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The official membership newsletter of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association

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November/December 2007

Message from the

Dear Colleagues,

The 21st Annual APNA Conference was a grand success as members who were present can attest to. I can never say enough about the joys of attending APNA Annual Conference. Numbers attending were a record high, and those who attended have a large number of CEs and much valuable information to bring back to their practice environments. The topics were stimulating — and that's an understatement.

Please mark your calendar for APNA Conference in 2008, which is to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 15-18, 2008. This city is easily accessible and has a great downtown area. I attended an ANA Convention

several years ago in Minneapolis and I found the city to be vibrant and the Mall of America is something to behold.

I always find it very stimulating to attend the Annual Conference and talk with nurses from across the US and abroad. The amount of information on global issues raises our knowledge of nursing and health care internationally. The Annual Conference widens our horizons to knowledge of a larger world, so I



am encouraging all members, especially those who usually do not attend a national conference, to begin making arrangements for October 2008 in Minneapolis. It was great to meet so many members in

Florida at the 21st Annual Conference. The networking and collegiality is one of the valuable benefits of the Annual Conference, along with quality and stimulating presentations. I hope that

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Members Gather at APNA's 21st **Annual Conference in Florida**

early 1,000 people attended the APNA 21st Annual Conference at the Gaylord Palms in Orlando, Florida. Psychiatric nurses from all over the US, as well as a group from Europe, arrived as early as Tuesday to begin pre-conference sessions on Wednesday morning. The pre-conference sessions were divided into morning and afternoon sessions, providing an opportunity for attendees to choose two fourhour sessions from the ten courses offered. The sessions proved to be very popular. Over 250 people attended both the morning and afternoon sessions. This year the planning committee worked hard to provide as many CE opportunities as possible for the meeting attendees - over 151 hours of activities were scheduled when it's all added together.

The conference officially kicked-off on Wednesday afternoon with a keynote address from Jeanne Clement, our new APNA President. Jeanne used the analogy of 11 different families of spiders that constructed and maintained a single web in Texas to demonstrate that all of psychiatric nursing can collaborate and work together with a unified voice. Jeanne's presidency will focus on APNA's collaboration with key stakeholders who have an interest in mental health care.

We also heard from opening keynote speaker. Gail Griffith, who authored the book Will's Choice: A Suicidal Teen, a Desperate Mother and a Chronicle of Recovery. She tells a very compelling story of how she as a mental health consumer had to deal with the suicide attempt of her then 17-year-old son. She's an engaging

speaker who understands the role that psychiatric-mental health nursing plays. She extended her heartfelt gratitude to the nurses who helped her and her son to deal with his depression and learn to live a full and produc-



Lynn accepts her 2007 Nurse of the Year Award from Barbara Drew and Jessie Tait.

The conference was in full swing on Thursday beginning with a plenary session in which we heard from Michael Rice and Mary Mohler who together with staff from ANCC authored a paper called "APNA and ANCC Collaboration: Achieving Consensus on Future Credentialing for Advanced Practice Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing." This is a hallmark paper for psychiatric-mental health nursing and helps allay the path for collaboration in the area certification.

This year's Annual Members' Meeting was attended by well over 200 people. The meeting is designed to be an opportunity for the board

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Statements and opinions expressed in the articles of APNA News are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the association. APNA disclaims any responsibility or liability for such material.

Foundation Announces Endowment and Research Grants

he 2007 APNA Annual Awards Dinner in Orlando was very exciting for APNF as Jane Ryan, President of the APNF Board of Trustees, announced two new programs.

Jane was very happy to announce the creation of the Jane Ryan Endowment Fund. Jane has been quietly making donations to the foundation for the past five years. To date, she has donated \$25,000 toward a \$50,000 pledge for an endowment fund that will bear her name. Jane's vision is that the interest from the principal will be used to fund programs for the development of advanced leadership. Jane has been a long-time supporter of APNA and APNF, and feels strongly that it is incumbent upon APNA members and APNA State Chapters

to make donations that can be used for the development of psychiatric-mental health nursing programs.

The second announcement made by Jane was that the APNF Board of Trustees have approved the funding of up to five research grants for up to \$5,000 each. The Trustees are very excited that APNF is able to fund research that will be done by our members. It is their goal that these research efforts will help to advance the knowledge and practice of psychiatric-mental health nursing. The application forms will be available on the APNA website at www.apna.org on Dec. 1, 2007. The deadline for the submission of the applications is Feb. 1, 2008. The grant recipients will be announced in May and funding will begin in July, 2008.

APNF Donors

The below list of donors includes those people who have donated between 1999 and 2007. Beginning in 2008, APNF will publish an annual list of donors. APNF is grateful to the above individuals who have supported APNF through donations that are used to fund APNF's programs. The Foundation Board of Trustees extends its heartfelt thanks to all donors and pays tribute to them by the below listing.



Thanks to APNF Donors

Karl G Adam Bouxie Adelsberg Carbolic University, Ann Marie Brooks Vicantia Asevalo M. Regina Asaro Karen Babich Katharine Bailey Lyrase Bailey-Haranad. Ginna Bens Mary Bibel Sharon Bones Mary Ann Boyd Ann Marie Brook Carol Browks-Walker Elista Beren Patricia Beren Tarney Buchasun Kathleen Buckwaher Beenda Bysorn Ann Cain Elizabeth Carte Susan Celcarreis Schu Larsa Marie Chase Angels Ches Aresi Girpili Beth Clark Josep Clark Joanne Clement Bridger Clyburn Carolyn Cochrane Phyllis Cannolly Nicholas Crope, Jr. Stacy Crockers Margaret Davis Kathleen Delaney John Doel Claire Dyundor Marjorie Eppe Ledio Eren Carol Farley-Toombs Arita Finkelman Maura Fisher-Herbira Lynn Flaheny John Garde John Garde Sally Garres Para Gaurkey Linda Geisler Angela Gerolan Carol Glod Ness Goicechea Hidona Greaney Susan Griffin

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Suon Strenger Allice

Task Force **REPORT**

Disaster Relief

he purpose of this task force is to plan for APNA response in the event of a disaster. Rick Pessagno, Chair, submitted the following Task Force activities that took place during the past year:

- Participated in the Carter Center Foundation on Disaster Mental Health Relief Efforts (Representative: Margaret Halter)
- Participated in American Nurses Association group examining Guidance for Providing Care Under Altered Conditions: A Review of Standards, Guidelines and Competencies During Emergencies and Disasters (Representative: Patricia LaBrosse).
- Participated in the California Interdisciplinary Health Professions Work Group sponsored by the California Marriage and Family Therapy Association to identify and articulate basic competencies for disaster responders (Representative: Suzane Wilbur).
- American Red Cross Liaison Activity Report (Representative: Linda Whitten Stalters).
- Participated in the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) Disaster Relief Task Force Conference Call at the NSNA Annual Convention in Anaheim, California – April 2007 (Representative: Christine Tebaldi).
- Completed two conference calls.

The Beginnings of APNA

PNA had the honor of presenting Fernando Duran, MSN, RN, FAAN the 2007 Award for Distinguished Service to commemorate his tenure as the First President of the APNA Board of Directors. He held this post for four years, from 1986-90. This is the longest term ever held by any APNA President.

In 1986, an adventurous dozen, including Shirley Smoyak, Nancy Valentine, Carole Shea, Grayce Sills and Fernando Duran among others, decided that they weren't getting the resources they needed to get into business for themselves from other nursing organizations. They started meeting and talking and tossing around the idea that maybe they should start their own organization. The idea grew into a reality and, from a kitchen table in Washington DC, APNA was formed.

They drew names from a box to determine what offices each one would hold and Fernando landed the presidency.

Fernando Duran was born in Zaragoza, Spain, in the Central Pyrenees. At 16, he joined the Air Force and, after active duty, he went into the reserves. It was at this time that he decided

to go into nursing. He did his first rotation with Dr. Rey Ardid, a prominent professor of psychiatry and a Spanish chess champion. He stayed with him after the first three months because he found that he was learning more. His interest in psychiatric nursing took him from Spain to the UK on a scholarship. He spent three years there before applying to come to the United States on a visa

Immediate Past-President Barbara Drew.

First APNA President Fernando Duran,

President Jeanne Clement.

It was through the help of Dr. Rey Ardid and one of his chess mates. Pr. Walter Meiden, that Fernando made his way to

America. Fifty years ago this past July 4th, Fernando sailed into New York harbor. He saw the Statue of Liberty for the first time through the porthole of his ship. They thought that the fireworks were their welcome to America. Five years later, Fernando got his US citizenship and became a leader in psychiatric nursing.

In 1959, Fernando formed the first geographical unit in Iowa. He worked on getting rid of artificial units and developed geo units that brought psychiatric nursing back into the communities. Patients received continued care from familiar providers. Soon after, NIMH decided to offer grants of \$100,000 for 10 years to bring the geographical units to community health care centers.

It was in the mid-1970s that Fernando and his colleagues, including Shirley Smoyak and Grayce Sills, started to see the need for their

> own organization. They worked together on the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing Council at ANA, but they felt they needed to sharpen their focus.

The first APNA conference was held at a crab house in Maryland. It was as much a celebration of their accomplishments as it was a meeting. As they

talked over crabs and beer, someone picked up a crab mallet and called the first meeting to order. That crab mallet served as the official APNA gavel for the next six years. Sadly, it has vanished. But the organization they created has flourished. What began with an adventurous dozen nurses has grown into a professional organization of over 5,000 members from the US and abroad.

Note: If you know the whereabouts of the mallet, please send it back anonymously to APNA Headquarters at 1555 Wilson Blvd. Suite 602, Arlington, VA 22209.

Message from the **EDITOR**

many of you who have not attended a conference previously or for quite a while will consider attending in 2008.

Volunteerism and Contributions to APNA. As we are coming near the end of another calendar year, I encourage all to think about ways you may increase activities for APNA, whether that be locally, statewide, or nationally. Perhaps, one can join a program committee or run for an office, etc., write an article for submission to the newsletter, or however you may decide to volunteer.

Lastly, thanks for all that each of you do for APNA. APNA is a positive forward-moving organization. It is apparent that APNA is increasingly the "voice of Psychiatric Nurses" in many arenas. It is exciting to see our organization recognized at important tables of nursing discussions.

New item for APNA Newsletter. It has been suggested that a column entitled "On the Forefront" be included, featuring articles for, by and about staff nurses. Please send me your articles at mmv5636@aol.com and cc Mahnaaz Wolf at APNA at mwolf@APNA.org.

Sincerely,

Michele Valentino Michele Valentino, MSN, CNS, NP Secretary

Message from the PRESIDENT

y the time you have this newsletter in your hands, the conference and my presidency will be over. The timing does suggest that you are about to be subjected to reflections on my experiences as President, and I have been thinking long and hard about how to meet those expectations in a manner that is not trite and predictable. I will speak from the heart, then (this already seems to be going badly). But since I know all good psych nurses will have their BS detectors on, I am going to trust that you will accept my words as genuine and you will forgive my sentimentality.

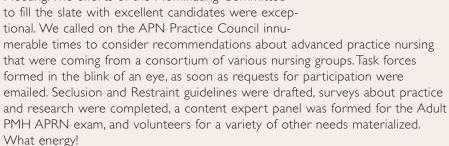
I will start with my trepidations. The beginning of my presidency at the annual conference in Long Beach had its rocky moments. As I was sitting through one of those moments, I considered previous annual conferences. This was not a new experience. They had their rocky moments, too. The salient difference was that I was sitting on the stage rather than in the audience. I did, of course, begin to wonder what I was about to face during the next year. Was I prepared to react in a helpful way in the face of such fervor? Did I have the knowledge to deal with the complex problems that we (APNA) were facing?

I learned over the year that the point is that the members of APNA are so passionate. The organization is perceived by most members to be vital to their professional interests and, as such, a great deal of energy can be and is poured into APNA by its members. Additionally, the combined knowledge of the members is far grander than any an individual or small group of individuals can muster. In some ways, the job of the Board is to stand back and behold the might of APNA members.

Board members, though, are elected to decide on policies that reflect the will of the members and serve to efficiently channel the efforts of the association. There are so many mental health and psychiatric nursing needs and limited resources to address them. Given the constraints, it is noteworthy that we were able to accomplish so much during the last year. Our success was due to the unflinching willingness of members to step up to the plate to suggest strategies

for meeting goals, to develop or review guidelines for practice and nursing education, to provide input about future courses of action, and to plan confer-

We counted on the work ethic of the conference planning and scholarly review committees of the Clinical Psychopharmacology Institute and the Annual Meeting. The efforts of the Nominating Committee to fill the slate with excellent candidates were exceptional. We called on the APN Practice Council innu-



I am truly humbled by the trust that was placed in me by the members of APNA when I was elected to fill the position of President. I will always be grateful for the steadfastness and dedication of my fellow board members during this past year, the creativity and commitment of the staff and, most of all, the devotion of the members to their calling. Thank you.

Darliara I Tem

Barbara L. Drew, PhD, APRN, BC President



Barbara Drew

Report from the **TREASURER**

am pleased to report that we are making substantial progress toward balancing the APNA budget. A copy of the balance sheet and statement of activities is provided for you here. You can also find a full copy of the Treasurer's Report in the APNA Annual Activity Report located in the members-only portion of the APNA website.

You'll note from the review of the balance sheet that APNA is in strong financial position. Our current assets total more than \$1.2 million in our current liabilities are just over \$600,000. We therefore have two dollars on hand for every one dollar that we owe.

I'm also pleased to report that our external audit has been completed. Our

accounting firm May and Barnhard have examined our books and have rendered a clean opinion. In their letter they stated:

In our opinion, financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association as of June 30, 2007, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year that ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Board of Directors serves as the Finance Committee and, with the Treasurer as the chair of the committee, it oversees the system of internal controls, external controls, budget preparation and budget performance.

To further strengthen our system of financial controls, the Board of Directors has directed the creation of an Audit Committee. The committee will interview and select the external auditors and will receive the audit report directly from the auditors. The audit committee will then present the results to Finance Committee/Board of Directors. An audit committee is a requirement under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act for public companies but not for not-for-profit. The board, however, feels that involvement of non-board members in the audit committee is in keeping with our philosophy of a member-driven organization and a further safeguard in our system of internal and external controls.

We are seeking volunteers with experience or facility in financial matters to serve on the audit committee. If you are interested in being a member of the committee, please forward a letter of intent with a copy of your resume or CV to our Executive Director:

Nicholas Croce Jr., MS APNA 1555 Wilson Blvd. Ste. 602 Arlington, VA 22209

You can also e-mail the documents to ncroce@apna.org.

The majority of the work will be conducted by phone and e-mail. The work of a committee will be in two phases. The first will be in the spring and will deal with reviewing of proposals from audit firms. The second phase will be at the conclusion of the fiscal year in late July or early August and will deal with receiving the report of the external auditors. Work during each of the phases is expected to be about three to four hours a week.



Dorothy E. Hill

APNA Balance Sheet • All Fu	inds June 30, 2007 • <i>I</i>	Assets
	Current Year	Prior Year
Current Assets	As of 06/07	As of 06/06
Vachovia Checking	140.235.84	0.00
SOA Checking Account	(14,121.54)	160,475.45
SOA Money Market Acct	9.904.25	138,187.36
APNA Fidelity Investments	958.512.76	978,579.06
Petty Cash	50.00	50.00
Account Receivable	6,369.59	28,291.64
A/R - Manual	0.00	(0.04)
Grants Receivable	118,700.00	0.00
Prepaid Insurance	2,389.50	0.00
Prepaid Expenses (General)	16,930.00	30,793.73
Total Current Assets	1,238,970.40	1,336,377.20
Fixed Assets	22 501 04	22 42 4 52
Fixed Assets-Furniture	33,501.94	32,424.52
ixed Assets-Computers	62,998.39	55,009.50
Fixed Assets-Software Fixed Assets-Website	16,648.94	15,790.69
.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	29,363.59	26,598.59
ixed Assets-Telephone System	3,950.00	0.00
A/C Deprec-Furniture	(20,510.00)	(15,798.00)
A/C Depreciation-Computers	(85,593.00)	(72,968.00)
Accum Deprec-Leased Equip	(1,134.00)	0.00
Capital Lease	11,343.00	0.00
Total Fixed Assets	50,568.86	41,057.30
Other Assets		
Security Deposits	10,218.85	10,218.85
Due to/from Foundation	1,897.08	1,766.00
Total Other Assets	12,115.93	11,984.85
Total Assets	1,301,655.19	1,389,419.35
APNA Balance Sheet • All Fu	ınds June 30, 2007	
iabilities & Fund Balance		
	Current Year	Prior Year
	As of 06/07	As of 6/06
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	75,476.78	125,479.56
Capital Lease Obligations	9,752.04	(0.00)
Accrued Expenses	37,133.96	55,340.92
ed Income Tax Payable	(0.00)	3,430.00
'A State Income Tax Payable	(0.00)	1,189.00
Deferred Income	90,515.00	7,750.00
Deferred Regular Dues	356,050.90	298,777.00
Deferred Conference Registrant	(0.00)	12,671.00
Deferred Conference Exhibits	(0.00)	63,100.00
FICA	(0.00)	73.56
Accrued Salaries	(0.00)	961.54
acci ded Salai les	()	(0.00)

11,982.99

41,413.01

622,324.68

679,330.51

679,330.51

1,301,655.19

(0.00)

32,053.13

600,825.71

788,593.64

788,593.64

1,389,419.35

	06/07 FY	05/06 FY	Change	Comments
Revenue:				
Conference Registration	442,365	502,472	60,106	Long Beach Conference had 13% fewer attendees
Membership Dues	506,140	508,065	1,925	Increases in Revenue late in year will impact 07/08 FY
Investment Income	138,891	61,577	(77,313)	Strong Equity Market
Miscellaneous Income	2,318	50	(2,268)	Unidentifiable deposit/un-cashed checks
Product Income	36,821	38,917	2,097	Choice & Challenge/Seclusion & Restraint/List Rentals/APNA novelty items
Publication Income	3,164	135,224	62,060	Renegotiation of journal contract (see decrease in expense below)
Rental Income	36,313	34,916	(1,397)	Subleased portion of office
Sponsorship Income	260,710	134,400	(126,310)	New staff in place to administer grants
Total Revenue	1,496,722	1,415,621	(81,100)	
Expenses:				
Administrative	183,972	169,455	(14,517)	Increase in Bank fees to integrate with web, lockbox and added legal expense
Conference (Annual & CPI)	470,767	518,336	47,569	Long Beach Conference had fewer attendee
Membership Department	71,873	92,628	20,755	New membership database with new web software
Miscellaneous	755	255	(500)	
Salaries	550,306	485,540	(64,767)	New staff hired to fill vacancies from previous year
Programs	73,3 4 8	94,924	21,576	Use of more electronic media versus print and postage
Publications	10 4 ,931	237,100	132,169	Renegotiation of journal contract (see increase in revenue above)
Rent	141,421	139,245	(2,176)	
Taxes	10,187	7,608	(2,578)	
Total Expenses	1,607,560	1,745,091	137,531	
Net Revenue	(110,838)	(329,469)	(218,631)	

Accrued Vacation

Total Current Liabilities

Fund Balance (Prior&Current)

Total Liabilities & Fund Balance

Deferred Rent

Fund Balance

Total Fund Balance

Members Gather at APNA's 21st Annual Conference in Florida

continued from page 1

to present information to the members and to answer questions from the membership. During the meeting APNA Immediate Past President Barbara Drew highlighted many accomplishments of APNA during the past year. Barbara acknowledged that the accomplishments of this year could not be made possible were it not for the many volunteers from APNA who stepped forward to offer their expertise and time in helping to achieve improvement for mental health services. A full copy of Barbara's report can be found in the APNA Annual Report, in the member's-only section of

will provide APNA members with as many as 30 CEUs and is being offered as a benefit of APNA membership. Geoff's massive online course is expected to go live in early 2008. Watch the APNA website for more details.

A hallmark of the meeting was the Annual Awards Dinner. The attendees were treated to a special presentation by Patty Duke, Academy Award winner and best-selling author. She discussed her history of mental illness and the importance that mental health nurses played in her

"...it warmed my heart to see sufficient time given to and honoring those elements of the enterprise that make us more than and different from simply a purveyor of CEUs. It always has been my hope that we could find the way to do those activities that are essential to a 'professional' association, as well as an association of professionals. I think we are not there yet, but this conference moved us further along the track."

— Grayce Sills, RN, PhD, FAAN

Professor Emeritus, The Ohio State University

treatment and recovery. Longtime APNA member Grayce Sills was the featured speaker of the night. She shared some funny anecdotes about how she got her start in psychiatric nursing and encouraged attendees to get more involved.

Barbara Drew then presented the APNA awards. This year was a special year in that the first President of APNA, Fernando Duran, was recognized with the 2007 APNA Distinguished Service Award. The APNA Nurse of the Year Award was presented to Lynn Delacy of Virginia. Following the awards presentation, everyone got on the dance floor and spent the evening networking and enjoying the company of their fellow colleagues.



Patty Duke embraces Grayce Sills at the 2007 Annual Awards Dinner

As the conference wrapped up on Saturday, Michael Hogan gave the closing keynote speech. He talked about the role that legislation plays in nursing and what we can do to make our voices heard. This year's conference opened up the door for what will be a year of relationship-building, collaboration and unification for APNA members and supporting organizations. This will lead us right into next year's conference in Minneapolis which will focus on collaboration at all levels – practice, education, research and policy. It takes place from October 15-18, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. Hope to see you there!

If you would like to order a copy of the conference audio and powerpoint presentations on CD-ROM, please contact 1-800-398-8253.

ing. Treasurer Dottie Hill also presented her report. For more details see the treasurer's report on page 4. Friday morning sessions started off with a special presentation from Geoff McInerney who is working with APNA to deliver an online course on the

chronobiology of sleep disorders. This online course

announced the upgrades to the APNA website as well

as the increase in membership since last year's meet-

www.apna.org. Michele Valentino, APNA Secretary,

Memories of the Annual Conference

As our 21st Annual Conference Innovation in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practice, Education & Research wrapped up, I was a little sad that it was over. Our planning committee and the office staff have worked closely together for a year.

But as the conference started, it was so nice to see the pieces come together and everything come alive! I know we were blessed with a wonderful location, considering the large amount of rain outside the 4 acres of palm trees and waterfalls under glass in the Gaylord Hotel atrium. At least inside it felt sunny, warm and.... a feeling I can't describe. I guess it was old friends and new attendees coming together that added energy and enthusiasm to the air. Our volunteers who stepped forward to work were outstanding. If something looked like it could be a problem, they just handled it. Our speakers and topics were diverse and thought provoking. I watched people come together and new projects being born after a lecture or an interactive panel. This can only enhance our

We were fortunate to have Patty Duke with us. She is a wonderful gracious lady who signed many books and talked with everyone who stopped her for a moment. I was surprised and delighted that line dancing went till I I:40 pm after the Awards Dinner, and it was nice to have Fernando Duran, our first APNA President, at the dinner and the conference. He was greeted by some of charter members and many old friends. Cathy Shea has shared some of her great ideas with me and is getting geared up to welcome us to Minneapolis, Minnesota, next year. I can't wait! It was a wonderful conference. Wonderful memories. Thank you, all.

Sue Scipione

Thank You!

APNA would like to thank the following volunteers for all their help and hard work during the 21st Annual Conference

Jessie A. Tait Candi Walsh Mark Kragenbring **Emily Donelson** Lorraine Donner Rebecca Kennedy Debra L. Penney Beverly Hancock Natalia Ramirez Nancy Dillon Frankie Ballard Raelynn Price Gina Bourgeous Cynthia Barbara Barrett Klava Caras Maureen Beirne Streff Mary Jo Laudermilch Matthew Fine Joann Berkson Betty Kohal Matthew Lindquist Mary Ann Foley-Mayer Brenda Kucirka Susan Resnik Robin Gale Dawn Hahn Dercia Inniss Barbara L Bonney

Vanessa Barlow Theresa Gisher Suzanne Luongo Susan Torchia Kathy Royer Elaine Greggo Wade Ketchum Ramona Guin Katie Parziale Linda Forester Pamela Herbig Ellen Schimmels Suzane Wilbur Terry Knight Dianne Toebe Linda Weaver Nona Holmes Mary Ann Zimmerman Elaine E. Irwin Dale Knode Valerie N. Markley David Fowler Mary Crosby Elen Ciesla Jayne Booth Kathleen Regan

Eleanor Tomas

Karen S. Dearing

Benjamin Evans

Laura Withorne-Maloney Pam Van Meeteren Jan Grossman Marsha Snyder Brenda Schiavone Lorna Scoggins Cheryl Anderson Candice Walsh Tahira Memon Kathy Deakin Dee-Dee Patrick Sharon Katz Kathryn Johnson Rachel Thomas Kathleen Baldoni Sarah Mynatt Kathryn Anderson Stephanie Westerfield Lora Beebe Jennifer Brown

Jennifer Brown
Nancy Hanrahan
Ron Herald
Gloria Jacobson
Angela Retano
Patricia brown
Nancy Brandel
Ruth Milstein
Sue Odegarden
Huey Chen

Member **PROFILE**

Q&A with Ramona Guin, RN, BSN, MSN, CLNC

When did you begin nursing?

In 1992

Where are you currently working?

I'm an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Louisiana Tech University.

How did you become interested in psychiatric nursing?

I did my clinical portion in the emergency room. It was the psychiatric patients that caught my attention. It's not being able to touch the wound or see it in patients that are in real crisis that I found interesting. I really had to work on my assessment skills, especially communication.

What is it about treating these patients that you found fascinating?

Psychiatric patients who come into the emergency room are not as visually traumatic or emergent as, say, a heart-attack patient or accident victim. But when someone arrives in an acute schizophrenic phase or having overdosed, it's just as much an emergency.

How long have you been a member?

This is my first year as a member.

How did you find out about APNA?

APNA was listed in the LSA Newsletter.

Is this your first APNA conference?

What are some of the highlights of this conference?

I loved the Interactive Education Panel. I just wish it was on the first day since I met so many people

Did you have opportunities to network?

Yes, I met people from my state. We don't have an active state chapter, so this has been a good way to network. And I've formed a lot of relationships that I will take with me from the conference.

Has presenting your poster at the conference been a good experience?

It has been a good process. We've gotten a lot of

feedback. Submitting online was easy.

Did you get to meet a lot of people during poster hours?

I'm very impressed by the amount of people who came by. There were so many people! It was a fantastic opportunity for interaction.

Were the presentation hours long enough?

It was a good amount of time. The only suggestion that I have is to offer CE to presenters.

Will you submit your research for further

We should be finished with our research in a year or so. We are definitely intending on sending it to JAPNA for consideration.

Ramona presented "Guided Imagery in the Classroom to Increase Positive Classroom Instructional Time" by Katherine Schubert and Ramona Guin.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION www.apna.org

APNA P.O. Box 75365 Baltimore, MD 21275-5365

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CREDENTIALS			
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Membership Type

Regular Member.....\$130 ☐ Affiliate Member.....\$130 ☐ Student Member.....\$ 70 copy of schedule or letter from Dean) □ Retired Member.....\$ 70 ☐ International Member......\$140 2 year Member.....\$250

Method of Payment

- ☐ Visa Mastercard
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Advanced	Practiced	Certified	as
CNS	□NP		

CARD NUMBER

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Value in APNA Membership

he APNA is a member-driven association of over 5,000 professional psychiatric nurses, students and supporters of mental health. Our members are committed to the specialty practice of psychiatric mental health nursing, health and wellness promotion through identification of mental health issues, prevention of mental health problems and the care and treatment of persons with psychiatric disorders. Our mission is to promote and improve mental health, and our vision is APNA will be a leader in transforming mental health care in the nation.

Your membership includes

Growth:

- Forward your career with Continuing Education opportunities throughout the year.
- Network with local professionals or people with similar expertise through our members-only directory.
- Share your knowledge by volunteering for specialty APNA councils and committees as well as task
- Gain recognition through annual awards, scholarships and grants.

- Stay on top of the industry with a yearly subscription to the Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (JAPNA).
- Keep in touch through APNA News, our bimonthly newsletter featuring news, member profiles and updates.
- Join the conversation with the online membersonly forums.
- Position Papers, publications and brochures on important issues that affect psychiatric nursing.

Members-Only Savings:

- \$200 savings on the APNA Annual Conference.
- Lower rates on ANCC certification, exams and review materials.
 - Discounts on APNA publications.
 - Unique opportunities to earn free CE hours online.
 - 10% off Crocs[®] Specialty Shoes, plus free shipping.
- Liability insurance through APNA-endorsed NSO.
- Long-term care insurance for members and their
- Vacation discounts at the Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort Hotel in Orlando.

Enjoy online benefits as soon as you join. Use your last name and member ID to log in to www.apna.org or join now by completing an online application. You can also mail the completed application on this page to APNA, P.O. Box 75365, Baltimore, MD 21275-5365.

Passion Returns at the APNA Conference

had planned to catch up on some reading during the conference, but I had not realized how intensive the program was going to be and how intriguing. One fascinating lecture followed another and time flew by faster then an object flying extremely fast.

Of special interest was the lunch symposium about the cardio metabolic health of mental health patients. It turns out that our patients live 25 years less than the average American, 25 years! Excellent pragmatic suggestions and tools were given to reduce some of the risk factors, e.g. lack of exercise, smoking, limited access to primary care and dietary factors. This is, of course, not new information to us, but the symposium was very striking and gets you thinking — what use it is to manage symptoms and listen and care and "therapize" our patients if they're going to be dead by 52, on average, because no one bothered to look at them holistically? I have to remember here, holistically does not just mean mind and spirit. It includes the body too.

Another session of particular interest was the session concerning international issues in psychiatric-mental health. ("International" meaning the UK and the US, along with a dash of Icelandic experience, compliments of yours truly.) The Brits are truly experts in mental health care and have in many ways been in the forefront of community mental health. They have a unique kind of nurse called a Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN) especially prepared to provide mental health services in the community. These nurses have been in the firing line of the mental health care system there for decades now. The system does face the same challenges as everywhere else, i.e. demands from politicians to prevent suicides and homicides caused by the mentally ill, but there is a complete lack of backing that demand up with the resources needed to do just that. The CPNs face some challenges also: they are in a unique position to provide preventative physical care but, sadly, many lack the proper training to do so since the CPNs do not have the same background in physical pathophysiology and pathology as the RNs in the US do. There is also some movement to more team-based community interventions in Britain, similar to what we know as ACT teams, and some of the CPNs feel challenged by that.



The US system seems to be extremely fragmented. We have some states, or rather facilities, doing extremely well, but the continuum of care is a huge issue, and no one seems to be able to hold all the threads at once due to the bureaucracy and complexity of the system. The exception is probably the VA system, which is in a unique position to provide exceptional care, both in the community and at their inpatient facilities. They show us what is achievable, when political will, money, professionalism and dedication all meet.

It was an honor and a privilege to attend the 21st annual APNA Conference in Orlando. Of course, it did not hurt meeting peers and colleagues from various locations and networking with current leaders and innovators in mental health

nursing in the US and UK. However, I would say the main advantage of attending the conference was getting "all riled up," so to speak. I got excited about psychiatric-mental health nursing in a general way. My passion was rekindled, and that's more important than I can describe. Because if I don't have passion about this, I'm not going to survive intact for very long. The omnipresent suicide risk of the patient population, the double standards of the politicians previously described, the insidious turf wars, all would be insurmountable if not for passion. We might as well place our dancing shoes on the shelf, next to Fred Astaire's if we lose our passion.

That is the main thing I got from the conference, and that is why I am going again.

Gisli Kristofersson, RN 2007 Janssen Scholar

APNA Congratulates the 2007 Janssen Scholarship Recipients

Graduate Students

Connecticut

Mariel Zeccola

Kentucky

Anna Hume

Minnesota

Della Derscheid Gisli Kristofersson

Missouri

Rachel Thomas

North Carolina

Frances Ballard

New Jersey

Margaret Grady

New York

Michael Hasselberg

Ohio

Winola Amodio-Burkhart Kelley Edds Kathy Royer

Oklahoma

R. David Lane

Oregon

Susan Griffin

Tennessee

Dawn Vanderhoef

Wisconsin

JoEllen Schimmels

Undergraduate Students

California

Jane Pressman

Colorado

Klava Caras

Florida

Tahira Memon Natalia Ramirez

Iowa

Joseph Burds

Idaho

Chanda Knelsen

IllinoisKate Parziale

Louisiana

Kathryn Meunier

North Carolina Kelly Ann Campbell

Pennsylvania

Victoria Albertus Rebecca Hancock Jessica Jester

South Carolina

Alan Lopez

Utah

Gina Bourgeous

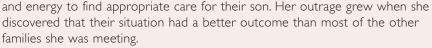
Virginia

Margaret Wilkinson

Gail Griffith: A Mother's Journey

ail Griffith, author of Will's Choice: A Suicidal Teen, a Desperate Mother, and a Chronicle of Recovery, and this year's opening keynote speaker at the 21st Annual Conference, shared her experience as a mother fighting for better care and better family involvement for children suffering with depression. Her journey began when her 17-year-old son Will attempted suicide by overdosing on his antidepressants. She didn't realize that it would be an exhausting search for both care and assistance.

Ms. Griffith didn't come to the mental health field with the advantage of prior knowledge. When she was seeking treatment for her son, she thought that they would have a lot of options — both for treatment and support. She was floored to find out that they were on their own. The family used all of their resources



As Gail found more resources for her son's recovery, she started noticing the role that psychiatric nurses were playing in his care. "Nurses are the first line

providers," she says. "They often have better insights to the patients. And in the chaos, the nurses provide the organizing force. They were the constant in Will's life." It was the nurses that he felt he could talk to.

Gail reminds us that as nurses, we have a stake in the debate. And as a unified voice through APNA, we have the power to start insisting for better services. She emphasizes that we shouldn't have to battle for things that should be handed to us and to the people in our care. But since we do have to battle, as a group, we can advocate for empowered healthcare.

To purchase Gail's books, go to www.ama zon.com. To read more about what she's doing to support mental health go to www.gailgrif fith.com.



Jeanne Clement, Gail Griffith, Barbara Drew and Elizabeth Poster at the Opening Session of the 2007 Annual Conference.

Patty Duke: A Message to Psychiatric Nurses

t's all too rare to be able to thank the people who helped you through the dark times of your life. Patty Duke took her opportunity to do this at the APNA Awards Dinner on Oct. 5, 2007, at the Annual Conference in Florida.

Patty Duke, Academy Award winning actress, past President of the Screen Actors

Guild and twice a best-selling author, joined APNA as a guest speaker for the awards dinner and took some time to sit down with us to explain why she had chosen to attend our event.

Patty was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder at age 35, but her first encounter with psychiatric nurses happened when she was hospitalized at 19. As she recounted some of the stories of how she and her fellow patients terrorized the nurses, you could feel the remorse in her voice. She admitted to doing some of the worst things she could do to nurses, but at the same time was aware of the extraordinary work that they were doing — without praise, without so much as a "thank you" from the people they were helping.

Patty recalled a nurse, a "giant man" compared to her diminutive stature, with whom she got physical on a particularly trying day during her treatment. While this man could have easily restrained her with force, she says that he used his goodness to keep her from hurt-

ing herself. It is this goodness that she felt, regardless of the mean things she did in return, that thrills her to finally be able to say "thank you" to psychiatric nurses as a whole.

Recently, Patty addressed a group of nursing students and was excited to see so many young faces willing to dedicate themselves to what is often a thankless profes-

sion. She told them that "psychiatric nursing is a sound that hits the ears like velvet." She went on to discuss recovery and how delighted she is that nursing is starting to help out with this aspect of mental health. Recovery is real and is doable, and ongoing support and assessment are key to keeping patients healthy.

While patient health is very important to her, Patty also cautions nurses to take time for themselves. While she was hospitalized, one of the nurses who she was growing close to killed herself. She said if she could give us one message to take home with us, it would be to care for ourselves first so that we can share our goodness. She explained that, "[nurses] don't have the benefit of the illness. While we [the consumers] are in our own little world, you're stuck in reality." She feels very special that she knows psychiatric nursing from the inside, as a patient. She wants to make sure that we're reminded to care for ourselves, to take wellness days, to make sure we have someone to go to if we're unable to cope.

Patty is currently working with Eli Lilly on the Lilly Reintegration Scholarship, which is for people with bipolar, schizophrenia or schizophrenic-related disorders who are already in the process of recovery and have chosen to study again. This scholarship will allow

patients in recovery to pursue career or educational interests without worry. For more information, visit www.reintegration.com.

Three years after her diagnosis, Patty did an interview with a journalist from TV Guide who she felt confident talking to. It was this conversation that led to her writing her first book, Call Me Anna.



Patty Duke at the 2007 APNA Awards Dinner.

Remembering Marcia Neiswander-Whitesmith

riends and family gathered on Sept. 23, 2007, to remember Marcia Neiswander-Whitesmith, MS, APRN, BC, who collapsed suddenly while at work the previous week, and never regained consciousness. Marcia was remembered for her ability to bring out the best in people, her undying devotion to good nursing practice, her courage to stand up for what was right, her quirky sense of humor and, above all, her frequent declarations of her love of her family and her friends. Her husband, Phil, said that she believed that "if you love someone, you tell them."

Marcia was, along with her colleague and long-time friend, Carol Giannini, the recipient of the 2006 APNA Award for Best Practices in the Treatment of Schizophrenia. As the first Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner for the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health, she had been mentoring other nurses who were preparing for the PMHNP role to care for clients in the County's Wellness Centers. Marcia had previously taught at the University of Southern California Hospital School of Nursing, and had also served as the Senior Mental Health Counselor, RN, at a community mental health clinic.

Marcia's husband, Phil, courageously agreed to the donation of four of her vital organs that enabled four people to continue to live. Phil and her sons, Aaron and Erik, knew that Marcia would have wanted this. The medical director of the DMH, Dr. Roderick Shaner, said of Marcia that "she served, inspired, instructed, encouraged, challenged and reduced to laughter all of those who were lucky enough to encounter her." She will be deeply missed.

APNA Congratulates the Winners of the 2007 Poster Presentations

Education

Ist Place Recipient: "The Multiple Benefits of a Critical Incident Analysis Paper Within a Baccalaureate Psychiatric Nursing Course" by Ginger Evans and Marian Roman

2nd Place Recipient: "Is Grandma Three Sheets to the Wind?: Assessing, Diagnosing and Treating Alcohol Abuse in the Elderly" by Elaine Greggo

Practice

Ist Place Recipient: "Trauma Informed Principles (TIC) Transforming Our Culture (TOC)" by Debra Saldi

2nd Place Recipient: "Development of an Evidenced-Based Suicide Assessment" by Brenda Hermes, Kathy Deakin, Sherry Robinson



Gregory Knapik and Barbara Drew.

Research

Ist Place Recipient: "Being Delivered: Spirituality in Survivors of Sexual Violence" by Gregory Knapik

2nd Place Recipient: "Smoking and Serious Mental Illness" by Marsha Snyder

Student

Ist Place Recipient: "Identifying Quality of Website Consumer Information Related to Eating Disorders" by Jennifer Engel

News from the NATIONAL OFFICE

Conference CD Available

If you missed this year's Annual Conference, or didn't get to attend every session, you can now purchase an audio recording of the conference including general sessions, interactive panels and keynote speeches. The CD-Rom also includes power-point presentations. Please contact APNA at (703) 243-2443 to get a copy.

APNA Congratulates the 2007 Best Practices in Schizophrenia Recipients

Best Treatment of Schizophrenia — Inpatient

Nancy Dillon, PhD, RN, CNS; Merrie Kaas, DNSc, RN, CNS; Penny Hogberg, CTRS Minnesota Department of Human Services

Best Treatment of Schizophrenia — Inpatient

Nancy McClearn, MSN, APRN, BC Albany Medical Center

Best Treatment of Schizophrenia in a Community-Based Program

Dale Knode, RN, BS, HSAD Fred Bender, Med/QMHP

IMPACT: Individualized Mobile Program of Assertive Community Treatment