MNA Convention Heads Back to the Gulf Coast

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

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

Kent Rader, billed as the world’s cleanest comedian and speaker, headlines the convention with his keynote address: Laughter Matters at 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 22, in the convention center.

Rader helps companies and associations wanting to be successful by reducing stress through laughter. Having spent 12 years as CFO and CEO of hospitals and five years in public accounting, Kent has experienced the stress of today’s business world first hand. In 1998, Kent became a professional speaker so he could share the importance of laughter in combating stress. “Regardless of the source of my stress, whether it be work or home,” Kent says, “humor seemed to be an important tactic to changing my perspective.”

Kent found his true calling when he began to help people reduce stress by making them laugh.

Kent states, “I told my son after Sept. 11, 2001, I was born to do this. I would rather die at 45 having made people laugh than live to be 100 doing accounting... but then, who wouldn’t?”

In 2002, Kent published his stress reduction book titled Let It Go, Just Let It Go. Consumed with making people laugh, Kent began working in comedy clubs that same year in order to improve his already gifted sense of humor.

Using Kent’s recommendation, produces genuine results like reducing stress, increased employee retention, improved creative problem solving skills, better cooperation and collaboration within a team or company, as

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J & J Workshops Scheduled

MNA presents a series of workshops aimed at building on strength and resiliency of Mississippi Gulf Coast nurses in coping with the incredible demands, in both their jobs and personal lives, following the storm.

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JOIN MNA NOW!

Mississippi Nurses Association invites you to join us for the association’s return to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for its 95th Annual Convention, Oct. 21-24.
As I write this column, I am completing a long time personal goal of pursuing a Ph.D. It has been a wonderful journey, despite being very time intensive, stressful, and academically challenging. The fact that I was renovating my old house and planning my son’s wedding at the same time, probably made it a little more daunting than necessary. As graduation day approaches, I am reminded that all of us, including organizations, need goals to aspire to and new challenges to keep life interesting and help us to meet the needs of the future.

The Mississippi Nurses Association is no different, and the board of directors has been busy developing a new strategic plan for the next three years and discussing ways in which MNA can become a bigger and better organization, and one equipped to meet the future needs of nurses and the profession. Further input will be received by the district presidents and by other leaders in the nursing community. We hope that you are already seeing the results of new initiatives to increase the visibility and viability of the association, including blast e-mails, a new nurse practitioner online visibility, being funded utilizing relief funds, provided through the John and Johnson gala on the Gulf Coast. Catherine Kraus, BSN, MSN, MA, a certified compassion fatigue specialist, will lead the workshops. Three two-day workshops will be held at the Long Beach Lodge on August 19-20, August 21-22, and August 25-26. Two three-day train the trainer workshops will be held on September 8-10 and September 15-17. Continuing education will be offered. For registration, please call MNA at (601) 898-0670 or e-mail us at mna@msnurses.org. We hope that these workshops will give our nurses on the Gulf Coast a sense of hope and renewed spirit.

We are also excited about our plans for Convention 2008, also to be held on the Gulf Coast. “Back to Biloxi” is our theme, and we are looking forward to our first convention since Katrina back on the Coast. Convention will begin with two pre-convention workshops on Tuesday, October 21, and end with a nurse practitioner post conference workshop on Friday, October 24. In between, is a great array of continuing education, Expo 2008, poster session, a poolside party with Coconut Dave, and many other fun, networking opportunities. If you are a nurse on the Gulf Coast, MNA will pay your registration from Hurricane Katrina Relief Funds, if you need and request this assistance. Contact us at (601) 898-0670 or mna@msnurses.org. MNA continues to represent you at the legislature, Board of Medical Licensure, Board of Health, Board of Nursing, in your workplace, and wherever we need to be. We hope you will continue to support those efforts with your membership and involvement with MNA. I cannot remember a time when it was any more important for you to have the support of your nursing association as we deal with changes in health care, threats to your scope of practice, and other issues. Our membership continues to grow every day, and we want you to be a part of that growth. You may join online at www.msnurses.org.

Membership Coordinator Director
Ricki Garrett

 deceived you on the MSRN.

Members Only blast e-mails, a new nurse practitioner online visibility and viability of the association, including seeing the results of new initiatives to increase the nursing community. We hope that you are already

the district presidents and by other leaders in the nursing community. We hope that you are already seeing the results of new initiatives to increase the visibility and viability of the association, including blast e-mails, a new nurse practitioner online publication, the conversion of the Members Only publication to an online format and a new look for the MSN.
September, October, November 2008—Mississippi RN

A Report from the President…

Pam Farris

Guess What Happened!

Since we last talked, we have been very hard at work taking care of nursing for you. On June 24-27, ten Mississippi delegates were a part of over 600 nurses across the nation that attended the American Nurses Association House of Delegates. It was not a house of delegates to miss.

Many changes were made at the national level on the structure of our organizational affiliates, the Center for American Nurses (workplace advocacy) and the United American Nurses (Labor Union). They are now affiliates of ANA; we, the CMAs, no longer have to go through one of these organizations to belong to ANA.

This historic bylaws change allows ANA to have the freedom to enter into relationships with workforce advocacy groups and with labor organizations. It also will give ANA more resources and time to spend on issues. This change will expand ANA's relationship to nurses in every type of nursing organization.

When this bylaws change was passed, a few labor states were disgruntled. The House of Delegates, the ANA board, and the ANA staff witnessed the Michigan Nurses Association disassociate from ANA. It was an emotional event to witness.

A positive change that was made was establishing a designated seat on the ANA Board of Directors for a recent graduate of a nursing program. This will be great in getting fresh new ideas and concerns from those of the new generation of nurses.

As you can tell we did some work for you, and we are positive of the outcome and look forward to working with the new structure of ANA.

At the state level, we are continuing to closely watch advanced practice nursing issues. MNA's job is to oversee that the right of our advanced practice nurse's are protected and rules are jointly decided. We continue to be at the table with the Board of Medical Licensure and at the Board of Nursing. We will remain there to ensure that advanced practice nursing is not compromised.

Please join me and hundreds of other nurses from across the state Oct. 21-24 for the 95th Annual Mississippi Nurses Association Convention at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Biloxi, MS. We are "Heading back to Biloxi" this year. It is the first time we have been able to have the MNA annual convention on the Gulf Coast since Katrina. This convention will be very special and memorable. Do yourself a favor and plan to be there with us. You will be so glad you did.

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

I hope that if you have any questions, concerns, or just want to talk, please email me at farrispam@cableone.net. Hope to hear from you.

Pam

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MNA Convention Heads Back...

(continued from page 1)

well as making an organization more successful. Biloxi's own Coconut Dave brings a lively mix of Caribbean classics, Latin, reggae, pop, jazz, and country to the MNA Biloxi Bash, Thursday, Oct. 23 on the deck of the Beau Rivage Pool and Cabana. Dance if you want. Tap your feet if you can. Coconut Dave has shared the stage with such great acts as Sunny Jim, The Little River Band, Alabama, Bo Didley, Jerry Díaz and Hanna’s Reef, Kelly McGuire, Rhythm and Rain, and Kansas just to name a few!!!

Dave and his Island Style entertainment were recently chosen to represent the State of Mississippi twice at the National Tourism Association Spring Meet and has been featured on many TV and radio shows including Jimmy Buffett’s Radio Margaritaville!

Coconut Dave's shows consists of live steel drums and vocals along with high quality sequenced back up music for that great full band sound and includes lots of songs by Jimmy Buffett and Bob Marley plus tunes by Brent Burns, Bertie Higgins, Sunny Jim, James Taylor and great original songs such as "Pirates of The Northern Caribbean," "Saturday Night in Kingston" and "Biloxi Sunset!"
Diamond/Meal/Tote Bag Sponsor

Mississippi Organ Recovery

The Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency (MORA) is a proud sponsor of the Mississippi Nurses Association. MORA serves the greater part of the state of Mississippi providing organ and tissue donation options to families through our working relationship with hospitals we serve. With the support of nurses throughout the state, we have continued to see an increase in organ and tissue donation.

Diamond Sponsors

All That Glitters

Biloxi Regional Medical Center

Biloxi Regional Medical Center is a proud sponsor of MNA. We have partnered with several local universities to enhance nursing educational and career opportunities. This is a wonderful place to build a successful nursing career. For employment information, please contact our Nurse Recruiter at 228-436-1290.

Deaconess Homecare

Deaconess Homecare is a national leader in home care, backed by over 36 years of home care experience. We offer an appealing atmosphere where our staffs’ skills and talents are recognized and rewarded. DHC is the employer of choice for home care. Contact us today to find out more! (800) 234-1842.

Durford Corporation

Durford Corporation, located in Jackson, Miss., has been manufacturing and selling patient room and waiting area furniture for 41 years. We sell direct to hospitals internationally providing competitive low cost pricing. Durford leads the industry in durable healthcare furnishings.

Forrest General Hospital

Forrest General Hospital, located in Hattiesburg, MS is one of the leading medical centers in the South, and is located in one of the nation’s most livable cities! That’s why there’s no better place to build a successful career than Forrest General. It will work as a Team for your patients. We provide all DME and custom medical equipment. Make Mobility Medical your choice. Phone 888-901-001.

North Mississippi Medical Center

North Mississippi Medical Center offers a lifetime of opportunities for nurses, both professionally and personally. Career and Educational opportunities abound at our six hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, and medical clinics. To learn more, call 1-800-793-7715 or visit www.nmmhs.net, EOE

Providence Hospital

Providence Hospital is a 349-bed, full-service medical/surgical facility, founded in 1854. A member of Ascension Health and Mobile’s most preferred hospital. Providence nearly 16,000 inpatients annually. Providence Hospital is the only Alabama affiliate of M.D Anderson Physician Network®.

University Medical Center Hospitals & Health System

Recently named one of the nation’s 100 Top Hospitals by Thomson Healthcare, University of Mississippi Medical Center offers a perfect balance for your career. As a nurse at UMMC, experience a commitment to patients, a respect for learning, and empowerment to teach others and the honor of being a valued member of our health care team. Learn. Care. Grow. It’s all waiting for you at UMMC. Visit our Web site at www.nurses.umc.edu or call a recruiter today at 601-815-7004.

University of Mississippi School of Nursing

The University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing welcomes you to the 2008 Mississippi Nurses Association Expo! The School of Nursing is excited to offer a variety of nursing programs, to include the baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degree, in addition to continuing education courses. We invite you to explore information about our three-campuses-Jackson, Oxford, and the “Most Creative Exhibit” booth. Come prepared to answer any questions, or for more information about The University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing programs, please check out our website at <http://son.umc.edu> or contact the Student Recruiter either by e-mail at <mna@onc.edu> or by phone at (601) 948-4228.

University of Southern Mississippi School of Nursing

The University of Southern Mississippi School of Nursing is continuing its 41 years of providing excellence in nursing education. Our programs are offered at Hattiesburg, Long Beach, and Meridian. Come join us. For more information, contact Linda Baldwin at 601.266.5454 for BSN and Rosalind Hawthorn at 601-266-5457 for graduate information.

Meal and Break Sponsor

Astra-Zeneca Pharmaceuticals

The history of AstraZeneca goes back nearly 100 years. In that time, AstraZeneca has produced medications for cancer, heart disease, mental illness, gastrointestinal disorders, infections and respiratory conditions, and our commitment to research grows stronger every year.

Stage Sponsor

Forrest General Hospital

The Mississippi Nurses’ Association 2008 Expo on Thursday, Oct. 23 at the newly renovated Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi, Miss., will be one of the highlights of the Mississippi Nurses Association 95th Annual Convention, Oct. 21-24.

The Expo offers opportunities to present products and facilities in an excellent, cost-effective way to Mississippi's top registered nurses and top patient students. We will have a Grand Opening of the Expo Hall at 9 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 23.

In addition, MNA’s Nurse Practitioner Workshop is Friday, Oct. 24 also at the convention center. Exhibitor space for the NP conference is limited to 25 vendors, so get your contract in early. To reserve exhibit-space for Expo 2008 and/or the 2008 Nurse Practitioner Workshop, please contact Angela Weathersby at (601) 898-0670 or e-mail her at awtheathersby@mnurses.org. An exhibitor’s guide, registration form and contract can be downloaded from the Web at www.msnurses.org. The guide also contains detailed information on Diamond Sponsorship, meal, refreshment, and other sponsorships.

The fee for exhibiting at the MNA Expo 2008 is $500. This fee includes a 10’ x 9’ booth space and a 50 percent discount on one full or half booth space for the 2008 MNA convention attendee registration upon request. Tickets may be purchased for other events by calling MNA at (601) 898-0670. Full payment or deposit of $250 must accompany the exhibit contract to reserve booth space. Final exhibit payment is due by Monday, Oct. 1.

Exhibitor booths are 10’ wide by 9’ deep, draped with a flame proof background cloth. Backdrops are 8’ high with 3’ side dividers. Each booth will be provided with one company name identification sign, two chairs, one 8’ draped table with a white top and pleated skirt on three sides. Additional services may be provided by the exhibit decorator, Convention Display Services, Inc., Convention Display Services, Inc. P.O. Box 13837, Jackson, MS 39236-3837. The phone number is (601) 948-4228.

For all of our exhibitors, the Mississippi Nurses’ Association will conduct a contest for the “Most Creative Diamond Sponsor” booth and “Most Creative Exhibit” booth. Come prepared to show off! The convention theme for 2008 is “Back to Biloxi.” Winners will receive complimentary booth space for the 2009 Nursing Summit.
MNA 95th Annual Convention Overview

More than 500 registered nurses and 200 student nurses from across the state are expected to attend the 95th Mississippi Nurses Association Annual Convention Tuesday, Oct. 21-24, at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi.

“We are ‘heading back to Biloxi’ this year,” said MNA President Pam Farris. “It is the first time we have been able to have the MNA annual convention on the Mississippi Gulf Coast since Katrina. The Beau Rivage is pulling out all of the stops to make us welcome. Continuing education courses are the best I have seen in a long while. Already, we have a record number of exhibitors signed up and our marketplace—with the Gam Pittman Pottery, our MNA scrubs—is becoming a unique place to shop.”

Pre-Convention Workshops
Four pre-convention workshops, each providing 3.5 contact hours, will be offered simultaneously on Tuesday, Oct. 21. The first, Pathways to Healing, presented by Dr. comforted fatigue specialist Caroline T. Kraus, BSN, MSN, MA, Kraus will review data compiled in from a MNA sponsored series of workshops held on the Mississippi Coast funded by the Johnson and Johnson Promise of Nursing campaign.

The second workshop, Who’s on First—School Nurse Reporting, presented by Jeanine L. Kees, RN, BSN, will focus on the legal accountability of school nurses.

Keynote Luncheon
Kent Rader, billed as the world’s bestest comedian and speaker, headlines the convention with his keynote address: Laughter Matters at 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 22 in the convention center.

Rader helps companies and associations wanting to be successful by reducing stress through laughter. Having spent 12 years as CEO of two hospitals and five years in public accounting, Kent has experienced the stress of today’s business world first hand. In 1998, Kent became a professional speaker so he could share the importance of laughter in combating stress.

Biloxi Bash—Dance if you want. Tap your feet if you can.
Biloxi’s own Coconut Dave brings a lively mix of Caribbean classics, Latin, reggae, pop, jazz, and country to the MNSM.

Coconut Dave

Biloxi Bash, from 5:30–7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 23 on the deck of the Beau Rivage Pool and Cabana.

The complimentary seafood hors d’oeuvre and cash bar serve as a backdrop to the scruptious sounds of Coconut Dave and Steel Dawn. Dave has shared the stage with such great acts as Sunny Jim, The Little River Band, Alabama, Bo Diddley, Jerry Diaz and Hanna’s Reef, Kelly McGuire, Rhythm and Rain, and Kansas just to name a few.

His company, Island Style Entertainment, was recently chosen to represent the State of Mississippi to the Mississippi Tourism Association Spring Meet and has been featured on many TV and radio shows including Jimmy Buffet’s Radio Margaritaville!

Poster Session
Also, on Thursday, Oct. 23, the MNA Council on Nursing Research, the MNA Provider Unit, and the Mississippi Nurses Foundation’s Research Committee will present the winners in the jointly sponsored poster session. The poster presentation session from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. incorporates one contact hour of continuing education credit provided through MNA.

Expo 08
One of the major highlights of the convention will be the 2008 Expo Thursday, Oct. 23 at the Mississippi Coast Convention Hall. The grand opening ceremonies begin at 9 a.m. More than 100 exhibitors are expected to be on hand to bring you the best the industry has to offer.

Expo 08 Grand Prize
The grand prize giveaway—six-day/five-night cruise on a Carnival Fantasy Cruise to the Western Caribbean for two in an ocean view cabin aboard Carnival Fantasy—will be at 10:40 a.m. You must be present to win.

Enjoy breathtaking waterfalls, enchanting beaches, lush rainforests and exciting nightlife are just a few of the attractions of the Western Caribbean. Relax on the powder-soft sand of a quiet beach, swim with stingrays, visit local wildlife habitats or explore an angler’s dream city on horseback. The excursion departs from New Orleans and travels to Cozumel. It’s a great trip!

Business Etiquette: How to Out Class the Competition and Leadership. The session will provide two contact hours of continuing education.

NP Fall Workshop
Everything from Teen Acne to Knoswing When to Take the Keys Away will be topics for discussion during the Nurse Practitioners’ Fall Workshop beginning with registration at 8 a.m., Friday, Oct. 24. Sessions run from 9 a.m. until 5:15 p.m. in the convention center. Mississippi State Board of Nursing executive Director Melinda Rush, DSN, FNP will be guest speaker at the noon luncheon. She will make a presentation on legal issues facing NPs in Mississippi.

The NP Fall Workshop will provide 6.75 contact hours.

Hotel Accommodations

No one on the Coast is celebrating the return of the Mississippi Nurses Association more than the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino. Relax from the convention pace to the comfort and style of the Beau’s guest rooms with your choice of a city or ocean view. The Beau understands the special touches that transform a guest room into much more than just another hotel room.

The Beau’s amenities include the spa and salon, tee-time at the Fallen Oak Golf Course, shopping, poolside refreshments and entertainment, and its active arcade. Call 1-888-507-6667 or book online at http://www.beaurivage.com/. The MNA Convention rate is $129 per night. Use MS Nurses Association as your reservation code.

Or choose The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. At the Hard Rock, you can live the life in one of the premium crash pads featuring ‘Sleep like a Rock’ beds, 42” plasma TVs, and Bose Wave music system with IPOD docking station. Each room is equipped with Aveda amenities, party bar & snack tray, three-headed shower (some rooms equipped with tub/shower in lieu of the three headed shower), plush bath robes, cordless phone, complimentary high speed internet (wireless & DSL), complimentary local and toll free calls, iron and board, safe and make-up mirror.

Call 1-877-877-6256 or book online at http://www.hardrockbiloxi.com/. MNA Convention rate is $129 per night. Use MS Nurses Association as your reservation code.

The Mississippi Nurses Association is accredited as a provider of continuing education nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.
The Mississippi Nurses Association has begun a series of workshops aimed at building on the strength and resiliency of Mississippi Gulf Coast nurses in coping with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. There are two remaining three-day workshops scheduled Monday-Wednesday, Sept. 8-10, and Monday-Wednesday, Sept. 15-17.

The workshops, entitled ‘Moving through the Aftermath of Katrina: Reclaiming Your Spirit’, are conducted by Catherine T. Kraus, BSN, MSN, MA. Funding for the workshops is from the Johnson & Johnson Promise of Nursing Campaign.

Kraus, president of Transitions Unlimited, a consultative and educational service to assist registered nurses in improving the quality of their professional and personal lifestyles as they gain understanding of the obstacles to change and knowledge of self-care and resiliency skills. She has served as a nursing faculty at Rutgers University and Bloomfield College, both in New Jersey. Kraus is a certified compassion fatigue specialist and has written several journal articles.

“This is an exciting opportunity for nurses along the Mississippi Gulf Coast,” said MNA Executive Director Ricki Garrett. “Very few people ever have had to cope with disaster and recovery on the scale experienced by the nursing community along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. These workshops will deal specifically with the needs of nurses as they continue on the path of recovery and will provide them with new tools as they deal, both professionally and personally, with the effects of long-term trauma.”

In April 2007, The Johnson & Johnson Promise of Nursing program held a fund-raising gala at the Beau Rivage Casino and Resort in Biloxi. The event, a component of The Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing’s Future, honored more than 600 Mississippi nurses in attendance. “A portion of the funds from the gala is being used for scholarships for nursing students and grants to schools of nursing,” said Garrett. “The remainder will be used for this continuing education series to assist nurses on the Coast.”

There were three two-day workshops in August, Garrett said, and two upcoming three-day workshops in September. The September workshops will be “train-the-trainer” sessions and will teach Coast nurses how to conduct additional workshops throughout the year.

All workshops are free of charge and will be at the Long Beach Lodge Bed & Breakfast, 305 Church Ave., in Long Beach. Registration is limited to 16 at each session.

For more information or to register for the workshops contact, MNA at mna@msnurses.org or call (601) 898-0670.
This year, there will be 104 delegates representing MNA statewide districts in the House of Delegates. Delegates will elect five members to the association’s board of directors.

Board positions to be elected in October include, secretary; treasurer; Director, Council on Nursing Research; Director, Council on Advanced Practice; and Director, Council on Health Affairs.

Delegates will also elect members to the Committee on Nominations. The deadline for nominations to be made to the Committee on Nominations was Thursday, Aug. 21.

The MNA Board of Directors is comprised of 10 positions. Members serve alternating two-year terms. The positions of president; vice president; director, Council on Nursing Education; and director, Council on Organizational Affairs are elected in odd-numbered years. The positions of secretary; treasurer; director, Council on Health Affairs; director, Council on Nursing Research; director, Council on Nursing Practice; and director, Council on Advanced Practice are elected in even-numbered years and will be on the ballot in October.

How the nomination process works:

In July, the district associations submitted names of members for consideration to the Committee on Nominations in developing the official ballot. The list was to consist of, at least, one name for each office to be filled.

The Committee on Nominations consists of five members. Three members are elected and two members are appointed by the MNA Board of Directors. Members of the 2008 Committee on Nominations include Debbie Allen, RN, MSN of Greenville; Libby Mahrffey, RN, Ph.D., of Jackson; Janette McCrory, RN, of Kosciusko; Ramona Jackson, RN, of Meridian; and Deborah Mauffrey, RN, of Biloxi.

In August, the committee prepared a ballot consisting of at least two or more nominees for each office. The list of names submitted by the districts and other members were considered. Photos of the candidates for each office along with their biographical and statement of intent will be published in the MNA Members Only and made available on the Web at http://www.msnurses.org/mna/newsletters

Responsibilities of Offices in 2008 Election

The secretary shall be accountable for record keeping and reporting of meetings of MNA and shall serve as the liaison to the Mississippi Nurses Foundation. The treasurer shall be accountable for the fiscal affairs of MNA and shall provide reports and interpretation of MNA’s financial condition, as may be required, to the House of Delegates, the Board, the membership, the Constituent Advisory Council, and shall chair the Committee on Finance.

The Council on Nursing Research shall be composed of the director and research associates and shall be concerned with advancing the profession of nursing through activities which relate to:
1. improvement of health care;
2. social, scientific and education issues in health needs;
3. the promotion of established standards and methods of research;
4. the development of nursing theory through the research process;
5. the dissemination of research findings to health care professionals and consumers.

The Council on Health Affairs shall be composed of the director, the chairpersons of its committees. The standing committee is the Committee on Health Affairs. The council shall be concerned with external functions of MNA through activities which relate to:
1. the relevant, scientific and educational development and changes in health needs and practices, and delivery systems;
2. social, scientific and education issues in health needs;
3. liaison with other health organizations for the advancement of health care.

The Council on Advanced Practice shall be concerned with advanced nursing practice which relates to:
1. Federal and state legislation and government policy affecting advanced practice nurses;
2. Advanced practice nurse membership growth and maintenance of the association;
3. The scope and standards of advanced practice nursing;
4. The ethical and legal aspects of advanced practice nursing;
5. The practice of individual advanced practice nurses;
6. Trends for improvement of health care with advanced practice nursing;
The Developing Nurse Leader (DNL) Program is to cultivate aspiring nurse leaders within MNA, employing agencies, and communities. This will be accomplished by providing registered nurses with knowledge and skills necessary to support leadership growth. The program will offer opportunity for involvement in general convention activities, as well as public speaking, group process interactions and one-on-one discussions.

The criteria for participation are:
- The RN must be a member of MNA before participating in the statewide program.
- The RN must have at least 6 months full time nursing experience prior to convention.
- The RN must participate in the program at convention in Biloxi, MS.
- The RN may self-identify or be chosen by the employing agency because of his or her interest in professional leadership.
- Each participant will be encouraged to attend workshops of his/her choice and attend the House of Delegate sessions during convention.
- Each participant will be required to attend a 4-hour DNL session during convention that is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2008.
- Each participant will be required to present a 5-7 minute speech (topic to be determined).

At the conclusion of the program, a participant will be selected as the “Developing Nurse Leader” for the coming year. This individual will serve as the voice of developing leaders to the MNA Board for one year.

More information about the DNL program and the application process is on the MNA website at www.msnurses.org. Click on the ‘Events’ link to read about the program, and to download the application packet. Feel free to contact Tonya Moore at tonyama2079@gmail.com or by phone at 601-815-4241. The Deadline for submission of application forms is September 26, 2008.
Mississippi Nurses Association sent delegates to participate in the American Nurses Association House of Delegates in June. Participating from left, Debbie Allen, Gayle Harrell, Donna Scoggin, Ann Barnes, Pam Farris, Janet Harris, Carl Mangum, Mary Ware, Phyllis Johnson, Ricki Garrett, and Juanita Graham.

Louise Timmer, EdD, RN, President of California, presented an Action Report to the ANA House of Delegates to Protect and Strengthen Social Security. More than 154 million workers and their families are covered by their contribution to Social Security. Nearly 48 million Americans currently receive Social Security benefits. Sixty-five percent of these recipients depend on it for half or more of their income. Twenty percent of those would be living under the poverty level without this assistance. Women typically receive lower Social Security benefits because many take years off from work for child care and other familial responsibilities. ANA has supported Social Security benefits since it’s inception in 1935. This resolution suggested that ANA implement this by the following actions:

1. support the preservation of Social Security by adding a ‘caregiver years earning calculation’ and not privatizing Social Security. Candidates for Congress and President positions should be addressed concerning this issue;
2. ANA and its CMAs offer online CE program on the importance of Social Security to the most vulnerable;
3. ANA consider asking HRSA to add a question about income security to the National Nursing Survey for nurses nearing retirement or currently retired to better gage the impact of Social Security on the aged nursing workforce;
4. ANA urge UAN to strengthen retirement security for RNs covered by collective bargaining.

The total estimated cost for these suggested implementation activities ranges from $5,000 to $9,999. This resolution passed with greater than 90% approval.

Louise Timmer, EdD, RN, President of California, presented an Action Report to the ANA House of Delegates to Protect and Enhance Medicare. Many elements of the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act have weakened the Medicare program by increasing cost to beneficiaries and the government while forgoing opportunities to improve coverage for needed health care. The cost to beneficiaries was outlined in detail which included the increase in premiums and out of pocket cost. This resolution suggested that ANA implement this by the following actions:

1. Participate in coalitions working to protect and enhance Medicare and opposing the privatization of Medicare, provide testimony, update ANA constituent members, and mobilize grassroots lobbying efforts;
2. That the ANA PAC include the protection and enhancement of Medicare and opposition to privatization as an essential question in the endorsement process.

Total estimated cost for these suggested implementation activities ranges from $50,000 to $74,999. This resolution passed with over 90% approval.
Report on the Magnet Process and the Commission on Magnets

by Janet Harris

Most of you know that I was elected to the Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics in 2006 when ANA expanded the group. This group writes and reviews position statements and establishes standards and scopes of practice. From this group, I was appointed as a liaison to the Commission on Magnet. What an incredible opportunity! And, what a tremendous amount of work! I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to the work of the commission. The Magnet work is unique and comes through the work of the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

There are currently 285 Magnet designated facilities nationally and internationally—none yet in the state of Mississippi. In 2007, 142 organizations declared intent to submit documents; of that number, 83 actually followed through and submitted paperwork. This year, 183 organizations have declared intent to submit documents.

When documents are submitted, an appraisal team is appointed with a leader and two members; a fellow or appraiser in training may also be added to the team. Currently, there are 243 appraisers at all levels (this includes 83 fellows who are in the learning process) All organizations’ documents are reviewed and scored by the appraisal team. If the score meets a target number, the site moves to the next phase. In some cases, if a score is very close, a facility may be asked to submit additional documents. After a consensus score meets target, a site visit is scheduled. The appraisal team visits the applying organization. An agenda is developed with a focus on spending time with staff to verify the information submitted. After the site visit, a lengthy report is written, and the site is given another total score—as well as an evaluation of each of the 14 forces. These reports are then submitted to the Commission on Magnet.

The Commission on Magnet is composed of ten commissions who volunteer their time and who represent specific constituencies. The ten include:

- Chair, commissioner with considerable experience on the Commission
- 2 At-Large representatives
- AONE representative
- APRN seat
- Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics seat
- General CNO representative
- Magnet CNO seat
- Long-term Care representative
- One seat from lay public (currently an MHA)

The Commission meets in person 3 times per year and has a minimum of one call a month to review reports from the appraisers or the results of the site visit.

In addition to the sustaining work on the Commission, groundbreaking development work is also being done. A new Model for Magnet will incorporate results from a regression analysis of the 24 Forces. The results showed considerable redundancy and overlap in the information required in the documentation.

The new, proposed model has five domains: Exemplary Professional Practice, New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvements, Transformational Leadership, Structural Empowerment and Empirical Outcomes at the core. The proposed “sources of evidence” have been reduced from 161 to 109. The draft of the new model is being finalized and will go out for comment in the next 30 days. If you have interest in this new proposal, stay tuned to www.nursingworld.org for the announcement.

ANA Bylaws Change

by Janet Harris

Article VII—Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics (CNPE)

The recent House of Delegates voted to change CNPE membership to consist of at least twenty members, a majority of whom shall be elected by the ANA House of Delegates. The rationale for this change was to accommodate the growing number of organizational affiliates while maintaining a group size that can be accommodated ay the ANA headquarters. Changes related to this bylaw will occur with the elections at the 2010 House of Delegates. At that time, the ANA Board will appoint 12 members to four year terms and 13 members to two year terms.
MNA Bi-Monthly Newsletter Goes Electronic

The May-June issue on MNA Members Only is the first to be delivered by e-mail. "Moving the newsletter to electronic distribution will save the association about $7,000 a year in printing and mailing costs," said Betty Ruth Hawkins, MNA's marketing and communications director.

Beginning with the May-June issue, MNA's Members Only will come to members as an e-mail publication. A copy of the newsletter can also be downloaded from the MNA Website at www.msnurses.org by going to the www.msnurses.org/mna/mnanewsletter.asp.

"In order for the membership to make sure the newsletter keeps coming without interruption, we are asking everyone to update their MNA profile online by logging in and clicking profile. It is important that your e-mail address is accurate," Hawkins said.

There are approximately 400 members without e-mail addresses or with inaccurate e-mail addresses on file. "We have recently sent out postcards asking members to update their profile or to send us a current e-mail address," said Hawkins.

"We have done some electronic publication recently with blast e-mails announcing programs such as the MNA Historical SIG meeting held here and with the Save-the-Date notice for the Nurse Practitioner Convention held April 25 and 26 in Natchez," Ricki Garrett, MNA executive director explained. "By using electronic notification, we can get more information to our membership in a more responsive manner than in the past."

There are several steps members should take in order to make sure receipt of the MNA electronic publications are accepted in their business or personal mail boxes. The first, Hawkins explained, is to make sure the e-mail address on file at MNA is an accurate e-mail address. And, the second step, is to check the blocked and spam folders on your e-mail editor and see that MNA or Constant Contact files are not blocked. Constant Contact is the digital service MNA uses for its electronic publications.

Members will have the opportunity to opt-out at anytime. For more information, contact Betty Ruth Hawkins at bhawkins@msnurses.org or call (601) 898-0670.
The Mississippi RN Publisher Sponsors $1,000 Award for Scholarly Writing

Arthur L. Davis Publishing Agency, Inc. will sponsor a $1,000 award for scholarly writing. The Arthur L. Davis Publishing Agency publishes the Mississippi RN quarterly newspaper for the Mississippi Nurses Association.

Criteria:
1. Registered Nurse;
2. Mississippi resident;
3. Member of the Mississippi Nurses Association;
4. Enrolled in a doctoral program in nursing or a related area; and
5. Manuscript is publishable as submitted.

Manuscript Requirements:
1. Should be written on one of the following topics:
   a. report of nursing project/research;
   b. description of an innovative practice in nursing; or
   c. scholarly essay related to nursing.
2. Must not have been previously published.
3. Limited to 3,600 words, typed, double-spaced on 8-1/2” x 11” bond paper (12-15 pages).
4. A complete application must include student information form, manuscript, and a letter from the school verifying enrollment as a doctoral student. Entries will be judged by blind review by the Scholarship Committee and selected nursing scholars. The writing award will be given to the winner by Dec. 31, 2008.
5. Manuscript is publishable as submitted.

A complete application must include:
• student information form (contact the Nurses Foundation);
• essay;
• official transcript (no copies);
• three (3) letters of support from faculty providing specific examples of leadership potential, involvement in professional activities and academic performance.

Entries will be judged by the members of the Mississippi Nurses Foundation Scholarship Committee. The scholarship winner will be notified during the annual MASN Convention in October. The deadline for submission is Oct. 1. All parts of the application must be postmarked or received in the Mississippi Nurses Foundation office by this deadline.

The Mississippi Nurses Foundation offers annually a $1,000 scholarship to a Mississippi nursing student who is a member of MASN. The $1,000 scholarship award is based on academic performance, leadership, recommendations and an essay.

Criteria:
1. Admitted to a basic professional registered nursing program in Mississippi;
2. Member of the Mississippi Association of Student Nurses;
3. Possess strong academic performance;
4. Demonstrate leadership ability;
5. Write a 500-1000 word essay that begins with the following sentence: The nursing profession will be better in the next decade, because my goals and ambitions include . . .

A complete application must include:
• student information form (contact the Nurses Foundation);
• essay;
• official transcript (no copies);
• three (3) letters of support from faculty providing specific examples of leadership potential, involvement in professional activities and academic performance.

For additional information call (601) 898-0850 or send an e-mail to foundation@msnurses.org.
ANCC Launches New Site

The ANCC is proud to launch its new web site www.nursecredentialing.org. All sections of our website have been improved, but the most drastic overhaul is in the Certification section. Now nurses can go to one page and find everything related to their specialty—site visitors no longer click to one page for an application, another for the test content outline, and yet another for a review course. Everything is pulled together in one easy location.

While at the new web site—please visit the Accreditation announcements located at: http://www.nursecredentialing.org/ContinuingEducation/Accreditation/Resources/Services/accreditation_workshop.aspx and learn about the Communities of Practice (9am-Noon) and Public Comments Meeting (1pm - 5pm) both on September 19th. And for our Accredited and Not-Yet Accredited organizations, we are offering a Workshop for each on Sept 20th (8:00 am)—Dr. John Whyte, Vice President, Continuing Medical Education, DiscoveryHealth® will be the guest speaker. All events are being held at the Crystal City Marriott (Crystal City, VA). We look forward to your participation and answering any questions you may have about these special events.

Accreditation of Continuing Nursing Education

by Dr. Susan Hart
CE Consultant

The Mississippi Nurses Association (MNA) is committed to providing quality continuing education for registered nurses. Although continuing education is not mandatory for RN licensure, nurses continue to maintain and enhance their competence and professionalism by attending a variety of continuing education programs. Each year, MNA provides a statewide nursing convention, a regional nurse practitioner convention, state legislative summit, an advanced practice controlled substance workshop, and other activities at the district level.

There are several ways to participate in the continuing education process: as a participant, planner and/or presenter. The Mississippi Nurses’ Association is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation. Nurses can attend CE activities offered by MNA at statewide events or the district level. Members of MNA are encouraged to serve as volunteers on the Provider Unit or as a presenter. Volunteer forms (Consent to Serve, Biographical Sheet, and Planner/Presenter form) can be obtained from the MNA office or at the district level.

The Mississippi Nurses Foundation is accredited as an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation. A continuing education provider can seek approval of contact hours through completion of an application through the Foundation. The provider can provide the approved educational activity as many times as planned within a two year period.

A provider that conducts more than ten educational activities in one year may apply for approved provider status through the Foundation. Approved provider status saves time and money as activities are planned within the agency without submitting an application to the Foundation each time an activity is planned. Approved provider submits a self-study with three sample CE activities every three years as well as annual CE activity reports.

In conducting quality continuing education programs, both MNA and MNF participate in accreditation process through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). The accrediting process assists to strengthen and sustain the quality and integrity of continuing nursing education. These continuing education programs contribute to the promotion and improvement of health care as well as assist nurses to maintain their competency and personal growth in the discipline.

Accreditation is a voluntary process and MNA as a provider and MNF as an approver of continuing nursing education take responsibility in improving the CE process by abiding by the standards of the ANCC. The American Nurses Association’s (ANA) Scope and Standards for Practice for Nursing Professional Development serves as a foundation for the development of the ANCC Commission on Accreditation (COA) criteria. ANCC is the largest and most prominent nurse credentialing organization in the United States. Being an accredited provider and approver provides nursing professionals that they are participating in quality continuing education activities that meet ANCC rigorous accreditation process.

The benefits of ANCC Accreditation are:
1. Recognition of CE activities by the licensing boards as well as employment agencies,
2. Adherence to national standards,
3. High standard of excellence,
4. Avenue through which nurses can maintain professional competence,
5. Promotes commitment to high quality nursing practice.

Both the Mississippi Nurses Association and Mississippi Nurses Foundation have maintained continuing education accreditation for over 20 years. Accreditation by the ANCC provides assurance to the public, in particular to nursing and health care professionals, that an organization has been found to meet national standards, requirements, and criteria.

Congratulations to all of us on becoming an accredited provider and approver of continuing education again! We appreciate and applaud our many volunteers and staff! In 2008, Mississippi Nurses Association and Mississippi Nurses Foundation successfully reapplied for and retained national accreditation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). The recertification recognizes a continuum of excellence in our provision of high quality continuing nursing education.

To earn national accreditation status once is a tremendous accomplishment and source of pride. To maintain ANCC Accreditation status another full cycle underscores the commitment of our entire staff and volunteers to continually strive hard to work together to meet the continuing nursing education needs of the nurses we serve.

ANCC national accreditation as a Provider and Approved Provider of continuing nursing education is a confirmation of our resolve as professionals to provide the best education available anywhere. It’s what you do so well day after day that makes Mississippi Nurses Association and Mississippi Nurses Foundation some of the finest continuing nursing education providers in the nation—today, tomorrow, and beyond.
Linda Sabin, Ph.D., RNC, professor of Nursing at the University of Louisiana at Monroe will offer the online preparation course, Faith Community Nursing, from Aug. 18–Dec. 20. The purpose of the course is to prepare registered nurses to practice in congregations and worship communities in the role of beginning Faith Community Nurse.

Faith Community Nursing, also known as Parish Nursing is a recognized specialty with the Community Health Nursing practice that combines professional nursing and health ministry, Sabin said. The cost of the program is $450. For additional information or to register online go to the University of Louisiana at Monroe Department of Continuing Education at www.ce.ulm.edu or call Linda Sabin at (318) 342-1517 or e-mail her at sabin@ulm.edu.
The 2008 MNA convention will have a new CE verification form to document your CE credits. This new form will be a single page so that you don't have to keep track of the numerous verification slips that are so easy to misplace. The form will list all Pre-convention, Regular Convention, and Fall NP Workshop CE activities and will allow the attendee to document the sessions she/he attended.

To receive CE credit for a session, each participant must sign the attendance roster, attend the entire session, and complete the evaluation for the presentation. Because criteria require attendance to the entire session, CE credit will be awarded for only one concurrent session per hour. Additionally, the attendee must be a registered participant for the session. For instance, a person will receive CE credit for the Pre-convention sessions or the NP post-convention sessions only if she/he has registered for those sessions.

At the completion of the convention, each attendee will be responsible for turning in the green copy of the attendance verification form to MNA Registration desk. She/he should sign the CE verification form confirming attendance for each session checked and should total the number of CE hours before turning the form in. As in the past, you keep the white copy for your CE records.

The Council on Nursing Education and the Provider Unit feel the new Attendance verification form will provide you with a better means of documenting your CE hours.

During past conventions and seminars, Provider Unit members and MNA staff have received numerous comments and questions regarding MNA CE policy. There have been questions about the difference between CE hours from MNA and the Mississippi Nurses Foundation (MNF). MNA is accredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). MNF is also accredited by ANCC. The difference is related to each organization's function. MNA serves as a provider of continuing education and awards CE contact hours for programs provided by MNA, such as at state meetings, districts, or SIG groups. MNF is an approving unit and grants approval for specific programs presented by other agencies or approves an agency, such as a hospital, to grant CE contact hours. Most hospitals in Mississippi are approved by MNF to provide continuing education contact hours.

Another question addresses how we award contact hour amounts for a session. Continuing Education credit is based on the amount of time a program is presented. Currently, one contact hour is awarded for a 60 minute presentation; whereas, in the past a contact hour was awarded for a 50 minute presentation. ANCC instituted this change. Most CE sessions offered are 1.5 hours or less, but some special CE topics, such as the Controlled Substances Update for Nurse Practitioners or many of the pre-convention presentations, are approved for more contact hours. For example, a CE session lasting 90 minutes receives 1.5 contact hours. Contact hours are not awarded for presentations less than 60 minutes and a partial contact hour cannot be awarded for attending half of the presentation. Provider Unit members who moderate the sessions try to be flexible for persons who are tardy; however, when an individual misses a major portion of the presentation, she/he has not met the criteria for receiving CE credit.

One question frequently asked is “Why can’t I get a CE slip to take home to a friend who cannot attend?” As noted earlier, ANCC and MNA criteria require the participant to attend the entire session to receive CE credit and to be registered for the program. A nurse who does not attend the meeting does not meet the criteria to receive CE credit.

It is MNA's goal to provide quality continuing education to meet the needs of all our members. The Provider Unit has met with the Board of Nursing to explore alternate methods of providing continuing education, especially for mandatory education requirements, such as the controlled substances education for nurse practitioners. Several alternatives are currently under investigation so you may see some important changes in the future.
Available for the first time from

A new pattern especially designed for the Mississippi Nurses Association by the design team at Gail Pittman, Inc. Begin your collection with the 8¼” square salad plate – this limited edition offering is the first item in the MNA new series. All sales from this collection will benefit the Mississippi Nurses Association.

Order Form

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Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMX ☐

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Order will be shipped within three weeks
## Application for Nurses Association Membership

31 Woodgrass Place, Madison, MS 35110 — (800) 809-0716 — Fax: (800) 809-0716  
e-mail: mna@mna.org — join online at www.MNA.org

(Please Print)  
Check one: New Application Renew/Reinstatement

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### If paying monthly by Electronic Check:

Please enclose a check for your first month’s payment and sign below. By signing below, you authorize MNA to draft your monthly membership dues and any additional service fees from your checking account or on or after the 15th of each month using the account designated by the enclosed check. MNA is authorized to change the draft amount by posting notice at www.mna.org at least 30 days prior to such change. Under no circumstances will the Association be responsible for any fees charged by the bank for insufficient funds or any processing fees incurred. If the draft is returned for any reason, you will be billed the full amount due plus any return charges. MNA will charge $10 fee for any returned drafts.

### Electronic Payment Authorization Signature

MNA membership dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes but may be deductible as a business expense. However, that percentage of dues paid to MNA for lobbying (38%) is not deductible as a business expense. $7.50 of MNA member dues is for a subscription to The American Nurse, $14.00 is for a subscription to American Nurse Today, $18.00 is for a subscription to The Mississippi RN, and MNA members only. Members may not deduct the subscription price from dues. Cancellation of membership must be made in writing a minimum of twenty (20) days prior to next scheduled dues payment. Early termination of monthly payment plan will result in balance of yearly dues payable upon cancellation.

### No one takes care of business, like a nurse

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

- **Keeping up with the trends and changes:** The association sponsors the Annual MNA Convention in October and the Statewide Nursing Summit each January. Both events focus on current professional and legislative issues related to Mississippi nursing, while presenting new and upcoming products, services, issues and developments in nursing. Throughout the year, there are seminars and workshops tailored to meet Nursing’s specific needs, all at a discount to MNA members. MNA publishes the bi-monthly newsletter, MNA Members Only, and the quarterly newspaper, The Mississippi RN. The MNA Web site MNAonline.org posts current articles, news, salary information, 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:** Membership provides many resources to assist RNs in advancing their careers. Members, not only get information and support, but show an impressive commitment and genuine interest in their profession. Participation has power. You can build a powerful network of skilled professionals who can serve as personal mentors and problem solvers.

- **Inside job and internship opportunities:** 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.

- **National connection:** With your MNA membership comes membership in the American Nurses Association and the Center for American Nurses. MNA provides you with access to the award-winning Web site, NursingWorld.org and its exclusive counterpart, ANA Members Only, that gives you access instantly to CINAHL, ANA Nursing Insider, an e-mail based newsletter, the traditional, The American Nurse, a monthly nursing bimonthly newsletter, and the prestigious, American Journal of Nursing. Your savings for subscriptions alone is more than $49. You’re also save up to 149 on American Nurses Credentialing Center exams. ANCC certification is offered at associate, diploma, bacheelor and master’s programs. Your membership entitles you to the option of taking professional liability insurance through MNA’s and ANA’s collaboration with Marsh Affinity Group Serviers. The Center for American Nurses is a community of nursing organizations that serves individual, non-profit entities by providing programs, tools and policies to address workforce and policy issues. Go to CenterForAmericanNurses.org to review the many ways that the Center’s expertise can benefit you.

- **Hertz Rental Discounts:** MNA members can enjoy a choice of some of the most popular offers while taking advantage of year-round member discounts.

- **Bank of America Rewards:** Bank of America offers MNA members the no annual fee (Mississippi Nurses Association Platinum Master Card Credit Card with World Points)wards. An application is in the new member packet. Additional applications can be obtained through the MNA office.