We're heading: Back down to Biloxi!

The Mississippi Nurses Association invites you to join us for the association's return to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for its 95th Annual Convention, October 21-24.

With the renovation of the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino and the reconstruction of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, MNA is heading “Back down to Biloxi.”

More information coming soon...
Check our Website, www.msnurses.org for updates!

You're going to want to be there!

Nurses Score Big During Legislative Session

by Betty Dickson
MNA Lobbyist

It was Nurses’ Day at the Capitol on Monday, April 14 as the Mississippi Legislature passed bill after bill giving funding to address the Nursing Shortage and to add 16 more school nurses to the Office of Healthy Schools in the Department of Education. The session ended on April 19. Every school of Nursing in Mississippi will receive funding for one additional Nursing faculty member.

Total appropriation for Nursing this session was a little over $3,700,000, an unprecedented figure considering the budget constraints during this session.

First, to pass was HB 1602, State Department of Health budget, where $750,000 was added to the existing $2.55 million for school nurses. Money from the Health Department will flow to the Department of Education, adding 16 more school nurses to the existing numbers.

The Department of Education budget also included raising the cap on the number of school nurses from 26 to 30 who can receive a $6,000 pay raise for national certification. School nurses who receive national certification can receive a $6,000 pay raise.

Next to pass were the Institutions of Higher Learning bills. SB 3116 allocated $75,000 to fund the simulation lab study requested by MNA and the Nursing Shortage Task Force. This study will look at the feasibility of utilizing these labs to enhance the number of clinical sites available for nursing students.

In another IHL bill, SB 3118 included $316,383 for one additional Nursing faculty member each at Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Mississippi University for Women and the University of Southern Mississippi. The University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing received $104,400 for an additional faculty in SB 3117.

The community college board bill SB 3120 added $1,260,000 for additional faculty at community college schools of nursing and, finally, SB 3119, saw an appropriation to the Community College Board of $1,250,000 to fund the four existing

Continued on Page 4

MNA District 6 Awards First Book Scholarship

MNA District 6 representing Jackson, George, and Greene counties has presented Johnette Fountain the first District 6 Mississippi Nurses Association Book Scholarship in the amount of $500 for the 2008/2009 academic school year. Fountain is a level I nursing student at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

"This scholarship was made possible through the fund raising efforts of Margie Dier, a long time devoted member of our organization," said Terri Gore, district president. "Margie has served our district in many capacities including four years as president and is a faithful attendee at MNA convention. She is currently serving as our treasurer."

Dier's fund raising efforts included participation in the National Marathon to Fight Breast Cancer on Feb. 17 of this year. She asked district members and area nurses to contribute an amount for each mile she ran in the 26.2 marathon held in Jacksonville, Fla.

"I have been a member of the Mississippi Nurses Association since graduating in 1993," Dier said. "For some time, I wanted to contribute to nursing scholarships in Mississippi. I also run as a hobby. It started out as a way to help keep me healthy but I ended up enjoying it so much that I ran a marathon. With that first marathon, I decided to continue

Continued on Page 3

MNF’s first Land Cruise sails well

The Jackson Yacht club was the perfect setting for the Mississippi Nurses Foundation First Annual Harmony for Health Inaugural Land Cruise to the Caribbean.

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Inside

It’s all about you!

MNA Vice President Carl Mangum, RN, MSN, PhD(c), CHS, FF, talks about membership and how the association provides added benefits to the profession of nursing.

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Vol. 70, No. 2 Summer 2008

Join MNA Now!
In many ways nursing and the American Nurses Association (ANA) are at a crossroads, and it is very important that decisions are made that positively impact both nurses and the profession. There are forces at work today that directly impact your scope of practice, how you are represented, and what the future of nursing and healthcare in this country look like.

Many of you may have received flyers in the mail from the California Nurses Association (also known as NNOC-National Nurses Organizing Committee) urging you to support their organization. The California Nurses Association is a rogue organization that is not a part of the American Nurses Association (www.nursingworld.org). They are not RN’s working in Mississippi. They are not invited guests of the Mississippi Nurses Association (www.msnpnurses.org) or any other nursing organization in Mississippi. The California Nurses Association (NNOC) describes themselves as an alternative to ANA and state nurses associations. NNOC plans to build RN power through new aggressive unionizing campaigns in every state.

All of us want to improve working conditions for RNs and quality care for patients. This work is central to our mission and our purpose as an organization. MNA has almost 100 years of demonstrated success in that regard. Magnet designation is another successful option MNA supports to achieve substantive improvements for the RN and their patients. Since Mississippi is a workplace advocacy state, MNA also supports a non-union workplace advocacy program through the ANA affiliate, the Center for America Nurses (www.americanrn.org). The Center for American Nurses (CAN) is a professional association whose mission is to create a community of nursing organizations that serves individual, non-union nurses by providing programs, tools, and policies that address their workplace concerns.

So, why has the California Nurses Association decided to intrude into Mississippi? It appears, there are very few states in which they haven’t intruded. It is becoming increasingly apparent, however, that despite their boastful campaign slogans, the dues paying members of the California Nurses Association are disgruntled with the lack of representation they are getting from their leaders; especially with their own dues money (almost $1,000 a year per member) being dispersed across the country to set up shop elsewhere. The question appears to be why, with the issues the California nurses have at home, are their money and leadership resources going somewhere else. Are the nurses working in California financially willing to underwrite efforts to recruit nurses for the entire country?

For those of you who don’t remember, immediately after Hurricane Katrina, nurses from around the country were volunteering their time to come to Mississippi and assist with the relief efforts. The California Nurses Association, however, sent nurses here, on the pretext of assisting, but with the bigger goal of soliciting support for their organization. The fact that they brought the media with them was an obvious sign that they were in the state for the attention, not to offer assistance. When the hospital on the Coast assigned them to their duties, they rebelled, walked out of the hospital, leaving their patients, and sat on the steps until they found a facility that provided them with more visibility for their purposes.

The Mississippi Nurses Association has been a national role model for representing the interests of all nurses staff, educator, advanced practice, and all others. Our legislative successes are also a testament to the influence and respect your nurses’ association has in the state. We encourage you to continue to support it with your membership and involvement.
A Report from the President...  
Pam Farris  

MNA Has Been Working Hard for the Nursing Profession!

Over the last couple of months, MNA has been very busy doing the things we have promised you that we would do for nursing and the patients of our state.

We have had great success with our legislative initiatives. We achieved a number of our goals. We were successful in adding one nurse faculty position to each school of nursing in the state. We gained funding to study the need for nursing simulators in the state to help with clinical education for all nursing students, and we added 16 school nurse positions. Additionally, we will receive funding to start another five high school to LPN-dual enrollment programs in the community colleges to bring the total LPN dual enrollment programs to eight.

You may ask why is MNA concerned about increasing the number of LPNs. The reason is very easy—to protect the patients of the state. If you will remember, there was a push for medical technicians to fill positions in the nursing homes. This would be taking anyone off the street and giving them a minimum amount of training and the authority to pass out medications to our most vulnerable patient populations—the elderly in the nursing homes.

MNA knew that long term care needed more nursing help. Adding the dual enrollment LPN program was a solution that would benefit all. Now four programs have high school students taking courses in the community colleges so that when they graduate, they can complete the LPN program within six months. This is working wonderfully. The long term care facilities are getting trained LPNs to give out meds and take care of the patients.

MNA is mentoring these nurses to encourage them to continue with their education to become RNs.

As I mentioned, we are still very concerned about the nursing shortage and the shortage of trained nursing faculty. With the added nurse faculty position to every school of nursing in the state and the feasibility study that will look at placing clinical simulators to help with training our nursing students, we will be moving forward.

School nurses also have a tremendous job. There should be a school nurse in every school. The 16 new school nurse positions the department of education received will go a long way, but we still need to continue to fight to get more. Children cannot learn if they are not healthy. Sometimes the only healthcare professional they see is their school nurse. School nurses make a huge difference in the lives of our children.

Advance nursing practice is being scrutinized daily. MNA's job is to oversee that the scope of our advanced practice nurse's are protected and rules are jointly decided. We have been a regular force at the Board of Medical Licensure and at the Board of Nursing. We will remain there to ensure that advanced practice nursing is not compromised. As you can tell, we have been very busy and will remain very busy if the first part of the year is any indicator. We have just finished an incredible Nurse Practitioner convention in Natchez, and we are planning a spectacular annual convention when we "head back down to Biloxi" in October. We have not been back since the hurricane so it should be a most memorable event.

I cannot tell you how important it is to be a member of your professional organization—Mississippi Nurses Association. MNA takes care of the nursing profession for all nurses. Please join if you are not a member; it will be the most important thing you can do for your nursing profession.

The staff at MNA has been working so hard for nursing, and they have some new and exciting things that you are going to love. I hope that if you have any questions, concerns, or just want to talk, please email me at farris.pam@cableone.net. Hope to hear from you.

Pam

(continued from page 1)  

running and to raise money for different causes along the way.”

Dier said she chose to run the National Marathon to fight Breast Cancer in memory of her mother-in-law, Ruth Dier, who succumbed to cancer in December 2004. “I planned to wear a ribbon during the marathon with Ruth's name to honor her memory,” she said.

Last December, she asked for help in raising money for breast cancer research and for nursing scholarships. “I asked for my fellow nurses to please consider a small donation—a dollar for each mile I ran—to help fund research to find a cure for this dread disease that affects one in four women,” she said. "The contributions will help further the education of nurses in South Mississippi. These nurses are on the front lines helping women through the rigors of their treatments.”
**Nurses Score Big...**
**(continued from page 1)**

dual enrollment senior high LPN programs with legislative intent language to increase the numbers to nine.

**Dual Enrollment for High School Students is SB 3119**
There are currently four programs operational: East Mississippi Community College at Starkville High School, Hinds Community College at Pearl High School, Meridian Community College at Ross Collins Vocational Center and Mississippi Delta Community College at O’Bannon and T. L. Weston High Schools. Funding from the 2008 session will continue to fund the existing programs and expand the project to five more schools.

Dual-enrollment in a community college practical Nursing program provides an opportunity for senior high schools to implement the first semesters of an LPN program during their senior year. These students are eligible to continue the LPN program with the potential for completing the program within six months of their high school graduation. Upon high school graduation, students are eligible to become certified as a CNA.

This 2008 legislation session has proved to be one of Nursing’s most successful years following 2006 and 2007 where nursing faculty received $6,000,000.00 over $6,000,000.00

**Clinical Simulation Labs SB 2590**
A primary concern for schools of Nursing is that clinical laboratory resources are limited. Patient care experiences for nursing students in this rural state are dependent on the availability of resources and particular types of patients within a geographic area.

Simulation labs have become the gold standard for health care education by providing state of the art training to improve the quality of care and to prepare preventable medical errors at healthcare providers. The feasibility study and comprehensive plan for nursing in Mississippi would address the concerns of the State legislature in order to provide enhanced learning for all schools and maximize the state’s dollars. There are models in other states where regional resources and institutions have been pooled to develop state of the art simulation labs that are shared, with some having mobile capability. The feasibility study would allow Mississippi to be proactive in planning for the future to ensure that nursing education is of the highest quality. The completed plan would be reported prior to the 2009 legislative session.

All of this support stems from the nursing community working together through a long range planning process, utilizing data from the Office of Nursing Workforce and having the Mississippi Nurses Association as the lead agent in bringing this all together.

**Trauma Care Bill**
Other bills of interest to Nursing include the Trauma Care bill. Legislation passed a bill to use portions of the fines for speeding, driving under the influence and license plate sales, among others, to help fund trauma care hospitals. House Bill 1405 cleared the House and the Senate and has been signed into law by Gov. Haley Barbour. This bill also created a“no play,” and hospitals that choose not to participate in the trauma care system will have to pay a fee determined by the Mississippi Department of Health. There is existing language in the trauma care law that creates a Trauma Care Advisory Council that includes a registered nurse whose experience include critical care, trauma, emergency service, and is appointed from a list of nominees provided by the Mississippi Nurses Association. The other nurse position is an appointment by the Mississippi Emergency Nurses Association.

The Trauma Care System could increase its funding up to $40 million as opposed to the current $8 million or less that it has been receiving.

**Other Nursing Legislation**
Other bills that included nursing interest included:
- SB 2426 added nurse practitioners to the list of providers who may conduct a commitment examination for mental health treatment. The NP with a physician may provide this service. This bill was aimed at having enough providers to perform this examination.
- HB 558 Booster seats; require use of when transporting certain children in a passenger motor vehicle. MNA worked with the pediatricians to move this bill through.
- HB 1023 Health data registry: expands coverage of anthrax treatment program to pertussis to the program that registers the condition and treatment of persons seeking medical assistance in a state Department of Health. It expands the coverage of the program to include data from licensed health care providers. This bill is supported by The State Department; requires submission of patient data to the Mississippi Hospital Association or the State Department after each calendar quarter. Additionally, it creates a State Health Data advisory committee. Language in the bill includes a committee appointee from MNA. MNA has supported it as a data collection system in Mississippi for many years.
- HB 1405 Mississippi trauma system; requires participation by hospitals and increases fees earmarked for trauma care fund.
- SB 2590 Schools of Nursing in Mississippi; provides that IHL conduct study for utilization of clinical simulation laboratories for schools.
- SB 2480 UMC Center of Excellence for abused and neglected children; allows for continuation of the program.
- SB 2713 State Board of Pharmacy; implements a state controlled substance monitoring program in compliance with federal law.

The one issue that needs to be decided during the regular session was Medicaid. The legislators went home without a settlement on how to fund Medicaid through a special session. Medicaid is to be called by the governor prior to June 30.

For more information on these bills, please access the legislative Website as follows: www.ls.state.ms.us. Click on All Bills not dead and search for the bill number.
MNA Membership: It Is All About You!

Carl Mangum, RN, MSN, PhD(c), CHS, FF

Mississippi Nurses Association is looking toward celebrating its 100th year anniversary in 2011. Mangum has pioneered advocacy for nurses and takes the position that membership is responsible to all nurses in the state regardless of membership. That view is sometimes detrimental to one of the association’s primary goals—increasing membership.

MNA Vice President Carl Magnum, RN, MSN, PhD(c), FF, and chairman of the MNA Membership Special Interest Group suggested that some nurses who are aware of the work that MNA does for the profession of nursing sometime think that membership isn’t necessary. “MNA is going to lobby for nursing issues, work to solve the nursing shortage by seeing that more faculty positions are funded,” he said. “We meet congressional members, conference and workshops, monitor actions of the Board of Nursing and the Board of Medical Licensure anyway,” Mangum said. “Those of us who are in leadership positions in MNA and who have been involved in the association for a long time realize that there is an added benefit to membership. Only a small percentage of nurses are in leadership positions in the state and these nurses who are pulling the bulk of the work day-in and day-out.

‘Many don’t realize the added benefit in being a member,’ he said. ‘For me one of the biggest draws about membership is involvement in continuing education.’

While MNA membership provides sizeable discounts for ANCC certification and for many continuing education programs, Mangum said, he is drawn by the opportunity to be involved in the planning of continuing education programs. “I like having some input into the kinds of courses presented for continuing education so that I can refresh my knowledge or gain new knowledge in the areas of my work.”

Networking is another benefit to membership. “By networking with other MNA members at district meetings or at conferences and conventions you are able to create a fellowship and camaraderie with people who share the same love and passion for nursing. It doesn’t matter if you are an o.b. nurse, psychiatric nurse or med-surge nurse. It really doesn’t matter. You are a nurse and we all have a common bond. It is important to build on that bond.”

When Mangum finished his AD program at Hinds Community College in Raymond, he said he knew about MNA and had plenty of chances to learn more about it and even join, but he was one of those who said, ‘Hey, that’s not for me. Somebody else will do it. Somebody else will take care of it. I really don’t need it. I earned everything I needed to learn in nursing school.’

“Well, that’s not true,” he said. “I didn’t have the big picture. I think I am just now starting to see the big picture. I need what MNA has to offer.”

Another excuse he said he often hears is that MNA costs too much. “Lots of people say, ‘Well, I have to pay all that money.’ I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money. ‘I know that cost is a sticking point for many people. However, I pay my $23 and some odd cents every month. I don’t really have to pay all that money.’ I have to pay all that money.

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Carl Mangum

MNA Atends LEAD Summit 2008 in Washington

The ANA Government Affairs Department has scheduled a Lobby Day on Capitol Hill to kick off the upcoming House of Delegates meeting. “The Lobby Day will feature a breakfast and an issues briefing, followed by an opportunity for members to meet congressional members and make the voice of nursing heard in the halls of Congress,” said Rose Gonzalez, MPS, RN, ANA’s director of Government Affairs.

MNA Delegates Gear Up for ANA House of Delegates

Members of the Mississippi Nurses Association will send 10 delegates to Washington, D.C., June 25-27 to participate in the American Nurses Association House of Delegates. Election of delegates was held in January. Candidates for the House were self-nominated between October and the end of November. Delegates are, Debbie Allen, MSN, RN, of Greenville; Ann Barnes, BSN, RN, of Madison; Pam Farriss, BSN, RN, of Brookhaven; Juanita Graham, MSN, RN, of Harperville; Gayle Harrell, MSN, NP, of Pelahatchie; Janet Harris, RN, MSN, CNAA, BC, of Brandon; Phyllis Polk Johnson, MSN, RN, of Jackson; Carl Mangum, RN, MSN, PhD(c), CHS, FF, of Byram; Donna Scoggion, RN, MSN, BC, of Ellisville; Mary A. Ware, MA, RN, of Pearl River, and MNA Executive Director Ricki Garrett of Clinton. Alternates are Dan Burgess, RN, MS, of Gulfport; Michael Theros, RN, MSN, of Gulfport; Deborah Mauffray, RN, BSN, of Biloxi, Kimberly Williams, PhD, MSN, RN, of Gautier.

The ANA House of Delegates is the governing and official body of the association. The house creates policy and positions that support the purposes of ANA. Delegates adopt and amend ANA policies and promote the development and promulgation of nursing standards.

MNA delegates to ANA House to Attend Lobby Day

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MNA delegates will participate in the Center for American Nurses Educational Conference and Annual Meeting.

Delegates Pam Farriss, BSN, RN, OCN, and Mary Stogrott, RN, BSN, PhD(c), and MNA Executive Director Ricki Garrett will represent the Mississippi Nurses Association at the second annual Center for American Nurses’ Educational Conference and Annual Meeting June 25-27 to participate in the American Nurses Educational Conference and Annual Meeting June 23-25 at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The conference will feature presentations on evidence-based practice strategies and technologies to improve both the work environment of nurses and patient care delivery. This promises to be a program that is beneficial to nurses in all practice settings and roles.

Program Highlights:

Dr. Tim Porter-O’Grady DM, EdD, ScD(h), FAAN, noted for his work on shared governance models, clinical leadership and, conflict will present his vision of healthcare delivery models of the future.

Dr. Audrey Nelson, PhD, RN, FAAN, ‘Cracking the Code of Patient Falls’

Jane Kirschling RN, DNS Dean. College of Nursing, University of Kentucky, will present fresh ideas on successfully integrating new and emerging nurses into the profession.

Dr. Maryann Alexander RN, PhD, Associate Executive Director, Regulatory Programs, National Council of State Boards of Nursing will discuss the importance of continued competence and solutions to the current lack of uniformity across states.

Winifred Carson-Smith, Ms. Carson-Smith will examine the advantages and disadvantages of current initiatives related to nurse staffing such as mandated patient/nurse ratios and staffing by patient acuity. She will also discuss what protections are in place for nurses and provide guidance on when, where and how to blow the whistle when patient care is being compromised.

Marybeth A. Farquhar, RN, MSN, Senior Advisor for the AHRQ Quality Indicators Program will describe the newest innovative methods for improving quality for health care providers and consumers.

Linda Sharkey, RN, MSN, Vice President, Patient Care Services, CNO, Lifetime Health Organization will describe how her facility used the Planetree model to move into a patient centered comprehensive healing environment.

Gail M. Keenan, BSN, MS, PhD, is Director of the Nursing Informatics Initiative at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Associate Professor of Administrative Nursing. She will describe the Hands Method, a system of documenting patient care plans in the electronic health record that could potentially revolutionize nursing practice.

To join MNA, go to www.msnurses.org and click on membership or call the MNA office at (601) 898-0670.

June, July, August 2008—Mississippi RN—Page 5
Natchez Welcomes Nurse Practitioners
Spring Convention

More than 230 Nurse Practitioners from across the state attended the Mississippi Nurses Association Spring Convention in Natchez April 25 and 26. “The turn out was spectacular,” said MNA Executive Director Ricki Garrett. “We were so pleased with the city’s hospitality and the convention facilities were great.”

The keynote speaker for the convention was Tim Byrum, MSN, APRN-BC, presenting a Product Theatre: Lyrica by the Medical Education Initiative, LLC. Featured dinner speaker was K.C. Arnold, ANP, BE-ADM, nurse practitioner and owner of the Diabetes Center, PLLC of Ocean Springs. K.C. has won the 2007 Nurse Practitioner Entrepreneur of the Year award from the national journal, ADVANCE for Nurse Practitioners. Arnold spoke to the group about Nurse Entrepreneurship.

The focus of the convention was to offer advance practice nurses an opportunity to network with colleagues and to earn continuing education credits. Topics and speakers included GERD “Spit Happens”—Mary Thornton, FNP, Coronary Artery Disease 2008: Can We Identify and Treat the Risk Factors Earlier and More Aggressively—Carolyn Finocchiaro, CLS, MSN, BSN; Breaking Bad News—Bonnie Jenkins, FNP; Chronic Kidney Disease—Catherine Wells, NP; Alzheimer’s Disease 2008: Early Recognition and Treatment to Attenuate Disease Progression—Kathy Andorfer Kemle, M.S., PA-C; Depression in Primary Care—Kerry Kokaisel, FPMHNP-BC; The Gift that Keeps on Giving: Lead Levels in Children—Patsy Smyth, FNP, DSN, Basic EKG—Jamie Brockman, MSN, ACNP, An Overview of STDS—Lisa Haynie, PhD, RN, CFNP; Practical PND—Bruce Giamalva, TTC, and Lt. Col. Sarah Powell, Medical Nutrition Therapy in the Clinic Parts A & B—Stanford Owen, MD, EKG Interpretations: Ischemic Changes—Jill Shaw, RN, MSN, CPC, CCS-P; Role of the Nurse Practitioner in the Cardiac Cath Lab—Carolyn Williams, DNP, ANP, BE-ADM, nurse practitioner and owner of the Diabetes Center, PLLC of Ocean Springs.


For more information about Mississippi Nurses Association’s Council on Advanced Practice contact, MNA offices at (601) 898-0670 or send an e-mail to mna@msnurses.org.
Networking is one of the strongest benefits in attending the MNA Nurse Practitioner Spring Convention.

The convention exhibit hall featured more than 26 exhibitors.

MNA Marketplace introduced a new pattern by Gail Pittman especially designed for the Mississippi Nurses Association. The salad plate is $35 and shipping is $8.95. All sales from this collection will benefit the Mississippi Nurses Association. See order form included in this issue. Additional pieces will be introduced throughout the year.

More than 230 nurse practitioners attended the MNA Spring NP Convention in Natchez.

MNA President Pam Farris, RN, BSN, OCN, talks bargains with nurse practitioners at the MNA Marketplace. MNA offered for the first time scrubs with the MNA logo on the sleeve. To order scrubs or any item from the MNA Marketplace, call MNA offices at (601) 898-0670.

Dinner speaker K.C. Arnold, ANP, BE-ADM, left, visits with clinic owner Lisa Byrd, RN, CFNP, CNOR, and Director of the MNA Council on Advanced Practice Jackie Williams, MSN, NP-C, during the Friday night reception.

MNA Events and Continuing Education Coordinator Angela Weathersby, right, introduced Mississippi NPs to the talents of Jazz Pianist Charles Bridges of Jackson, Miss. Bridges, a student music major at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and Minister of Music at St. Peter Baptist Church in Jackson entertained during the Friday night reception at the Natchez Convention Center.

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Gail Pittman Introduces MNA Design

Gail Pittman, Inc., of Ridgeland has announced the debut of a new pattern especially designed for the Mississippi Nurses Association. The pattern made its debut at the Nurse Practitioners Convention in Natchez, April 21-24.

“We are so pleased that we have this opportunity to work with Gail Pittman and her design team in the creation of a pattern for MNA,” said Ricki Garrett, executive director of the Mississippi Nurses Association. “It is a wonderful project that I think will benefit the association for years to come.

The first item for sale in this new series is an 8¼” square salad plate. The plate can be ordered by contacting MNA offices at (601) 898-0670 or by sending an e-mail to mna@msnurses.org. The salad plate is $35 and shipping is $8.95. All sales from this collection will benefit the Mississippi Nurses Association. See order form included in this issue.

New items will be added to the series. Watch for announcements in The Mississippi RN and in the electronic newsletter, Members Only. Pittman will soon launch the Mississippi Nurses Association Collectors’ Club accessible through www.gailpittman.com.

Order Form

Name ______________________________________________
Billing Address ______________________________________
City ________________________ State ______ Zip ________
Phone____________________________________________

Quantity x $35 (plus tax & shipping) Total _________

Shipping Address
(If different from Billing Address)
City________________________ State ______ Zip ________
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❏ Visa    ❏ MasterCard    ❏ AMX
Card #: _________________________ Exp. Date: _________
Cardholder’s Signature: ______________________________
Cardholder’s Name: _________________________________

Order will be shipped within three weeks
MNF Harmony for Health Sets Sail

The Mississippi Nurses Foundation launched its first Harmony for Health Land Cruise (to the Caribbean) Saturday, April 19 at the Jackson Yacht Club. "The yacht club was the perfect setting for the Mississippi Nurses Foundation Harmony for Health Inaugural Land Cruise," said MNF President Lisa Haynie. "With a backdrop of a full moon glowing on the beautiful Ross Barnett Reservoir and a crystal clear night, Harmony for Health was a huge success." The Land Cruise concept will allow the foundation to take on a different theme at its annual Harmony for Health fund raising event benefiting the High Five, Hand-washing Wellness Program.

"Next year the foundation will cruise to another port-of-call," Haynie said. "Should it be the Mediterranean, Italy, or Hawaii, who knows, you make the call. Stay Tuned...

Lisa Haynie, MNF President

Maggie Wade from WLBT-TV in Jackson was the emcee. This year's event featured Jackson's own Compozitionz. "We could not have had such a successful event without the participation of the Harmony Committee members and the support of our sponsors," Haynie said. Sponsors for the event included: River Oaks Health Systems, Bancorp South, City of Madison, Delta State University School of Nursing, St. Dominic Health System, Madison Heart Clinic, Prime Care Nursing, Trustmark National Bank, Bank of Morton, Central Mississippi Medical Center and University Nursing Associates.

For more information about Harmony for Health Land Cruises contact, Jean Jones at (601) 898-0850 or e-mail at jjones@msnurses.org.

Virginia Cora, center, celebrates her win in the $5,000 draw-down with Joe Mac Hudspeth, left, and Janet Harris, right. Cora won the draw-down and in a gift, gave the proceeds back to the foundation.

Mississippi Nurses Association Executive Director Ricki Garrett, left, and MNA President Pam Farris enjoy the evening of music and food at the Mississippi Nurses Foundation's Harmony for Health Land Cruise to the Caribbean. Proceeds from the event benefited the MNF High Five Hand-washing Wellness Program.

Mississippi Nurses Foundation Board member Linda Moore, right, and husband, Joe are welcomed with leis at the Mississippi Nurses Foundation Harmony for Health Inaugural Land Cruise.

Andre and Julie Bennett and Philip Rush join the festivities.

Sonja Fuqua, left, and Albert Cavett enjoy dinner from the Caribbean buffet.

Mississippi Nurses Foundation Board member Renee Williams serves up fruit from the island-theme buffet.
The profession of Nursing is changing and developing as we care for patients with increasingly acute conditions in a variety of environments. The Council on Nursing Research is again focusing on the dissemination of research that is impacting our goal of the deliverance of evidence based care. The Mississippi Nurses Association’s Council on Nursing Research is committed to sharing the value of research to the practicing nurse and wants to encourage nurses to embrace evidence-based nursing practice.

At the 2008 MNA Annual Convention in Biloxi, Oct. 21-24, the Research Poster Session will be expanded to include both original nursing research, along with examples from those changing nursing practice based on current evidence. “We invite MNA nurses and health care agencies who are utilizing evidence-based practices to share their projects in poster form,” said Dr. Laura Schenk, director, MNA Council on Nursing Research.

Criteria and directions for submission of abstracts to the 2008 MNA Convention Research Poster Session acceptance of these projects are outlined here and can be found at www.msnurses.org. Deadline for submissions is July 15. The Council on Nursing Research will review each abstract using a blind review process. Abstract acceptance letters will be mailed by Aug. 5.

For additional information, contact the Mississippi Nurses Association, 31 Woodgreen Place, Madison, MS 39110 or call the MNA office at (601) 898-0670.

MISSISSIPPI NURSES ASSOCIATION COUNCIL ON NURSING RESEARCH 2008 POSTER SESSION

CALL FOR RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Council on Nursing Research
2008 Poster Session
Graduate Student Abstract Format

Abstracts of 250-300 words are to be submitted electronically and single spaced in the format below. A completed Face Sheet is to be attached. All submissions are due e-mailed to msnurses.org by July 15.

Title:

Purpose of the Research or Project:

Method:

Analysis:

Results:

Discussion:

May Continue on an Additional Sheet

Council on Nursing Research
2008 Poster Session
Research Abstract Format

Abstracts of 300-350 words are to be submitted electronically and single spaced in the format below. A completed Face Sheet is to be attached. All submissions are due e-mailed to msnurses.org by July 15.

Title:

Purpose of the Research or Project:

Method:

Analysis:

Results:

Discussion:

May Continue on an Additional Sheet
Nurse Practitioners Gather for Statewide NP Nite Out

The MNA Council on Advanced Practice launched its state-wide Nurse Practitioner’s Nite Out program in March. “The first round of the dinner-discussion events, aimed at gathering nurse practitioners in geographic areas of the state to network and discuss issues relating to the advanced practice nurse, was sponsored by Novartis and held in six locations across the state,” said Jackie Williams, director the MNA Council on Advanced Practice. “Turnout at each location was tremendous. So good, in fact, we added an additional venue in Meridian. All this affirms the need for more communication and networking for the advanced practice nurse.”

In January, the council identified several areas of concern for nurse practitioners in Mississippi. The first identified was a need for increased communication. MNA and the council committed to work to strengthen communication across the state. The first objective identified was to grow regional nurse practitioner groups. The Nite Out program was an effort to cultivate growth across the state. Additionally, the council created a monthly e-newsletter. “Currently, we have good e-mail addresses for about half of the state’s licensed nurse practitioners,” Williams said. “It will be essential over the next months to update MNA profiles and make sure that current e-mail addresses and contact information are forwarded to the MNA offices.”

The council has had in place for more than a year an advanced practice listserv at http://groups.google.com/group/mississippi-nurse-practitioner-network. To join the listserv, nurse practitioners must create a Google Group profile and open a free account at http://groups.google.com/. Once a profile is created and an account is opened, make a request to join the Mississippi Nurse Practitioner Network. “Effective communication will keep NP’s up to date on all important issues relating to us,” Williams continued. “This same communication network can act as a medium to strengthen and unite us. To accomplish this, legislative and practice arenas have been added to your regional and statewide meetings along with periodic e-mail blasts and e-legislative updates.”

Assisting in coordinating the state-wide events were Cindy Luther, Hattiesburg and Meridian; Carol Thompson and Jackie Williams, Jackson; Sue Morrison and Malinda Ingram, Tupelo; Lawanda Herron, Greenville; Patsy Smyth and Missy Dodson, Columbus; and K.C. Arnold, Gulfport.

For more information on the Council for Advanced Practice and its events or to update your profile contact, the MNA Offices at mna@msnurses.org or call (601) 898-0670.
School Nursing is Not Just Band-Aids and Medication Anymore

❖ Did you know that 64% of the nursing procedures in schools are diabetes related?
❖ Did you know that 11% of nursing procedures in schools are related to asthma treatment?
❖ Did you know there are 419 school nurses in Mississippi's public schools?
❖ Did you know that there is one school nurse for every 1174 students?

School nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well being, academic success, and lifelong achievement of students. To that end, school nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development, promote health and safety, intervene with actual and potential health problems, provide case management services, and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self management, self advocacy, and learning.

There are great opportunities and great rewards in this field. A nurse can truly affect the future of her community when working with children. For more information about this nursing field, contact a school nurse at the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Healthy Schools at (601) 359-1737 or call the Mississippi Nurses Association at (601) 898-0670.

Author Looks for Inspirational Material

Sue Heacock, RN, of Tampa, Fla., is in the process of writing an inspirational book to celebrate nursing and those heroes in the profession and to increase both interest in joining the profession and retention of professional nurses throughout the United States.

"I am seeking true inspirational stories of nursing practice from nurses themselves," Heacock wrote in an e-mail to MNA offices. "I will review all stories received and select the best to include in my book."

Heacock said that nurses submitting stories chosen for publication will be contacted individually for consent. Stories must be five paragraphs or less, humorous and/or inspirational, and exhibit the heart of nursing. The author must include his/her name, practicing city/state, and an email address for future contact. All stories can be emailed to imsueh@yahoo.com.
Mississippi RN—June, July, August 2008

New Insurance Benefit Program Made Available by MNA to All Licensed Mississippi Nurses

The Mississippi Nurses Association has recently completed a review of insurance policies offering protection for the expenses of Long Term Care, Cancer, Heart Attack and Stroke. Long Term Care Insurance pays for specialized care and assistance provided for individuals who develop a serious illness or have an accident and need assistance with daily living activities. Long term care can affect people of all ages. The high costs of long term care services may present a serious threat to our financial independence and lifetime savings. Most health insurance plans and government plans, including Medicare, were not designed to provide adequate coverage for these expenses.

The Cancer, Heart Attack and Stroke plans were designed to address the initial cost related to these serious illnesses. These plans pay a Tax-Free Lump Sum Cash Benefit up to $10,000-$50,000 upon the initial diagnosis of cancer or heart attack and up to $25,000 for stroke. Cancer does not discriminate by gender. In the U.S. men have a little less than one in two lifetime risk of developing cancer, and for women the risk is a little more than one in three.** American Heart Association Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics 2005

MNF Awards The Georgia Ann Benard Hall Award for Excellence

Ashley N. Drane of Canton has been selected the recipient of the Georgia Ann Bernard Hall Award for Excellence. Drane is the first senior junior enrolled in the Mississippi College School of Nursing, and is expected to graduate in May 2009.

The Georgia Ann Bernard Hall Award for Excellence has been established by Dr. Peggy O. Hewlett and her daughters of Columbia, S.C., through the Mississippi Nurses Foundation. The $500 scholarship award will be given each year to a junior or senior African American nursing student, in good academic standing, enrolled in a Mississippi public university BSN program. The recipient must be a member of the Mississippi Student Nurses Association.

“My daughters and I have established this award in honor and memory of our dear friend through the Mississippi Nurses Foundation,” Hewlett said. “Family, friends and colleagues have generously contributed to this fund which will be awarded every year to a Mississippi nursing student.**

Hewlett explained that her friend, Georgia Ann Benard Hall represented excellence in all aspects of her life. Born to a family of 27 children, she grew up in abject poverty—but never compromised her integrity and her own search for excellence at any point along the way. She married, raised three children and always worked hard to assure they had whatever they needed. She took great pride in the fact that she never accessed the public welfare system to meet her children’s needs—but worked for everything she received. She was a wonderful wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend.

Georgia was focused, good-humored, honest, hard-working, and faithful to her God. She never once complained over her lot in life—rather, she celebrated the fact that she was alive, married to a fine man, employed and loved by all who knew her. Her heart was golden.

“Georgia Hall was my close personal friend for over 18 years and she died too young at the age of 50,” she said. “She has my undying love and respect for a life well-lived—a true role model for all young men and women who have made achievements they can attribute to someone in their lives who represents excellence in spite of life's circumstances.”

Criteria for the Georgia Ann Bernard Hall Award for Excellence:

- Currently enrolled and in good academic standing in a Mississippi public university BSN program at the junior or senior level
- African American student
- Member of the Mississippi Students Nurses Association
- Essay submitted by the deadline date—November 1st annually

Essay Requirements:
- Addresses the topic: ‘My Role Model of Excellence’
- Previously unpublished essay
- Demonstrates how one person impacted your life and decision to become a nurse
- Limited to 3 pages—typed and double-spaced on letter-sized paper
- Signature authorizing permission to publish the essay

A Complete Application Must Include:
- Student information form
- Essay
- Letter from school verifying the student is enrolled and in good academic standing

Deadline for submissions is Nov. 1, 2008. Essays will be judged through a blind review by Dr. Peggy O. Hewlett and her daughters with an award recipient designated by Dec. 15, each year. For further information contact: Mississippi Nurses Foundation, 31 Woodgreen Place, Madison MS  39110 at (601) 898-0850 or e-mail foundation@msnurses.org.

** Based on statistics from Cancer Facts and Figures
* American Heart Association Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics 2005
Do you enjoy working with older adults or helping persons with mental health problems? Are you interested in becoming a Nurse Practitioner? If you have a BSN and are interested in a MSN with a clinical track in Gerontological Nurse Practitioner or a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (either Family or Adult focus) now is the time to contact the schools of nursing at Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Mississippi University for Women, University of Mississippi Medical Center, or University of Southern Mississippi. In addition to their Family Nurse Practitioner and other graduate degrees, these schools are accepting applications for the GNP and the PMHNP clinical tracks for Fall, 2008 (USM currently has only PMHNP). So act now and take an important step forward in your professional nursing career.

Mark
March 2, 2009
on your calendar!

It is not too early to plan for your

2009 Mississippi Nightingale Awards
nominations!

The Nightingale Awards Gala scheduled
Monday, March 2 in the Marriott Downtown, Jackson is a
tribute to the wonderful nurses of our state and is an
opportunity to recognize the stars of the profession
as well as those who support them.

You know who the stars are!
Make a nomination

Watch for nomination criteria and forms to be released soon.
Calling All NPs: Update Your Profile and Send in E-mail Addresses

In an effort to update and maintain current records, please go to www.msnurses.org and update your membership profile or complete the following form and send it to MNA at 31 Woodgreen place, Madison MS 39110.

MNA Database Update

Please complete the following information to be used to update and confirm data in the MNA member database.

Prefix: ☐ Ms. ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr.
First Name: ___________________ MI: ___ Last Name: ___________________
Credentials: ___________________________ (Please place the credential in descending order.)

EMPLOYMENT
Work Title: ___________________ Department: ___________________
Division: ___________________ Business/School: ___________________
Business Address 1: ___________________________________________
Business Address 2: ___________________________________________
Business City, State and Zip: _____________________________________

HOME
Home Address 1: ___________________________________________
Home Address 2: ___________________________________________
Home City, State, Zip: __________________________________________

PHONES & E-MAIL ADDRESSES
E-mail 1: ___________________ E-mail 2: ___________________
Work Phone: ___________________ Home Phone: ___________________
Fax Phone: ___________________ Cell Phone: ___________________

BIRTHDATE
Month: ______ Day: ______ Year: ______

PRACTICE AREAS (Mark all that apply)
☐ Community Health ☐ Educator
☐ General practice ☐ Emergency Room
☐ Gerontological Nursing ☐ Family Nursing
☐ OB/GYN ☐ HIV
☐ Pediatrics ☐ Informatics
☐ Psychiatric/Mental Health ☐ Long Term Care
☐ Other ☐ Neonatal
☐ Acute Care ☐ Administration
☐ Anesthesia ☐ Management
☐ Cardiology ☐ Occupational Health
☐ Clinical Research ☐ Oncology
☐ Critical Care ☐ Perinatal
☐ Medical

POSITION (Mark Current Position)
☐ Researcher ☐ Educator
☐ Administrator ☐ Head Nurse/Manager
☐ Manager ☐ Staff Nurse
☐ Consultant ☐ Other
☐ Supervisor ☐ Nurse Practitioner
☐ Quality Assurance

SETTING (Mark Current Setting)
☐ Private Practice ☐ School Health Nurse
☐ Hospital ☐ Occupational health
☐ Nursing Home ☐ Office Nurse
☐ School of Nursing/College ☐ Other
☐ HMO ☐ Ambulatory Care
☐ Public Health ☐ Outpatient Care
☐ Voluntary Association ☐ Federal/Military
☐ College Health ☐ Independent Surgery

EDUCATION
☐ Diploma ☐ Bacc.-Other
☐ ADN ☐ MSN
☐ BSN ☐ Master-Other
☐ Basic School of Nursing ___________________ Graduation Date _______________

ANCC CERTIFICATION
☐ Generalist ☐ Nurse Practitioner
☐ Clinical Spec. ☐ Nursing Admin.
☐ Nurse Admin. Advisory

MNA COMMITTEES: _________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

DISTRICT COMMITTEES: _______________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________
Nursing is one of the fastest developing fields in Mississippi. No one could possibly keep up with the business trends, career changes, professional development and critical advancements alone. The Mississippi Nurses Association is in the business of taking care of nursing's business. MNA provides valuable career services and social events. Our members enjoy many benefits of association. Here are just a few:

Keeping up with the trends and changes. The MNA Web site MsNurses.org and The Mississippi RN contain current articles, news, calendars of events and continuing education opportunities, job banks and conducts Web-based discussion groups that provide information on new and emerging trends that affect you and your career directly.

Meet and network with other nurses. MNA partners with leading healthcare agencies and employers throughout the state. Members have several ways of capitalizing on these partnerships to learn about job opportunities and new developments in the profession.

No One Takes Care of Business, Like a Nurse