cancer Insurance and Life Insurance Plans provided by CBCA Insurance Services.

- **Discounts** on auto rental through Avis and Budget.

- **Save on your hotel stays at Days Inn, Ramada Inn, Howard Johnson and more.**

- **Online discounts on all your floral needs through KaBloom.**

Promote yourself: professional development tools and opportunities

- **Members save up to $140 on certification through ANCC.**

- **Online continuing education available at a discount or free to members.**

- **Conferences and educational events at the national and local level offered at a discount to members.**

- **Member discounts on nursesbooks.org**—ANA's publications arm.

- **Find a new job on Nurse's Career Center**—developed in cooperation with Monster.com.

Stay informed: publications that keep you current

- **Free subscription to The American Nurse—a $20 Value.**

- **Free online access to OJIN—the Online Journal of Issues in Nursing.**

- **Free subscription to the MAssachusetts Report on Nursing—a $20 value.**

- **Free access to ANA's Informative listserves including—Capitol Update and Members Insider.**

- **Access to the new Members Only web site of NursingWorld.org.**

- **Free access to MARN’s Member-Only Listserv.**

MARN News is an up to date information service about a variety of issues important to nurses in Massachusetts. You must be a MARN member to be included, so join today!

MARN member: Have you gotten your MARN Update News message? If not, then we don’t have your correct email address. If you want to begin receiving this important information, just send an email to: info@MARNonline.org with “ADD” and your name on the subject line.

We also welcome any pictures that show MARN members in action...at work or at play. Interested persons, please contact Myra Cacace at myra@net1plus.com.

The MARN Approver Unit
The only Professional Nursing Organization ANCC Approver Unit in the Commonwealth
Program reviewers: available to review your nursing education programs any time.
For up to date Information about how to become an approved provider (for a single activity or as an organization) please visit the MARN Website www.MARNonline.org
Attention Current ANCC/MARN Approved Providers and potential applicants to become an Approved Provider of ANCC/MARN Approved Continuing Nursing Education credit:

The 2009 Accreditation Manual has arrived!

The MARN Continuing Education Committee/Accredited Approver Unit has begun to review new criteria set forth in the 2009 manual. There are many changes that will be incorporated into an updated application. Changes in criteria will be shared with you on an ongoing basis: e.g. new Activity and Provider applications and at the fall Provider Forum scheduled for October 21st.

There are two new issues regarding eligibility that are important to share with you now. This information is adapted from the "Frequently asked questions on the 2009 Manual" located on the ANCC website: http://www.nursecredentialing.org

1. Effective August 1, 2009 a commercial interest company can no longer apply for accreditation or approval either as a provider unit or a provider of an individual activity. Currently approved applications will maintain approval status until August 1, 2010.

Commercial product companies include:
*any entity either producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on patients or
*an entity that is owned or controlled by an entity that produces, markets, re-sells, or distributes health care goods or services consumed by, or used on patients.

Exceptions are made for non-profit or government organizations and non-health care related companies.

2. Effective August 1, 2009, an organization with a majority of CE activities targeted to an audience of nurses from outside the states of their HHS region [see map] or states contiguous to that region MUST apply to become an accredited provider through ANCC directly. Currently, these groups have had the option of either being approved through a state approver unit or accredited through ANCC. There is no option now to be approved through the state for those who fall into this category.

Approved providers who fall into this category will maintain their approval status throughout the current term of that approval.

We will continue to keep you updated as we implement these new criteria. Questions may be directed to: infoce@MARNonline.org.

Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses, Inc. is accredited as an approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.
In summer 2007 I received enough funding through the University of Hawaii, Office of International Health to visit Nepal. I had three months off, so I figured “why not?” My search of the World-Wide Web led me to the United Missions to Nepal (UMN), which operates several hospitals and nursing schools in that country. I arrived in Tansen, a city in a rural area in May.

The UMN hospital in Tansen, includes a Nursing School that has a three-year program with forty students in each class. Because of its missionary history, the language of instruction is English. The hospital serves a catchment area of about 750,000 people. Tansen is on the edge of the vast, remote area of Nepal where hundreds of thousands of people live without many paved roads or electricity. On a clear day we could see the Himalayas which were seventy miles away.

Nursing care in the hospital is provided in open wards with eleven patients to a room. When there was an overflow, patients are admitted to low-lying pallets in the corridors, often as many as twenty or thirty such patients. There was no air conditioning and the daytime temperature was around 95 degrees.

One of the highlights of my experience is that I was widely credited with saving the life of a young man who had been bitten by a poisonous snake. Without proper treatment, the victim can become paralyzed and suffocate. The hospital owned a simple mechanical ventilator but the doctors did not use it because they said “even though we are trained to write vent orders in the USA, it is the nurses who take over.” The doctors never took the time to train the nurses on the machine so I provided the in-service for the local nursing staff. When the boy was extubated after three days, I became a local hero. While some people who volunteer to practice nursing in an impoverished area might fantasize about ‘rescuing’ the natives, their fantasies rarely become reality. And yet, after the incident with the snakebite victim I found myself in this circumstance…a very singular experience. Life steps off into surrealism sometimes.

I spent much of that summer caring for pediatric victims with burn injuries. Though I was not visiting the country as a Christian missionary, my experiences caring for young people in a burn care unit made me re-examine my faith. I think it helped me to strengthen my commitment to nursing as a necessary function of humanity. I have written a book about the experience, titled “The Hospital at the End of the World” which is now being edited and will be in print in summer 2009. It is “narrative nonfiction;” and is the book I wish I had in my possession for my own first trip to Nepal.

I am planning my third trip to Nepal for summer 2009. This time I will take other University of Hawaii faculty with me, and some students. Stay tuned for the next installment!
By Christie Dwyer

I am currently a second semester junior in the nursing program at UMASS Boston. In the fall semester 2008, I was presented with a wonderful learning opportunity. I was chosen to be a part of a new clinical learning initiative. This initiative which originated in Australia is called the Dedicated Education Unit (DEU).

This amazing opportunity is led by the Lecturer and Course Coordinator of Adult Health 1 at the College of Nursing and Health Science; Katie Williams Kafel, RN, MS.

As Professor Kafel (2008) notes “The purpose of this innovative method of clinical instruction is to bridge the gap between education and practice. The University of Massachusetts College of Nursing and Health Sciences currently has a partnership with both Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women’s Hospital; in providing a clinical experience utilizing experienced baccalaureate prepared RNs on specific units at these institutions to educate and supervise junior level nursing students in their Adult Health 1 clinical rotation” (p.1). In my opinion, this new initiative is special because it boasts an unparalleled learning environment for the Adult Health 1 clinical rotation. What does this mean for the junior level nursing student in the DEU? It means instead of the traditional six to eight students to one clinical instructor, the ratio is two students to one instructor, thus allowing for a closer student to faculty relationship, more opportunities for practice and involvement in clinical skills and decisions making.

Lisa Caravaggio, RN, BS

An experienced clinical faculty member from the College directly oversaw the nurse preceptors and students at the Brigham where five other students and I were placed for a 14 week clinical experience. Thus, we were assigned to tower 14 A/B which is an intermediate medicine floor headed by nurse preorder Patricia Brita Rossi, RN, MS. I was assigned a wonderful nurse preceptor/mentor who worked side by side with me; her name is Laura Palmieri, RN, BS. I worked alongside Laura during her assigned twelve hour shifts. During these shifts I was immediately introduced to all of the computer programs, the medication system, as well as the philosophy and culture of the floor. Laura was instrumental in assisting me in perfecting my technical skills, critical thinking strategies and in overseeing my patient care. Laura always welcomed questions, gave wonderful advice and challenged myself and other classmates to use our critical thinking skills. There was never an opportunity missed to learn or see something new. Laura made sure we were always included in every aspect of patient care. Under these quite capable RN Instructors we were able to perform admission assessments, accurately care for patients during their stay and educate and evaluate their readiness for discharge. In post clinical conferences we were given feedback about our performances during the day and had the opportunity to ask questions and receive clarification on the many questions and issues that were presented during our day.

I would also like to mention that the staff on 14 A/B from the nurses to the unit coordinators was always willing to help and answer our questions as well. It was the total unit involvement that made our rotation on 14AB such a success. It was truly a unit dedicated to our learning, and because it was a unit dedicated to learning at the end of the semester my clinical group gave the unit a presentation, which included hand-outs and visual aids about the new Medicare changes that had recently gone into effect. The presentation went well and as students we were all proud of the support, encouragement and feedback we received from the nurses attending the presentation.

This amazing opportunity has allowed me to grow as a student nurse in the hospital that I can only dream of working in someday. My critical thinking skills were sharpened and my performance on exams was strengthened by this experience and has allowed me to I feel perform with more confidence in my upcoming clinical rotations.

It is my hope that this opportunity will exist for future students as it is clear to me that not only the nursing students benefit from this experience but ultimately that patients will benefit, and really that it what it’s all about is the care of our patients.

For myself as a student I would do it all over again in a heartbeat!

Reference:

Kristy Dwyer—UMASS Boston College of Nursing and Health Sciences nursing student Junior Employed at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Boston, MA; Member of Golden Key Honor Society International; Member of UMASS Boston’s Nursing Scholars Program; Member of the National Scholars Honor Society; Currently Resides in Marshfield, MA.

The Nursing Archives Associates (NAA) gathered at Boston University on a rainy spring evening 21 April 2009. Sean Noel, Associate Director of the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center brought greetings from Director Vita Paladino who was unable to attend. After giving details on the collections that have been used over the past year, Noel turned the meeting over to the President of the Nursing Archives Associates, Sarah Pasternack. She extended a warm welcome to the attendees. Pasternack then introduced the Board of the Nursing Archives Associates and the staff of the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center. The President reported on her activities and gave a special thank you to the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses for providing a table at its recent convention. She also thanked the nurse executives who did the same at their meeting. Before opening the program, Pasternack mentioned that MARN had given its Living Legend Award to Mary Ellen Doona and Marjory Gordon. Gordon is donating her papers to the History of Nursing Archives.

Then Pasternack introduced Drs. Muriel A. Poulin and Margaret L. McClure, the featured speakers of the Annual Meeting. Serving as moderator the President ensured that Poulin and McClure gave time not only to present their research on hospitals that were magnets that attracted and retained nurses but also fielded attendees’ questions and comments. Audience participation was lively and continued well after the formal program into the gracious reception which Diane Gallagher and the Centers staff had prepared.

Drs. Muriel A. Poulin and Margaret L. McClure

Magnet Hospitals: Attraction and Retention of Professional Nurses

Mary Ellen Doona, RN, EdD

The Nursing Archives Associates (NAA) gathered at Boston University on a rainy spring evening 21 April 2009. Sean Noel, Associate Director of the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center brought greetings from Director Vita Paladino who was unable to attend. After giving details on the collections that have been used over the past year, Noel turned the meeting over to the President of the Nursing Archives Associates, Sarah Pasternack. She extended a warm welcome to the attendees. Pasternack then introduced the Board of the Nursing Archives Associates and the staff of the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center. The President reported on her activities and gave a special thank you to the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses for providing a table at its recent convention. She also thanked the nurse executives who did the same at their meeting. Before opening the program, Pasternack mentioned that MARN had given its Living Legend Award to Mary Ellen Doona and Marjory Gordon. Gordon is donating her papers to the History of Nursing Archives.

Then Pasternack introduced Drs. Muriel A. Poulin and Margaret L. McClure, the featured speakers of the Annual Meeting. Serving as moderator the President ensured that Poulin and McClure gave time not only to present their research on hospitals that were magnets that attracted and retained nurses but also fielded attendees’ questions and comments. Audience participation was lively and continued well after the formal program into the gracious reception which Diane Gallagher and the Centers staff had prepared.

Drs. Muriel A. Poulin and Margaret L. McClure

Magnet Hospitals: Attraction and Retention of Professional Nurses

Mary Ellen Doona, RN, EdD

The Nursing Archives Associates (NAA) gathered at Boston University on a rainy spring evening 21 April 2009. Sean Noel, Associate Director of the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center brought greetings from Director Vita Paladino who was unable to attend. After giving details on the collections that have been used over the past year, Noel turned the meeting over to the President of the Nursing Archives Associates, Sarah Pasternack. She extended a warm welcome to the attendees. Pasternack then introduced the Board of the Nursing Archives Associates and the staff of the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center. The President reported on her activities and gave a special thank you to the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses for providing a table at its recent convention. She also thanked the nurse executives who did the same at their meeting. Before opening the program, Pasternack mentioned that MARN had given its Living Legend Award to Mary Ellen Doona and Marjory Gordon. Gordon is donating her papers to the History of Nursing Archives.

Then Pasternack introduced Drs. Muriel A. Poulin and Margaret L. McClure, the featured speakers of the Annual Meeting. Serving as moderator the President ensured that Poulin and McClure gave time not only to present their research on hospitals that were magnets that attracted and retained nurses but also fielded attendees’ questions and comments. Audience participation was lively and continued well after the formal program into the gracious reception which Diane Gallagher and the Centers staff had prepared.
The American Nurses Association and MARN are an influential and effective network of registered nurses who support nursing. When you join MARN and ANA, you join with nurses around the country in speaking with one strong voice on behalf of your profession and health care. Together we can make a difference! As a full ANA/CMA member—you are a full voting member in the American Nurses Association and your state nurses association and entitled to valuable products and benefits that help you:

Be heard: advocating for nurses where it matters
- Federal lobbying on issues important to nursing and health care—issues such as safe staffing, nursing workforce development, overtime pay and access to care.
- State lobbying through our State Nurses Associations and nationwide state legislative agenda on issues vital to your scope of practice.
- Representing nursing where it matters, including the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and many others, right up to the White House.
- Speaking for nursing through the media including stories in the Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, USA Today, 60 Minutes, NBC Nightly News, CNN, and NPR to name a few.
- Speaking for U.S. nurses as the only U.S.A. member of the International Council of Nurses and attending meetings of the World Health Organization.

Guide the Profession: ensuring nursing quality and safety
- Maintaining the Code of Ethics for Nurses which was first developed by ANA in 1926.
- ANA develops and publishes the Scope and Standards of practice for nursing and many of its specialties.
- Through the National Database on Nursing Quality Indicators, ANA is collecting data that link nurse staffing levels to quality nursing care.
- Addressing workplace hazards such as back injuries, latex allergies, safe needles and workplace violence.

Influence Decisions: becoming involved
- Join one of the many committees and boards at the national, state and local level that are shaping the direction of the association and the profession.
- Participate in member surveys that let you influence the association’s agenda.

Save money: discounts and privileges for members.
For more information, visit the ANA website http://www.nursingworld.org/member2.htm