Message from the President

Since it sometimes seems we hear nothing but bad news, I thought I would tell you about some of the exciting happenings in our organization.

Thanks to all of you who responded to our survey asking what you wanted from and valued in APNA. We received a wide range of responses, which fell into the following categories: networking, education and advocacy.

You saw APNA as a great avenue for meeting and sharing ideas. APNA’s important role in networking confirmed our plans to continue offering traditional formats for networking (e.g., the annual conference, Clinical Psychopharmacology Institute, chapters and task forces). These findings, however, also confirmed the need to explore technology to enhance networking.

You wrote that you expected APNA to be a repository for cutting-edge information. Despite my love for face-to-face meetings, we know that time and finances prohibit some members from attending our offerings. Your survey responses confirmed the need to explore how we can use technology to enhance education, so watch for educational opportunities via the Internet as well.

APNA, you said, should be the voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. This year, we’ve developed an infrastructure for two important institutes, for mental health advocacy and safe environments. Both will offer APNA members an avenue to become involved in advocacy, policymaking and continuing education. I am especially excited that more than 200 APNA members have signed on to these two institutes. We will keep you apprised of their developments.

From a Board perspective, your responses were invaluable when we met in February to develop a strategic plan. The Board will meet again in June to approve it. Then, we are determined not to keep it in a dusty corner of the Web site, but to make it a driving force. Clearly, resources are limited, so decisions on where to invest members’ valuable time, energy, and finances need to be focused strategically.

Another major APNA initiative has been the APRN Consensus Workgroup. APNA has endorsed its product, The Consensus Model for APRN Regulation (also known as the Joint Dialogue Report), and a copy is posted on our Web site. This document, endorsed by more than 43 nursing organizations, outlines the vision of a model that is expected to be applied by 2015.

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Highlights

Welcome to the new print edition of APNA News. The print newsletter augments the electronic newsletter that you receive in your email inbox each month.

Please visit the APNA website for more information on some of these important APNA activities:

**LACE:** Here is another new acronym for APNA members. This stands for licensure, accreditation, certification and education. Learn more about activities in this area by going to a special area of our website www.apna.org/LACE.

**Members Corner:** The APNA Members Corner is a bi-monthly section of APNA News: The Psychiatric Nursing Voice, our electronic newsletter. Visit www.apna.org/MembersCorner for more information.

**Choice & Challenge:** The award-winning training film on caring for aggressive older adults across levels of care is available for purchase on the web at www.apna.org/ChoiceChallenge.

Please share this newsletter with other psychiatric mental health nurses and invite them to apply for membership! Be sure they let us know that you referred them.

Michele Valentino,
CNS, MSN, APRN
APNA Board of Directors, Secretary
Benefits & Services

APNA provides its members with exceptional benefits to further their leadership potential and training opportunities.

**Professional Growth**
- Enhance your nursing knowledge with continuing education contact hours for psychiatric-mental health nursing
- Have an impact in your field by participating in our state chapters and volunteer committees, task forces and councils
- Achieve recognition through the APNA Annual Awards
- Learn from nationally-recognized speakers and attend state-of-the-art workshops during the Annual and CPI Conferences.
- Apply for grants and scholarships from the American Psychiatric Nursing Foundation

**Information and Resources**
- Stay informed with a free subscription to the print and online versions of our Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (JAPNA)
- Stay connected with the organization through our monthly newsletter, APNA News: The Psychiatric Nursing Voice
- Communicate and network with members using our member directory and forums
- Find position papers, publications and videos in our online Resource Center
- Locate jobs specifically for psychiatric-mental health nurses through APNA CareerLine
- Understand important issues related to psychiatric nursing with free issues of Counseling Points, available to download online

**Discounts**
- Save $200 on general registration fees for the APNA Annual Conference and the Clinical Psychopharmacology Institute
- Download full-text articles of JAPNA at no cost (a savings of $25 per article)
- Reduced rates on APNA educational material
- Substantial special savings on certification, exams and review materials from the American Nurses Credentialing Center exclusively for APNA members
- Discounts on Long Term Care coverage for yourself and your family members
- Special rates for nurses at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort
- Special rates for other association conferences and educational materials
- A 10% discount on publications offered by American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.

**Government Relations**
- Headquartered just minutes from Washington, D.C., APNA maintains on-going contact with a number of federal agencies and mental health consumer groups, including:
  - National Institutes of Health (NIH)
  - National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)
  - National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
  - Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)
  - National Alliance of Mentally Ill (NAMI)
  - NMHA (National Mental Health Association)
  - Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
and let us know who referred you!

APNA 7th Annual Clinical Psychopharmacology Institute

APNA Psychopharmacology Continuing Education Credits Available Online

The 7th Annual Clinical Psychopharmacology Institute held in June received rave reviews from the attendees. If you missed the conference, you don’t have to miss getting the continuing education contact hours. APNA captured the sessions and is making them available online. For more information, go to www.apna.org/CPIonline.

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It is important for you to know that putting the model into practice is in pre-infancy. APNA leadership will continue to be involved in discussions; you, too, can get participate. First, if you are involved in nursing education, are an APRN or aspire to become a nursing educator or an APRN, you might want to read the Joint Dialogue Report. We have offered webinars to help members understand the model’s evolution, our rationale behind decisions, the final model, and our decision to endorse the model. APNA plans to conduct at least one more webinar and to tape it for your convenience.

Secondly, some concerns about this model we already know and some we do not. We will be eliciting your views regarding barriers to carrying out this model. Finally, we expect that the Education Council will be an important vehicle for identifying and addressing issues and concerns. The Board is in the process of redefining the infrastructure for the Education Council, so once that is final, watch for opportunities to shape the realization of the Consensus Model.

From my perspective, this is an exciting time. APNA is growing, our influence is expanding, and we are engaging in activities that will influence psychiatric mental health nursing. The continuing challenge is to balance our resources with the many needs and opportunities that present themselves.

Sometimes you will feel that we got it right; at other times you may feel that we missed the boat. We always welcome your input and lively dialogues. As a Board, we are fully committed to the belief that APNA is only as good as the involvement of our diverse membership.

Mary E. Johnson, PhD, RN
APNA 23rd Annual Conference
October 7-10, 2009
Charleston, South Carolina

Many Differences, One Voice Practice, Research, Education, Administration

APNA 23rd Annual Conference

Register now for the premiere event in psychiatric mental health nursing: The APNA 23rd Annual Conference, in beautiful Charleston, SC, October 7-10, 2009. Attend exciting educational sessions and network with colleagues from around the country.

This year’s conference includes:

**Contact hours galore!** Earn up to 28 continuing education contact hours Wed-Sat. Also available, ANCC Review Courses for PMH nurses and NPs alike, on Mon-Tues. Earn up to an additional 14 contact hours and get ready for your exam at the same time!

**Meals, meals, meals!** Free hot breakfasts at each of the conference hotels, 2 luncheon symposia, a product theater dinner on Thursday and the premier networking event of the conference, the Annual Awards Dinner on Friday night.

**Excellent Keynotes!** Dr. Len Bowers will talk on Wednesday evening about making psychiatric wards more peaceful places, and Dr. Kathleen Delaney will talk about building a child mental health nursing workforce on Friday morning.

**And much more...** They say Charleston is where history lives. Join us for the conference and make some history of your own! Learn more at [www.apna.org/AnnualConference](http://www.apna.org/AnnualConference).