

CALL FOR POSTER ABSTRACTS – DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Research and Evidence-Based Council has extended the deadline for the submission of poster abstracts to July 1, 2011. The Council currently has 12 submissions, but welcomes up to 10-12 more. All the guidelines you need to develop your abstract and your presentation—should the Council choose your abstract for presentation—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 also found on the same page. Go to: <http://www.rn-aim.org/conference.php>

Joining ANA...What's In It for US?

At the RN-AIM Annual Conference and Assembly, we will be considering the opportunity to submit bylaw amendments and a request for RN-AIM to become the new constituent for Michigan with the American Nurses Association. As you may be aware, the Michigan Nurses Association ended its affiliation with ANA last year and, at that time, RN-AIM began a conversation with ANA regarding the possibility of becoming the new constituent member association for Michigan. Those conversations have been and remain very positive and ANA is eager to present our organization to their Board for consideration at their October meeting.

Becoming the ANA affiliate for Michigan allows us to obtain a professional status as the professional organization for all nurses in Michigan and would also afford current members of ANA to become RN-AIM members. There are considerations of course and this discussion is to address what the Board feels are the positive aspects of this important vote.

First and foremost, ANA is nurses working for nurses and the nursing profession. They represent members in important issues being addressed at the national level and currently are very involved in the discussions regarding the Affordable Care Act and how nurses can make major contributions to improving the quality and safety of health care in the US. They advocate for safe staffing levels, addressing the many concerns related to the nursing shortage. They understand that nurses face occupational, environmental, health and safety hazards in work

settings and advocate for practices that protect the health and safety of nurses.

ANA is concerned about *your* practice, *your* right, *your* patients and the ethical and professional obligations of practicing as a nurse. They developed the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses in 1950, amending it in 2001 to reflect the changing nature of health care delivery. ANA provides members with a myriad of information about national and state trends in health care and nursing. Four sources of timely information provided to each ANA member including:

- NurseingWorld.org – a website focused on offering quick access to nursing news, healthcare headlines, ANA activities and services and link to other nursing sites.
- *The American Nurse* – A bi-monthly newspaper that provides up-to-date health care news, ANA activities, nursing stories, new products and editorials.
- *American Nurse Today* – A bi-monthly journal with cutting edge article and information for use in your daily practice. A fully interactive version can be found on the MembersOnly portion of the ANA website, with exclusive bonus content each month.
- *ANA Smarter Brief* – this is my favorite...a daily e-newsletter that includes brief synopses of key stories affecting nursing and healthcare from across the country. Members may sign up to receive this newsletter via the MembersOnly portion of the website.

But that's not nearly all you have access to as a member. ANA provides continuing education through www.Nursebooks.org and online education through the RN-CE program. Members may choose from over 25 offerings that are free to members, and additional CEs are available at a discounted rate.

Online learning includes:

- ✓ Mosby's Nursing Consult – ANA Edition – leading nursing resources that provide evidence-based material for clinical decision-making, education and staff development,
- ✓ ANA Online Nursing Degree Programs – visit www.nursingworld.org for details
- ✓ The American Nurses Credentialing Center and ANA certifies registered nurses and accredits organizations based on ANA standards of nursing practice, nursing services and continuing education.
- ✓ Online Professional Communities, including ANA Nurse Space and the ANA Nurse's Career Center

And still more...

- ✓ The ANA Wireless Center – free phones and accessories
- ✓ ANA Cash Rewards Mall – earn cash back for online purchases at participating retailers
- ✓ Whirlpool Discount Program – substantial savings on products for kitchen, laundry room, garage and home through the VIPLINK Program from the Whirlpool Corp.
- ✓ Nationwide Auto Insurance
- ✓ Professional Liability Insurance through the Marsh Insurance Plans and the NEBCO Insurance Plans
- ✓ A Platinum MasterCard
- ✓ Travel discounts including Global Volunteers Program, Auto rental discounts and Elite Island Resorts Caribbean
- ✓ 15% savings at Choice Hotels and 20% discount at Wyndham Hotel Group
- ✓ Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin – special discounts for ANA members

And what about cost to current RN-AIM members?

If you are a current member of ANA as an individual, the cost per year is \$183.00 or \$15.75 per month if you chose deduction from your checking account.

If RN-AIM chooses to request to become the ANA constituent for Michigan, the dues for the ANA portion of the membership will be \$134.00, again with the option of monthly deductions from checking. The rate for retired members is \$33.50 and the RN-Student rate is \$67.00. The RN-AIM rates of \$120.00 for regular members and \$60.00 for retired members would remain the same. So

Life members of RN-AIM would pay only ANA dues of \$134.00, regular members would pay a total of \$254.00, retired members would pay \$99.50 and RNs who are currently students would pay \$187.00.

ANA has no direct undergraduate members, since each member must already be a registered nurse to join, but RN-AIM would retain its commitment to student nurses, welcoming them to the combined organization as Student Associates, who would pay \$25.00 per year while undergraduate students.

Michigan SNAP -- Double Up Food Bucks – June 1 – October 30, 2011

The Fair Food Network's Double Up Food Bucks program provides families receiving food assistance benefits -- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) -- with the means to purchase more Michigan-grown fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets. The program aims to increase the consumption of healthy food in low-income communities while also creating new sales opportunities for Michigan growers. <http://www.doubleupfoodbucks.org/>

The complete list, maps and hours of participating Michigan's farmer markets can be found at: <http://www.doubleupfoodbucks.org/markets> there's also a video, How-it-works at: <http://www.doubleupfoodbucks.org/how-it-works>

Phyllis Brenner, PhD, RN, Research and Evidence-Based Practice Council Representative to the Board of Directors and RN-AIM Bylaws Committee member provides the following support for RN-AIM to become the ANA constituent member association for Michigan.

As RN-AIM members are aware, your Board of Directors has been exploring becoming the constituent member association (CMA) of the American Nurses Association. As a matter of fact, the Board is in the process of finalizing recommended changes to the RN-AIM Bylaws for members' consideration and vote at the annual assembly in September. For those of you who may be relatively new to nursing, ANA is a known and respected professional organization in Silver Springs, MD, right in the hubbub of the Washington, DC scene. Just as RN-AIM is the professional organization in Michigan for every registered nurse, the "American Nurses Association (ANA) is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent member nurses associations and its organizational affiliates"

(<http://nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/AboutANA.aspx>

<<http://nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/AboutANA.aspx>>). Just as RN-AIM's vision is "to promote professional excellence in nursing in Michigan" (<http://rn-aim.org/> <<http://rn-aim.org/>>), the "ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public"

(<http://nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/AboutANA.aspx>

<<http://nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/AboutANA.aspx>>). Need we say more? The RN-AIM Board of Directors recommends that we join forces with ANA so that nurses in Michigan again have a voice and vote in creating national policy and practices.

In the current era of rapid and significant health care changes, there is the probability of fundamental shifts in how and where we as nurses practice. Major initiatives such as those outlined in the Carnegie report on Educating Nurses and the IOM report, The Future of Nursing, will undoubtedly have a positive effect on the profession and on the health and quality of care received by our clients. However, if Michigan nurses do not have a formal affiliation with ANA and our voice as a CMA is not at the national discussion and decision tables, nursing practice, research, and education may be defined by powers and opinions of others outside of the state or the profession.

ANA is a resource for networking and collaboration and provides opportunities for helping to frame and develop the agendas for nursing policy, research, and practice initiatives. ANA's timely communications to CMA members help to educate and provide details of issues, trends, and policies impacting or potentially impacting on nursing practice, research, and education.

The Board of RN-AIM is pleased to be able to recommend that RN-AIM, as the state of Michigan's organization for all professional nurses become the state of Michigan's CMA for the state of Michigan. Stay tuned as the proposed bylaws changes will be forthcoming in late July.

Looking forward to seeing all at the Annual Assembly as we consider a historic developmental milestone for RN-AIM,

And the Musing...

While the dispute between ANA and MNA was in process, we have waited for five years to have the opportunity to become the new ANA constituent for Michigan. The reception of ANA staff to our request for information has been extremely positive, and they are eager to again have a professional nursing organization to represent Michigan in the national organization.

That nursing organization should be RN-AIM, since we welcome all nurses in the state as members as well as maintaining positive and committed relationships with student nurses and their organizations. We are the organization focused on the professional development and life-long learning needs of nurses and nursing students, and our goals reflect those espoused by the American Nurses Association.

I hope your vote at the Annual Assembly will be in favor of this all-important decision to become the new Michigan constituent member association of ANA.

Mary Scoblic, Editor