Greetings…

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the President of the American Nurses Association California through the past four years. I shall continue to be involved in our association; just with a little less weight on my shoulders! Our accomplishments are many and are the result of the cooperative efforts of our reliable, hardworking, passionate Board of Directors. Thank you also to our committees and all members for your work and support. Thank you to our ballot committee for their work in the recent election. Our mutual respect and support has promoted mutual growth. Trust and belief in the abilities of others, has helped us to have a thriving association. Thanks to our current, previous and future ANAC leadership, and thank you to our Executive Director and her staff.

Welcome to the new ANAC President, Officers and Board Directors, many of whose names you may recognize—perhaps in different positions; and to the brand new board members. We shall continue together on the road toward strength, unity and success in our state.

Remember:

“What you do, what you say, what you are, may help others in ways you never know. Your influence, like your shadow, extends where you may never be.”—Anonymous

Some of our achievements over these past four years include:

• Steady increase in membership
• Participation through our delegation, at the American Nurses Association House of Delegates and Convention
• Legislative and advocacy activity, including successful outcomes for bills we have supported, attending bill signings, attending other political events, presenting testimony on bills
• Successful RN Day program each year, with about 200 participants each time at the Capitol in Sacramento
• General Assembly programs, one with the ANA President Karen Daley as our special guest and speaker
• ANAC publishes a quarterly newsletter, the Nursing Voice, also available through our website
• Active participation in the California Action Coalition, part of the IOM future of Nursing Initiatives, with representatives for ANAC, many members on work groups, and a number of members serving as Regional Co-Leaders throughout the state
• Active sponsors for the Flowers 4 the Float campaign and the Tournament of Roses Parade Nurses Float; with our members, including our Director for Legislation leading the effort, and a number of our members attending the 2013 Rose Bowl Parade
• Continued work on the APRN Summit/Coalition of representatives from all four APRN groups plus other supporters, including the White Paper on the Future of Advanced Practice Nursing in California
• Increased involvement with the California Student Nurses Association, including the ANAC president bringing greetings to their convention, presenting a scholarship, having a booth, contributing to their special causes and having an ANAC article in their convention time newsletter. Plans are to work more closely with CNSA to facilitate transitions, from CNSA to ANAC and from being a student to being an RN. There is a CNSA Liaison from ANAC, and students are invited to attend our ANAC meetings and events
• Participation in statewide coalitions addressing healthcare; we have representatives and liaisons to numerous state, local and national groups
• Attendance at BRN meetings and National Council of State Boards of Nursing, attended by our Executive Director (ED), and other members at local meetings
• Participation at CALNOC conferences
• ANAC president and ED were invited guests to the ANCC magnet conference , and worked with those at the ANA booth
• Members attending various conferences representing ANAC, including ACNL, CA AC events, specialty organization events
• We remain a strong Nursing presence for all Nurses, in the political, practice and education arenas

Remember, this is being called the Age of the Nurse, with many opportunities for nursing. In a previous column I mentioned a quote that a speaker on the Future of Nursing shared with us:

“May we hope that when we are all dead and gone, leaders will arise who have been personally experienced in the hard, practical work, the difficulties and the joys of organizing nursing reforms, and who will lead far beyond anything we have done.”

–Florence Nightingale

Over the years I have also encouraged nurses to get involved; to bring your caring as a Nurse to the work place, to the community, to the capitol, and to your professional association.

Many of my colleagues in administration and academia encourage nurses to join at least two associations: your professional general organization, ANA/California, and your specialty organization. That will keep you up to date on all things nursing and healthcare! It will provide opportunities for you to get more involved, to network with colleagues, to work together to improve healthcare and nursing.

One person can make a difference—that can be you! And people working together can make many more positive differences happen.

Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart. —unknown
Have you or one of your colleagues been recognized for an accomplishment, elected to office, won an award, received a grant or scholarship, launched a new venture? Tell us about it! Send name, address, phone number, and accomplishment—

E-mail to:  TheNursingVoice@anacalifornia.org
Mail to: ANACalifornia IN THE NEWS
1121 L Street, Suite 508, Sacramento, CA 95814

1. Manuscripts should be word processed and double-spaced on one side of 8 ½ x 11 inch white paper. Manuscripts should be emailed to Editor at TheNursingVoice@anacalifornia.org
   a. Manuscripts should include a cover page with the author’s name, credentials, present position, address and telephone number. In case of multiple authors, list the names in order in which they should appear.
   b. The Nursing Voice reserves one-time publication rights. Articles for reprint will be accepted if accompanied with written permission.
   c. The Nursing Voice reserves the right to edit manuscripts to meet style and space limitations.
   d. Manuscripts may be reviewed by the Editorial Staff
   e. Articles submitted by members of ANAC will be given first consideration when there is an availability of space in the newsletter.
2. Photographs should be of clear quality. Write the correct name(s) on the back of each photo. Photographs will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Mail photographs to: Samantha Marcantonio, Editor, The Nursing Voice c/o ANACalifornia, 1121 L Street Suite 508, Sacramento CA 95814. Or email photographs in jpeg format to TheNursingVoice@anacalifornia.org
3. E-mail all narrative to TheNursingVoice@anacalifornia.org

ANA California accepts and encourages manuscripts and editorials be submitted for publication in the association’s quarterly newsletter, The Nursing Voice. We will determine which letters and articles are printed by the availability of publication space and appropriateness of the material. When there is space available, ANAC members will be given first consideration for publication. We welcome signed letters of 300 words or less, typed and double spaced and articles of 1,500 words or less. Articles printed in The Nursing Voice do not necessarily reflect the views of ANAC, its membership, the board of directors or its staff.

ANA California’s official publication, The Nursing Voice’ editorial guidelines and due dates for article submittal is as follows.

1. Manuscripts should be word processed and double-spaced on one side of 8 ½ x 11 inch white paper. Manuscripts should be emailed to Editor at TheNursingVoice@anacalifornia.org
   a. Manuscripts should include a cover page with the author’s name, credentials, present position, address and telephone number. In case of multiple authors, list the names in order in which they should appear.
   b. The Nursing Voice reserves one-time publication rights. Articles for reprint will be accepted if accompanied with written permission.
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3. E-mail all narrative to TheNursingVoice@anacalifornia.org

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Colorectal Cancer Screening Saves Lives

“Now THAT I understand.
If you’re over 60, get tested for colorectal cancer.”
A good question that often arises is what is the difference between ANA\C and CNA? It is clear that many nurses are still unclear about the difference between the American Nurses Association (ANA\C) and the California Nurses Association (CNA). As a professional organization in California, it is open to all nurses. It is the professional organization in California and ANA. CNA\California at the state level is focused on legislation, policy, practice and education. Much time is spent reviewing legislative, practice and policy issues.

It is recommended that RNs join ANA\C and, if they can, their specialty organizations. That enables you to receive up-to-date general and specialty knowledge and information, and to participate in colleagues moving forward. ANA\C supports nursing progress, advancing nursing education and practice, and lifelong learning.

CNA (California Nurses Association):

CNA is a union. As a union with no affiliation with ANA, they have only been in existence since about 1995. Although they took the CNA name for their union, it is important to know that the old CNA organization was multipurpose and an affiliate of the American Nurses Association, owning that history. You may also see CNA listed as CNA\NNU (National Nurses United)—since they are national union, in other states as well as California.

Please note that they are not the professional nurses association affiliated with ANA. In some ways the association and the union are together in their support regarding health care issues and moving advocacy for the nurses and patients. They also share the responsibility to protect the work environment for nurses. Although the ANA\C and CNA have distinct mission statements, both sometimes lobby for mutual issues that affect nurses in the work environment, that address safe patient care, and other healthcare related bills or activity. Nurses may belong to both ANA\C and CNA, usually if they work in a CNA labor contracted health facility. Nurses working in labor union contracted hospitals will pay dues to CNA or another union.

Hopefully, all nurses will become lifelong members of ANA. ANA\C, as does ANA, believes in one strong voice for Nursing.

More about ANA\C:

ANA\C’s Vision Statement: ANA\C, a constituent member of ANA, leads the profession of nursing in fulfilling its commitment to excellence in practice, education, research, and social policy. And its Mission Statement is: The mission of ANA\C is to optimize nursing’s contribution to the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities. As nurses, this primary commitment to society guides and shapes our efforts to foster nursing practice standards, promote professional development, conduct and use research, influence public policy, and enhance professional practice environment. We support the goals and mission of ANA and their positions on issues.

ANA\C has its RN Lobby Day every year. The 2013 event is April 15th in Sacramento. Please check our website for registration information.

Advocacy is a primary focus, with activity in the legislative and policy arenas and very qualified knowledgeable staff who are skilled in those arenas. We also rely on our members and others—with special appreciation of nursing students, to inform us when there are issues of concern.

Also part of ANA\C:

The California Association of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses in Advanced Practice (CAPNAP) is an Affiliate of ANA\C, and, in conjunction with ANA\C, has been the force behind an APRN Summit group that is creating a White Paper on the future of Advanced Practice Nursing in California; and The Golden State Nursing Foundation, that is uniquely California. Started by a group of nurses in Northern California the foundation was specifically created to offer scholarships to nurses and to receive grants from outside donations to conduct and pursue activities consistent with the mission of GSNF. Besides awarding scholarships, the founders had a vision to create a Nurse Museum. The GSNF Mission is “To promote and provide programs for professional and educational advancement of nursing so that better nursing care may be provided to all people.”

ANA (The American Nurses Association)—in which ANA\California is a state member association.

The ANA mission statement is: “Nurses advancing our profession to improve health for all.” The American Nurses Association (ANA) is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation’s nearly 3.1 million registered nurses (RNs) through its state member nurses associations, its organizational affiliations and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. The structure is such that each state is a member of ANA; in addition to the states there are: the Federal Nurses Association, Guam and the Virgin Islands. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public. “… members receive a subscription to The American Nurse (TAN), the bimonthly publication of the ANA, as well as a subscription to the monthly American Nurse Today. Members receive discounts on various credentialing and conference fees and discounts on insurance, i.e., disability, life… (and malpractice) insurance through ANA. Individual members can apply for an ANA Visa credit card, and also obtain travel and shopping benefits… Additionally, ANA maintains the website, nursingworld.org. Coupling these benefits with the...”
On April 16, 2007, five perioperative registered nurses formed a not-for-profit corporation called Bare Root, Incorporated. Why this undertaking? The five of us became aware that another perioperative nursing colleague, Sally Bixby, RN, would be President of the Tournament of Roses in 2012. We thought this would be a great way to honor nurses. This venue, the Rose Parade which is held annually in January, was perfect because it has a large national and international audience. And so the journey began. One of the first things we did, was establish our goals to guide us during our journey. Bare Roots goals were to:  
✓ Educate the public about what it is nurses really do and the qualities they bring to the patient experience.  
✓ Educate potential nurses about the profession and encourage people seeking a career to consider becoming a nurse.  
✓ Provide scholarships to nurses with any remaining funds.  

The five board members set about to seek advisors in the areas we knew very little about—incorporating, not-for-profit status, marketing, public relations, and social media to name a few. We knew we needed a web site which could be maintained and managed by an RN. One thing nurses come by naturally is creative thinking. Multiple types of fundraising efforts were tried—some worked like a charm while others failed. Somewhere along the way the mantra as working with various publications to get information and was used throughout the journey. About the board—a piece of information that may be of interest to you—none of us have ever worked together. We met as members of the same nursing association. We travelled the country fundraising at an assortment of nursing associations who were very generous toward the project. During these past five years we have met monthly.

Our fundraising efforts took all of our time as well as working with various publications to get information disseminated so that nurses around the country would know about “their” float. The first exhibit was at a nurse conference in Washington D.C. called—“Managing Today’s Supply and That of the Future.” We knew that because individual nurses began to share with other nurses about the Nurses’ Float. The Nurses’ Float became and continues to be a grass-roots effort. In-kind contributions in the form of advertising in various nursing periodicals continued throughout the project. One of the most important tasks was to hire a designer/builder for the Nurses’ Float. We set up a rigorous interview process with several recommended companies and chose Phoenix Decorating Company. Their lead designer, Michelle Lotthouse, worked with us over a period of a year to come up with the design everyone saw in the 2013 Rose Parade. We wanted to communicate the qualities of nurses since it is these qualities that help each nurse create a healing experience with each patient. Hence, we chose the title of our float to be “A Healing Place.” There were more behind the scene discussions, research and soul-searching that occurred than one could have imagined. At issue was the Image of Nursing. The Rose Parade is a happy, comical and whimsical parade—not the usual adjectives used to describe nursing. The float builder president at Phoenix Decorating Company, his float designer and his floral designer were very supportive in the goal of showing the world nurses care, are committed, conscientious, intelligent, confident, compassionate, competent, leaders, committed, gentle, and wise. Each animal is a metaphor of the qualities of nurses. The Florence Nightingale Lanterns were placed on the float for the nurses—to honor Florence Nightingale, the founder of nursing. A little bit about decorating. You know the old saying a nurse is a nurse is a nurse? Well the saying was alive and well throughout the decorating days in December. The call for volunteers was completely filled in six weeks. It was the pride of ownership of the float that gave us so much satisfaction—MY FLOAT, OUR FLOAT. No task was too menial. The collegiality between/among the nurses, many of whom had never met before their volunteer day, was very apparent.

And then the riders—who deserve a big thank you to you for your generosity and support—were to ride on the Nurses’ Float include:  
 ✓ Huntington Hospital, Pasadena—Suko Davis, RN  
 ✓ Joseph Orange/Mission Medical Center, Mission Viejo—Cheery Fox, RN, BSN, CCRN, CSC  
 ✓ Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Pomona—Deborah Keasler, RN, MS  
 ✓ Providence Little Company of Mary, Torrance—Sister Terrence Lundini, LCM  
 ✓ Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women and Newborns, San Diego—Maureen Latham, RNC, OB

American Assembly for Men in Nursing—Bob Patterson, RN, MSN  
✓ Nurse.com—Pattie Taylor, RN, MN, CNS, FNP  
✓ Ronald Regan UCLA Medical Center—Cathy Rogers Ward, RN, DNP,NEA-BC  
✓ Ronald Regan UCLA Medical Center  
✓ Pasadena City College—Ariel Eby, student nurse  
✓ Nicole Brown, new graduate nurse.

To top off this five-year journey, the Nurses’ Float became an award-winning float. The Craftsman Award was given to the Nurses’ Float at the Rose Parade in recognition for Exceptional Achievement for Showmanship and Dramatic Impact. In February, the Float was awarded the Friend of Nursing 2012 Award by the Association of California Nurse Leaders (ACNL). This award is given to an individual or organization demonstrating significant contributions and support for the nursing profession. Bare Root, Inc. closes our journey with thanks to all of you for your support, words of encouragement, for your financial contributions and for accepting and realizing the impact the Nurses’ Float had on the Image of Nursing. Bare Root, Inc. also thanks Sally Bixby, RN as she was the catalyst for the Nurses’ Float.

Monica Weisbrich, RN, President Bare Root, Inc.  
✓ Judy Dahle, RN, COO Bare Root, Inc.

Paul Wafer, RN, VP Marketing, Bare Root, Inc.  
✓ Pat Spongberg, RN, Secretary Bare Root, Inc.

Monica Weisbrich, RN, President Bare Root, Inc.  
✓ Judy Dahle, RN, COO Bare Root, Inc.

Paul Wafer, RN, VP Marketing, Bare Root, Inc.  
✓ Pat Spongberg, RN, Secretary Bare Root, Inc.

Sara McMann, RN
✓ Stacy Ritchie, CRNFA
Friend of Nursing

Awarded to an individual or organization demonstrating significant contributions and support for the nursing profession.

Monica Weisbrich, BSN, RN
Pat Spongberg, BSN, RN, CNOR (E)
Paul Wafer, MBA, RN
Suzanne Ward, MN, MA, RN, CNOR (E), GC-C
Judy Dahle, MS, MSG, RN

For the first time in the 124 year history of the Tournament of Roses parade, a float dedicated to the contributions nurses make to the health of patients, families and communities was part of the New Year's Day 2013 celebration. Spearheading this outstanding tribute to nursing was the Board of Directors of the nonprofit organization, Bare Root, Inc. The Board, composed entirely of RNs with more than 200 collective years of nursing experience, worked tirelessly to raise funds, gather sponsors, build awareness about the work, design and construct the float and select riders to represent nursing. This project came to life because the 2013 President of the Tournament of Roses, Sallie Bixby, MS, RN, CNOR, was also a nurse. Thanks to the work of Bare Root, this year’s Rose Parade was a historic event for the nursing profession.

Best Practice - Recruitment/Retention/Outreach

The Best Practice Awards are presented to recognize, document and communicate best practices in specific areas of nursing.

For nearly six years, these two nurse leaders have worked tirelessly to make the dream of creating a float honoring nurses for the 2013 Tournament of Roses Parade a reality. The key goals of the float were to spotlight the work of nurses and their important role in health care, inspire others to enter the profession and build awareness about nursing’s contributions. The creation, design and sponsorship of a parade float is a daunting task. There were times that raising the more than $300,000 needed for the float seemed impossible. Yet Monica and Suzanne refused to give up. Along with other Bare Root Board Members and supporters, they continued their outreach activities to nursing organizations and potential sponsors, stressing the value of placing nursing front and center to millions of viewers worldwide. When funding was obtained to create the float, controversy arose worldwide over the design. Suzanne and Monica again helped manage the process by collecting feedback from nurses and the public. As a result, the float evolved from the initial design to the final concept, A Healing Place, spotlighting the nursing attributes of: commitment, compassion, caring, confidence, conscientiousness and intelligence.
What ANA\C is continued from page 3

the state nurses association’s benefits offered, makes membership in ANA a strong value....

ANA is the strongest voice for the nursing profession. It is headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Although one needs to be an RN to join ANA, students can now sign up to access the “Members Only” areas of NursingWorld.org for free. You may do this by e-mailing your name, school of nursing, and year of graduation to student@ana.org and a promo code will be sent immediately to you.

If you are doing a paper about Nursing, please check the ANA\C and ANA websites to research your topic(s). Also available is a video "Discover Your ANA." on the ANA web site, a short film about what ANA is and how we work for nurses.

More about what ANA does:

"ANA successfully champions professional nursing excellence through standards, code of ethics and professional development, such as credentialing and lifelong learning. ANA works directly with the 100 specialty nursing organizations to develop and approve standards of practice for nursing and for specialty fields of nursing. The goal of ANA is to develop and disseminate the cornerstone work of ANA, such as standards, guidelines, principles, Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements, Nursing’s Social Policy Statement to the public and the profession. Standards reflect the values and priorities of the profession and provide direction for professional nursing practice and a framework for the evaluation of this practice. They also define the nursing profession’s accountability to the public and the outcomes for which registered nurses are responsible. ANA also works directly with the nursing education organizations, e.g., NLN, AACN and others to review curricula for entry level, master’s and doctoral levels of nursing education. ANA is concerned with the employment issues of nurses and supports legislation to protect the nurses’ health, salaries and benefits in the workplace.

Please visit the websites for ANA/California and ANA for more information.*

*(some of the general information about ANA/California and ANA is from the websites for ANA/California (ana-california.org) and the ANA (nursingworld.org)– which you can visit.)
New Board Members

Alice Benjamin, RN, MSN, ACNS-BC, PCCN—Alice is a nationally board certified Clinical Nurse Specialist with over 15 years of nursing experience and a specialty in cardiovascular health. She is currently a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the critical care division at Cedars Sinai Medical Center working primarily in the Coronary Observation and Advanced Heart Failure units. She graduated from San Diego State University with honors and dual bachelor degrees in Nursing and Psychology. She later received a master’s degree in Nursing from Point Loma Nazaréne University. She has been progressively involved in several professional nursing and community organizations including but not limited to the American Association of Critical-care Nurses, Sigma Theta Tau, the Black Nurses Association, the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists and most recently the American Nurses Association. She is also a member of the American College of Cardiology, Cardiac Associates Team and American Heart Association, Council of Cardiovascular Nursing. Alice is also engaged in work with the California Action Coalition, one of five state groups selected to pilot the implementation of the IOM Future of Nursing report recommendations.

Alice has also received numerous community awards and recognitions for her commitment to nursing excellence and community health stewardship. She is committed to developing a diverse health care workforce where nurses role model the changes we know are in the best interest of our patients, our profession and our health care systems. She is also a community health advocate who volunteers her time with the National Urban League, NAACP and the American Heart Association's Western Region States Health Equity Task Force, a group focused on developing health programs and policies focused on the reduction of cardiovascular and stroke health disparities.

Melanie D. Estes, RN, MSN, CNOR—Melanie was elected to the Board of Directors Education position for ANA/C. Melanie was a Delegate to the ANA House of Delegates in 2012 and has served by helping the membership committee sponsor events. She has taken her own time to attend Board of Registered Nursing meetings and has attended RN Days in Sacramento.

Melanie is a Research Coordinator for three vascular clinical studies at Veterans Hospital in San Diego. Her duties have included Plastics Surgery Case Manager, Head and Neck Case Manager, Vascular AAA Case Manager, and Surgical Services Research Study Coordinator. Melanie has been a Certified Nurse Operating Room (CNOR) since 2004. Her initial degree was an ADN from Marie College. She received a Bachelor's in Nursing and a Master's of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix.

Concorde Career College is a nationally recognized and accredited, for-profit education company that prepares committed students for successful careers in healthcare and technology through high caliber training, real world experience and student centered support. We're looking for people who want to make an impact in one of the best post-secondary career training institutions in the country. Honoring the traditions of a proven program that provides quality education and training to future generations of healthcare professionals.

Nursing instructors needed for the following locations: • San Diego • San Bernardino • Garden Grove • North Hollywood

Requirements: • Current California RN license. • Minimum of 2-3 years. • Minimum of 4 years clinical experience in the last 5 years.

Contact: Recruitment Department Phone: 877-866-2340  Fax: 877-866-2344 Apply online at http://jobs.concorde.edu or send resume to jobs@concorde.edu

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Irvine, California 92697
6.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)
For more information or to register online, please visit our website at
www.hivconference.org

Celebrate National Nurses Week May 6-12

Defend Your License!
• Have you recently been arrested for driving under the influence or some other criminal act?
• Has the Board of Registered Nursing recently started an investigation into your license?
• Don’t wait until your license has been revoked or you’re facing an administrative hearing – CONTACT AN ATTORNEY NOW – so that you have the best defense possible. This is your livelihood, don’t wait.

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Introducing the 2013-2015 Board of Directors for ANA\California

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Vice President
Dianne Moore PhD, MN, MPH, CNM, RN
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Alice Lee Benjamin RN, MSN, ACNS-BC, PCCN
Treasurer
Donna Doliniar RN, BSN, MPA

The 2013-2015 Board will conduct its first official business Saturday, March 23rd in Sacramento, CA. Board Officers and Directors information can be found on our web site at www.anacalifornia.org. If you are interested in becoming involved in ANAC or would like more information about where your expertise could be utilized in the association, please contact ANA\California either by phone, email, or fax or mail. anac@anacalifornia.org

Defend Your License!
Save the Date

AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION/ CALIFORNIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Date: Monday, October 21, 2013
Place: San Jose Red Cross
Time (tentative): 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Agenda includes:
• Introduction of the ANAC Board
• Business meeting, Bylaws and Resolutions discussion and voting
• Silent Auction and door Prizes
• Open discussion

*More information will be sent in the coming months. We look forward to seeing you there.

Join us Sunday, October 20, 2013 for an ANAC Workshop. More information to come!

Correction

In the July-Sept 2012 issue of the Nursing Voice article titled “Politics Trumps Science...”, the first sentence of the last paragraph starting with “The California Nurses Association—a union affiliated with the Teamsters...” is INCORRECT. It should read, ‘A nurses’ union, the California Nurses Association, chose not to stand with...’ Sorry about this inconvenience.

About NURSES

Somebody asked: “You’re a nurse? That’s cool, I wanted to do that when I was a kid. How much do you make?” The nurse replied: “HOW MUCH DO I MAKE? ...

... I can make holding your hand seem like the most important thing in the world when you’re scared...

... I can make your child breathe when they stop...

... I can help your father survive a heart attack...

... I can make myself get up at 5 a.m. to make sure your mother has the medicine she needs to live...

... I work all day to save the lives of strangers...

... I make my family wait for dinner until I know your family member is taken care of...

... I make myself skip lunch so that I can make sure that everything I did for your wife today is correct...

... I make myself work weekends and holidays because people don’t just get sick Monday thru Friday...

... Today, I might save your life...

... How much do I make? All I know is, I make a difference.

Re-post not only if you are a nurse or you love a nurse, but most importantly, pass this along if you respect their work.
Nurses House Kicks Off Second Annual “Dolphins For Nurses Campaign” For Nurses Week May 6-12

(January 10, 2013)—Nurses House, Inc. is launching its second annual “Dolphins for Nurses Campaign” to raise funds for nurses in need throughout the United States. The campaign will run from April 12-May 12, 2013, which marks the last day of National Nurses Week. The campaign involves staff at major hospitals nationwide offering blue and gold dolphins in exchange for $1 or $5 donations. All proceeds from the campaign will be put towards Nurses House Service Program to benefit nurses throughout the country who are struggling financially due to serious medical need.

Nurses House, Inc. is the only national charitable organization offering financial assistance to Registered Nurses in need. The organization's main goal is to provide short term aid to nurses who are unable to support themselves financially as a result of illness, injury, disability, or other dire circumstance. Over the years, Nurses House has helped thousands of nurses in all fifty states regain health and productivity. In the past three years alone, Nurses House has given over 300 nurses grants totaling over $300,000. Nurses who receive financial assistance use the funds to cover basic needs such as food, shelter, health insurance premiums and medications while they are out of work or awaiting disability benefits.

The campaign is run by an Executive Director a volunteer Board of Directors. A Service Program Council, also made up of nurses, anonymously reviews each application and makes the final decision on grant funding. Funds for Nurses House come mainly in the form of donations by nurses, nursing organizations, friends of nurses and through various annual fundraising activities.

Stephanie Dague, Director of Development, says “The first ever Dolphins for Nurses Campaign ran during Nurses Week 2012. With the help of Johnson & Johnson’s Campaign for Nursing’s Future and numerous hospital groups that participated, Nurses House was able to raise over $17,000 for nurses in need. We have several nurses awaiting assistance and we hope to double the funds from this campaign in 2013 so that we can assist all the nurses who come to us.”

Elizabeth Anne Mahoney serves as President on the Nurses House Board of Directors. She says of Nurses House “Nurses devote their lives to caring for others. They're caring by nature and it's no surprise they have their own organization dedicating to caring for each other. The important thing is that nurses everywhere know this fund is available – and that if they ever need a helping hand, they know where to turn.”

To learn how your group or hospital can participate in this Nurses Week campaign, please contact Stephanie Dague at sdague@nurseshouse.org or (518) 456-7858 x27.

For more information about the work of Nurses House, please visit their website at www.nurseshouse.org.

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April, May, June 2013

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April, May, June 2013
OAKLAND, Calif. – Health care reform will dramatically change the way health care is delivered and financed in California. The California Institute for Nursing & Health Care (CINHC) has received a grant to take the lead in developing and defining the roles of nurses in this changing health care landscape, as it aligns exactly with CINHC’s mission to transform the capacity of nurses to meet the evolving health needs of Californians. The work includes convening leaders statewide to define the role of Registered Nurses (RNs) in the era of health care reform, as well as to develop a Transition to Practice Program (TTP) for RNs in the emerging role of care coordinators.

An estimated four million additional California residents are scheduled to have access to health care insurance in January 2014 as a result of the Affordable Care Act. To date, much of the discussion has focused on financing and how funds will be shared between providers.

Insufficient conversations have taken place about how to actually accommodate the increased volume and provide care in more effective ways, said CINHC Executive Director Judith G. Berg, RN, MS, FACHE.

“We don’t have a lot of time if we want to be effective in our support of communities and in our work as nurses,” she said. “We must exercise leadership and determine which roles will most help to build and maintain healthy communities.”

Nurses are well positioned to move diverse populations from a medical/illness driven model to one of wellness, prevention and care management. Health care reform should be a vehicle to provide medically underserved communities and those who are uninsured or under insured, with improved access to health care and improved health outcomes.

“If we wait for others to define these roles, we will not be serving our communities well.” Berg said. “We can’t be making the best use of nursing resources in California.”

The grant will allow CINHC to convene Thought Leaders, consisting of government, insurance companies, health systems, community clinics, educational institutions, health care associations and consumers, to identify opportunities and build consensus around roles present for RNs in health care reform.

A White Paper will describe the processes and conclusions reached by the Thought Leader group. The White Paper will be widely discussed in regional forums, then finalized and widely disseminated to health care and consumer groups.

The third part of the grant is to provide training in care coordination to nurses. CINHC is partnering with Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) to offer a Care Coordinator Program beginning March 4, 2013.

The Care Coordination Program prepares nurses to deliver and manage care, especially for vulnerable populations in both hospital and community settings across the care continuum. This program provides interactive seminars and preceptor-guided experiences over a 14-week period. Following the program, participants are intended to leverage these skills within their current or future positions.

“Care coordinators are going to be part of the health care solution,” said WesternU College of Graduate Nursing Dean Karen Hanford, EdD, MSN, FNP. “Everyone knows there are incredible gaps in health care. This grant project prepares nurses to address those gaps. They will have a much broader understanding of the community and resources available, as well as how to advocate for patients.”

“Care coordination can ensure that all parts of the health care system are working together effectively and efficiently with the best outcome and best interest of the individual or communities being served,” Berg said.

The project is funded by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF). Created in 1992 as a private independent foundation, TCWF’s mission is to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention.

About the California Institute for Nursing & Health Care (CINHC)

CINHC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, founded in 2001, dedicated to transforming the capacity of nurses to meet the evolving health needs of Californians. CINHC partners with California nursing leaders, educators, foundations, state agencies and healthcare organizations to develop practical and sustainable solutions to nursing workforce issues.

About Western University of Health Sciences

Western University of Health Sciences (www.westernu.edu), located in Pomona, Calif. and Lebanon, Ore., is an independent nonprofit health professions university, conferring degrees in biomedical sciences, dental medicine, health sciences, medical sciences, nursing, optometry, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant studies, podiatric medicine and veterinary medicine. The Chronicle of Higher Education named WesternU a 2012 Great College to Work For.
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