The Newsletter of the American Radiological Nurses Association

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- Dr. Steve Allen speaks at NOAN conference!

The Editor's Desk

It seems as though Summer only just started and soon it will be over. With Summer's end comes thoughts of Thanksgiving dinners and the bustle of Christmas shopping. There is one other thing to think about this Fall, namely the Certified Radiology Registered Nurse (C.R.R.N.) credentials exam. The first exam is just around the corner (see the accompanying article), and all of us should be preparing for it.

Studying for an exam is a sobering thought, given the pressure of our jobs and the fact that a substantial number of us have been out of school for, well let's say an "extended period" of time. This doesn't even take into account our private lives (assuming a few of us still have one)! Never-the-less, preparing for, and passing this exam will show our colleagues, hospital support staff and administrators, and radiologists that we have the desire and the knowledge to perform our jobs in a superior fashion. We should be proud of our talents and experience, and becoming credentialed is an excellent way to show it.

I strongly urge everyone to prepare for and take this exam. The credentials committee has worked long and hard to make it possible to become a C.R.R.N., and the best way to show them that we appreciate their effort is to take and pass the exam. Enuff said?

I hope that everyone had (or is having) a wonderful Summer. Remember, the deadline for submitting items for the Fall issue is October 3rd. Thanks to all of you who used E-mail to send information to me. It helps tremendously (I don't have to re-type the submissions). For those of you who may have forgotten, my E-mail address is RSTEEL@Adventinc.Com.

Happy studying!

Bob Steel

Certification

Certification Examination for Radiology Nursing in Imaging, Interventional and Therapeutic environments, by Patty Merrick.

Yes and what a title! Well folks, it's soon to be a reality. Coming to 20-30 sites nationwide on Saturday February 21, 1998—the certification examination of the century—OURS!

The C.R.R.N. (Certified Radiological Registered Nurse) certification committee met in New York on May 3-4, 1997, where an intensive agenda was covered. A draft examination outline was written, a handbook for potential applicants was begun and dates were set for item review sessions. The committee members (Dixon Johnson, Chairperson, Patty Merrick, Donna Ayotte and Joann Po) are educationally, geographically and hospital-sized diverse. They hail from California, Connecticut, Michigan and Texas, with a Board Liaison (JoAnn Stubblebine) from North Carolina.

Members interested in submitting questions, please call the ARNA office and request an "item-writers package". Appropriate bibs (bibliographies), are needed to show the scientific basis of our practice.

For further information contact the ARNA office at (603) 571-9072 or Professional Testing Corporation 1211 Avenue of the Americas, 15th floor New York, New York, 10036.

Phone (212) 852-0400 or Fax (212) 852-0414.
Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee would like to report two important announcements:

1. "Auction 96" was a huge success, with our total dollar intake greater than $2,000! A most impressive amount, given that we had one less day than last year and fewer nurses in attendance at the ARNA Annual Meeting. The bidding was high-spirited and the donations were wonderfully varied. A good time was had by all! The distribution of these moneys is determined by the Executive Council.

2. One of the donations to the Auction is now property of the ARNA Library. Mosby-Yearbook donated a three part video set "Outstanding Nurse Researchers and their Work". This $450 set was produced by the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. With ARNA encouraging its members to become involved in Nursing research projects, this is an invaluable resource to us all. Contact the ARNA office for details on how to borrow this timely item.

Educational Update

On April 11, 1997, Maurita Schiedling, RN (Manchester Mem. Hosp.), attended the NEMICE meeting in Boston, MA. This diverse group of meeting planners allowed for a great networking opportunity.

She learned about MPI, Meeting Professionals International. They are committed to educational leadership providing members with consistently high levels of educational programs, recognition, and networking opportunities.

There are 575 members in New England. A Certified Meeting Professional study course technology seminar, and resource directory which lists 14,000 members worldwide is also available. ARNA becoming a member of MPI would be beneficial to our future educational endeavors.

Core Curriculum Update

It's another milestone for the ARNA Core Curriculum!! The first chapter (MRI) has gone out for peer review. Heartfelt thanks to the chapter reviewers who said "Yes, I'd love to help!", and to reviewers of chapters yet to come.

Since the last update, the editors have received 2 more chapters, making a total of 15 out of 20 chapters that are in various stages of the editing process.

Editing takes many hours of volunteer time and dedication, so if you know one of the 50+ ARNA members, MD's or technologists who are working on this project, tell them how much you appreciate their efforts!!

We knew it would be a big undertaking when we started, but most of us didn't realize how big!

The editors promise to keep you updated on the progress being made.

Advanced Practice Legislation

Illinois nurses are facing legislation that will significantly impact their careers and the quality of care they provide to citizens of that state. Specifically, Advanced Practice RN's (APRNs) will be affected. Illinois does not recognize APRN's in nursing law, does not permit prescriptive authority and if the proposal succeeds, it will be the first state to permit a medical society to write a professional act for nurses.

Scholarship Winners

The Scholarship Committee and ARNA are delighted to announce the recipients for the 1996 awards. The Charlotte Godwin Award was won by Dana Ross, RN, BSN, (CT), and the Dorothy R. Budnek Memorial Scholarship was won by Michelle Bilinski, RN, BSN, (DE).

The Scholarship Committee was thrilled with the pool of applications. Not only did they receive the greatest response in the history of these awards, but those that applied were all highly qualified, very professional and dedicated Radiology nurses.

The competition was intense, so "Hats off to the winners"!

RN NEWS

RN NEWS is published quarterly to keep ARNA members better informed.

Send submissions and comments to:
Bob Steel RN, AS
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RSTEELE@ADVENTINC.COM
Nurse Practitioners

The Growing Solution in Health Care Delivery;

In this age of managed care, policymakers look to the nurse practitioner (NP) to meet the need for quality, accessible health care. NPs are providers of primary and preventative care. They perform physical exams, diagnose and treat common acute illnesses and injuries, provide immunizations and order and interpret lab results and x-rays. In the acute care setting, they perform invasive therapeutic procedures including the insertion and removal of arterial lines and pulmonary artery catheters.

Financially speaking, NPs earn $43,000-$50,000. Those in independent practice can be reimbursed by Medicare, Medicaid or other third parties. They are rated higher in patient satisfaction surveys and provide quality care at affordable prices.

Most NPs are masters-prepared and a smaller number receive a certificate which requires up to two years of additional training. The Nurse Education Act (NEA) is a primary source of federal funding for nursing higher education and also provides money which funds nursing-school operated nursing centers. Ironically, Medicare, the largest source of federal funding for nursing education, currently doesn’t support training for NPs. Instead, it uses 70% of Medicare dollars for nursing education to fund hospital diploma programs. The irony lies in the fact that diploma education is no longer needed in most areas. The wave of the future is for education of advanced practice nurses.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), along with other nursing organizations has proposed a change to these practices whereby money would be available for advanced clinical education for nurses, physicians and other health professionals. This move would give health care organizations an incentive — reimbursement — to provide on-site training for advanced practice nursing students.

Board Update

The ARNA Board of Directors met June 7-8, 1997 at the Executive Offices in Oak Brook, Illinois:

• The ARNA standards have been submitted to the ANA Congress of Nursing for consideration of publication along with the request for recognition of ARNA as a Specialty Nursing Organization. Status to be followed-up.

• ARNA has created a separate fund raising foundation with its own Board of Directors and by-laws. Dr. John Lang of St. Louis, MO. has agreed to chair the Foundation Board. J.D. Mace of Columbus, Ohio and Martha Fasciano of Berkeley Heights, NJ have agreed to serve on the Board.

• Kathleen Donett and JoAnn Stubblebine will participate in a panel discussion as the ARNA-sponsored speakers at the ARNA meeting in Minn. MN, in August.

• The Annual Educational and Business Meeting will be Nov. 30-Dec. 3 at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza. An 8-hour PICC course by Lutheran Medical will be offered for an additional $40 fee. This will be the didactic portion and advance registration is required. Registration is limited to 35 individuals.

• The Strategic Plan was reviewed and updating has begun.

ASRT Luncheon

On June 22, 1997 Dana Ross RN (New England Chapter-NEC ARNA) along with 15 representatives from every Radiology sub-specialty, attended a luncheon held during the 69th Annual ASRT Conference in Providence, RI. Wanda C. Teasley, ASRT President, presided. The meeting was informal, and it’s purpose was to begin networking. Interestingly enough, the attendees have all visited the credentialing examination issue.

Each representative gave a synopsis of their current projects, and based on what was discussed, ARNA is on the right track. The overall consensus of the group was that nursing and technology groups need to work together in order to survive healthcare’s current roller-coaster ride.
Our Changing Workplace: Personal Strategies

Associated Sciences Program at RSNA 1997

Saturday, November 29, 1997, 10:15 am - 4:30 pm, McCormick Place North

Registration Information
Advance registration for the RSNA scientific assembly ends October 31. On-site registration begins at 12:00 noon on Saturday, November 29, at McCormick Place. RSNA shuttle bus service to McCormick Place will be available beginning at 10:00 am on Saturday. Advance registration is not required for the Saturday Workshop; however, to receive continuing education credit, you must register.

Advance registration information appears in the July issue of Radiology. Brochures are also available from your association or from the RSNA, 630/571-7862.

Registration for the RSNA scientific assembly includes registration for the Associated Sciences Workshop. A box lunch will be available for purchase to facilitate your attendance at the Workshop. These lunches must be purchased with your advance registration for the RSNA meeting. If you wish to purchase a box lunch, please check the appropriate box on the RSNA Advance Registration form and enclose your $11.50 payment.

If you would like a copy of the published Associated Sciences Proceedings, please call 630/571-7877.
Support Tools

Sharing of Documentation Tools at the Annual ARNA Meeting at the Holiday Inn, Mart Plaza, Chicago, Illinois, on Nov. 30-Dec 2. To make this event a success and help your fellow Radiology Nurses, please send your tools now. Suggested materials:
- Pre- and Post-procedure monitoring
- Patient teaching brochures
- Conscious sedation
- Discharge instructions
- Competencies
- Orientation manuals

Important: Include with your tools, your name, address, telephone number and institution.

Send to: Janet Johnson, RN 20332 S. Graceland Lane, Frankfort, IL 60423, or by fax: (815) 464-6463.

Tools received will be displayed for the attendees, who may choose from the sampling and contact the appropriate Radiology Nurse.

ASPMN Election

The American Society of Pain Management Nurses, an organization of professional nurses who provide pain management for patients, has recently elected their 1997-1998 Board of Directors.

For more information, contact the ASPMN National Office:
1550 S. Coastal Highway, Suite 201, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 or call (888) 34-ASPMN.

A Call for Help

Jeanne Maras, of Saint Vincent Health Center in Erie, PA, is looking for any policies or procedures to reference in order to comply with joint commission requirements with regard to assessment, observation, monitoring and follow-up of people who are admitted as outpatients and are undergoing invasive procedures such as percutaneous biopsies.

Another of her areas of concern is outpatients who are given medication (oral, IV, IM) for pain or anxiety and more specifically infants and children who receive medication such as chlortal hydrate.

Jeanne asks, "If we are required to follow the same standards as the rest of the hospital, how, with limited staff (in our case - two nurses) and the large volume of procedures, can we still be in compliance? How can we be consistent with the other areas of the hospital as JCAHO requires? Is there a fine line that separates what needs to be done in Radiology versus the rest of the hospital?"

Please send information to Jeanne Maras, Saint Vincent Health Center, 232 West 25th Street, Erie, PA 16544.

USF Meeting

San Francisco is a great town, and on May 9, 10, once again San Francisco did not let Jo Ann Stubblebine R.N. (President-Elect ARNA) down.

She had the pleasure of representing the ARNA Board of Directors at the annual education meeting of Interventional Nurses and Technologists sponsored by the University of San Francisco, a two-day conference packed full of exciting new seminars about Interventional Radiology.

Topics included patient care issues, anatomy and physiology, new techniques for catheter usage, and open sessions for Q & A. Vendor booths were also available.

ARNA and AVIR endorsed this program and Jo Ann was thrilled to be part of such a successful and worthwhile meeting.

2000 by 2000

Currently our organization has approximately 1500 members. ARNA's Membership Committee is promoting a Membership Drive to attract new members. The Drive will run from July 1, 1997 to November 1, 1997, and its goal is to have "2000 members by the year 2000".

Prizes will be awarded to the (2) ARNA members who sponsor the most new members and to (1) new member who is lucky enough to be chosen in a random drawing. The actual prizes will be revealed at a later date and will be awarded at the ARNA meeting in Chicago.

A Registration Brochure describing the meeting in Chicago will be mailed soon to ARNA members. Included in the packet is an ARNA application. Please feel free to photocopy this application and pass out as many as necessary.

If you are a current member who is encouraging another Radiology nurse to join ARNA, please make sure that your name is mentioned on the application as their "sponsor".
Diabetes Educators

Diabetes educators from across the country will convene in the mile-high city of Denver for the 24th Annual meeting of the American Association of Diabetes Educators. The event, entitled, “Diabetes Education—Mile-High Challenges, Mile-High Achievements,” will be held August 20–24 at the Colorado Convention Center.

“Health professionals require continuing education opportunities that build their repertoire of skills, add to their knowledge base and hone their ability to adapt to a changing environment,” notes AADE president Marilyn Graff, RN, CDE. “Practitioners, from every discipline, who assist patients with diabetes, will find the AADE Annual Meeting to be an extraordinarily valuable experience.”

Keynote speaker Frank Vinicor, MD, with the Centers for Disease Control, will discuss the “crisis” in diabetes – the inundation of newly-diagnosed cases of diabetes – and the possibilities of a National Diabetes Education Program. Other sessions will discuss issues including stress management, obesity, cultural diversity, managing exercise, alternative therapies, insulin pump therapy, foot care, visual impairment and much more.

Each year, the abundance of activities and opportunities attracts more and more health professionals. “This year’s program offers more hands-on workshops than ever and diverse concurrent sessions on issues relating to diabetes education and the role of the diabetes educator,” adds Graff.

Several industry partners, including Bayer Pharmaceuticals, Hoechst Marion Roussel, Janssen Pharmaceuticals Merck & Co. and Pfizer US Pharmaceuticals Group, are holding pre-conference educational programs. The exhibit floor will offer the most recently developed diabetes products including new and improved lancet technology, the newest meter designs and the latest oral medication for type II diabetes.

AADE is a multidisciplinary organization of more than 10,000 health professionals dedicated to promoting quality diabetes education for persons with diabetes and the professional development of its members.

BSN Program

Registered nurses throughout the United States can now pursue a BSN or MSN degree at a time and place of their own choosing. The Division of Nursing at California State University, Dominguez Hills has conducted NLN-accredited distance education degree programs for California nurses since 1981.

Building on the success of that experience, the BSN program was adapted to a national format in 1994. Now, the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program will be offered as a national program. The first option will be Nurse Educator, followed by Nurse Administrator, the Clinical Specialties of Gerontology and Parent-Child, and Family Nurse Practitioner.

Delivery of these national programs is facilitated by the technical support of JEC College Connection, a Denver-based vendor (formerly Mind/Extension University). Through electronic media and telecommunications — cable television, scrambled satellite, videotapes, computer conferencing, worldwide web, and e-mail conferencing, graduate students will need computer access to the Internet. The BSN program uses computer communications for e-mail and voice mail for discussion purposes, in addition to video classes. Both programs are very interactive and user-friendly.

Through judicious use of technology and the incorporation of adult learning principles, the BSN and MSN programs are very accessible, accommodating the many personal and professional obligations of busy nurses. The schedule is flexible, with courses divided into one and two-unit modules (mini-courses). Although the student graduates from CSU Dominguez Hills, there is no requirement for the student to come to the California campus.

Nurses who have a bachelor’s degree in nursing or another field and are interested in beginning graduate study in Fall, 1997, should contact the Division of Nursing now for more information.

For registration information or to clarify questions, call 1 (800) 777-MIND or e-mail to Kjohnston@dhxv20.csuch.edu

Information about the BSN completion program for RNs may also be requested.
NAON Conference

Judging from the gargantuan Pennsylvania Convention Center facility in which it was held, the NAON conference played host to thousands of orthopedic nurses on May 18th through 22nd. On hand to open the ceremonies were the Mayor, the entire Board of NAON, and Dr. Steve Allen, Jr. (son of humorist Steve Allen) as keynote speaker. Lynn Reid, RN, BSN represented ARNA. The NAON Board was dressed in red, white and blue. Dr. Allen had the audience reeling in laughter as the lead-off speaker. A Mummers Day marching band played at the conclusion of the opening ceremonies. Ben Franklin introduced all dignitaries present in a monologue weaving American history with that of the National Association of Orthopedic Nurses!

Proceeding on the theme of Make A Difference, the conference offered a menu of topics averaging 10 concurrent offerings per time slot. The exhibitors provided the usual smorgasbord of food, drink and information on new products.

Of particular note, aside from the massive attendance (from an organization with a membership of approximately 8400), was the exhilaration of the attendees at the conclusion of the Opening Ceremony, particularly the keynote speaker address. The energy level was high. Enough enthusiasm was generated to empower those attending to proceed through a four day schedule of educational sessions.

For the orthopedic nurses gathered here it seemed likely that the 1997 NAON conference would make a difference.

ACRM Conference

The American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) will hold its 74th Annual Conference in Boston, MA, September 12-14, on “Rehabilitation Outcomes: Transforming Science Into Reality.” The program is designed for all health professionals with an interest in rehabilitation research, education, and service.

The conference will provide tools needed to apply sound scientific principles of outcome measurement research into the practical realities of today’s managed health care environment. Attendees will define rehabilitation outcome measures and their implications for the continuum of care, discuss quality outcomes in a managed care environment, and examine scientific advances and cutting-edge issues in rehabilitation.

Continuing education contact hours can be earned by physicians, registered nurses, psychologists, and physical therapists attending and evaluating the conference’s educational activities.

The keynote session speaker is John D. Banja, Ph.D., who will present “Values, Outcomes, and the Ethical Foundation of Rehabilitation” on Friday morning. Other major sessions include a two part course by Florence P. Kendall, a physical therapy consultant from Maryland who will speak on “An Integrated Approach to the Evaluation of Postural Alignment, Musculoskeletal Extensibility, and Muscle Performance” Implications for Function.”

Concurrent sessions, paper and poster presentations, and an exhibit program are other conference highlights.

For more information about the Annual ACRM Conference, call Eric J Penne, Marketing Manager at (817) 375-4830. The American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine is a professional organization of nearly 1,700 rehabilitation providers and payers with the mission of promoting the science and practice of rehabilitation care for people with disabilities.

Chapter News

NJ ARNA

The NJ Chapter of ARNA will hold its annual educational program and business meeting on Sat., Oct. 4, 1997 at Community Medical Center in Toms River. Topics include ERCP’s, Pharmacology in Radiology, Writing for publication (featuring Images editor Linda Stangio), and Risk Management in Radiology. Registration material will be mailed in August. The fee for chapter members is $17; non-members will be charged $20. A continental breakfast and lunch are included.

Don’t forget to reserve this date to get together with other colleagues who work in the Radiology Nursing field. We need to support one-another in our specialty, and share our experiences.

For further information, contact chapter secretary Helen O’Daly at (day time) (732) 321-7919; or treasurer Linda Stangio at (day time) (201) 429-6113.
Chapter News (continued)

Fall Symposium

NEC-ARNA invites all Nurses and Technologists in our area and beyond to the 39th New England Conference of Radiological Technologists to be held in Sturbridge, MA, from September 26-27, 1997.

As we have done for the last 4 years, the NEC Fall Symposium and Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Techs, with lectures on Friday and Saturday only. It promises to be a big event, with over 1,000 attendees, many vendors, social activities and a great opportunity to learn and review material for the upcoming certification exam. Topics include, "Radiation Doses, Hazards and Protection", "Advanced Techniques in Pediatric Neuroradiology", "Team Approach to Patient Care in Radiology", "Hysterosalpingograms and Tubal Cannulation", "Stroke Alert and the Importance of the Radiology Nurse with Lubeluzole Study", "Pediatric Vascular Interventional Radiology", "MRI Spectrology", "Care of the ERCP Patient", "MRI and Xanax sedation for Children", and "Conscious Sedation". Contact Linda Connor (H) (617) 773-7556 or Beverly Case (H) (860) 872-0948 or (W) (Wed.-Fri.) (860) 679-1467.

Come to New England this fall and attend our Symposium.

Happy Anniversary

Kate Little, RN, President of the Carolinas Chapter of ARNA wants to share exciting news with the members. The Carolinas Chapter was the first Chapter that was accepted by ARNA, and on June 10th they reached a milestone; their 10th Anniversary.

According to Kate, there are 3 other Chapters which will celebrate 10 year Anniversaries in 1997. (If you'll let me know who you are, I'll mention your names in the next issue).

Congratulations to all four of the chapters.

Update From Upstate

The Empire State Chapter of ARNA is proud to announce that they will be celebrating their second year anniversary this fall. Membership is open to all upstate New York Radiology Nurses, and they currently have 17 members from the Western New York area. One of their goals is to provide a formal educational seminar every year, and this past January they held a half-day seminar on Thrombolytic Therapy and Interventional Radiology sponsored by Abbott Laboratories. Dr. Frederick S. Cohn spoke on the management of failing/failed dialysis access. Dr. T.N. Thompson's presentation focused on catheter-directed thrombolysis. Forty-two Registered Nurses and Radiology Technologists attended the meeting, an excellent turnout for a small chapter.