

Message from the Chair

by Marilou Shreve-Doffin, APN

Health care reform is a topic that is on everyone's mind. The Health Resources and Services Administration's Summit on the Future of Primary Care in Rural and Urban America was held in Washington D.C. this month. I was fortunate to be able to attend this conference with Julie Thibodaux, secretary of APN council, and Darlene Byrd, member at large for the APN Council. The main goal of this conference was to exchange ideas for addressing primary care workforce issues and discuss the future of primary care. Rural America was very well represented at this summit, there were many rural health clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and AHEC centers among the attendees.

Edward O'Neil, University of CA Director of Center for Health Professions stressed the need for new innovation in the ideas of how health care is delivered. He challenged us to really look at the model used to deliver health care and evaluate if we are delivering the best quality of health care in using that model. The "Medical Home Model" or Health Care Home was an example of how a team approach to health care is one approach to providing better quality of health. This point was underscored by Lisa Sommer, Senior Policy Fellow; American Nurses Association, who pointed out that the holistic approach of nursing makes APNs a logical choice as primary care providers to lead health homes. She stressed that APNs need to be recognized nationally as primary care providers. She emphasized that APNs get lost in current data collection because of the wording in data collection. The word "physician" is used instead of "provider" causing APNs to be the unknown provider.

As APNs we must fully know our scope of practice and role, we must be able to articulate that to those individuals that do not understand what we are educated and competent to do. When educating

continued on page 2

2009 Nurse In Washington Internship

by Julie Thibodaux, APN, CPNP

As I reflect on my experience of the 2009 Nurse In Washington Internship, I am so appreciative for the opportunity provided by the scholarship. The investment by the Nursing Organization Alliance and Elsevier/Saunders in NIWI has, and will continue to have, a positive impact on health policy and nursing leadership at all levels. I was thrilled to be awarded the full scholarship for 2009.

The NIWI conference taps into the same knowledge and skill set that expert nurses use every day in patient advocacy and leadership. Listening to and interacting with the legislative assistants and the nurse health policy experts was an invaluable experience. Having other nurses tell their lived experience of being advocates at the grassroots level was a highlight for me. It was encouraging to hear about the experience of other nurses that have successfully navigated through and influenced health policy at the local, regional and national level. I was inspired and reassured that although the challenges and obstacles may be great, that the efforts of a few dedicated professionals can have a profound and far-reaching effect.

My goals for attending this conference included gaining a better understanding of the federal legislative process, networking with nurse health policy experts, and obtaining ideas for grassroots advocacy. The Nurse in Washington Internship met and exceeded all of my expectations. The readings and conference calls on the legislative and budget process were very timely in light of the discussions on health care reform this year. Meeting and exchanging ideas and challenges with nursing leaders from other states provided me with creative solutions to take back to my state. The information I obtained during NIWI has already proven beneficial. As a result of the contacts made during the internship, our APN Council Chair, Marilou Shreve-Doffin was invited to Washington DC in May to sit on a panel for congressional staffers, to discuss the APN role in the medical home models.

I would highly recommend this conference to any nurse interested in health policy, legislation and patient advocacy. Again, it was an honor and a privilege to be the 2009 NIWI scholarship recipient.

Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics Seminar Saturday, September 19, 2009 8:30-3:30

UAMS College of Public Health, Little Rock



Co-sponsored by the Arkansas Nurses Association and the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to provide up-to-date drug therapies and research on specific disease states and pharmacologic approaches to treatment.

This seminar will fulfill the new requirement for APNs with prescriptive authority to obtain

5 contact hours of advanced pharmacotherapeutic continuing education in the APN's area of certification each biennium prior to licensure renewal.

It is also appropriate for nurses in every setting and role who desire to advance their knowledge of drug therapy.

Flyer and registration form can be downloaded from

www.arna.org/SNAS/AR/APN/index.htm

ARNA 96th Annual Convention October 29-31, 2009

Doubletree Hotel/State Convention Center - Little Rock

www.arna.org

Seeking Nominations: APN Council Member-at-Large

- Must be full member of ARNA and ANA
- Must be an APN
- Must be willing to actively participate in APN Council
- Responsibilities - assist the chair in carrying out the responsibilities of the council and assume the responsibilities of the chair in the absence of the chair and the secretary/treasurer (approx.8 hours per month)

Please contact the ARNA office at (501) 244-2363 for a biographical data form/statement and a consent-to-serve form. Deadline to return to ARNA is Sept 30, 2009.

Election ballots will be sent to council members in the fall

Message from the chair - continued from page 1

legislators we must avoid trigger words like collaboration, supervision, and independent practice. This education needs to be done at the local, state and national level. Health care needs to have change occur so that all Americans and Arkansans are able to receive access to quality care. As APNs it is our responsibility to build working relationships with all health care professionals, state and national legislators, and our communities in order to provide the best quality of care for our patients.

Health Policy Update

by Linda McIntosh, APN,
Health Policy Comm. Co-Chair

Although, the Health Policy Committee has taken a break from conference calls this summer after a busy 2009 legislative session; we have been *very* busy. We are proud to announce that we hired a new lobbyist Graham Catlett. He has been the current lobbyist for Arkansas CRNAs. We were able to negotiate with the Arkansas School Nurses Association and he will be representing all three organizations in the future. Our goal is to work with all nursing organizations in the state of Arkansas and become one united voice. If you know of any other nursing organizations in Arkansas we want them to join us. Contact us.

We have established operational guidelines for the ARNA lobbyist. We met with Graham Catlett and his government relations assistant Pipere Brettell and developed a cohesive plan to move the professional issues of nursing forward in the next legislative session.

We have outlined issues that need to be addressed and completed before our next session. We are beginning to work on those issues by scheduling Legislative Update 2009 presentations throughout the state. We want to come to your next district meeting. Contact Margo Bushmaier margo-50@sbcglobal.net or Linda McIntosh mcintosh@hughes.net for information on how to schedule your update.

The APN executive council board and ARNA Health Policy co-chairs met for a strategic planning session in Russellville, AR on July 11, 2009 and came up with a plan to move APN issues forward in Arkansas. The Health Policy Co-chairs then met with Pipere Brettell and are in the process of identifying the key issues and how to obtain the goals of the APN council and ARNA health policy. We will be working on all these issues with the health policy committee when we resume our conference calls in September.

AR Medicaid Enrolling

Adult, Psych and Acute Care APNs

In July 2009, Arkansas Medicaid began to enroll APNs from all specialties – finally! Medicaid violated AR law by discriminating against some specialties but did not move forward with State Plan Amendment changes until APNs obtained legal counsel (at their own expense) to pursue the issue. We owe many thanks to those who contributed both financially and with their time and efforts. Particular thanks go to Joan McLean ANP, Jody Purifoy ACNP, Audra Arant ACNP, Dezra Eichhorn Psych NP, Melanie Sterling Psych CNS and Lis Hoffman Psych CNS. Go to www.medicaid.state.ar.us for provider enrollment applications. You may submit bills for services rendered since August 1, 2008.

The Arkansas State Board of Nursing's website www.arsbn.org has many resources available for APNs under the "Advanced Practice" link including the latest Prescriptive Protocol and Quality Assurance Guidelines and forms for Collaborative Practice Agreements. Check out Chapter 4 under the "Rules" link for the rules governing APNs practice. The "Continuing Education" link has info on the CE requirements for licensure.

Our first conference call will be Tuesday, Sept 15, 2009 at 6:30pm. **CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER IS 712-432-0080 Access Code is 751511#.** Mark your calendars. Join us with your ideas and suggestions and willingness to go to work for health policy in Arkansas.

We have contacted nurses via the list serve who want to be part of ANA's National Grassstops initiative on the national health care reform. If you are willing to contact your representatives, senators and congressmen on key issues and you want to be informed of the current legislative issues that will affect your career and profession, please sign up for the list serves. If you have not already done so, *or if you have changed to a new email address*, please sign up today for these free email listserves. To subscribe send an email (from preferred email account) to:

AR-APN-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

(for the APN listserve) and

ArkansasNurses-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
(for the Arkansas Nurses Information Listserve)

Contact your legislators! Switchboard numbers:

House of Representatives (501) 682-6211

Senate switchboard (501) 682-2902

All APNs are invited to join the APN Conference Call on the 1st Tuesday of every month 6:30pm.

For more info: **Marilou Shreve-Doffin - Chair** mldoffin@rainbowpediatric.net 479-422-5250

Julie Thibodaux - Secretary/Treasurer jthibodaux@sbcglobal.net 479-633-4397

Darlene Byrd - Member-at-Large dbyrd@apn-healthcare.com

Arkansas Nurses Association
Advanced Practice Council
1123 South University, Suite 1015
Little Rock, AR 72204

