

## LAST CALL FOR POSTER ABSTRACTS

Last call for poster abstracts to be sent to the Research and Evidence-Based Council. The deadline is June 1, 2011, for the Annual Conference and Assembly to be held September 22-23, 2011, in Grand Rapids at the Airport Hilton Hotel. All the guidelines necessary to develop your abstract can be found on the [rn-aim.org](http://www.rn-aim.org) website under the “Events and Meetings” tab on the home page. Directions about where to send your completed abstract are found on the same page. If your abstract is chosen for presentation, the website guidelines also contain this information. Go to: <http://www.rn-aim.org/conference.php>

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## Annual Conference and Assembly Agenda Set

With a lead-off keynote presented by Philip Authier, RN, MPH, of Verras Consulting, titled “*Nursing Innovation: From the Bedside to the Boardroom*,” updates from Jeanette Klemczak, Michigan Chief Nurse Executive, and from the leaders of the Board of Nursing, the Center for Nursing and COMON; to six exciting breakout sessions, each focused on an innovation in nursing practice; and a second keynote presented by Kathleen Poindexter, PhD, RN, from Michigan State University College of Nursing titled “*The Clinical Nurse Specialist/Nurse Educator: Clinical and Academic Partnerships*”...this conference will definitely be of interest to a wide variety of nurses.

Additionally, the Assembly will include voting on bylaws which would presage RN-AIM becoming the ANA constituent for Michigan, a report from Board President, Susan Meeker, and other items of business for the organization. Plan now to attend. The brochure for the Conference and Assembly will be out shortly. We encourage you also to consider providing a scholarship for a student to attend. Last year, 16 students received scholarships from generous members.

## How Did You Celebrate Nurses’ Day and Week?

I hope you all celebrated Nurses’ Day and Week and that you were celebrated by your colleagues. I celebrated a good portion of Nurses’ Week in Big Sky, Montana, with my family, but all along the way and even at the small clinic in Big Sky where we stopped to ask directions, there was evidence that nurses are cherished as valued members of the health care team. I hope your celebrations were as grand as mine and I congratulate you on your commitment to your patients/clients and your chosen profession. Every day should be nurses’ day.

Katherine Sebelius, US Secretary of HHS, praised nurses’ contributions in a statement issued for National Nurses Week in bringing “commitment, leadership and vision” to the health care system, and recognized the many different roles that nurses play. She continued...“I want to thank nurses all over the country for the critical work they do on the front lines of health care. Working together, we will bring better care and better health to all Americans.”

## ANA Update

For those of you who don't receive e-mail from RN-AIM (I am always trying to make sure that all members receive items, but some of you still have addresses that return "undeliverable" to the website), I am including the update that was sent to members shortly after the Board retreat on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Things are moving rapidly and by July 23 you will receive a copy of the recommended additions to the bylaws to address becoming the ANA constituent for Michigan. We will vote on the bylaws at the Annual Assembly and if the vote is positive, this information will be forwarded to ANA and their Board will vote on accepting RN-AIM as the Michigan constituent in October 2011. If this vote is positive, which we anticipate, RN-AIM will be seated as the Michigan constituent at the June 2012 meeting.

*Following is the update that was sent previously:*

### **IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING THE RN-AIM/ANA DISCUSSIONS**

As you are already aware, if you have been reading the News and Musings or visiting the website, RN-AIM has been involved for several months with staff from the American Nurses Association Constituent Relations regarding the potential for RN-AIM to become the ANA Constituent for Michigan. Previous updates have identified the individuals who are functioning as the Steering Committee for this process.

The ANA Board has accepted our request to become the constituent in concept, and is eager to have RN-AIM as the Michigan Constituent.

The RN-AIM Steering Committee, with the able assistance of Phyllis Brenner and Donna Craig from the RN-AIM Bylaws Committee, have reviewed the modifications suggested by ANA to our current bylaws, most of which the Committee feels are appropriate and a few where they have recommended keeping the existing language already in our Bylaws. The major issue raised by ANA was that students would not be regular members of the merged organization, since only registered nurses are eligible for membership in ANA, but that students are welcomed to the organization and invited to participate actively. The Steering Committee has suggested that students be identified as Associate members with access to RN-AIM materials and activities as well as networking opportunities.

In accordance with the bylaws, all current members will receive a copy of the proposed Bylaw changes in late July. The voting will take place at the Annual Assembly; mail and e-mail ballots will also be accepted.

If RN-AIM votes to become the ANA Constituent for Michigan, subject to the action of the ANA Board at its October meeting, ANA dues will be phased in over time and additional payment options will be available including monthly direct withdrawal, which RN-AIM members have suggested in the past. Online membership application and renewal will also be available. The combined membership cost for RN-AIM and ANA will be significantly less than dues previously paid to MNA while it served as the constituent.

ANA is in the process of sending a packet of member benefits, which will be shared with all RN-AIM members over the next few months. We encourage each of you to share this information with colleagues and students. This is a very significant step in RN-AIM becoming the premier nursing organization in Michigan and we encourage you to take an active role in the review of materials from ANA regarding member benefits and the suggested Bylaw changes and join us at the Assembly for this important vote.

We will continue to provide you with updates on this process and be pleased to answer whatever questions and concerns you might have about the alliance that is proposed.

ANA will be contacting all current members who reside in Michigan to make them aware that this alliance is in process and have indicated that all individuals from Michigan who are current members of ANA will become members of the Constituent organization. We will keep our current name and logo, as addressed previously, and will add language regarding RN-AIM as the ANA Constituent for Michigan if the vote at Assembly is in favor of this very significant decision.

## Funding the RN-AIM Dorothea Milbrandt Foundation

Recently, a letter was sent to all the life members of RN-AIM thanking them for their support of the fledgling organization and their commitment to the establishment of a professional organization focused on evidence-based practice and lifelong learning. The letter also included a request for support for the development of a RN-AIM foundation named for Dorothea Milbrandt, the driving force behind the establishment of RN-AIM. The foundation needs a corpus of \$10,000 in order to join a Community Foundation and this will allow RN-AIM to provide scholarship funds for students at all levels of study and grants for research as it matures. At the April 29<sup>th</sup> Board retreat, Joyce Kowatch, Board member and Public Policy Council Chair, issued a challenge to Board members to contribute to the foundation

development and encourage their regional membership to do the same. Her comment at the Board was that Region 3 would provide more support than the other regions. I believe her comment was "Our Region is better than yours," but don't quote her or me on that.

Regardless, we are asking each RN-AIM member to make a contribution to the development of the foundation, whatever their means might allow. Not surprisingly, Dorothea made the first contribution herself and has been an important supporter of RN-AIM from day one. Please join her so we can make this important step toward being able to share and support our student and professional colleagues in their studies.

**"My team is better than your team!"**

That's what I said to Jane Miller of Region 2. I opened my big mouth, now I must open my wallet. Here is the challenge to all regions: **Region 3 can out donate any other region!**

We need \$10,000.00 dollars to start our RN-AIM Foundation. We are **a bit short** of that as you can guess, so let's see which regional group can give the most.

The check is in the mail, Mary.... Joyce Kowatch



## Nursing Update: AARP Solutions Forum Nursing's Impact on Health in Rural America

Myrna Holland from Region 2 shared this item that may be of interest to many of the members of RN-AIM. On June 13, 2011 from 9:00-11:30 am, Eastern time, AARP in collaboration with the National Forum on Advancing Health in Rural America and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will host an AARP Solutions Forum on this issue. Since much of Michigan is rural, this should be an important webcast to attend. The Forum will convene policy experts, thought leaders and key stakeholders in a discussion on how to improve rural health care, since the shortage of providers limits access to a variety of services that would help to improve the health of rural citizens. You are encouraged to register early and join the webcast at: <http://thefutureofnursing.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u+edc700e0a7251d1d647a3bf71&id+f202ad4426&e+e0410626cc>.

An archived version of the webcast will be posted for viewing any time after June 13, 2011, at <http://championnursing.org/aarp-solutions-forum> or at the address listed above.

### How Goes the ACA Lawsuit and Debates?

Three judges from the US Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, recently heard arguments regarding the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act provision requiring mandatory insurance coverage for all citizens. The panel contested the right of the State of Virginia to file a lawsuit against the law, and questioned an argument raised by Liberty University alleging that health care coverage cannot be regulated under the Constitution's Commerce Clause. Read the entire article at: [www.wallstreetjournal.com](http://www.wallstreetjournal.com).

Meanwhile, Mitt Romney aims to repeal and replace the health care law, which is based on legislation he signed while Governor of Massachusetts, and which he now states should be repealed to allow state "to lower costs and empower states to craft their own health care solutions and make health care more like a consumer market and less like a government program."

Stay tuned, this should be an interesting campaign topic.

### *And the Musing...*

*Nurses' Day and Week give us an opportunity to take the spotlight and enjoy the compliments from our friends and colleagues. But we need to be more in the forefront of the decision-making activity in regard to how health care is provided and how much nurses contribute to the health of patients and clients wherever they receive our services. We are the largest group of professionals, and I would contend the most knowledgeable about the needs of our patients and clients. We see them more often and for longer periods of time and most importantly we talk with them, not to them. We help them solve problems and address health issues rather than just writing a prescription or telling them what to do...whether it fits their lifestyle or not. Nurses are there when needed, with compassion and commitment to ensure that the individuals we care for receive the best we have to offer.*