Honoring the Past...Imagining the Future

Last President’s Address

Given March 21, 2008, Membership Annual Meeting

Kathy Scheffer, MN, RN, CRN
Immediate Past President

Good afternoon everyone. I’d like to welcome you to our annual membership luncheon and business meeting. I hope everyone is enjoying the conference as much as I am. On Monday morning (March 17), I spoke to you about our theme of “Advancing Opportunities in Imaging Nursing.” I spoke about opportunities as doors opening with endless possibilities on the other side. Sometimes it takes courage and conviction to walk through these “doors of opportunities,” and it definitely takes vision and imagination to see the possibilities that wait on the other side. I’ve been honored to serve with your ARNA Board of Directors who possess all of these traits. At the Fall Symposium in Minneapolis this past October, the idea was born that our association was growing and evolving just like our nursing specialty and the world of imaging in which we work. Our practice is a very dynamic environment—always evolving and advancing with innovative new techniques and technologies to deliver the latest in patient care. ARNA, too, has grown and evolved from a grassroots, member-focused organization to a nationally and internationally recognized specialty association. We are constantly asked for “best practice” protocols, guidelines, and what our position statements are on both clinical and practice issues. Our strategic planning session that we attended in January really got us thinking about where we’ve been and also where we want ARNA to go in the future. Our facilitator, Glenn Tecker, was with the original strategic planning session in 2004 and was able to guide us through the process to move ARNA to the next level of development in 2008.

We feel that ARNA has changed and will continue to evolve into the “voice of imaging nursing.” We have the ability to change from a member-focused association to the “holder of knowledge” for imaging nursing. As we look back at the history of radiology and the discovery of x-rays in 1895, radiology was an apt and correct term to describe the field. Advances in technologies like ultrasound and MRI and a new fusion of technologies seem to point to the more descriptive term of “imaging” as being appropriate to describe our practice setting. I would ask what name your department is called—mine is now known as Medical Imaging when 28 years ago as I began my career, we were known as Radiology or simply X-ray!

One of the strategic goals of ARNA has been to be the voice and set the standards of nursing care in the imaging environment. By changing the name of the organization to the “Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing” (ARIN), we feel we are honoring our past while imagining the future. We believe it’s time to have the courage and conviction to walk through that door of opportunity and guide our path to a new and exiting future as ARIN. I must admit that I had some soul searching to do when the board sprang this idea on me, as I wasn’t able to attend the fall symposium, due to illness—that will teach me to get sick! I had to “let go” of my past, moving away from the safe, known, and comfortable side of the door and have the courage and vision to step through and see the opportunities and possibilities that lie ahead. As my year as your president comes to an end, I

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In 2004, the individuals that were serving on the ARNA Board of Directors at that time met with Glenn Tecker of Tecker Consultants to define the Strategic Plan for the ARNA organization. The board’s goal was to adopt a program of planning strategically that would result in a road map for directing and managing ARNA’s future and the achievement of its short- and long-term goals. They were charged with defining ARNA’s core purpose and core values and with envisioning the future by developing a concrete, unrealized vision for the organization: The Big Hairy Audacious Goal. The board developed a vivid description of how the world of patients, ARNA members, radiology nurses, healthcare providers, the association, and consumers would be different as a result of ARNA’s attaining its BHAG. Mega issues were identified as issues of strategic importance that represented the organization and helped define the direction for the strategic plan. Goals were centered around patient care and policy making. A 10 to 30 year plan was realized, but within that plan was a one-year goal, three-to-five-year goals, and five-to-ten-year goals. Objectives and strategies were developed for each goal as part of the plan. At each board meeting, the current board reviews the strategic plan to make sure that we are on target for the short- and long-term goals that had been set forth by the overall strategic plan.

Core purpose: Foster the growth of excellent radiology nurses who advance the standard of care

Core values:
1. Committed to professionalism
2. Responsive to technological advances
3. Leading in a constantly evolving environment

ARNA’s BHAG: Be the source for standards of nursing care in any imaging environment

In mid-2007 the current board realized that the original members who met with Glenn Tecker would soon be gone and the end of the three-to-five-year mark was fast approaching in the original Strategic Plan. As we again reviewed the Strategic Plan, the words “Imaging and "Imaging Environment" seemed to stand out more and more to us. We all commented that, indeed, radiology departments are now called imaging departments or services. Yes, we are still at the core radiology nurses, but we are now looking at images on a computer screen (PACs). We also felt that we had become a more global association with members outside of the United States, and we wanted to continue to foster those relationships. We have had international attendees each year at the convention. One of our primary objectives has always been education of the membership (increasing the knowledge), and this is quite visible in the publications and CE offerings that have been available in the past couple of years.

The board’s time with Glenn Tecker in January 2008 was spent reviewing conditions, trends, and assumptions as they relate to legislation/regulations, business/economic climate, politics/social values, and technology and science. Then we took the two primary goals that had already been identified under the BHAG; one was related to patient care, and the other was related to policy making. Objectives had been set in place, and we had already been working on them; the concern today was to see if they were still relevant. We also set about developing strategies to build upon these two goals and their objectives for the next five years. Next, the board prioritized the strategies into high, medium, and low. Part of the decision-making process was to consider our fiduciary responsibilities to the organization, the resources and technology available, and any ethical and legal considerations.

The core purpose and core values were revised to reflect the change in the Strategic Plan. A new set of bylaws is being sent out with this newsletter for your approval. I encourage you to read it over and send in your vote. The revised Strategic Plan is available to you to review under the member’s only section of the website.

Last President’s Address *(continued from page 1)*

want to say a special thank you to my family for their support and patience as I tried to fulfill the obligations of the position. Thank you to the ARNA officers and Board of Directors, the staff of Dancy, Puettz & Associates for keeping me focused and always moving forward, and most of all, to you, the members of ARNA, for allowing me this wonderful opportunity to serve. I know the association is in good and capable hands and will continue to evolve and grow by honoring our past and imagining the future.
Call for Newsletter Editor

ARNA is seeking an editor for its newsletter Vision. Articles in Vision provide information about the organization including committee, convention, certification, and membership information. Vision also publishes brief articles in the areas of education, research, and patient care.

The editor of the Vision
- Collaborates with staff on publication format and design,
- Identifies individuals to submit columns and articles,
- Develops ongoing plans and procedures for contributions and a yearly production schedule,
- Writes columns for Vision as required,
- Maintains regular communication with board members as necessary,
- Reviews and approves all content, and
- Uses expertise of others as appropriate to review articles for accuracy.

The editor should have the following qualifications:
- Radiology nursing experience in practice, education, administration, or research
- Documented writing ability as evidenced by publication or previous editorial experience
- ARNA membership
- Current radiology nursing practice focus

Interested applicants should send a CV along with a cover letter to Call for Newsletter Editor, ARNA National Office, 7794 Grow Drive, Pensacola, FL 32514.

Applications may also be sent by fax — (850) 484-8762—or as an e-mail attachment to arna@puetzamc.com with the subject line “Call for Newsletter Editor.”

Evidence-Based Practice Committee

Karen L. Green, MHA, BSN, RN, CRN
ARNA President-Elect
Co-Liaison EBP Committee

Tim McSorley, BSN, RN, CRN
ARNA Secretary
Co-Liaison EBP Committee

The Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Committee is in full swing. The committee’s goal is to ensure that all of ARNA’s publications are accurate, congruent, and identify/reflect best practice. Over time, the EBP committee will oversee new publications, fast facts, and revisions to current publications.

The Steering Committee has had two high-energy conference calls. Elaine Atteberry, MSN, RN, shared “Researching Tips for Evidence Based Medicine” with the group, a presentation which was very well received.

At ARNA’s Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, 12 ARNA members gathered to discuss EBP and a potential research project. Anyone with the commitment to improving radiological and imaging nursing practice and the dedication to see a project through to its completion is welcome. Members are expected to function interdependently to gather information and meet established deadlines. Anyone interested in joining the EBP Committee may do so by logging on to http://www.arna.net for an application.

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Board of Directors 2008-2009

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ARNA Mission Statement
The mission of the American Radiological Nurses Association is to foster the growth of radiology nurses who advance the standard of care.
Incoming Presidential Address

Given March 19, 2008, Membership Annual Meeting

Sharon Lehmann, MS, RN, BC
President

I am both honored and humbled as I accept the position of ARNA President. I am following in the footsteps of many great leaders. Since I came to the Board of Directors in 2005, we have gained over 700 new members. The challenges that we have continuously faced are how can we best serve the needs of our membership and continuously improve patient care. These will always be daunting tasks and require active participation from you, the member. Paulette Snoby’s theme “A Time to Grow” during her presidency was more fitting than she could have realized.

In the time that I went from being a member, to the chair of the planning committee, to secretary, to serving as president-elect this past year, I have been astounded at how the number of high quality abstracts each year has grown. What surprises me even more is that the topics always seem to fit with what is relevant to the needs of our members each year. A few years ago we added a poster session as a way of being able to share your knowledge with other members. The posters are all of the highest quality and so informative. I thoroughly enjoy visiting them. Our attendance at the annual conference has stayed strong. It is, however, difficult to meet everyone’s needs. We are such a diverse group. I feel that we are very fortunate to be linked with the physicians and technologists. This connection gives you the opportunity to attend their lectures as well, if you see something that would be valuable to your practice.

Patrick Glickman was our 23rd president. I asked Patrick if he could summarize his presidency in one word. He replied, “Relevance.” Relevance is a term used to describe how pertinent, connected, or practical some information is given to a subject matter. Patrick’s messages could always be found by referring back to our Strategic Plan and core purpose, to foster the growth of radiology nurses who advance the standard of care. Patrick spoke at RSNA regarding the standards of care relating to medication reconciliation and contrast administration. The issues surrounding this topic remain as relevant today as they were in 2006.

Before Kathy Scheffer even got out of the gate as our 24th president, she knew her word was to be “Action.” In the dictionary, action has nine definitions, two of which I thought were most relevant:

1. Initiative or expertise, “a woman of action.” This most certainly describes Kathy to a T.
2. The most vigorous, productive, or exciting activity in a particular field, area, or group. “They itch to go where the action is.”

Kathy was one of the many individuals that worked on getting our Scope and Standards of Practice published by ANA. Kathy has been very instrumental this past year in following through with the role delineation study. This has been a time consuming process, but I know she will see it through to the end. This is the next step before the CRN exam can become an ANCC approved exam. You may ask, “Why is this important?” For example, as a clinical nurse specialist this exam is not recognized by my state as the exam that can certify me to practice. I am currently certified as an Adult Health CNS. I have been very torn as to whether or not to take this exam, without it being ANCC approved. However, as your president I have decided that it is important as a representative of this association to hold this credential, so wish me luck because I will be taking the exam this fall.

Kathy (along with many committee members) has worked tirelessly with the certification prep course. The course quickly went from a one-day to a two-day course. Last year we offered it in the spring and in the fall. We do believe we are seeing higher passing rates related to individuals taking the course. We will soon have a CD for sale to individuals for institutional use and home study. I see this as a valuable tool to increase the knowledge base of radiology nurses. Kathy most certainly has seen a lot of action this past year. Kathy is now challenging you, the member, to become more actively involved. Kathy feels that we need to raise our voices and be advocates for our patients to ensure the delivery of quality and safe patient care that they deserve.

So now you ask, what is my theme word? I have selected the word “Vision.” No, I did not pick it because that is the name of our newsletter. When the Board of Directors met last fall, we were reviewing the Strategic Plan that was originally designed in 2004. We realized that there was a common theme throughout the Strategic Plan. The words imaging or imaging environment stood out. When you enter a hospital today you aren’t going to the Radiology Department, you are going to Imaging Services. Well what are radiologists doing these days but looking at the images electronically on a Picture Archive and Communications System (PACS). Yes, we are still radiology nurses but we work within the Imaging Environment.

Vision reflects the optimistic view of the organization’s future. As Kathy stated, the Board of Directors spent a day in January of this year reviewing and revising this association’s Strategic Plan.

- We revised our core purpose: To foster the growth of nurses who advance the standard of care in the imaging environment.
- We revised our core values: 1) commitment to professionalism, 2) responsive to technological advances, 3) leadership in a constantly evolving environment, and 4) advocate for safe patient care.

To recap what Kathy previously stated, we also have realized that the time has come for a name change for this association. We are no longer just “American”; we are “Global,” as evidenced by the number of international attendees each year at our convention.

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Incoming Presidential Address

Yes, the membership continues to grow, but the prevailing need continues to be the thirst for knowledge. Thus we need to service nursing not nurses. That is how Glenn Tecker assisted us in developing the name change: Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing.

I welcome fresh new ideas and energy that come with the wealth of experience and knowledge that is our history. We each have talents and gifts to give, and we come from different perspectives with different experiences. You may think that your contribution is unimportant or not needed, but the reality is that each of you has the potential to help the organization soar. The trials and persistent efforts of many individuals have allowed the 2nd edition of the ARNA Core Curriculum and the ARNA Orientation Manual to be published. Now we must ask ourselves, what is next?

Goal #1: In October we will have our second Fall Symposium in St. Louis. We will continue to build upon the theme from this convention: Radiology Nursing: Advancing Opportunities in Imaging. As we did last fall we will have mostly non-interventional topics. We will again offer the Certification Preparation Course. If there is someone from the St. Louis area that would like to serve on the planning committee, here is your chance to volunteer and assist us in making this program a success.

Goal #2: This association needs to mentor and grow new leaders both locally and nationally. If there is a local chapter in your area, think about joining. There are some established chapters that have been dormant. Perhaps you could be that person to give it new life. I also challenge you as a radiology nurse to be the best patient advocate you can be and to continue to enhance patient safety. The questions I want you to ask yourself are “What is going well in my workplace and what is not going well?” and “What can I do to bring about change?” The member’s only section listserv has been an excellent resource to ask questions when you need advice or are looking for a reference. I am so impressed with the dialogue that is occurring. Our newsletter Vision or the Journal of Radiology Nursing is a perfect place for you to speak up or publish your results.

Goal #3: This association needs to continue to be a leader in the National Patient Safety Goals and how they affect our departments and workplace. We need to continue to guide our coworkers, medical and technical, in realizing the importance of carrying out these protocols and guidelines that have been proven, through evidence-based practice, to reduce errors and save lives. Our Evidence-Based Practice Committee spearheaded by Karen Green and Tim McSorley is in high gear, and I am looking forward to seeing the fast facts that will be the final end product from this committee. If you are not familiar with the patient safety goals, I encourage you to check out the Joint Commission website: http://www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/NationalPatientSafetyGoals/.

Many of you may remember Dr. Castaneda from the Las Vegas convention. He was our keynote speaker who reflected upon the history of guide wires and catheters. Dr. Castaneda recently relocated from New Orleans back to Minneapolis and is working in Interventional Radiology at the University of Minnesota (my place of employment). I asked him if he had any words of wisdom as I embarked upon my year as president. He said, “Nothing more than what I have already told you,” and “The key to a sharp mind is to learn something new every day.” He also told me, “Remember, it is alright to delegate, and you need to have fun in life.” I look forward to serving as your president and to continue to grow with you as an association. Vision is the word I have chosen; however, this word belongs to every member of the association as we strive to carry out the revised Strategic Plan.

Thank you.

ARNA 2009 CONVENTION
Honoring the Past, Imagining the Future
March 7-12, 2009
San Diego, CA
Grand Canyon State Chapter’s Radiology Nurses Day Celebration
Deborah Thomas, RN, BS, CRN
Secretary

In April, the Grand Canyon State Chapter completed our annual Radiology Nurses Day Celebration in Yuma, Arizona. Festivities began Friday evening with a social gathering. Saturday started early with a hike along the Colorado River, and a full day of educational presentations and vendor displays. Over 100 participants attended. We wrapped up the weekend with a trip over the border to Algodones, Mexico, for some super shopping.

Our governor, Janet Napolitano, again recognized radiology nurses with a signed declaration and presentation at the conference for the third year in a row. We recognized Steven Pierce, RN, of Casa Grand Regional Medical Center, Casa Grande, Arizona, as Arizona Radiology Nurse of the Year, and Lorna Berens, RN, of Yuma Medical Center, Yuma, Arizona, as the recipient of the Carolyn Bennett Scholarship Award. These outstanding individuals share the commitment and passion of radiology nursing by enhancing the careers of our members and the lives of our patients.

Membership continues to grow, and we are reaching out and gaining participation from more hospitals across the state. Next year we plan on having conferences in Tucson and Flagstaff and holding the fourth annual state conference in Phoenix to allow more attendees.

This September marks our fifth anniversary as a chapter, and we are gearing up for some special anniversary celebrations and projects. Please check out our website at http://www.azradiologyrn.net. We’d love to hear from you!

ARNA Chooses Our Radiology Nurse of the Year

ARNA hosted its annual Membership Meeting on March 19, 2008, during our Annual Conference in Washington, DC. During this meeting, Ellen F. Lash, RN, CRN, was honored as ARNA’s Radiology Nurse of the Year.

Ellen has been a member of ARNA since July 31, 2004. She is active at her local chapter, serving as secretary of the Greater Tampa Bay Chapter. Ellen is also active in many nursing organizations.

Excerpts from letters submitted from her peers follow:

Ellen has been an active member of the ARNA Orientation Manual Task Force. She has worked tirelessly to research, compile, and complete two of the seven chapters for this project.

Ellen’s professionalism is matched only by her energy level. She has been an active participant in the development of the Certification for Radiology Nurses Review Course material. Ellen continues to serve as master facilitator for the CRN review course and motivates all candidates with her “can do” attitude.

Anyone who has conversed with Ellen soon becomes aware of the dedication she has for patients. She is passionate about her work and conveys the desire for each patient to receive exceptional care and for each interaction to be positive.

Ellen’s supervisor acknowledges her dedication and endless knowledge. She continues to say that Ellen is a caring and invaluable part of the Lakewood Ranch family as well as the healthcare profession as a whole.

Ellen was speechless when informed of this honor. Congratulations are extended to Ellen F. Lash on this great achievement.
What is the Funding Future for Nursing?

Lisa J. Revay, RN, CRN
Public Policy Representative

As all nurses are aware we will be facing a nursing shortage in the upcoming years. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that more than 1.2 million new and replacement nurses will be needed by 2014. For the first time since the nursing shortage was noted in the late 1990s, the president’s FY 2008 budget request recommended a 30% reduction in funding for the Nursing Workforce Development programs. This $44 million budget cut would have decreased funding for these programs from $149.7 million to $105.3 million. More specifically, the president recommended eliminating funds for Advanced Education Nursing Grants and redistributing $14 million to Nursing Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs. Despite the president’s proposal, the final House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS-ED) Conference Agreement allocated $167.65 million for Title VIII. However, the president vetoed this bill because it was approximately $11 billion over his bottom line funding level for LHHS-ED programs. Congress worked to meet the president’s funding request and, when the final bill was signed into law on December 19, 2007, Title VIII received $156.05 million. Title VIII programs serve to fund education programs, recruit new nurses into the profession, promote career advancement within nursing and recruit nurses to critical shortage areas. The funding cut is achieved by the elimination of funding for Advanced Education programs. These Advanced Education Nursing programs support schools of nursing and academic health centers that prepare clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, nurse educators, nurse administrators, and public health nurses. These programs also fund traineeships awarded to individual nursing students.

Another funding issue recently in our government is the TNT bill. Motivated by the need to recruit new nursing faculty, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) attached the Troops to Nurse Teachers (TNT) amendment to the FY 2007 Department of Defense (DoD) Authorization bill (S. 2766, later incorporated into H.R. 5122). The TNT program establishes the authority for a pilot program beginning in FY 2007 and ending in FY 2012. It authorizes initial FY 2007 funding of $5 million.-Durbin’s TNT proposal seeks to increase the number of nurse faculty members so nursing schools can expand enrollment and alleviate the ongoing shortage, both in the civilian and military sectors. Additionally, it is meant to help military personnel make successful transitions to second careers in teaching. Nurse Corps leaders in the Army, Navy, and Air Force have pointed to a serious shortage of military nurses — at least a 10% shortage across the board and nearly 40% in some critical specialties.

The TNT proposal will also establish a scholarship program that will provide financial assistance for attendance at an accredited school of nursing to members of the armed forces who have served at least 20 years on active duty, are eligible for retirement, and intend to become nurse faculty. Tuition, stipends, and financing for other educational expenses will also be provided. Recipients must undertake activities deemed appropriate by the Secretary of Defense to encourage current and prospective nurses to pursue a career in the Nurse Corps.

Finally, the TNT program will provide nurse officers in the armed forces with a graduate degree in nursing an opportunity to serve a two-year tour of duty as faculty member at a school of nursing. In exchange, the school agrees to provide scholarships for nursing students who agree to serve as a nurse officer in the military after graduation.


How can you be a voice?

Make phone calls

Send e-mails and write letters
Because of the anthrax decontamination process now in place, delivery of U.S. mail to Congress and the White House is routinely delayed by as many as three months. Using e-mail or sending a fax is really the best way to make sure your voice will be heard in time to make a difference.

References
http://www.capitolupdate.org
http://www.capwiz.com

2008 ARNA Convention Poster Award

We would like to congratulate Gina Davidson, RN, and Mary Yousey, RN, of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, for winning the Poster Award at the 2008 ARNA Convention for their poster session “Improving the Patient Outcome: Changing the Radiology Department Sedation Program from Radiologist-Managed to Anesthesiologist-Managed.” Their abstract follows:

The purpose of this poster is to describe a multi-faceted approach to improving the patient’s outcome during the radiology imaging process. This will include the process of scheduling, expanded choices of sedation/anesthesia medications (additions of Precedex and nitrous oxide), and improved medical management of complex patients (including aero-digestive, cardiac, pediatric intensive care, and newborn intensive care).
Treasurer’s Report for 2007

ARNA had another profitable year in 2007. This is the third consecutive year of profits for the organization. In 2007, ARNA made a profit of $34,509. The pie charts below summarize the revenues and expenses for 2007:

ARNA’s largest area of revenue (41%) came from yearly membership dues. ARNA membership continues to grow overall. As of March, there were 2,146 members. ARNA will be performing a needs assessment of the members in 2008 to help guide the organization in its progression.

On the expense side, the majority were administrative costs at 30% of the total expenditure. This expense includes payment to Dancy, Puettz & Associates, the management company that helps keep ARNA organized and working efficiently. The 2007 Convention in Seattle accounts for 12% of revenues and 15% of expenses. The Fall Symposium in Minneapolis accounts for 6% of revenues and 9% of expenses. Although the Fall Symposium showed an overall deficit and the 2007 Convention in Seattle had only a $1,000 profit, these programs provided a substantial positive gain to ARNA members as a whole. One cannot put a price on the knowledge attained and the networking accomplished at these conferences. Technology is a new category that accounts for 4% of the expenses. This technology expense went to the implementation and maintenance of ARNA’s new website. In 2007, the website obtained a new look and feel and became more user friendly. For 2008, the website will include a survey management system to poll large numbers of members.

The projects planned for 2008 are intended to benefit all ARNA members. The publication of the ARNA Orientation Manual will assist new nurses and preceptors in the imaging environment. The long awaited Core Curriculum is here. This resource contains updated material from the previous Core Curriculum and also covers additional topics such as management issues, legal issues, and performance improvement. With the continuation of the Certification Prep Course and the sale of the course on a CD-ROM, ARNA hopes to assist more imaging nurses in becoming certified. The role delineation will analyze imaging nursing practice on which to base the certification exam. The sale of these items for the next few years will help with ARNA profits.

The profits from 2007 will continue to be invested in ARNA projects. These projects will support ARNA’s core purpose and values and help achieve ARNA’s goal as the source for standards of nursing care in any imaging environment. We appreciate all your support and hope that the ARNA’s future will continue to be prosperous and successful.