



American
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APNA, CALIFORNIA CHAPTER ONLINE NETLETTER

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President's Message



Connecting

by Ann M. Wilkinson, MS, APRN, BC, CNS
President, APNA California Chapter

APNA California Chapter is on the move. Our ranks have grown to record size! Welcome to our new members. This October in Long Beach, our leadership will change as it does every autumn at the close of the Annual Meeting. I will be handing the gavel over to Rita Haverkamp, who will be our new President.

This year you've let us know that providing venues for member networking is a top priority for APNA California Chapter. Our successful May 2006 Chapter Conference in San Francisco was very well received with "networking" listed as the #1 most valued aspect of the program. Meeting and sharing with one another is a vital part of membership in APNA; the dinner meetings held throughout the state by Area Reps have proven to be good forums to make this happen locally. In coming years I encourage all to look to yourselves and to your healthcare communities to find new ways to connect.

The core of our job we know about naturally... it's what we do easily. We carry the work of psychiatric nursing and our care for patients in our hearts. But we are also challenged to ensure that **psychiatric nursing care** continues to be delivered by **psychiatric nurses**. Each of us must stretch ourselves to become more visible as advocates for our patients and for our profession.

As the eyes, ears, and voices of psychiatric nursing in California, we cannot only share our skills and passions with one another, but we must take a seat at the tables where mental health policy is made. We must explore our local communities and engage with other professionals to find the boards, committees, and interdisciplinary teams that make the big decisions in mental health care. I urge you to join those groups. Meet those people. Wherever we find them, we must all embrace the task of

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APNA, California Chapter NetLetter



Connecting

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educating other professionals, the public, and potential psychiatric nurses about who we are and what we do. Then you can help us, at the Chapter, to stay informed by reporting trends, issues, and important activities and events back to the rest of us through Rita and our Board. APNA California Chapter is an all-volunteer organization. We need you to volunteer inside and outside APNA. As we find our seats at policy-making tables, through the knowledge gained and through those all-important personal relationships, we can serve as ambassadors to effect change for psychiatric nursing, our patients, and our communities.

I will remain on the Board for another year as your Immediate Past President. Thanks to all of you who have emailed your concerns, suggestions, and appreciation over this past year. I have enjoyed enormously "hearing" your voices and helping out when I could. Rita and the incoming Board are an enormously talented and dedicated group who have already done much of this year's heavy lifting, leading the SF Conference, news watching, dinner meetings, committee work, planning for the Annual Meeting next month, and all the other activities that APNA California Chapter has taken up this year. It has been my very distinguished honor to serve with them... and great fun, too. Thank you all for the opportunity.

Ann



Update On the CNS Prescription Authority Task Force

By Kevin McGirr, RN,MS,MPH

The California Clinical Nurse Specialist for Furnishing Authority Task Force has been busy drumming up support in our effort to achieve furnishing authority parity with 38 other U.S. states and other California Advanced RNs. After pouring over the latest iteration of our position paper and fact sheet, the committee has been shopping it around. We have formal endorsements from APNA, APNA/CA, and the California Network of Clinical Nurse Specialists. The American Nurse Association/California chapter and the California Nurses' Association have also indicated future support. In addition, we have been in discussion with officers and representatives from the California Psychiatric Association, California Medical Association and the California Association of Nurse Practitioners. Committee members have been in contact with Kaiser Permanente leadership, California Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and the American Association of Retired Persons. Last but certainly not least; we have been in communication with a number of legislative offices and most recently with Senator Carole Migden's office in San Francisco. We are hoping to present to the Board of Registered Nursing's CNS Task Force and to participate in the California Network of Clinical Nurse Specialist conference in Palm Springs. As the journey continues, we are optimistic but also realize that it is a process. We DO need your help, particularly with outreach and contacts with important stakeholders. If there is anyway you would like to be involved, please contact Kevin McGirr at (415) 922-9538 or ptownn@sbcglobal.net.

Hold this Date!

2nd Annual APNA California Chapter Conference Coming to San Diego!

It's time to start planning for next years Chapter Conference. The conference will be held in San Diego, at Scripps Mercy Hospital on Saturday, May 5, 2007. There is much planning yet to be completed and anyone interested in joining the planning committee please contact Co-Chairs Shelley Johnson or Kathy Johnson at; CshellShelley@netscape.net or kathy@ebold.com. Kathy and Shelley also hope to hold a brief planning meeting for anyone interested in getting involved at Long Beach, day and time to be announced.

Shelley Johnson

20th Annual National Conference comes to California!



Hi All. Our national APNA annual conference is fast approaching.. hoping that you'll all be attending as this year's conference is right here in our own home state. The Long Beach event will be Oct. 11-14th and we are hoping that many of you will assist us in volunteering a small amount of time to be room monitors and/or speaker introducers.....all the ins and outs of these duties will be explained to you...they are fun and easy..... Please let Suzane Wilbur, our Conference Chair know of your availability.....contact her at Swilbur55@aol.com .

Don't forget to attend our California Chapter meeting on Thursday, October 12th from 6 to 7 pm. All California members are invited and encouraged to attend. We will be assigned a room soon and the location will be posted on the bulletin boards in Long Beach. Please come with your ideas and concerns. Most of our leadership team will be there to hear what you would like us to focus on and pursue in this coming year. It is a good time to meet new friends and network with your local chapter members.

Please join us for our healthy early morning walk also on Thursday morning..... Looking forward to seeing you there!

Area Representatives

Who is your Area Rep?

Central Coast (Monterey-Salinas-SantaCruz) Area

Kathy Johnson, MSN, RN, CS
 Phone: (831) 475-3951
 Cell: (831) 332-6465
 E-mail: kathy@ebold.com

Los Angeles Area

Helen Chrena, RN, MA
 Work: (310) 319-5112
 Home: (310) 214-8424
 E-mail: Hrchrena@aol.com

Orange County Area

Holly Vilorio, RN, MSN, FNP
 E-mail: hollyvilorio@hotmail.com

San Diego Area

Marlene Nadler-Moodie, MSN, APRN, BC, CNS
 Phone: (858) 481-1070
 E-mail: mnm@san.rr.com

San Francisco Area-North Bay Area

Kevin McGirr
 Home: (415) 922-9538
 E-mail: ptownn@sbcglobal.net

San Francisco-East Bay Area

Mary Kastner
 Home: (925) 688-2225
 E-mail: mary.kastner@sbcglobal.net

San Francisco-South Bay Area

Shelley Johnson
 Work: (650) 940-7081
 Home: (831) 214-13565
 E-Mail: CshellShelley@netscape.net

Sacramento Area

Virginia Fasla
 Work: (916) 288-0323
 Home: (916) 317-6443
 E-Mail: virginia.falsa@psysolutions.com



APNA, California Chapter Board Members

PRESIDENT

Ann M. Wilkinson
annmw@pacbell.net

PRESIDENT ELECT

Rita Havenkamp
ritahkamp@cox.net

IMMEDIATE-PAST-PRESIDENT

Marlene Nadler-Moodie
mnm@san.rr.com

SECRETARY

Diane Hickman
dhickman@san.rr.com

TREASURER

Cheryl Puntil
ochel@ucla.edu

MEMBER-at-LARGE

Kathy Johnson
kathy@ebold.com

MEMBER-at-LARGE

Shelley Johnson
CshellShelley@netscape.net

MEMBER-at-LARGE

Kevin McGirr
ptownn@sbcglobal.net

Netletter Editor

Cheryl Puntil
ochel@ucla.edu



Contact your area rep today!

Election Results are IN!

BY MARLENE NADLER-MOODIE, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Chair of the Nominations Committee

We have tallied the results from a very successful election for 2006:

- President Elect is Kathryn Johnson
- Secretary is Diane Hickman
- Member at Large is Michael Fitzgerald



They will assume office at the close of the annual national conference, October 14. Our current Board has invited the new members to join our next Board Meeting on Oct. 13 for discussion and orientation and for those of you attending the conference you can meet them at our annual Chapter Meeting on Thursday the 12th.

We sent out 405 ballots this year and received a significant return of 121. Four ballots were not counted as they were postmarked past the deadline. Each of our candidates received an outstanding majority of 113 each.

Of note there were a few write-in candidates: Mary Kastner and Deborah Lucas, I hope they take note and will consider our Board in the future. There was 1 vote cast for me, which gave me a chuckle as I am completing a 4-year term of office now, but thanks to whoever that was.

As our only outgoing Board Member at the end of this term I want to thank you all for your support. Taking an active lead in our Chapter has been an incredibly rewarding experience-- watching it grow, making wonderful new friends and feeling good about making a difference.

When the new members take office our full Chapter Board will consist of:

- Rita Haverkamp- President
- Ann Wilkinson- Immediate Past President
- Kathy Johnson- President Elect
- Diane Hickman- Secretary
- Cheryl Puntill- Treasurer
- Kevin McGirr- Member at Large
- Shelley Johnson- Member at Large
- Michael Fitzgerald- Member at Large

It's never too soon to start thinking about next year. Our open positions in '07 will be President Elect, Treasurer and 2 Members at Large.

“WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO!”



Creating Peace through Legislation in a Violent World



By Rita Haverkamp President Elect APNA/CA Chapter

Dr. Elizabeth Poster was the keynote presenter at the APNA California Chapter Conference in May 2006. She discussed increasing rates of violence towards nurses in psychiatric units and under-reporting of these incidents. It was noted that some nurses even believe that exposure to violence is part of the job. Is violence just accepted as the way of life for us or can we effect a change?

I believe that the Department of Peace and Nonviolence will start to create a cognitive/ behavioral change in our culture through funding programs that teach nonviolence and make peace an organizing principle in our government. The bill proposes the establishment of a cabinet level Department of Peace and Nonviolence. The Department's primary function will be to research, facilitate, and articulate nonviolent solutions to domestic and international conflict.

I would like to see the APNA join Physicians for Social Responsibility in endorsing the Department of Peace and Nonviolence legislative bills;

HR 3760 and S. 1756

So why should nurses be active in this bill?

1 The domestic aspects of this bill address issues of concern to psychiatric nurses—violence, child abuse, gangs, spousal abuse, etc.

2.. Violence is a significant health problem in this country.

A recent World Health Organization report estimated the cost of interpersonal violence in the U.S. (excluding war related costs) at \$300 billion a year. [The Economic Dimensions of Interpersonal Violence, World Health Organization, 2004].

22% of women in the U.S. have reported being physically assaulted by an intimate partner. [Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, 1999 (Population Reports, Series L, No. 11)].

In the year 2001, more than half a million American women (588,490 women) were victims of nonfatal violence committed by an intimate partner. (Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001, February 2003).

In 2001, 41,740 women were victims of rape/sexual assault committed by an intimate partner. (Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, Intimate

3. This bill would fund health promotion programs.

Non violence programs are available including the Tariq Khasima foundation. This foundation is founded by a man whose son was killed by his co-founder's grandson. Khasima teaches nonviolence and helps kids stay out of gangs. There are high success rates for this program. He says "There were victims at both ends of the gun."

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Non-Violence Peace Initiative

Funds allocated to the Department of Peace would be available to each congressional district to fund programs such as a peace academy that will be established which will conduct research and teach cutting-edge techniques for the amelioration of violence. Graduates will serve our government in peace related positions here and abroad.

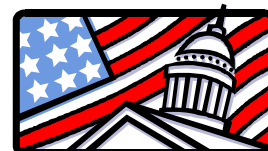
We can help the individual affected by violence but we must also change the culture and institutions that create these victims. At the APNA national conference this year in Long Beach, CA. October 11-14, 2006, there is a full day pre-conference on violence prevention as well as presentations on anger management, a violence risk assessment measure, programs in prisons and, of course, suicide prevention.

As Psychiatric Nurses we need to be in the forefront of cultural changes that affect the populations we serve. Prevention of illness/violence is a standard of practice in Psychiatric Mental Health nursing. Please join me in this grass root effort to raise the awareness in our legislature body around issues of violence and solutions that generate peace and non-violence.

Please contact Rita Haverkamp President-elect if interested or if you have comments, at ritahkamp@cox.net

Legislative Committee News

By Catherine Osborn, Legislative Committee Chair



The California Chapter of APNA is proud to announce the recent re-activation of the Legislative Committee. The Committee members have identified as their purpose: to stay current with legislative issues of concern for the psychiatric nursing community, to disseminate legislative information to members, and to engage in activities that promote our current legislative focus.

We have identified the following areas of priority to support and promote; Mental Health parity, the Clinical Nurse Specialist role and prescriptive/furnishing privileges, consistency in application of LPS laws, including who can initiate 5150's, and the guiding principles of a US Department of Peace.

Our current Committee consists of the following five members; Catherine Osborn, Chair, Rita Haverkamp, Linda Gross, Elissa Brown, and Jolie Browar.

Please join us and/or send any communication about legislative issues and concerns to Cathy Osborn: cathyzok@aol.com

Your Feedback

For comments, suggestions, and/or contributions for future Chapter NetLetters, please contact Cheryl Puntill at ochel@ucla.edu.