

# RN NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN RADIOLOGICAL NURSES ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2002  
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NUMBER 1

## Reminder:

ARNA 20th  
Anniversary  
Annual Meeting  
April 7-11, 2002  
Baltimore, MD

- position open -  
see "from the  
Editor's Desk" p. 3

- ARNA scrub  
jackets available  
for purchase - order  
form inside.

- Geriatric web  
sites  
see pp. 5 & 6.

## Notes From The American Heart Association Annual Meeting,

Anaheim, California

Submitted by Patricia Barry-Doohan RN

The American Heart Association (AHA) had its annual meeting and scientific sessions in Anaheim, California, in November 2001. ARNA has a seat on the board of the Council on Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology, which met at that time. I have been privileged to be the ARNA representative for that position for the last three years. While in Anaheim, I had the opportunity to network with some of the excellent nurses who do a tremendous amount of work for the American Heart Association, focusing on both heart and stroke patients.

A national initiative with implications for AHA's scientific enterprises is the Task Force on Strategic Research Direction, commissioned by Rose Marie Robertson, 2000-2001 AHA president. The primary objective of this task force is to identify the critical areas of basic, clinical, population, and outcomes research that AHA should support to have a positive impact on the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

For your possible interest, AHA publishes a newsletter called *Cardiovascular Nursing*. The Fall 2001 issue had several good articles. Among these were "Cardiovascular Applications for Personal Digital Assistant Computer Devices: Information at Your Fingertips" and "Detection of Myocardial Ischemia Using Electrocardiographic ST-Segment Monitoring."

"Get With the Guidelines" is a program designed to save lives and improve the quality of secondary preventive care. The program helps health care professionals provide patient-specific guidelines and assists when reporting to the JCAHO. Specifically, this program is described as "a secondary prevention, guidelines-based discharge program, which aims to reduce the risks of recurrent heart attack and strokes." Implementing the "Get With the Guidelines" program nationwide is estimated to save more than 40,000 lives every year.

The Katharine A. Lembright Award was given to Barbara J. Drew, RN, PhD. This award is given in recognition and encouragement for excellence in cardiovascular research. Barbara's research was titled "Improving Electrocardiographic Detection of Myocardial Ischemia in Acute Coronary Syndromes."

The conference included lectures on recent research in CPR and ACLS. It is the hope of many of us that in the near future stroke patients will be educated in the same way that heart patients are educated on warning symptoms, immediate actions to take during an occurrence or suspected occurrence, and how to prevent repeat occurrences.

Additional information on the Anaheim conference is on the Web at:  
[sessions@heart.org](mailto:sessions@heart.org) OR [www.scientificsessions.org](http://www.scientificsessions.org)



## from the Editor's desk

When is it the right time to end your commitment to a project? Sometimes the decision is simple - the right time is when the project is finished, when you have reached a deadline. At other times, the right time comes when you have attained satisfaction that *you* have given your best effort to that project. This is the right time for me. I have decided that this newsletter should go on under the leadership of a new Editor. My family is parenting its fourth generation and I would like to spend more time with family matters.

My role as Editor of *RN News* has been extremely rewarding. Because I accepted this committee chairmanship in January 1998 I have been able to fulfill my personal goal of trying my hand at writing. The SCVIR and RSNA meetings and educational programs I attended gave me the opportunity to meet wonderful radiology nurses from all over the United States and a few from other parts of the world. I have had the advantage of being up to date on many subjects and events - I learned about them before you did! And I was in contact with many exceptional leaders and leaders-to-be in ARNA.

I hope this description sounds intriguing to you because I want to let you know that this creates an opening in the ARNA organization for a new Editor. Please contact \*Barbara Sargent (who is the liaison Board Member to this newsletter - see information below).

A sincere "Thank You" to the Editorial Staff Members for their assistance in this production.

Helen O'Daly  
Editor, *RN News*

\*Barbara E. Sargent, RN, MBA

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for the purpose of  
conducting business  
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Oak Brook, IL 60523

**CANCER**

What a horrible sounding word. So many of our ARNA colleagues and friends have suffered through this horrible word. A pick-you-up e-mail or friendly phone call is always helpful. If you know one of ours is ill, and they don't mind sharing the news, the responses they get may make one day brighter.

I am one of the lucky ones who was diagnosed almost two years ago. I was a surgical cure, but had a number of complications, causing me to lose my radiology position. These complications have changed my life plan a bit, but I am blessed enough to have life.

The door that shut for me opened a window and allowed me to change from a part-time student to a full-time student. I will be graduating in May of 2002, and then completing one post graduate course to allow me to sit for my FNP boards. I may not be able to wear lead, and function as I once did in radiology, but it will always be my first love. I have been able to educate the staff where I am doing my clinical re: radiology procedures. I also was able to start a referral system to a new radiology office owned by my past employer. It is close by for the patients I now am seeing, and I can vouch for the technologists that I had the privilege of working with for so many years.

To any of you who have a cancer or any other debilitating illness, you are in my thoughts and prayers. May your life be blessed with family and friends that can help sustain you through a difficult time. Live your life to the fullest and enjoy whatever pleases you. I find sunsets and the ocean and the ability to swim again are very refreshing for me. The support of my friends from ARNA helped me through some very difficult days. Thank you one and all.

Patty Merrick

*editor's note: Patty Merrick has served as Editor of Images, was a **key figure** in the process of establishing national certification for Radiology Nurses (CRN), and is ARNA Past President, 1994.*

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**RN NEWS**

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

### A Note From The RNCB (Radiology Nursing Certification Board)

Happy New Year from the Radiology Nursing Certification Board. We hope you are as excited about the New Year as we are! As we look ahead, I think we must also take time to reflect on our lives and the events of 2001. America is great because of the greatness of many individuals. Many of the people that make America great are people just like you - people who take pride in their profession and make whatever sacrifice necessary to make sure the job is done well. Nursing is certainly a demanding profession which provides an opportunity to give of ourselves when others need us most. Some of the most dedicated people that I know are nurses. These people continually give of themselves as long as there is a need that they can meet. The reward of seeing a job well done may often be just knowing that you had a small part in making a difference in the life of someone when they needed you most. Often there is no certificate of appreciation, no financial incentive and maybe not even a thank you. But, no one can take away the wonderful feeling of just knowing that you did your best when you were needed the most.

The New Year brings hope. It gives new life and another chance to many things that were put off last year. For many, it may simply be making a few resolutions, some of which may be abandoned in a few short days or weeks. For others, it may bring a chance to do something great for the entire world to see. Whatever approach you use to looking ahead, let me encourage you to do your very best to be all that you can be. The rewards may not be public but you will know that you have made a difference and nobody can take that away from you.

The Radiology Nursing Certification Board is composed of nurses just like you from all across the country. We believe we can be better nurses by participating in a plan that brings recognition to our professional status as radiology nurses. We have worked hard to create a standard for radiology nursing in the form of a certification exam. Questions have been submitted by many radiology nurses from all areas of this great country. These questions have been reviewed numerous times by certified radiology nurses to ensure each is a valid question with a valid answer. I would like to encourage you to continue to contribute questions at any time to the ARNA office or to the Professional Testing Center.

The first radiology nursing certification exam was given in February 1998. This means that those who were certified in 1998 are now in need of re-certification. Over 300 nurses have been certified as radiology nurses since 1998. A discounted rate is available for ARNA members who wish to re-certify. For those of you who have not taken the certification exam, let me encourage you to be all that you can be this year. Certification will not only enhance your personal status, but will do great things for our profession. We can become a louder voice at the national level to exhort those around us to see the true dedication of radiology nurses. Remember, America is great because of great individuals and radiology nursing will be great because of the outstanding achievements of individual radiology nurses. Collectively, we can do great things.

So, join with us who proudly include the initials CRN in our professional signatures. Strive to make this year count as never before by being all that you can be and *deserve* to be.

Please remember those who were directly involved in the tragedies of 2001. Many healthcare professionals were there to give of themselves, unselfishly. We have the freedom to be the best that we can be. Please don't waste that precious opportunity. Rather than being known as nurses who work in radiology, let us proclaim our title as CERTIFIED RADIOLOGY NURSES. May God bless America and help us to be the best nurses that we can be.

Craig Larrimore RT(R)(N),RN,CRN  
Chairperson RNCB



**Scrub Jackets Are Now Available to ARNA Members**

*Let others know you are proud to be an ARNA member and support ARNA by purchasing an ARNA scrub jacket. Two different styles are available.*

- Style 1 Scrub jacket with white "arna" letters in either Teal or Navy Blue

Sizes: XL, L, M, S, XS

Cost \$22.00/each plus \$4.00 shipping and handling (\$6.00 outside US)

- Style 2 Scrub jacket Navy Blue with white "CRN" letters (Certified radiology nurses only)

Sizes XL, L, M, S, XS

Cost \$22.00/each plus \$4.00 shipping and handling (\$6.00 outside US)

*To place an order: Complete all the information on this sheet and fax this order sheet to 630-571-7837 or mail to the ARNA office (see below).*

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Style 1 Scrub jacket (s) with "arna" letters

(quantity)

Subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle size desired: XL L S M XS

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(quantity)

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Please circle size desired: XL L S M XS

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If paying by check, please make check in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. Bank payable to ARNA and return with your completed order form to:

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Enjoy wearing your new scrub jacket and thanks for supporting ARNA!