

RN NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN RADIOLOGICAL NURSES ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



*HAPPY NURSES DAY
MAY 6, 1998*

from
JoAnn Belanger R.N. CRN



NEW FEATURE IN THIS ISSUE:

RADIOLOGY NURSE HELPLINE

THROW OUT A LINE IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM OR QUESTION THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS TO AN OPEN FORUM. IT WILL BE PRINTED IN RN News AND YOU HAVE YOUR ARNA COLLEAGUES AS A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE! email (OK, use snail mail if you wish) your issues, questions, problems or concerns to Helen O'Daly, Editor, RN News. See address on page 3

RESULTS ARE IN:

84 % OF RADIOLOGY NURSES SUCCESSFULLY PASSED FIRST CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION!

The first Radiologic Nursing Certification Examination is over with a greater than 84% pass rate. The RNCB believes that this was a fair exam, and that it tested well rounded knowledge in our field. Please give big congrats. to the following nurses who join the RNCB Board as having their certification as a "CRN". The RNCB is proud to have these nurses carry the Certified Radiologic Nurse title.

Patty Merrick, RN, BSN,
CRN, chairperson RNCB.

Abrams, Bonnie
Aguilar, Aydda
Andre, Jolene
Barnes, Ellen
Bateman, Teresa
Bauerr, Lorene
Bevans, Rita
Blaskopf, Donna
Blubaugh, Lynn
Bodlovic, Janet
Boever, Mary
Bohnenberger, Karen
Brennan, Jill Moore
Brevard, Bettie
Bryan, Shelby
Castronuovo, Diane
Choler, Linda
Clark, Julie
Corry, Elizabeth
Corman, Donna

Dalman, Diane
Donaldson, Brenda
Donnett, Kathleen
Driscoll, Nancy
Duca, Lesley
Evans, John
Giardina, Kathleen
Goodman, Merri
Graham, Deborah
Hall, Linda
Harrington, Julie
Harrison, Regina
Henrich, Patricia
Jacobs, Joann
Jacot, Stacie
Jae, Bonnie
James, Terry
Kettner, Linda
Killough, Paula
Larrimore, Ira
Ledbetter, Monty
LeGrice, Mary
Lieberg, Meridee
Little, Kate
Locher, Frances

Lumsden, Melinda
Lynd, Ramona
Magaletta, Karen
McIntosh, Kathleen
McLaughlin, Mary
Meehan, Caroline
Metts, Lorre
Mills, Sally
Mullen, Susan
Murphy, Theresa
Murray, Joyce
Murray, Ruth
Murtha, Michelle
Nimmick, Margaret
Novotny, Janet
O'Hara, Ann
Parker, Joy
Piernikowski, Chris
Pomi, Valerie
Regauld, Nancy Lynn
Resnik, Susan
Reynolds, Debra
Richardson, Karri
Roach, Connie
(list continues on next page)



RESULTS (CONT'D)

Rosa, Sue
 Rudkowski, Ruth
 Ruger, Joseph
 Salavec, Catherine
 Scheffer, Kathy
 Schneider, Elizabeth
 Schultz, Laura "Ginger"
 Semenczuk, Susan
 Shiring, Kathleen
 Silvano, Joyce
 Simons, Judy
 Simor, Margaret
 Smiell, Mary
 Smith, KD
 Spencer, Carol
 Staunton, Maureen
 Stewart, Dorothy
 Strangio, Linda
 Swanson, Katherine
 Thomas, Laura
 Till, Lillian
 Tucker, Kim
 Tucker, Lisa
 Tufton, Lois
 Twilley, Heather
 Underwood, Judith
 VanPelt, Mary
 Vlahakis, Pamela
 Warner, Mary Ann
 Wohleb, Roy
 Worrall, Sara
 Young, Sheila
 Zona, Judy
 Zwiener, Karen

There are now 108 CRNs. The RNCB would like to encourage all Radiology Nurses to take the exam when you have met the criteria. There were many comments about this exam. Everyone agrees a Core Curriculum would help facilitate studying; however, 103 people have passed the exam by reviewing on their

ABOUT THE CERTIFICATION EXAM....

by Patty Merrick, RN, BSN, CRN, chairperson, Radiology Nurse Certification Board

There are a few specifics I feel I must respond to in this Newsletter. A few people felt there were too many technical questions on the exam. The RNCB and item reviewers debated each question. Simple ways the imaging occurs were felt important to understanding how our patients are imaged. Positioning of patients in a certain way may be important if airway management could be compromised. "Quench" for MRI was a question contributed by your colleagues who work in the field of MRI. Questions covering topics that only a tech should know were eliminated. Personally, until we began to ready for this exam, I had never heard the word relating to MRI. The first magnet I worked with was not cryogen cooled. When we got a new magnet, someone forgot to tell nursing about "quench". For the record, the nursing implications pertinent to a "quench" are two fold: asphyxiation and frostbite. The cryogen boils off in a "quench" at a temperature of something as cold as minus 230 degrees C. The MRIs all have valves that should open to the atmosphere, and there is no danger when this happens; however, if the valves stick, the cryogen is let loose in the room. The door may freeze shut (you'd have to break the window to get in), the helium or nitrogen mixes with room air taking out normal oxygen, and it becomes very cold. Of course this is a rare occurrence, but it is potentially life threatening.

All of our new CRNs, as well as all radiology nurses are encouraged to request from Professional Testing Corporation (the company that helps with our exam) or ARNA a form for submitting questions. Send in one or two that you feel are important. Remember you must give the reference they are from. This exam is science based. This is how we prove that our knowledge has a scientific base to it. Thanks for your help and good luck with your studying.



own or with friends. Linda Morgan is pushing her committee very hard to get the Core completed. It takes much time and energy for all involved. The Core is coming along, and will be helpful when it is completed. Even for those with the CRN already passed, the Core will be a good reference book to keep on the shelf at work.

The New Jersey Chapter is holding its Spring Educational Program on Friday evening, May 2, 1998 at the Holiday Inn, Tinton Falls, NJ. Topics include "Rx for Stress", and Contrast Administration. Contact: Treasurer Linda Strangio at (973) 429-6113

Meeting News

The Carolinas Chapter is holding a seminar on May 2 & 3, 1998, focusing on "The Hepatobiliary Patient". The location is the Clarion TownHouse, Columbia, SC. Topics to be covered include Percutaneous Biliary Drainage, TIPS, Nuclear medicine scanning, and Wallstent procedure. Coordinators are Kate Little, RN and Delma Armstrong, RN, UNC Hospitals, Dept. of Radiology 101 Manning Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

conference update

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

From February 28 through March 4, 1998, I spent a long, refreshing weekend in San Francisco to attend the Spring 1998 Educational Program at the Moscone Convention Center, held in conjunction with the 23rd Annual Scientific Assembly of SCVIR. Although the primary purpose of this convention was educational in nature, I got my greatest education by meeting ARNA members from all over the United States-and the world! I have a great feeling about these people; I can feel that they are the lifeblood of ARNA, the people who make the organization work. Many of these people form the Executive Board, maintaining the substance of the organization, sacrificing their own personal time for the success of ARNA.

The featured speakers were of very high caliber and I am so proud of my nurse colleagues who made such professional presentations, both of their material and of themselves. The impact of how this affected the participants cannot be measured in finite terms. Learning is a process which becomes extended over a time continuum and is reborn whenever the need for that knowledge is called upon. It could happen when

you are planning for a visit by JCAHO, and you suddenly remember all the information you saved from when Kathy Friedrich of Barnes Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO gave her presentation on "Competency Requirements in Radiology Nursing". It could happen that you are about to administer some form of conscious sedation and you remember the voice of Jim Gentile, RN, of St. Mary's Medical Center, Langhorne, PA, explaining the effectiveness of "vocal anesthesia"; you remember and in a clear, calm voice, you explain to your patient what is about to happen, you remember how scared your patient probably is of this strange environment and the human being in you emerges; you focus on your patient and realize this is something else you learned at that conference.

I had been told that the opportunity to attend a national Radiology Nursing conference would be a wonderful way to increase my knowledge of Radiology Nursing practice and procedures, and this it did, in great measure! Now I must add to this advice some of my own: it is also a tremendous opportunity to network with other members of ARNA and so to find out what makes this organization tick!

*Helen O'Daly RN, BSN
Editor, RN News*



Can you identify the three women spotted in the back of this Gray Line trolley as it was seen touring San Francisco on March 3, 1998? I'll give you a clue - they're ARNA members! They are (from left to right) Helen O'Daly and Linda Strangio of New Jersey, and Donna Corman of Missouri, enjoying the fantastic weather which bathed California in our honor!

RN NEWS

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

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committee news ...

legislative awareness committee

Liz Livingston, Chairperson of the Legislative Awareness Committee, recently participated as the only Radiologic nurse in the Nurse in Washington Internship. This honored position serves to increase the knowledge of registered nurses about legislative and policy-making processes.

ANA CAPITOL UPDATE

- * Lois Capp, RN, a retired school nurse and member of ANA/California is running for office in the House of Representatives, attempting to fill her deceased husband's seat. Lois is endorsed by the ANA-PAC and is a strong supporter of nursing's legislative and regulatory agenda.
- * Medicare will provide direct reimbursement for nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists in all geographic locations. The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) will instruct Medicare carriers of the new law.
- * The recent exposure of tobacco companies' marketing strategies aimed at young people has resulted in debates over how additional taxes raised will be spent in connection with the tobacco industry. With the huge settlement of \$388.5 billion dollars last summer, the industry has agreed to make new rules governing tobacco marketing.
- * ANA is planning a Latex Allergy Teleconference for May 5, 1998. For more information on the growing problem of latex allergy involving health care workers, visit the following websites: www.nursingworld.com, or, <http://latex.fldi.org>
- * The National Health Services Corps (NHSC) provides scholarships to nursing students. The IRS is trying to get the entire scholarship taxed, instead of a monthly living allowance, as was previously done. ANA strongly supports the legislation to avoid further taxation. The bills are :HR 2951 and S 1286, should you wish to express your wishes to your congressmen.
- * "Patient Safety and Health Care Whistleblower Protection Act of 1998" - bill HR 3342 was introduced on March 5. This bill prohibits retaliation or discrimination against any health care workers who in good faith, discloses information, with respect to patient care, services, or conditions of a health care facility. The address for all members of the House is:
Rep. (Member's Name)
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

nominating committee

submitted by Ginger Schultz, Chairperson

This is an advance notice of open offices for which nomination were 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

CHAPTER NEWS

GEORGIA

Regina Harrison, R.N. is the first member of the GA chapter of ARNA to take the new certification exam for Radiology Nurses. She took the exam in February and passed.
Corkey Hoffman (Sec/Treas, GA Chapter)

NEW JERSEY

We are SO PROUD of the ten ARNA New Jersey members who passed the first certification exam: Mary Legrice, Linda Strangio, Bonnie Abrams, Rita Bevans, Leslie Duca, Mary Jane McLaughlin, Ann O'Hara, Pam Vlahakis, Betty Brevard, Joann Jacobs.
Marge Parise (Secretary, NJ Chapter)

employment - help wanted

The University of North Carolina Hospital, a 700 bed facility, is a Level 1 Trauma Center located in Chapel Hill, NC. In the very near future (this summer) the Radiology Department is looking to increase the number of RNs. We currently have a staff of 10 nurses that cover the following areas: Ultrasound, Diagnostics, MRI, Body CT, Neuro CT, Nuclear Medicine, Vascular Interventional and Neuro Interventional. We are looking to add several positions to our team. If the idea of relocating to NC appeals to you, we are looking for experienced Radiology nurses. For more information contact:

Kate Little, RN, CRN
Clinical Nurse Assistant Supervisor
Radiology Department
(919) 966-6641

or

to have an application forwarded to you please contact
UNC Employment:
(919) 966-5224

RADIOLOGY NURSE HELPLINE

The following request was received from our two ARNA members in Alberta, Canada:

"We are currently reviewing our policy regarding intravenous contrast administration and nursing mothers. At present, there appears to be a variety of opinions on this issue.... We are looking for feedback on the policies and practices in your department and any references you base your practice on concerning this subject."

Send your replies to either Carol Quan, RN, BscN, or Laurie McCune, RN, BSN
e-mail: cquan@mox.chr.ab.ca Imcune@mox.chr.ab.ca
fax: (403) 382-6155
Phone: (403) 382-6070
Mail to: Carol or Laurie
c/o MID Lethbridge Regional Hospital
960 19th St. South
Lethbridge, AB T1J 3V8
CANADA

Would you like to submit questions, problems or concerns and receive answers, suggestions or support from the experts in your field (ARNA members) ????

Send your questions to
Helen O'Daly, RN NEWS Editor
(see page 3 for address).

NOTICE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING
INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF
RN NEWS IS JULY 6, 1998.

RADIOLOGY/CARDIAC CATH NURSE

Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, located in San Francisco and part of CHW West Bay, has a part-time opening for a professional to care for patients in the Radiology department. You will perform diagnostic imaging, special procedures, cardiac catheterization, computerized tomography, ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging. Requires a CA-licensed RN with completion of a nursing program, 5+ years of experience as an RN and BCLS and ACLS certifications. Prefer a critical care/cardiac catheterization background.

We offer excellent salaries and benefits. Please send resume to: CHW West Bay, Regional Human Resources, Dept. ARNA 4/98, 1900 Sullivan Ave., Daly City, CA 94015. FAX (650) 991-6851. Visit our web site at www.chwwestbay.org. EOE M/F/D/V.

CHW West Bay

