

SAVE THE DATES

**The 7th Annual RN-AIM Conference and Assembly will take place: September 20-21, 2012
Bay Valley Resort**

The presenters currently being sought will mean an exciting discussion of the many roles of the “Nurse as Advocate.” Presentations will include advocating for the profession, advocating for individual nurses and patients, advocating for policy decisions that support the interests of our patients and clients, advocacy for students, advocacy for victims of violence and disaster and others.

More information will be coming soon, as will information about how to submit for poster presentations. The number and quality of posters continues to improve each year and we look forward to many submissions this year as well. Put these dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

A representative from ANA leadership will be at the Assembly to celebrate our first anniversary as the Michigan Constituent Member Association for ANA.

The “Kids Count in Michigan” Report for 2012 Released

The new “Kids Count” Report shows some serious and dramatic rises in children abused, neglected and living in poverty. The Michigan League for Human Services reports that child abuse and neglect rose by more than one-third during the past decade, likely the result of unemployment, underemployment and inadequate social programs to address the stresses experienced by families unable to adequately provide for their members. In 2010, more than 32,500 children in Michigan were confirmed victims of abuse and/or neglect. The largest increase was in the category of children found to be at low- to moderate-risk, with some counties experiencing as high as 300% increases in the incidence of abuse and neglect.

The report provides county data including status of health, income, education, and other measures related to child well-being. Jane Zehnder-Merrell, the “Kids Count” director in Michigan was quoted as saying “When people live in poverty...housing is destabilized, dependency increases-everything gets thrown into the mix when you’re in such desperate circumstances.” Visit the full report and press coverage at www.milhs.org to learn about how children and families in your county are faring.

Teens Make Better Choices When They are Informed

A new study published in the American Journal of Public Health identified that when teens are informed about the caloric content of sugary beverages they reduce their consumption of these beverages when information is posted alongside source of beverages.

The researchers compared the effects of three sets of information including a absolute calorie count, percentage of total recommended daily intake and the physical activity equivalent. All three strategies resulted in a reduction of consumption of sugary beverage purchases, and the strategy with the most effect was posting the physical activity that would be needed to mitigate the effects of intake of calories consumed. The abstract of this article can be found at: <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.H.201.300350>.

Another website to visit for those interested in child health is: www.promisingpractices.net/newsletter/news1201.asp

Report from Susan Meeker, RN-AIM President, on the ANA Constituent Assembly

About a month after the RN-AIM Assembly, I received an email from Karen Daley, President of ANA, inviting me to the Constituent Assembly November 4 – 6, 2011. This was a great opportunity for me and for RN-AIM.

On Friday, November 4, 2011, I was able to sit in on the open ANA Board of Directors Meeting. An informative part of the meeting was the presentation of the Progress on the Resolutions from the 2010 House of Delegates. This helped me understand a very small part of what ANA does for its members.

- ❖ **Social Networking and the Nurse:** *Resolve to support the application of ANA's foundational documents – Code of Ethics for Nurses, Nursing's Social Policy Statement, and Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice to the use of social networking; and encourage and support research on the use of social networking as it relates to nursing.*
 - A number of tools and continuing education opportunities are now available to the nurse.
 - Future plans are to highlight the issues and products through the C/SNAs and Organizational Affiliates.
 - While working with NCSBN principles are posted on ANA website and webinars were created; documents have been created including a Tip Card Six Tips of Social Media.

- ❖ **Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Signing and Certifying for Home Care Plans**
Resolve to reaffirm the 1984 ANA HOD action that "recommended that the registered nurse be authorized to determine and certify the plan of care for home health"; and continue to support federal legislation that would permit advanced practice registered nurses (including nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives and clinical nurse specialists) to sign orders for homecare services and supplies for Medicare patients, as well as make changes to home healthcare plans, thereby reducing barriers that limit access to home care services.
 - The Home Health Planning and Improvement Act of 2011 was reintroduced in the Senate (S.227) and House of Representatives (H.R.2267).
 - ANA's N-Stat provides resources for grass roots nurses to learn about the legislation and tools to get involved. ANA Government Affairs hosted a virtual lobby day and a Congressional briefing. We have also done considerable coalition building with other interested parties. We currently have support from 65 members of the House, and 10 Senators representing both parties.

- ❖ **Hostility, Abuse and Bullying in the Workplace**
Resolve to reaffirm and fully support the existing principles from the 2006 resolution related to workplace abuse and harassment of nurses and the promotion of healthy work and professional environments for all nurses; and work proactively to reduce the growing problem of workplace abuse, harassment and bullying of nurses and the serious consequences, including severe reprisal and retaliation; and explore collaborative solutions with other disciplines and organizations to leverage resources for research and education.
 - ANA is a leader in providing materials for nurses and health care facilities to help reduce hostility, abuse and bullying in the workplace. Future plans are to highlight the products through the C/SNAs and across the Organizational Affiliates.

- ❖ **Mentoring Program for Novice Nurses**
Resolve to reaffirm its support of initiatives to facilitate the successful integration of novice nurses into the work environment; and partner with the C/SNAs, IMD and other nursing organizations to develop mentoring program demonstration projects; and disseminate the findings of the mentoring program projects.

- Activity around mentoring programs for novice nurses will intensify with the awarding of funding to the C/SNAs for demonstration projects.

❖ **Safety and Effectiveness of Reprocessed and Single Use Devices in Healthcare**

Resolve to support ongoing research efforts in public health, environmental health and nursing to better understand the ethical and safety issues associated with utilizing single use devices; and support the dissemination of research on the practice of using reprocessed single use devices, including the impact on patient outcomes and the environment; and support improve end-of-use management including the reprocessing of appropriately identified FDA labeled single-use devices based on law and regulations; and support best practices for the various reprocessing methods and the safety of single-use devices for patients and healthcare workers.

- ANA has provided information for the practicing nurse, as well as increased visibility for the profession. We will continue to monitor the issue.

❖ **Healthcare for Undocumented Immigrants**

Resolve to reaffirm its position that all individuals living in the U. S., including documented and undocumented immigrants, have access to healthcare; and educate nurses regarding the wide ranging social, economic and political ramifications of undocumented immigrants' lack of access to healthcare services

- During September 2010, the ANA Board of Directors added this resolution to the strategic imperative 3.1, but ranked it as low priority.

❖ **Addressing Health Literacy Through Patient Literacy**

Resolve to promote collaborative nursing initiatives to address health literacy problems; and utilize existing research findings to strengthen health literacy knowledge and skills in nursing school curricula and the workplace; and promote nursing research efforts to identify evidence based practices that promote optimum health literacy.

- ANA is seeking external funding to promote research and efforts around patient literacy. Future efforts will be tied to the HHS National Action Plan to Improve Health Literacy.

Friday afternoon I attended an Orientation for new C/SNA Presidents. This is a pilot group and the orientations will continue. This was a very valuable session for me dealing with governance related to Boards, Executive Directors and members.

The Constituent assembly took place on Saturday and Sunday; I will highlight some of the more pertinent issues. There were discussions related to the future of the ANA with an increase in marketing and membership initiatives. The growth of IMD is a concern to some of the states and therefore there was discussion about the membership and operation of the Individual Member Division. There will also probably be a disaffiliation of another state in the near future. Several states also presented their organizational affiliations with other state nursing organizations.

There was a report from the Apportionment Task Force related to the number of delegates at the Delegate Assembly. The recommendation to the House of Delegates will be to decrease the number of delegates from each state. One of the advantages to the state associations will be lower costs to send delegates to the assembly.

There was also a report from a Dues Task Force. The focus was not really related to the amount of dues as it was to the complicated process of becoming a member and determining dues to be paid. There are currently 500 dues categories.

The ANA will probably end a rebate program that is the current policy and create a strategic development fund to support C-SNA membership. They will standardize dues rates definitions and streamline the process of signing up for membership.

When the value is clear the decision to join is easy. Looking at products and projects that are meaningful to members:

Conflict engagement

Social Media: Transfer policy into practice; First of its kind; CE by tweeting; tool kit for hospitals to teach nurses

Membership: how do you serve an increasingly diverse membership; board will discuss membership growth plan

American Nurses Foundation: infuse leadership and governance education

Robust technology platform; New Nursing World Webpage; customize your own ANA page; redesigned Members Only Content; 'Tag Cloud' Search Functionality

Race for Relevance: Associations who want to pursue change in their organization

House of Delegates: Feasibility of ANA Convention/Conference

Instead of 4-day HOD move, to 3-day; or 2-day HOD and a 1-day convention; streamline HOD and also have a convention; President could give address to convention not just HOD; will need to be a commitment from states to have delegates come for the full three days; there would also be a day for the constituent assembly meeting; expenses to the delegates would be same as a 3-day HOD; development of format based on ANA bylaws and feedback from 2010 HOD.

Nursing Staffing Principles: Discussion of ongoing work related to safe staffing.

Focus groups, online surveys and discussion at the Constitute Assembly are continuing to be able to draft principles related to Nurse staffing.

Staff, State Presidents and Executive Directors were all very welcoming and helpful.

I have several names and cards from people that have offered support and services. One person that could be most helpful is Karen Ballard who is our board liaison.

**The American Journal of Nursing Honors
Future of Nursing IOM Report**

The American Journal of Nursing has honored the Institute of Medicine "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health" as the 2011 Book of the Year in four categories including Advanced Practice Nursing, History and Public Policy, Leadership and Management and Nursing Education. Risa Lavisso-Mourey, President and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is quoted saying, "This great honor speaks to the report's timeliness and relevance. It has been an IOM best seller over the past year and we hope it will continue to fuel constructive changes in nursing and health."

Visit the Future of Nursing Campaign for Action website for further details.

New Report on Intimate Partner Violence

In late 2011, the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma at Columbia University held an educational workshop of intimate partner violence, bringing together academics, public health experts, service providers and journalists to address the challenges and opportunities for a select group of media professionals to improve the coverage on the critical public health issue. As a result of this meeting, the Dart Center has introduced a new online resource including expert tip sheets, completing video testimony, informative presentations and contact information for journalists addressing the issue of partner violence.

The Dart Center resources can be viewed at the RWJF Content Alerts of 1/19/2012.

State of the State

Governor Rick Synder gave his second State of the State address on 1/20/2012, and spent a good share of the one hour presentation detailing the achievements of 2011, while laying the foundation for what he terms “good government is implemented” in 2012. He detailed “Pure Michigan Fit Program,” which is a collaboration among the state, grocers, state health advocates and Gerber Baby Food Company focused on delivering nutrition information to parents and caregivers of infants and young children. This is an attempt to address the growing obesity problem in Michigan which rose an additional 1% in 2011 to an alarming 32% of the population. The Governor also called for mandating insurance coverage for evidence-based autism therapies, and calling on the legislature to create the Michigan Health Insurance Marketplace to make the state compliant with the federal Affordable Care Act.

He also addressed the current state of education in Michigan, noting that only 17% of students are prepared for college, and he urged educators to develop a system that would make 100% of students “college and career ready.” For the conclusion of his address, he called for the state to continue to improve the state government’s customer service for the people of Michigan with the goal of making the state a better environment for job creation.

New Policy Explores Medicaid Reform Proposals

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the Medicaid spending will grow from \$275 billion in 2011 to nearing \$560 billion in 2021, as the coverage under the Affordable Care Act adds up to 8.5 million additional individuals to coverage.

According to the authors of the report, proposed reforms will fall into two general categories. The first would end “open entitlements” with costs and benefits more attuned to state needs and available funding. The second change would preserve Medicaid as an entitlement program and expand coverage under health reform, but would make changes to achieve savings, and possibly including cost sharing between states and federal budgets. The report goes on to note that advocates for the social safety net might be eroded by significant changes to Medicaid and make the states’ abilities to meet increased demand for coverage during periods of economic downturn.

And the musing...

It is with pleasure that we join with ANA as the Constituent Membership Association (CMA) for Michigan, and begin to more fully understand how this liaison will strengthen RN-AIM as an organization, not only with the knowledge and skills of our increased membership, but with the many resources ANA can bring to our partnership. Karen Ballard, identified as our official liaison by Karen Daley, ANA President, will be attending our Board Retreat on March 23rd, and we will also have a Board representative from ANA with us at the 7th Annual Conference and Assembly to celebrate our first year of RN-AIM as the CMA for Michigan. I hope you will be able to join us for these activities as we move into the next phase of our development.