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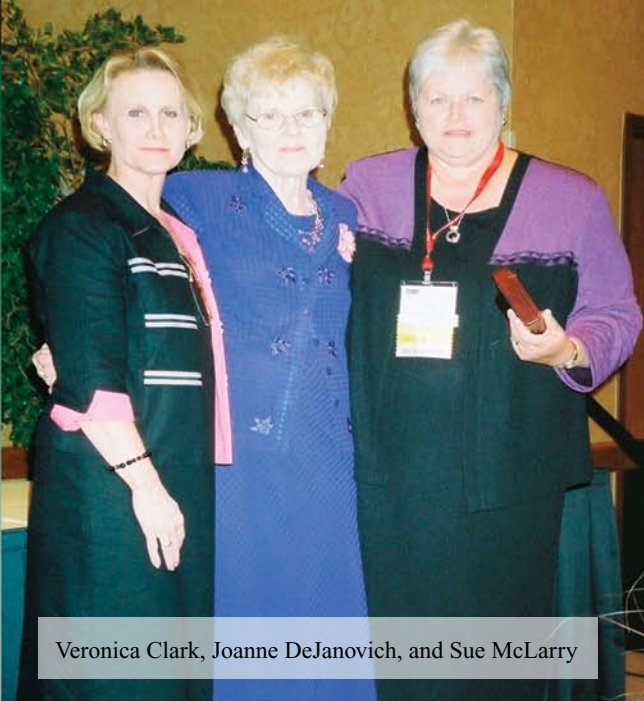
Sue McLarry and Sandra Prater



Sue McLarry and Faith Fields



Sue and David McLarry



Veronica Clark, Joanne DeJanovich, and Sue McLarry



Sue McLarry, Leslie Pafford, and Art Murphy

Nursing: A Profession and a Passion
2007 Convention

Nurses Honored at the 2007 ARNA Awards Banquet

Several nurses were honored at the 2007 ARNA Awards Banquet during the ARNA Convention in Rogers, Arkansas. The Hall of Fame Award is awarded to a nurse who has made a significant contribution to the nursing profession throughout his/her career. It is ARNA's highest award. The honorees for 2007 were Joyce McConaughy, EdD, RN and Linda Murphey, MN, RN.

Dr. Joyce McConaughy has taught at the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing at the University of Arkansas. She has over thirty years experience teaching at the associate and baccalaureate level and has significant experience in hospital nursing. Dr. McConaughy is also a decorated member of the Army Nurse Corps Reserve and has served all over the world in that role. She also has been a member of ARNA's board of directors and executive committee and continues to be an active participant in her district's activities.

Mrs. Linda Murphey was honored posthumously for her work as the Executive Director of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. During her tenure, ASBN and ARNA developed a close relationship as each organization worked together on common goals for the good of Arkansans. Mrs. Murphey earned her nursing degrees from Northwestern Louisiana State and Emory University in Atlanta. She was also a nurse educator. Mrs. Murphey passed away earlier this year and her husband, Art Murphey, and daughter, Leslie Pafford, accepted the award on her behalf.

The Nurse of the Year Award is presented to a nurse who has made a significant contribution to nursing and ARNA during the previous year. This year's recipient was State Representative **Sandra Prater**, RN. Representative Prater is one of two nurses in the state legislature. She has been an advocate for nursing and during the last session, HB 2300 was presented which would require that the medical board oversee advanced practice nurses. After Representative Prater called a point of order, the Rules Committee determined that the bill was out of order. Because of her knowledge of the rules, process, and scope of practice, Representative Prater ensured that APNs would practice under the Board of Nursing.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Faith Fields**, MSN, RN and **Patricia Thompson**, EdD, RN, FAAN. Dr. Thompson is the former Associate Dean for Academic Programs for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She was most recently named as the Chief Executive Officer of Sigma Theta Tau International effective November 8, 2007. She has served in several leadership roles within Sigma Theta Tau, including President. As an educator, she has authored grants involving access to nursing programs and curriculum development for web-based programs for BSN completion. Accepting Dr. Thompson's award was Patricia Dufrene.

Faith Fields, MSN, RN, is the Executive Director of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and was elected President of the National Council of the State Boards of Nursing in 2006. As such, she travels internationally representing the U.S. and its territories on the regulation of nursing practice. Although her primary concern is to protect the public through regulation, she has been a supporter of nurses through her involvement with ARNA and her interest in their continued development.

The Outstanding District Presidents Award was presented to District 9 President **Lela Shipman** and District 12 President **Shannon Finley**. Both were nominated by their districts for their consistent leadership in promoting nursing at the district level through networking, meetings, and other professional opportunities. Both nurses recognized their district members for their active involvement in the association. "They make my job easy," said Ms. Shipman. Ms. Finley agreed.

The Outstanding District Member Award was presented to **Wanda Thorp**, RN, from District 12 by Shannon Finley. Although she is retired, she continues to be interested in nurses and nursing issues. She has not missed a district meeting in years.

Sue McLarry also honored Administrative Assistant **Veronica Clark** and ARNA CSO **Joanne Dejanovich** with the President's Award for their dedication to ARNA and the nursing profession. Because of their tireless efforts, ARNA has become a stronger association for Arkansas nurses through legislative involvement, leadership development, program development, and sound fiscal policies.

The Arkansas Nurses Association's Advanced Practice Council (APC) also recognized outstanding professional leaders who supported and advocated for nurses practicing in an advanced role. **Lori Ellis**, APN, Searcy, AR, was presented with the Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year Award, for her leadership in developing and sustaining a model for the APN practice role through the establishment of the West Arch Internal Medicine Clinic in Searcy. **David Beck**, MD, Medical Director of Community Clinic, St. Francis House, Springdale, received the Collaborative Physician of the Year Award, for his advocacy for the advanced practice nursing role. Representative **Sandra Prater**, RN, was also recognized by the APN Council, and was awarded the APN Advocate of the Year Award for her commitment to and support of APNs.

Congratulations to all recipients!



Front Row (L to R): Sandra Prater, Leslie Pafford, Art Murphey, Joyce McConaughy, Wanda Thorp, Shannon Finley; Back row (L to R): Faith Fields, Patricia Dufrene, Lela Shipman