Teresa M. Planch of Brandon has been named the new executive director of the Mississippi Nurses Association effective June 1. She will take over the reins from Betty Dickson who has served as interim executive director since January 2.

“We are excited about Ms. Planch coming to us after a long and outstanding career with the State of Mississippi where she served as State Insurance Administrator in the Office of Insurance since November 2005,” MNA President Gayle Harrell said in making the announcement.

“I have followed Teresa’s career in state government for many years, we have worked together and I am delighted that she will be providing leadership to Mississippi nurses. MNA will be in very good hands,” said Dickson, who served as MNA executive director from 1988 to 2004.

Planch has been responsible for the overall management and operations of the State and School Employees’ Life and Health Insurance Plan, a nearly $1 billion self-insured program that provides coverage for approximately 200,000 participants. She also had oversight of the insurance component of the MS Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) with premiums of over $100 million serving over 70,000 children. Additionally, she had oversight of the State Agencies Self-Insured Workers’ Compensation Trust, a $50 million program that benefits more than 100 agencies participating in the Trust and their approximately 25,000 employees.

She served as deputy director, Office of Insurance for ten years before being elevated to the director’s position.

Teresa was deputy director of the State Insurance Plan under Director Theresa Hanna when The Plan agreed to recognize nurse practitioners as providers in network in the State Employees Health Plan. This move opened the doors for NPs because it allowed their patients to have the same co-pay as those seeing physicians. This one move was strategic to opening the doors to other health care plans to include NPs in their networks, according to Dickson.

“I have observed her professional demeanor during presentations to legislative committees, her speaking ability before large groups and her vast experience in working with two separate boards,” Dickson added. “MNA is fortunate to have someone of her caliber.”

Planch is a graduate of Delta State University with a BS degree in Business Administration. She obtained a Master of Business Administration from Mississippi College.

Her career started with the Department of Corrections as an Accountant Auditor, she moved from there to Warner Cable Communications as business manager. She has served as an accountant auditor with the Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Education and became a budget analyst with State of Mississippi. She moved to the State Employees Health Plan system in 1992.

“Teresa’s experience in strategic planning, financial planning, health care and legislative communications and her many years of experience with boards will be an asset to MNA. We look forward to having her assume the leadership position June 1,” Harrell said.

Harrell also commended those who served on the search committee including MNA members Libby Mahaffey, Tonya Moore, Barbara Rogers, Artlana Hargrove, Jennifer Hitt, LaNelle Weems, Betsy Mann, Rebecca Askew, Penny Lovitt and Adam Welch, representing the Mississippi Association of Student Nurses.

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Good news for the PAC!

By Marilyn Ellis

It’s never too early to start the topic you need, please contact Director of Continuing Education, get educated, and have a ton of fun.

Practitioner Convention at the Harrah’s Convention Center in Tunica, Mississippi.

NP convention

We had a great turnout in April at the Nurse Practitioner Convention at the Harrah’s Convention Center in Tunica. There were 250 NPs in attendance who gathered for valuable session topics, great speakers, a fun river Boat Dinner Cruise, and a “Fit to Eat” lunch prepared by Gulfport chef Rob Stinson and proved to be a great success. Please save April 26 and 27 dates for next year and join us in Natchez to network, get educated, and have a ton of fun.

If you are interested in presenting a topic or have a topic you need, please contact Director of Continuing Education, Betty Logan or Co-Chair of Continuing Education, Marilyn Ellis. It’s never to early to start making those plans. Ask about presenter benefits for the conference when you sign up to present.

Good news for the PAC!

In an exciting two days, the advanced practice nurses in attendance raised almost $10,000 for the MNA-PAC to support candidates running for office who support nursing and health care in Mississippi. We must be prepared to support those legislators who support our interest. Please give generously to the MNA-PAC.

Mandatory CE

MNA is continuing to work with the Board of Nursing to address the Continuing Education requirements for RNs. A committee has been appointed by the Board to develop a regulation to present for consideration. MNA’s position is that as a health care profession, nurses should maintain continuing education credits as other health care professions already are doing. The Institute of Medicine has spoken up for nursing and how nursing should be supported in the health care arena. It is important that we as nurses be proactive in raising the standards of our profession.

Changes at ANA

There are drastic changes being made at the American Nurses Association that will lead to changes at the state level in Mississippi. The ANA/ MNA delegates will be voting on those changes during this year’s ANA House of Delegates session in June. Depending on the outcomes of by-law changes passed at this meeting, MNA will possibly be facing changes in our by-laws as well. MNA has one of the strongest non-union state associations in the country. However, with the changes health care environment, we need to continue to involve more nurses in positions that influence the nursing and health care needs in Mississippi. As MNA president, I encourage you to join us in keeping nursing in the key positions where decisions are being made. That only happens when our membership and nursing activity grows. Whatever your availability, being a member of MNA is VITAL to making a difference in nursing and health care. Keep nursing VITAL signs healthy by joining MNA TODAY.

Thanks to Betty

Of course, with the acceptance of Teresa Planche as executive director, comes the reality that Betty Dickson will step back into semi-retirement. There are no words to appropriately express the Board’s and the membership’s appreciation for the service and sacrifice that she has given to MNA. Her dedication to nursing has never lessened through her years of service to nurses and health care in Mississippi. We as nurses should do no less. JOIN MNA TODAY!
The Committee has been in full swing and has been very involved with great statewide participation. Betty Dickson, Interim Executive Director & Lobbyist, has been in the trenches with what is happening with the Legislative session and keeping our voice heard. Meeting after meeting she has been at the legislature staying abreast of current and on-going bills that directly affects nurses in Mississippi. We met regularly during the legislative season and addressed all bills that could have had negative impact on nursing and patient care. MNA has telephone conference-call options for our meetings and this new feature increased the participation for members of the committee who could not travel to the office. There were a few bills of great concern to MNA. When necessary, we had asked our members to contact their local representative. Thanks to all of you for your letters and calls to them. This kind of participation made a difference. We will continue to monitor what is happening and send updates via MNA’s website and/or email. One particular concern that a member of the committee brought forth will likely come to the House of Delegates in the form of a resolution. We will go over this information at our annual convention on the beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast in October and hope that you will join us there! Mark your calendar for October 16-19, 2012.

The Provider Unit serves under the Director of the Council on Nursing Education. We have been busy arranging speakers for the CE events at the Spring NP meeting held in Tunica, April 13-14. This event has a wide variety of topics. Immediately after this event, we began planning for convention CE. If you have a suggestion for a speaker or topic, please email me at blogan@netdoor.com or call Angela Weathersby at MNA aweathersby@msnurses.org. Please encourage your colleagues to support MNA by attending district & state MNA events whenever possible!

Also, we made the data sheet form available on the MNA website under “Library.” This is the form members need to complete prior to programs that are held in districts or SIG meetings when CE credit is desired. Members can download the form, complete the required information, and email it to Angela Weathersby. The form should be returned to MNA at least two weeks prior to your event in order to give the Provider Unit time to review the proposed program. We look forward to seeing you soon at an MNA event!

Ann Barnes

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Save the Date

- Board of Directors Meeting May 18, 2012
- Controlled Substances Workshop: May 24-25, 2012
- Controlled Substances Workshop: August 23-24, 2012
- MS Nurses’ Association Annual Convention October 16-19, 2012, Biloxi MS
- Controlled Substances Workshop: December 13-14, 2012
- RN Day at the MS State Capitol January 24, 2013
- Nineteenth Annual Nursing Summit January 29, 2013
- NP Day at the MS State Capitol February 7, 2013
- MNA & MNF Nightingale Awards Gala March 4, 2013
- 2013 Nurse Practitioner Spring Convention, Natchez, April 26-27, 2013

NP Convention – April 13-14, Tunica, MS

George & Becky Murphy and company enjoying the riverboat cruise

Attendees exploring with exhibitors

NP’s prepping for Virtual Dementia Tour

Chef Rob Stinson Healthy Cooking Demo-Delicious!

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Governor Bryant Appoints 2 MNA Members to State Board of Nursing

The Mississippi Nurses Association is working to reorganize the Nursing Organization’s Liaison Committee (NOLC). Begun in the late 1980’s, NOLC membership is composed of a representative from every nursing organization in Mississippi.

Through the years NOLC met quarterly to communicate about nursing issues, events, concerns and to plan the annual Nursing Summit in January each year. “In recent years, NOLC has not been meeting on a regular basis and we think that strong communication is needed among all the associations,” Gayle Harrell, MNA president said. “There are many issues facing nursing in the next few years and we need to stay informed and focused on protecting nursing’s interest in health care. An informed body can effectively move all our agendas forward.”

NOLC met at the center for Nursing April 10 to reorganize, update the roster and to revisit the goals of the group. MNA Interim Executive Director, Betty Dickson gave a history of NOLC and a 2012 legislative update. There was a discussion about current nursing issues, proposed legislation for 2013, Nursing Summit information, mandatory issue education, issue involving the Department of Mental Health and the recent findings of the Justice Department regarding the state of mental health patients in Mississippi and other topics.

There was an update from the Board of Nursing followed by questions from attendees. Attendees were asked to furnish MNA with meeting dates of their associations to publish on the MNA website, and association news that can be shared with the group.

Dates were set for the year: June 26, September 25 and December 4, 2012. Meeting time is 3 p.m. at the MS Center for Nurses.

The following organizations were represented: MS School Nurses Association, MS Organization of Nurse Executives, Board of Nursing, LPN Association, Institutions of Higher Learning, Association of Operating Room Nurses, State Department of Health, Eliza Pillars RN Association, Rehabilitation Nurses, and Associate Degree Nursing.

“Representatives from all nursing organizations are encouraged to be a part of this committee so that nurses keep lines of communication open, find strength in numbers and participate in planning for nursing’s future,” said MNA President Turner.

For more information on NOLC, please call Dana Walker at MNA 601-898-0670 or via email dwalker@mnnurses.org.
Nurses are strongly dedicated to administer quality patient care with an emphasis on patient safety. National Nurses Week was celebrated from May 6, also known as National Nurses Day, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. This year the American Nurses Association's national theme was Nurses: Advocating, Leading, Caring. There continues to be a focus to raise awareness to the value nurses bring to our patient and to help educate the public about the roles nurses play in meeting the health care needs of each patient. Each of MNA's District Presidents planned special events in their areas such as in South Mississippi where they awarded a $500.00 Book Scholarship to an undergraduate nursing student, T-shirt Fundraisers, a 5k run, Massage Day, & a Virtual Dementia Tour. In North Mississippi, they sponsored first aid kits for the baseball fields, giving away bottles of water with tips on hydration & safety and they also had a Career Day. MNA is lucky to have such dedicated district presidents to lead in their areas with great members!

MNA would like to pay tribute to all the Mississippi nurses, not only during this week but every day, for those who provide skilled, safe, and quality healthcare in a variety of settings to all the patients throughout the state. We also ask each you to take time to reflect on a time when a nurse touched your life or the lives of one of your family members. We simply could not function without our nurses, so take a moment of your time to thank a nurse today; for without them, our state would be without some of the best people in the world. After all, an unknown author once said, “Nurses are the heartbeat of health care.”

Nursing is often described as a profession that is dedicated to their patients in their demonstration of giving comfort, caring, compassion, empathy, sympathy, patience, and selflessness. The career of nursing, being an art and science all rolled up into one, allows nursing as a profession the opportunity to offer these attributes to our patients on a daily basis. As nurses, we are represented in many places such as: hospitals, outpatient clinics, home health, hospice, schools, and community health, which give us the opportunity not only to serve people but to touch their lives and the lives of their family in a powerful way. Nurses are
Influential Role of Nurses in Healthcare Reform

by Todd Smith, MD & Mary Smith, DNP, FNP-BC

Over the last decade, the nursing profession has gained more notoriety in the healthcare industry. A Gallup poll conducted at the end of 2011, ranked the nursing profession as the most trusted for the 12th time in 13 years. The 2011 Gallup poll results also revealed 85% of respondents across the United States rated nurses to be “very high” or “high” regarding standards pertaining to honesty and ethics. Of the 21 professions included in the Gallup poll, medical practitioners were placed in the top three in terms of confidence being followed by pharmacists (73%) and medical doctors (70%). The professions rated as the lowest at 7% included individuals in car sales, lobbyists, and members of Congress. This high level of trust from members of society gives nurses the ability to be significantly influential and proactive in many venues of the healthcare system. However, with society’s low rating of trust among Congress, nurses should consider becoming active in the process of policy and politics surrounding healthcare reform.

In addition to society, it is evident that the United States government also holds a high level of trust among nurses. This is apparent by noting the nursing leaders who have been recently appointed to fill director positions within the United States government. For example, Marilyn Taverner was appointed as the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) following the resignation of Donald Berwick, M.D. in 2011. Taverner has extensive experience as a registered nurse in clinical practice in addition to being a hospital executive. This is the first time a registered nurse has been named as Administrator of CMS. Additionally, Lieutenant General Patricia Horoho, was appointed in command of the U.S. Army Medical Command and on December 7, 2011. She was sworn in as the 43rd Army Surgeon General. Horoho is the first female to serve in this capacity, which makes her the first registered nurse and female to be appointed as the U.S. Army Surgeon General. In addition to these individuals, there are also nurses who hold congressional and legislative positions across the country.

Nurses possess the ability and power to play a leading part in today’s political arena. With experience in the healthcare setting as patient advocates, case managers and providers of direct, hands-on patient care, nurses know first-hand where the greatest needs are, where the problems lie, which changes should take place to allow for improvement, and where cost savings may be generated. Nurses are mindful of the fact that the aforementioned points may easily be influenced by many factors such as a patient’s ability to access healthcare services, current state of health, financial situation, and level of health literacy. Nurses carry with them a significant amount of insight pertaining to numerous factors to address nursing with factors that affect the previously mentioned points. This knowledge base is what makes nurses invaluable in the world of healthcare policy and politics.

The current state of healthcare reform is placing a strong focus on providing high quality healthcare services, improving outcomes, with the final goal being the elimination of cost savings. The government is hoping to accomplish this through the creation of Accountable Care Organizations, offering grants to assist with the development of innovative ways to improve healthcare services, and incentive based programs that will test the effectiveness of various healthcare delivery models. The U.S. government has made changes in the world of healthcare policy and politics.

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Todd Smith, MD is board certified in general orthopedics and practices at the Starkville Orthopedic Clinic and is the Assistant Professor of Nursing at the MS University for Women.

Welcome New Members

MNA welcomes new members who joined from January through April 2012:

Robin Collins
Teairra Conerly
Arlene Cooper
Crysta Johnson
Rachel Dillard
Adrienne Dolan
Amy Applewhitesite
Stacia Dunson
Traci Easterling
Renata Eason
Cindy Eldred
Russell Fears
Jamie Fortner
Lynna Franklin
Patricia Freeman
Calvin French
Sheila Friedman
Michelle Gerette
Brandon Goldsmith
Sheila Gordon
Amy Gray
Lisa Green
Katherine Griffith
Lucy Gulick
Kariann Hamel
Amanda Hand
Brittany Harris
Donna Harris
Kelly Hendrix
Fanaka Herbert
Kristi Hester
Lucy Hodges
Ida Holloway
Karmen Holmes
Derek Holt
Angela Hunord
LaQuitta Hughes
Cathy Hughes
Virginia Hunt
Mary Jackson
Gloria Jaques
Pam Jeffries
Tawanda Johnson
Caroline Johnson
Kelly Johnston
Arleen Joseph
Marsha Jones
Kenneth Kaiser
Leonard Kennedy
Elizabeth Kinney
Hannah Knight
Jenny Kirkis
Vicki Lambert
Marie Lawrence
Karen Lee
Jessica Lesley
Yoshie Lisley
Kelli Linch
Patricia Lindsey
Sharon Love
Eric Manuel
Joann Massey
Latrina McClinton
Greg McCloud
Katherine McDuffie
Jerry McLarty
Stephanie McNerree
Lindsey Meisel
James Miller
Kevin Miller
Sarah Mitchell
Lacey Mixon
Katelyn Moffett
Lesley Moore
Yolanda Murry
Hanne Nanavanaty
Wanda Nowsome
La Jaina Newton
Harold Nichols
Amy O’Daniel
Thomas Odel
Demetric Osborn
Maria Ozua
Makita Patterson
James Patton
Monique Pendleton
Pamela Perkins
Angela Pitcher
James Polson
Teresa Rayborn
Zannma Rhymes
Camille Richards
Whitney Rogers
Terrie Rowland
Marilyn Russell
Kimberly Schlagel
Teri Selby
Candance Seymour
Jean Skinner
Cynthia Smith
Amy Smith
Rhonda Smith
Marilyn Smith
Skye Stoker
Kim Stonecypher
Sarah Stoner
Andrea Suggs
Virginia Sumrnall
Wendy Tate
Jennifer Taylor
Patsy Thompson
Lesley Thweatt
Kate Totty
Thu Tran
Stephanie Tyler
Audrey Upchurch
Natasha West
Kathie Van Bedale
Randi White
Kathy Wilkinson
Kristi Wilson
Kenneth Womack
Sharon Woods
Vickey Wright
Phyllis Wright
Tomeka Wright
Latasha Wills
Alicia York
Brandon Young

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Jamie Fortner
Lynna Franklin
Patricia Freeman
Calvin French
Sheila Friedman
Michelle Gerette
Brandon Goldsmith
Sheila Gordon
Amy Gray
Lisa Green
Katherine Griffith
Lucy Gulick
Kariann Hamel
Amanda Hand
Brittany Harris
Donna Harris
Kelly Hendrix
Fanaka Herbert
Kristi Hester
Lucy Hodges
Ida Holloway
Karmen Holmes
Derek Holt
Angela Hunord
LaQuitta Hughes
Cathy Hughes
Virginia Hunt
Mary Jackson
Gloria Jaques
Pam Jeffries
Tawanda Johnson
Caroline Johnson
Kelly Johnston
Arleen Joseph
Marsha Jones
Kenneth Kaiser
Leonard Kennedy
Elizabeth Kinney
Hannah Knight
Jenny Kirkis
Vicki Lambert
Marie Lawrence
Karen Lee
Jessica Lesley
Yoshie Lisley
Kelli Linch
Patricia Lindsey
Sharon Love
Eric Manuel
Joann Massey
Latrina McClinton
Greg McCloud
Katherine McDuffie
Jerry McLarty
Stephanie McNerree
Lindsey Meisel
James Miller
Kevin Miller
Sarah Mitchell
Lacey Mixon
Katelyn Moffett
Lesley Moore
Yolanda Murry
Hanne Nanavanaty
Wanda Nowsome
La Jaina Newton
Harold Nichols
Amy O’Daniel
Thomas Odel
Demetric Osborn
Maria Ozua
Makita Patterson
James Patton
Monique Pendleton
Pamela Perkins
Angela Pitcher
James Polson
Teresa Rayborn
Zannma Rhymes
Camille Richards
Whitney Rogers
Terrie Rowland
Marilyn Russell
Kimberly Schlagel
Teri Selby
Candance Seymour
Jean Skinner
Cynthia Smith
Amy Smith
Rhonda Smith
Marilyn Smith
Skye Stoker
Kim Stonecypher
Sarah Stoner
Andrea Suggs
Virginia Sumrnall
Wendy Tate
Jennifer Taylor
Patsy Thompson
Lesley Thweatt
Kate Totty
Thu Tran
Stephanie Tyler
Audrey Upchurch
Natasha West
Kathie Van Bedale
Randi White
Kathy Wilkinson
Kristi Wilson
Kenneth Womack
Sharon Woods
Vickey Wright
Phyllis Wright
Tomeka Wright
Latasha Wills
Alicia York
Brandon Young
The legislative session is in the last days and legislators will begin the final phase including conference meetings and approval of bills. MNA's Health Affairs committee held last meeting of the session on March 30 and plans are already underway for the 2013 legislative session.

MNA's NP community was alerted last week about HB 1547 that would have allowed tax breaks to physicians who practice in rural Mississippi. We activated a legislative alert to members of the Senate Finance Committee telling them that we opposed the bill unless NPs were added. The Finance Committee did not vote on the bill, effectively killing it this session.

Bills that MNA previously reported on include SB 2717 and HB 1443 that would have opened the Nurse Practice Act to provide a group of LPNs who had graduated from a nursing program not accredited in Mississippi an avenue for licensure. The bill died in committee and resolution to the issue was accomplished without changing the law.

HB899/SB 2670 has passed both houses and is headed to the governor where he is expected to sign it. This bill was considered by the nursing community as unnecessary and an assault on advanced practice nurses. However, there was support for the bill from both chairmen of Public Health Committees who asked that we compromise on the language. We were able to have the bill amended to remove the following language: (4) A health care practitioner who is a nonmedical doctor or nonosteopathic medical doctor who participates in a collaborative practice agreement(s) with a medical doctor(s) or doctor(s) of osteopathic medicine and whose collaborative practice agreement(s) is regulated by the Board of Medical Licensure or the Board of Nursing shall be required to indicate that the health care practitioner collaborates with a physician(s) and that the content of the collaborative practice agreement(s) are available upon request.

MNA also asked for the bill to be repealed and the language was added to repeal the bill June 30, 2016. The Board of Nursing will be responsible for writing regulation for their licensees.

HB 317 creates an Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce to be housed at the UMMC. This office mirrors our Office of Nursing Workforce which has been in existence since 1996.

An issue of concern to the nursing community is the level of funding for the State Department of Health. According to a 2010-2011 report from the Trust for American Health, a non-profit, non-partisan organization, Mississippi ranked 48th in state funds to meet public health needs. The Department has stated that a minimum of $32.5 million is required to maintain essential public health services. This funding equals about $10.90 per person. Many of the health department services are performed by nurses who are employed there. According to Dr. Mary Currier, state health officer, in 2003, there were 354 nurses working in the Health Department. By 2007 that number had dropped to 308. During that time, we had an increase in both syphilis and tuberculosis. Currently the number of nurses is back up, but in order to maintain the nursing numbers, they must be funded. MNA supports fully funding our public health system.

SB 2361 the Vulnerable Person Act, had many additions this year; some of the language is pretty vague. Nurses working in settings where there are vulnerable people should read the bill to stay abreast of the language that could affect their practice.

SB 2737 passed the legislature late in the session. This bill, known as step therapy or fail first, eliminates the health insurer practice where insurance companies dictate to patients which medications to take based upon cost. The bill provides that when access to medications are restricted for use by the insurer by a Step First/Fail First protocol, the health care provider must be provided with a clear and convenient process to expeditiously request an override of such a restriction from an insurer.

A bill to allow licensure for lay midwives died in committee. The bill would have allowed licensure, a board and to remove from the practice of medicine the exception for females engaged solely in the practice of midwifery.

MNA was actively involved in SB 2527, the MS Respiratory Care Act. There was much concern about changing previous language that read ‘in accordance with the orders of a medical director’ to ‘in accordance with the orders of a physician licensed in the State of Mississippi.’ There were some questions as to who could order respiratory care. The State Department of Health has assured MNA that this language change would not change the way respiratory care is being ordered today. They further assured MNA that should this present a problem, they would come back next year and correct it.

SB 2752 created a School Health Pilot Program based on a federal model and authorized the State Department of Education and the State Department of Health to establish same. MNA discussed the bill with the school nurse coordinator with SDE who said it would be subject to funding. MNA will continue to follow this as it pertains to school nurses.

All Smoke Free bills died in committee. MNA supports Smoke Free Mississippi legislation and joined several coalitions in speaking to this issue.

Three Medicaid bill that have passed, HB 316 transfers the CHIP program from the Department of Finance to Medicaid and HB 1297 limits Medicaid audits to 5 years and HB 1391 authorizes Medicaid to develop and operate a data match system to verify assets of certain applicants.

HB 1390 requires that physicians performing abortions in an abortion clinic must have admitting privileges at a local hospital. There is only one abortion clinic in Mississippi and is located in Jackson. It is predicted that this legislation will cause the clinic to close its doors.

All bills that provided exemptions to vaccinations died this year. MNA opposes any legislation that would exempt vaccinations.

The bill to allow Medicaid Medical Home through the Division of Medicaid died in committee but there is a possibility that we will see some type of ‘medicaid home’ model. HB 1380, Creates the Prescription Monitoring Program Advisory Committee. In the original version, MNA and the Independent Pharmacy Association had seats on this committee, but were removed late in the session. The Board of Nursing is represented, but efforts were underway late in the session to have MNA and IPA back in the bill.

PLANS FOR 2013

MNA is already working on plans for the 2013 legislative session. Two young RNs serving on the Health Affairs committee are tracking legislation in other states that would make assault on a health care provider a felony. It is now a misdemeanor. They have already researched Mississippi law and are planning to get legislation from other states. This will most probably be part of our agenda next year.

We have already reserved space for two Nurse Days at the Capitol. Registered Nurse Day is January 24, 2013 and we are hoping to have a big number of RNs there to celebrate the work they do. That day is on a Thursday before the annual Nursing Summit on January 29, 2013.

Advanced Practice Day at the Capitol is February 7, 2013. Please mark those dates on your calendar.

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Focus on South Mississippi

by Bettye Logan

Marilyn Ellis, MSN, CANP

Marilyn Ellis received her NP Education at the University of Alabama in Birmingham and her Masters at the University of Southern MS. She has been a member of MNA since 1997.

Deloris Slade, FNP, BC

Deloris received her BSN from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1991 and her MSN from USM in 2006. She is employed by Southeast Rural Health Initiative and practices as a Family Nurse Practitioner in the Lumberton Clinic. She has been a member of MNA since 1999.

Deloris Slade, FNP, BC

Deloris Slade has served MNA in numerous capacities. She has been a member of the Provider Unit since 1999, Chairperson of the Provider Unit from 2001-2005, Co-Chair 2009 to present, Director of the Council on Nursing Education, Board of Directors of MNA from 2003-2009, Co-Chair for Continuing Education for the Southern MS NP Special Interest Group (SIG) from 1999 to 2004, chairperson of the VA Gulf Coast Nursing Education Advisory Committee from 1983-1991, and has been a member of MNA since 1997.

What is the Provider Unit?

by Bettye Logan

The Provider Unit (PU) is a little known, but very important unit of the Mississippi Nurses Association. The Co-Chairs and their committees are responsible for arranging speakers for the annual convention, the nurse practitioner conference, all controlled substance workshops and other state level workshops. They write grants to obtain speakers as well as contacting drug companies, educators, hospitals, and physicians or physician groups to solicit speakers. A call for speakers is sent out 3 to 4 months before a meeting to encourage nurses and nurse practitioners to speak at one of our events. When responses for topics are submitted to MNA, the PU is responsible for reviewing and arranging them into the required categories which are: Women’s Health, Pediatrics, Geriatrics, Psych Mental Health, and Adult Health. A speaker agreement is sent to each approved speaker by Angela Wathershers, MNA’s Continuing Education and Events Coordinator. Data sheets are written for each speaker. A data sheet is an 18-page document which includes the speaker’s education, expertise, detailed objectives, speaker introduction, and meeting details. These data sheets are required by ANCC and the MNA PU is audited every 6 years for MNA’s continued accreditation.

Many of the PU activities are ‘behind the scenes’, as are those of the Continuing Education and Events Coordinator, but without their work, MNA would not be ANCC accredited. ANCC requires precise records and an annual report detailing all of the CE hours awarded by MNA at the District and State level including the number of attendees, the type of education and audience attending. They also require specific criteria such as verification of attendance, evaluations of the speakers, etc. MNA has placed this data sheet on the Library tab. This makes it convenient for Districts that want to offer CE to their members. They can download the form, complete the Data Sheet and email it to the MNA office to sweathersh@mmnurses.org. Angela will send the form to the PU member who approves it or offer changes. Once approved Angela will send the required information for completion of the event to the district. The forms must be submitted to MNA a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the program with stipulations.

At times we encounter a speaker who presents material content other than what was reviewed in their initial submission and cannot be responsible for their deviance in their presentation. It is difficult to find presenters to offer specific content that will appeal to everyone. With this in mind, we encourage individuals with specific area of expertise to contact us with topic suggestions.

We have been complimented by ANCC on the quality of the CE we offer and have been told that we offer more CE per member than larger states. In 2011, the Provider Unit members provided over 4500 nurses with 9664.5 hours of CE! That is an astounding total.

The next time you see a Provider Unit Member at work, please tell them thank you for their work at the Mississippi Nurses Association.

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Mississippi Nurses Foundation
Partners with Paul Moak Volvo

2012 marks the Nurses’ Foundation 30th year of service to nurses in the state of Mississippi. To commemorate this milestone, the Foundation is proud to partner with Paul Moak Volvo to offer a three year luxury experience of a 2012 Volvo S60 T5 4-door sedan, giveaway. The Volvo S60 is the newest Volvo vehicle. It was introduced worldwide in the fall of 2010 and has already won numerous accolades and awards for its performance, design, and safety.

Nurses, as well as the general public, are encouraged to buy a $50 ticket for a chance to win a Volvo S60 (3 year lease), a $10,000 cash prize or a seven day trip to Sweden. The campaign will end in October at the Mississippi Nurses Association Annual Convention in Biloxi, MS.

Paul Moak Volvo will be celebrating its 35th year as Mississippi’s exclusive Volvo retailer. “We are honored to partner with the MS Nurses Foundation to assist them in their efforts of supporting the nursing community throughout the state. Many nurses are already Paul Moak Volvo owners, and we truly commend the nursing profession and its commitment to quality and care,” said John Scarbrough, Vice President of Paul Moak Volvo.

“Our slogan for this campaign is Nurses Touch Lives-Volvo Protects Lives. That is the best way to describe a campaign built on trust.”

Funds from the sale of tickets will support the Nurses Foundation in fulfilling its mission of raising, accepting and dispersing charitable donations to promote professional nursing and better health in Mississippi. For more information about this amazing giveaway, visit our website at www.msnursesfoundation.com or call the Mississippi Nurses Foundation at 601-898-0850.

Must be 18 or older win. Winner is responsible for taxes and insurance.

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Mississippi Nurses Association’s
ANA House of Delegates Nomination 2012 Results

The following members are representing MNA at the annual ANA House of Delegates June 13-16, 2012 in National Harbor MD at the Gaylord Hotel and Conference Center. These are the delegates you elected this year.

They will be reporting back to the membership after serving in June.

Our ANA House of Delegates
Gayle Harrell, NP-C, CWCN
Amy Forsythe, BSN, MSN, NP-C
Cindy Luther, DSN,FNP, GNP
Michelle Burns, RN, MSN
Debra Allen, RN, MSN
Phyllis Johnson, MSN, MS, CS, FNP
Jennifer Hitt, RN, MSN, CNE
Juanita Graham, DNP, MSN, RN
Jeffrey Hallman, MSN, RN
Arlanda Hargrave, MSN, RN
Tonya Moore, PhD, RN

ALTERNATES
Wendell Carney, RN
Carl Mangum, PhD, RN, CHS
Katrina Bell, RN

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