

RN NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN RADIOLOGICAL NURSES ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY, 1998
VOLUME 3
NUMBER 1

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Please note that the 1998 Annual Fall ARNA Meeting



will be held at McCormick Place. This means that you must advance register *early* to get hotel rooms, as no block of rooms will be set aside for ARNA members. The Fall Meeting Program and room information will be mailed June 1, 1998. This is the same time RSNA members are mailed their package.

After many years of meeting off site during the week of RSNA our membership has asked that we be closer to McCormick Place. RSNA now has beautiful space available so that we can join them at McCormick Place!! This change enables you to select your hotel of choice, to attend other lectures, and visit the show floor, at your convenience. Remember, you are encouraged to attend the Saturday Associated Science Program, which is also held at McCormick Place.

In the coming months we will be sending out helpful hints to assist you in having a exciting, productive, educational experience in Chicago. Remember book your registration and hotel room early....the downtown hotels go very fast.

See you in Chicago!!!!

JoAnn Belanger R.N. CRN

UPDATE-ANNUAL MEETING IN CHICAGO

Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 1997

*submitted by Maria Schieling RN,
Educational Chairperson, President-elect*

Of one hundred and fifty members in attendance, 58 were first time attendees. Many exciting topics were discussed.

Thanks to all who sent in their documentation tools. The binders will be added to and displayed at every meeting. This was a huge success thanks to Janet Johnson's and Alma Kovarik's ability to organize hundreds of pieces of paper!

The Board met after the conference and new officers were installed. Many projects are slated for completion during JoAnn Belanger's term: CEU providership, Certification Exam, Guidelines, Standards and Core Curriculum.

ARNA's Research and Education Foundation is established and we have employed a professional fundraiser. This endeavor will help us realize our goals during JoAnn's term. Look for your next issue of *Images* for detailed information. The Spring Meeting will be held in conjunction with SCVIR, slated March 1-4, 1998. Hope to see you there.

BOOK SALE - ARNA FUNDRAISER

submitted by Linda Strangio

Editor, "Images"

To Be A Nurse and Life-beats are the titles of two books written by myself, a Radiology Nurse and ARNA member. The publisher will donate 20% of the price of each book purchased through ARNA back to our organization. These books contain true stories about nurses and nursing. Some are funny stories and some are sad; some have happy endings, others don't, but they all portray *what it means to be a nurse*.

Every nurse can identify with these stories and the Nurses Book Society thinks so highly of them that it has purchased these books and features them as alternate offerings each month. The publisher advertises them as "a perfect gift for any nurse or for anyone who has ever known a nurse."

The books sell for \$12.95 each plus postage. They may be ordered too free by calling 800- 634-2498. PLEASE BE SURE TO SAY "This is an ARNA order when you call, so that ARNA can benefit as much as possible from this fundraising effort."

1997 membership drive results:

-contributed by Kate Little, RN

Chairperson 1997 Membership Committee

In 1997 the Membership Committee took on a mission to encourage new members to join ARNA. A membership drive was held July 1st through November 1st and we were able to attract 175 new members. As an incentive, 3 prizes were offered. The winners were as follows:

Lucky new member wins an ARNA pin:

Cindy Woo from Playa del Ray, CA

Lucky ARNA members who sponsored new members to join wins a 1998/1999 ARNA membership:

Linda Strangio from West Orange, NJ

Lucky ARNA member who sponsored new members to join wins an ARNA sweatshirt of her choice:

Elizabeth Corry from Bayshore, NY



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ARNA EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION UPDATE

submitted by Ginger Schultz

ARNA formed a "new" corporation, which has a separate financial basis from ARNA. Any donations made to the Foundation will be used to fund educational endeavors and research in Radiology nursing issues. Donations (which are tax deductible) can be mailed to ARNA's office at:
2021 Spring Road
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-1860

Editor's Note:

Be sure to read the detailed article on this subject in the Spring issue of "Images"

For further information, contact any of the Foundation Board Members:

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CERTIFICATION IT'S REALLY HAPPENING!

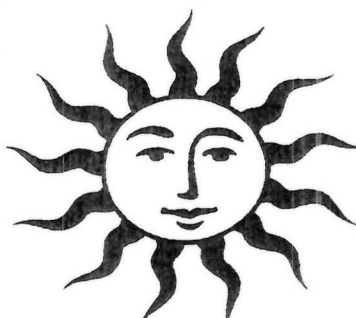
submitted by Patty Merrick RN, BSN, CRN

As this issue of RN News goes to print, the first Certification exam for Radiology Nursing will be a thing of the past (it was given on Feb. 21, 1998). It has been a long time in the making, but I think we have a quality exam.

How did we do it? We worked diligently with the test making experts, Professional Testing Services and Bettie Jackson RN, PhD. We are the expert Radiology nurses. We used the questionnaires filled out by ARNA nurses several years ago to weight the various components of the exam. Next we came up with an outline that took into account our 20 practice areas. We sought questions which Radiology Nurses thought should be included, then reviewed, rewrote and discarded questions that were not national in scope. We approved an item bank, then deferred to Professional Testing Service to construct two examinations. The Radiology Nursing Certification Board approved the exams, the first of which was to be taken by over 100 nurses on Feb. 21. (cont'd on page 4)

Meeting News:

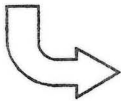
Here's an early "Spring Break" - will you be at the ARNA Spring Educational meeting scheduled March 1-4, 1998, in sunny California (San Francisco), in conjunction with the 23rd Annual SCVIR meeting?



committee news

MRI EXPERTS - RAISE YOUR HANDS!

Needed: experts in the area of MRI and MRI Safety. IF YOUR PRINCIPAL AREA OF PRACTICE IS MRI, PLEASE CONTACT THE COMMITTEE AND HAVE US NOTE YOU AS AN MRI "EXPERT". You will have a chance to preview documents from the committee and provide feedback during the process of creating Clinical Guidelines for MRI Safety. Include your name, phone and fax numbers, email address or US Postal Service mailing address. The committee will solicit documents and forward them to you for your professional review and comments. Please contact Delma Armstrong RN, or Donna Corman, RN, co-chairpersons.



**WHAT IS YOUR
LOCAL CHAPTER UP
TO? TELL
RADIOLOGY
NURSES ACROSS
THE COUNTRY.
SUBMIT ITEMS TO
RN NEWS!**

SEEKING GUIDELINES FOR MRI SAFETY

The Clinical Guidelines Development Committee is seeking written information concerning MRI safety practices. Anything that ARNA members can share with the committee for research purposes will be greatly appreciated. Examples: policies, procedures, standardized care plans, standards of care. We want input from across the country to create a "big picture" when we begin to create Guidelines for MRI Safety, our next big project.

Where to submit info for Clinical Guidelines Committee:

if you live east of the
Mississippi River:

Delma Armstrong RN
202 Elderberry Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
fax: 919-966-7898

if you live west of the
Mississippi River:

Donna Corman, RN
15442 Long Castle
Forest Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63017-
7044
fax: 314-432-8674

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

PASSING THE TORCH

In his final editorial, Bob Steel spoke of how his involvement with RN News provided him with the opportunity to watch the birth and growth of this new means of communication for ARNA members. His expression of gratitude is acknowledged by all of us connected with ARNA; we realize that he laid the foundation for what will surely evolve into a multitude of styles over time. As people contribute ideas and suggestions as to how the newsletter can best meet the needs of our members, it is we who should be thanking Bob for the legacy he has left behind. The task of picking up where Bob left off will be a mammoth one for the Newsletter staff, but I know we are up to it. I got goose bumps watching the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympic games in Nagano, Japan last week, as I silently thought to myself: "Pass the torch, Bob!"

Helen O'Daly RN, BSN
Editor, RN News

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

*Submitted by Janet Johnson,
Scholarship Committee
Chairperson*

Scholarship Application Deadline March 15th

Two scholarships are available to all ARNA members, active for at least 3 years who can show proof of current licensure; selection criteria must be met within the past 5 years. *The Dorothy R. Budnek Memorial Scholarship* is a \$600 award to be used by a radiological nurse for financial assistance when enrolled pursuing a higher degree in an approved academic program. *The Charlotte Godwin Award* is \$200 plus a complimentary ARNA meeting registration to be used to defray expenses at one of the national ARNA meetings within two years of receipt.

Please contact the ARNA Executive Office in Oak Brook, Illinois, (630) 571-9072, for an application & make sure it's postmarked by March 15th.

YOU could be the next ARNA scholarship recipient!!!

RN NEWS

**RN NEWS IS PUBLISHED
QUARTERLY TO KEEP
ARNA MEMBERS
BETTER INFORMED**

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committee news ...

legislative awareness committee

ANA CAPITOL UPDATE

*submitted by Elizabeth Livingston RN, BSN
Chairperson*

The ANA is a powerful lobbying group as noted in the 12/8/97 issue of Fortune magazine. The ANA played a key role in several health care bills. Following is a brief summary:

- 1) ANA lobbied for funding for programs that impact nursing and was quite successful: increased funding for the Nurse Education Act, National Institute of Nursing Research, Ryan White Care Act programs and OSHA funding.
- 2) ANA lobbied against legislation introduced to give physicians exemption from Federal antitrust laws; there is concern that they could collaborate against non-physician providers.
- 3) Community Nursing Organization (CNO): 2 year reauthorization. They provide a package of Medicare benefits to non-institutional elderly.
- 4) \$24 billion for medical insurance for children through grants to states Balanced Budget Act.
- 5) Consumer Bill of Rights and Responsibilities presented to President Clinton which would: increase consumer confidence in health care systems; strengthen the patient/health provider relationship; reaffirm role of consumers in their own healthcare. Emergency Access legislation would negate need for prior authorization before needed emergency care.
- 6) Patient Right to Know Act: would keep health plans from restricting clinical communication between providers and patients.
- 7) Mastectomy Legislation would allow longer hospital stays and insure payment for reconstructive breast surgery.
- 8) Continuation of support for the Patient Safety Act.
- 9) Medicaid Nursing Incentive Act: expand direct reimbursement to advanced practice nurses.
- 10) Health Workers Protection Act of 1997 would ensure that the FDA quickly review new safety medical devices and make them available to Health Care workers; would make the use of these devices a condition for participation in the Medicaid program.

CHAPTER NEWS

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

*submitted by Marge Parise
Secretary*

Plans are underway for the first educational program of 1998. We are delighted to

announce that we have attained a record in membership - forty-one paid members!!



Nominating Committee

submitted by Ginger Schultz, Chairperson

This is an advance notice of open offices for which nomination will be announced in the Spring "Images": President-elect: (2 year move up to President); Secretary, a 2 year term; Board position, a 3 year term; and Nominating Committee member, a 2 year term. Think about running!

Questions about any office? Contact Ginger Schultz W# 314-205-6807 or H# 314-291-1936

CERTIFICATION by Patty Merrick

(continued from page 2)

Suggestions for studying for the examination:

1. Take a deep breath and relax. No one is trying to flunk you.
2. Divide your study time into manageable blocks. Don't try to cram, this will only frustrate you.
3. Look at the percentages of the exam - don't concentrate on an area involving 1%.
4. This is your primary area of work and it should be easy for you; remember, other Radiology Nurses recommended these questions.
5. What should a reasonably prudent Radiology Nurse know about conscious sedation and contrast administration (the biggest areas of our practice).
6. Find a study partner. Divide up the gathering of review material.
7. Read old issues of "Images".
8. Review medications for Radiology & Nuclear Medicine.
9. How do you treat reactions, or what does the literature support?
10. How do you reverse drugs or support the patient?
11. What do you need to know about nuclear isotopes, such as patient care, safety issues?
12. Know which diagnostic exams take priority over others, e. g., would you do an angio on a patient who is full of barium?

See, it really doesn't sound that bad, does it?

If you need questions answered, I can be reached by email at work at merrick@adp.uchc.edu. or phone me at (860) 679-1467. If I'm not readily available, leave a message on the answering machine with your home and work numbers. I always return calls but be patient. *Become a certified Radiology Nurse - be proud of your specialty!*