

# MNA's 94th annual convention takes care of business, Oct. 16-19

The count down has begun. There are only a few days left to register for the Mississippi Nurses Association's 94th annual convention. Against the backdrop of the birthplace of Elvis Presley in Tupelo, Miss., MNA will take center stage Oct. 16-19 at the BancorpSouth Conference Center and Arena.

## Pre-Convention Workshops

Two pre-convention workshops will be offered simultaneously from 1-5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 16. The first, back by popular demand, is the Faculty Development Workshop for Geriatric Nursing. This workshop, moderated by Virginia Lee Cora, DSN, will assist nursing school and staff development faculty to create specific strategies for integrating content relating to older adults into existing curricula, including competencies, content, clinical experiences, and available resources.



Melodie Chenevert  
The Queen of Hearts

Brandon Bennett  
The King of Rock 'n Roll

Educators also will continue to develop collaborative networks among nurse educators for geriatric nursing education and practice.

The second workshop, *Challenges and Rewards of Academic and Practice Partnerships: Partners Investing in Nursing*, is also from 1-5 p.m., Tuesday. Some of the goals of the workshop, led by Anne McNamara, PhD, RN, of Phoenix, Arizona,

include recalling major aspects of the Mississippi Office of Nursing Workforce PIN grant, and exploring opportunities for participation and to encourage promotion of nursing education as a career of choice.

Each workshop will provide 3.5 contact hours.

## House of Delegates

The MNA House of Delegates will convene their

one-day session at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17. Delegates will vote on the MNA Board positions of: president, vice president, director, Council on Nursing Education, and director, Council on Organizational Affairs.

There are three resolutions before the House that will be considered.

## Keynote Luncheon

Keynote speaker Melodie Chenevert of Gaithersburg, Maryland will speak at noon, on Wednesday in the BancorpSouth Conference Center. Chenevert reflects on the current state of health care. "I bring nurses news they can use and tools to cope with their rapidly changing personal and professional lives," Chenevert said.

## Expo '07

One of the major highlights of the convention will be the

SEE CONVENTION PAGE 9

## Make you reservations at either of three locations

The Marriott Courtyard, 1320 North Gloster St. The Marriott's rate is \$99 plus tax for single or double occupancy. Call (662) 841-9960 or 1-800-321-2211 for reservations at the Marriott.

Holiday Inn Express, 1612 McClure Cove. Room rates are

\$99-\$119 per night plus tax for single or double occupancy. Call (662) 620-8184.

Sleep Inn, 721 N. Gloster St. Rooms are \$74 per night plus tax for single or double occupancy. Call (662) 840-7737.

Use the booking code: Mississippi Nurses Association.

# Executive

A MESSAGE FROM THE

# Director



I have just returned from celebrating with the Georgia Nurses Association their 100th anniversary in Savannah. Executive Director Debbie Hackman invited me to participate, knowing that we would be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Mississippi Nurses Association in 2011.

It was an inspiring tribute to nursing, and we congratulate them on this significant achievement. The South Carolina Nurses Association will also be celebrating their centennial in just a few weeks. These milestones help us to pause and

from the candidates themselves regarding issues related to nursing and to health care.

Also, please consider sending a contribution to the MNA PAC, 31 Woodgreen Place, Madison, MS 39110 so that we may support those that support nursing.

I hope you are making plans to attend convention in Tupelo this year. Almost 40 hours of continuing education credit will be offered, and we are planning on having fun, too. Everything from a rooftop reception to a sock hop with Elvis are on the agenda, so don't miss this opportunity to

increase your knowledge, network with other nurses, experience the largest nursing EXPO in the Southeast, and party with an award winning Elvis impersonator. Make your hotel reservations now as hotels in Tupelo are filling up quickly.

The Mississippi Nurses Association board of directors is moving forward with disaster

appreciate the many contributions that nurses have made over the past century and the importance of the state nurses associations in promoting the practice of nursing.

It has been a very busy summer with the statewide elections taking place and with convention to prepare for. I want to strongly encourage you to get involved in the campaigns of those candidates who you believe will be supportive of nursing.

Our MNA PAC has made contributions to legislative candidates, and we are hosting a political forum for candidates for statewide office at convention. Make plans to attend this political rally on Thursday afternoon, Oct. 18, and hear

preparedness efforts, continued work on the nursing shortage, and plans to distribute the funds raised by the Johnson & Johnson event. Nursing scholarships, grants to nursing schools, and continuing education on mental health issues will be provided through these funds. MNA President Pam Farris is putting together a committee to develop criteria for these awards.

We hope you are enjoying the new look of all of MNA's publications and will encourage your fellow nurses to become involved in their professional association.

Thank you for your commitment to your practice, and we look forward to seeing you at convention.

## MNA BOARD

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Betty Ruth Hawkins  
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# Mississippi Nurses Foundation executive director announces September plans to resign, relocate

Mississippi Nurses Foundation Executive Director Charlotte Cockrell has announced she will resign her position and relocate to Houston, Texas at the end of September.

"Charlotte is the hardest working person I have every known," said Dr. Melinda Rush, president of the foundation board. "I can hardly bear to speak of her leaving or think of the Foundation without her presence. The Nurses' Foundation has grown under her tutelage and will forever bear the mark of her hard work."

In 1989, Charlotte Cockrell received a telephone call that turned into a 16-year journey with the nurses of Mississippi. On the other end of the line, Mississippi Nurses Association's Executive Director Betty Dickson said, "I need you to come work with me." The rest, as they say, is history.

"It has been a history full of many learning experiences, exciting activities, challenging work and a most rewarding career working along side the nurses of our state," Cockrell said.

Cockrell's journey began as MNA's administrative assistant. She served in this capacity for

raiser, her comment was, 'Don't worry, Char, we don't either, but we will all learn

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*The Mississippi Nurses' Foundation has grown under Charlotte's tutelage. It will forever bear the mark of her hard work and dedication.*

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six years until, in 1997, the association began the campaign, *Moving Nursing and Healthcare Into the 21st Century*.

Included in the goals for the campaign was construction of the Mississippi Center for Nursing in Madison. With the campaign to raise funds to cover construction costs, the foundation moved into an expanded role which required its own executive director. Board members turned to Cockrell.

"In the process of discussing this position with the MNA and Foundation boards, I became aware of the level of fund raising that needed to be done to reach the capital campaign goal of \$975,000," she said. "When I told Betty Dickson I had no training or skills to be a fund

together!' That gave me a level of comfort, so the Foundation came out of the bottom drawer of Betty's desk, and along with MNA moved into its own office in the new Mississippi Center for Nursing on Dec. 15, 1997."

"The past 10 years serving on the Foundation side of the house has certainly been a learning experience," Cockrell said. "We have had many 'firsts' as we have worked to develop a solid organization. I feel like I have grown-up at MNA and I have truly enjoyed working with everyone. The support from all who have served on the Foundation Board, the MNA Board and all the MNA members has been exceptional. I have been allowed to grow, make mistakes, try new ideas and share



*Charlotte Cockrell*

in many successes. Many have given much time and effort to bring the Nurses Foundation to the level it is today, and I believe it is positioned for much greater financial growth and significant wellness education across Mississippi," stated Cockrell.

"Thank you for the priceless opportunity to have worked along side you to promote this exceptional profession of nursing, and to have had a part in helping *Nurses Touch Lives*".

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## Criteria to be set for awarding J&J funds

MNA President Pam Farris is assembling a committee of members to set criteria for distribution of more than \$200,000 raised in April by The Johnson & Johnson Promise of Nursing Gala held at the Beau Rivage Casino and Resort in Biloxi. The two-course dinner event, a component of The Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing's Future honored more than 500 Mississippi nurses attended.

The gala provided a national platform for hospitals, health systems and business-

es across the nation to give back to the nurses on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, who gave above and beyond the call of duty, during and after Hurricane Katrina.

"The funds from the gala will be used for scholarships for nursing students and grants to schools of nursing," said Farris. "The remainder will be used for continuing education opportunities to assist nurses on the Coast with post-Katrina mental health issues."

In February of 2002, Johnson &

Johnson launched the Campaign for Nursing's Future to enhance the image of the nursing profession, recruit new nurses and nurse educators, and retain those nurses currently in the healthcare system. One component of the campaign is the regional Promise of Nursing event. The Promise of Nursing galas not only celebrate nursing professionals for their extraordinary contributions, but they also raise money for the local nursing community.

# House of Delegates to elect four members to board of directors

Delegates will elect four members to the association's board of directors. The offices of president, vice president, and two directors are up for consideration. Five candidates have declared for office. Nominations may also be made from the floor.



Pam Farris  
Running for  
President

**Pam Farris, RN, BSN, OCN** is the nurse manager at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in the Bone Marrow Transplant Program. She served as a staff nurse at both UMMC and at Mississippi Baptist Hospital. She received a

BSN from the University of Mississippi, School of Nursing. She is enrolled in the university's graduate program for nursing education. Farris has been a member of MNA since 1991. Presently, she serves as president of the association. She received UMMC's Nurse Administrator of the year award in 1999.



Gayle Harrell  
Running for  
President

**Gayle Harrell, RN, MSN, NP**, works as a Nurse Practitioner in the Department of Surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She has been with UMC since 1994. She graduated from East Central

Community College (AD), Belhaven

College (BS), Mississippi College (MS), and the University of Mississippi School of Nursing (BSN, MSN). She is active in MNA, where she has served as Treasurer from 1999 to 2001, chaired the Awards Committee, and is on the Health Affairs Committee. She is a member of District 13, Sigma Theta Tau, the Association of Advanced Wound Management, and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.



Sue Lawrence  
Running for  
Vice President

**Sue Lawrence, RN, MSN, CCRN**, was elected to serve a two-year term as vice president of the Mississippi Nurses Association (MNA) in October 2005. A nurse since 1986, Lawrence most recently is a staff nurse in the Coronary

Care Unit at Mississippi Baptist Health Systems in Jackson. Her diverse work history ranges from patient educator to consultant, to director. She is also a member of Sigma Theta Tau and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN). Lawrence has a bachelor of science from Mississippi College, Master of Nursing from the University of Mississippi School of Nursing, and a certification in critical care nursing from the American Association of Critical Care Nursing (AACN).

**Ann Barnes, BSN, RN** is president of Prime Care Nursing in Jackson. She has worked as an assistant administrator for



Anne Barnes  
Running for Director,  
Council on Organization

the Sta-Home Health Agency, in marketing for South Mississippi Home Health and director of the Oxford Health Care. She received a bachelor degree in nursing from the University Mississippi School of Nursing. Ann was selected as one of

Mississippi 50 Leading Business Women in 2005 and is a graduate of the Leadership Jackson and Leadership Madison County programs. She has served as president of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce.



Marilyn Ellis  
Running for Director,  
Council on Nursing  
Education

**Marilyn Ellis is a Nurse Practitioner**, currently practicing in the Primary Care Service of the Gulf Coast Veterans Healthcare System. She has served as Chairperson of the Nursing Clinical Practice Committee,

Coordinator for the Drop-In Group Medical Appoints, Champion for Diabetes Performance Measures, and Chairperson for the Primary Care Design Committee. She is a long time member of the MNA. In 2004, she was selected as MNA Nurse of the Year. She serves on the MNA Board as Director, Council on Education and is past chair of the MNA Provider Unit.

## Three resolutions to be presented to House of Delegates

The House of Delegates will be presented three resolutions for adoption from the Committee of Resolutions.

The resolutions support efforts to raise the cigarette taxes by \$1 as means of making Mississippi a healthier place for all its citizens; affirming the practice of

nursing; and the nursing profession in gaining disaster preparedness training. If adopted, the resolutions will become centerpieces for the 2008 MNA legislative initiatives.

Rebecca Askew, Director, Council of Organizational Affairs will introduce the

resolutions to the house Wednesday, Oct. 17. Please review the resolutions and make contact with your district delegates to voice opinion or contact the MNA office at [mna@msnurses.org](mailto:mna@msnurses.org)

SEE RESOLUTIONS 6

# Statewide candidates court Nursing's support

Candidates running for statewide office in the general election Tuesday, Nov. 2 have been invited to speak to an audience of more than 1,000 nurses and students at the The Mississippi Nurses' Association 94th annual convention in Tupelo on Thursday, Oct. 18. The rally is scheduled from 2:45 until 3:45 p.m. at the Bancorp-South Arena.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the candidates to meet and speak to approximately one thousand nurses and nursing students," said MNA Executive Director Ricki Garrett. "We are looking forward to hearing the candidates discuss plans for Mississippi's healthcare future."

The Mississippi Nurses Association comprises one of the state's largest professional organizations. In 2006, the Mississippi Board of Nursing reported 34,946 Registered Nurses and 12,111 Licensed Practical Nurses with active licenses. The average annual income for a Registered Nurse in Mississippi is \$50,130 and \$30,070 for a Licensed Practical Nurse.

"Nurses are among the state's most

dependable group of voters," Garrett said. "They are smart and involved and their professional issues and concerns are among the most pressing issues and concerns facing the state."

"I don't think any of the candidates for statewide offices are unaware of the importance nurses play in the economical future of the state."

Nursing is No. 1 on the Department of Employment Security list of the Top 50 "Hottest" Jobs in the state. Here is one reason why, according to The Mississippi Office of Nursing Workforce when combining the number of RN vacancies and the increase in demand reported, Mississippi hospitals will need an additional 2,100 RNs by 2008. This number is approximately 630 more than are expected to graduate from Mississippi Schools of Nursing and become licensed to practice in Mississippi.

"State officials will have to continue to address the issue of nursing shortages and xxxxxx," Garrett said. "The rally really is a good opportunity for the candidates and for

the nursing community.

## Candidates invited to the MNA Political Rally include:

Haley Barbour (R) and John Arthur Eaves (D), Governor; Jim Hood (D) and Al Hopkins (R), Attorney General; Gary Anderson (D) and Michael Chaney (R), Insurance Commissioner; Phil Bryant (R) and James R. Franks (D), Lt. Governor; Charles Barbour (R), Addie Green (D) and Lynn Posey (D), Public Service Commissioner Central District; Mabel Murphree (R) and Brandon Presley (D), Public Service Commissioner Northern District; Leonard Bentz (R) and Mike Collier (D), Public Service Commissioner Southern District; Delbert Hosemann (R) and Robert "Rob" H. Smith (D), Secretary of State; Todd Brand (D), Stacey E. Pickering (R) and Mike Sumrall (D), State Auditor; Shawn O'Hara (D) and Tate Reeves (R), State Treasurer; Dick Hall (R) and Rudolph Warnock (D), Transportation Commissioner Central District; William Minor (D), Transportation Commissioner Northern District; and Larry Benefield (R) and Wayne Brown (D), Transportation Commissioner Southern District.

## 2008 Nightingale nomination deadline nears

The Mississippi Nurses Association and Foundation are hosting the third annual, Mississippi Nightingale Awards Gala on Monday, Feb. 4, 2008, at the Marriott

"We are excited to offer two opportunities for participation," said Mississippi Nurses Foundation Executive Director Charlotte Cockrell. "The first is to support

"We look forward to your participation as we join in honoring our most deserving nurses, hospitals, schools of nursing and healthcare agencies at the 2008 Mississippi Nightingale Awards," Cockrell said.

Nomination criteria and forms are available at [www.msurses.org](http://www.msurses.org).

Categories for awards include:

- Nurse of the Year
- Nursing Educator of the Year
- Clinical Practice Nurse of the Year
- Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year
- Nurse in Non-Traditional Setting of the Year

- Nursing Administrator of the Year
- Nurse Mentor of the Year
- Nurse Rookie of the Year
- School of Nursing of the Year
- Hospital of the Year (less than 100 beds)
- Hospital of the Year (100 beds or more)
- Nurse Employer of the Year (other than hospital)
- School of Nursing Administrator of the Year
- Community Service Nurse of the Year
- Nurse Researcher of the Year
- MNA Hall of Fame Award

### *Deadline for nominations*

*is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31*

Hotel in downtown Jackson. This prestigious black-tie event is the "academy award" honoring exceptional service in the nursing and healthcare industry across Mississippi.

Nightingale Awards distinguish those men, women and organizations that have made a special effort to excel in the area of healthcare.

Mississippi's best in the area of healthcare with sponsorship of the event. The second is to make nominations in any or all award categories."

The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, Oct. 31.

For more information, please call the Mississippi Nurses Association at (601) 898-0670.

2007 PROPOSED RESOLUTION No. 1

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO RAISE CIGARETTE TAXES \$1 PER PACK AS A MEANS OF MAKING MISSISSIPPI A HEALTHIER PLACE FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS**

WHEREAS 4,700 Mississippi adults die each year as a result of their own smoking and 430 to 760 adults, children and babies die from others' smoking (secondhand smoke and pregnancy smoking), and

WHEREAS there are 81,600 young people under 18 and alive in Mississippi who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking related illnesses, and

WHEREAS the annual health care cost in Mississippi directly caused by smoking totals \$662 million, with \$206 million of that covered by the state's Medicaid budget, and

WHEREAS smoking-caused productivity losses in Mississippi are estimated at \$1.4 billion a year, and

WHEREAS every household in Mississippi pays \$528 a year in taxes due to government expenditures resulting from smoking related illnesses, and

WHEREAS Mississippi's cigarette tax at \$.18 per pack is the third lowest in the nation, lower than all non-tobacco producing states, and

WHEREAS research shows that a \$1 per pack increase in cigarette taxes would result in 36,000 young Mississippians not becoming smokers and 30,000 adults quitting, and

WHEREAS a \$1 per pack increase in tobacco tax would result in a 5-year healthcare savings from fewer smoking-caused heart attacks and strokes would amount to \$14 millions, and

WHEREAS long-term healthcare savings in Mississippi from smoking declines among adult and youth will amount to \$679.5 million, and

WHEREAS a \$1 per pack increase in cigarette tax would generate an additional \$184 million for use in funding healthcare programs and other needed government funded programs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Nurses Association will support this legislation and will actively lobby on behalf of this effort, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MNA will publicize its support of this effort through its

publications and website and will encourage the districts to become involved during the 2008 legislative session

2007 PROPOSED RESOLUTION No. 2

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AFFIRMING THE PRACTICE OF NURSING**

WHEREAS, nursing is a profession and a scientific discipline; and

WHEREAS, professional regulation of nursing practice begins with the profession's definition of nursing and the scope of nursing practice; and

WHEREAS, the authority for the practice of nursing is based on a social contract that acknowledges professional rights and responsibilities and includes mechanisms for public accountability; and

WHEREAS, professional nursing is dynamic, rather than static, reflecting the nature of societal needs and the expanding knowledge base of its theoretical and scientific domains; and

WHEREAS, recent actions by organized medicine to control and constrain the practice of licensed health care professionals threaten to make it significantly more difficult to successfully extend or expand scope of practice for registered nurses; and

WHEREAS, there is a current movement by organized medicine to study the qualifications, education, academic requirements, licensure, certification, independent governance, ethical standards, disciplinary processes, and peer review of the nursing profession; and

WHEREAS, the social contract between society and the profession of nursing and its obligation to those who receive professional nursing care is described in Nursing's Social Policy Statement, Second Edition; and

WHEREAS, Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice delineates the professional responsibilities of all professional registered nurses engaged in nursing practice, regardless of setting; and

WHEREAS, the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements provides a framework for nurses to use in ethical analysis and decision-making; and

WHEREAS, these three foundation documents provide a complete and definitive description for

better understanding by policy makers and the public of nursing practice and nursing's accountability to the public; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi Nurses Association, in collaboration with the American Nurses Association, continues to affirm the registered nurse's unencumbered authority to practice with the rights, responsibilities, and accountability as defined in the profession's fundamental documents, the ANA Social Policy Statement, Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements and the Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi Nurses Association, in collaboration with ANA and the Scope of Practice Partnership Member organizations, urges American Medical Association to cease their divisive and restrictive efforts regarding the scope of nursing practice, and instead, work with ANA and other nursing and healthcare disciplines to advance the health and well-being of the public; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi Nurses Association continue to affirm and advocate nursing's position that it is not the purview of physician organizations to advise consumers, legislators, regulators, policy makers or payers regarding the scope of practice of licensed healthcare professionals whose practice is authorized in statutes other than medical practice acts.

REPORT:

**Recent Activities of Organized Medicine**

The American Medical Association's (AMA) House of Delegates, meeting in November 2005, adopted a resolution to study and publish a report on the qualifications, education, licensure and certification requirements for all limited licensed practitioners and independent practitioners. Advanced practice registered nurses are included in AMA's definition of limited licensed practitioners.

In addition, AMA has announced the formation of a Scope of Practice Partnership, including other medical specialties which will serve as a coordinated resource center for states who are dealing with scope of practice issues. The partnership will serve as a source of information for physicians, state legislatures, courts and regulatory agencies, and others when they consider public safety and qualifications in relation to limited licensure health care providers.

In a related activity in August 2005, the

Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) adopted a report that included a set of guidelines to be used by State regulatory boards, and legislatures when considering requests for creation or expansion of scopes of practice. The FSMB guidelines potentially will impede the appropriate state recognition of scopes of practice of health care practitioners who are not physicians (FSMB, 2005).

These recent actions by organized medicine to control and constrain the practice of licensed health care professionals threaten to make it significantly more difficult to extend or expand scope of practice for registered nurses successfully. The result will be to further limit access to providers who have the education and experience to provide safe quality health care services. Also, it will reduce the availability and choice of providers.

**Furthermore these actions by organized medicine:**

- o Fail to recognize the interdisciplinary aspect to existing clinical health delivery practice;
- o Diminish the value of history of efficient and safe advanced practice nursing;
- o Minimize the forty year history of nurse accountability for the nursing scope of practice under law; and
- o Place emphasis on the financial and fiscal considerations associated with scopes of practice.

**Rights and Responsibilities of Professional Nursing**

In response to these activities by organized medicine, MNA, in collaboration with ANA, re-articulates nursing's contribution to health care, its obligation to those who receive nursing care and its relationship to society.

The authority for the practice of nursing is based on a social contract that acknowledges the professional rights and responsibilities of nursing and includes mechanisms for public accountability. Professional nursing is dynamic, rather than static, reflecting the nature of societal needs and the expanding knowledge base of its theoretical and scientific domains (ANA, 2003; ANA, 2004).

**Legal Regulation**

The legal contract between society and the professions is defined by statute and by related rules and regulations. State nurse practice acts and related legislative and regulatory initiatives serve as the explicit codification of the profession's obligation to act in the best interests of society. Nurse practice acts grant nurses the

authority to practice and grant society the authority to sanction nurses who violate the norms of the profession or act in a manner that threatens the safety of the public.

**Professional Regulation**

Nursing, like other professions, is accountable for ensuring that its members act in the public interest by providing the unique service society has entrusted to them. Nursing regulates itself by defining its practice base, providing for research and development of that practice base, establishing a system for nursing education, establishing structures through which nursing service will be delivered and providing quality assurance mechanisms such as a code of ethics, standards of practice, structures for peer review and a system of credentialing.

**Self-Regulation**

Nurses are personally accountable for their own knowledge base for professional practice. Nurses develop and maintain current knowledge, skills, and abilities through formal and continuing education. Where appropriate, nurses hold certification in their area of practice to demonstrate their accountability. Nurses also regulate themselves through peer review of their practice. Continuous performance improvement fosters the refinement of knowledge, skills and clinical decision-making at all levels and in all areas of professional nursing practice (ANA, 2003).

**Nursing Foundational Documents**

The basic principles of safe and ethical nursing practice are detailed in three foundational documents - the code of ethics, the scope and standards of practice and a social policy. These are the documents that guide professional registered nurses throughout their careers whether they practice independently or collaboratively, in all settings at all levels. They also provide the framework for the development of policies and procedures reflective of today's evolving scope and standards of practice. (ANA, 2001; ANA, 2003; ANA, 2004).

**Conclusion**

MNA strongly believes that it is inappropriate for organized medicine to advise legislators, policy makers and boards of medicine to regulate, either directly or indirectly, the scope of practice of licensed providers whose scope of practice is authorized in statutes other than medical practice acts and who are not regulated by boards of medicine.

Using existing ANA policy, ANA is taking the lead, in collaboration with the CMAs, organiza-

tional affiliates, other nursing organizations and with health disciplines, to address current and future scope of practice challenges at both the state and federal levels.

**REFERENCES:**

American Nurses Association (ANA). (2004). Nursing: Scope and standards. Washington, DC: Author.

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ANA successfully champions professional nursing excellence through standards, code of ethics, and professional development, such as credentialing and lifelong learning.

**2007 PROPOSED RESOLUTION No. 3**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NURSING PROFESSION AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

WHEREAS, the nursing profession has a long history of responding selflessly to regional, national and global emergencies; and,

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Nurses Association has been involved in developing strategies to better prepare health care providers including professional nurses in case of such emergencies; including working with the Mississippi Department of Health and the Center for Domestic Preparedness; and,

WHEREAS, emergencies and disasters are unpredictable and disaster responsiveness requires coordination of services and an available and reliable volunteer nurse corps; and,

WHEREAS, recent experiences with mass casualty disasters demonstrated a number of pervasive systems barriers to effective coordination of nursing's response; and,



The Mississippi Council of Deans and Directors of Schools of Nursing honored Mary Ware, Ed.D., RN, for her contributions to Mississippi Nursing as Director of Nursing Education, Institutions of Higher Learning. The council also welcomed her replacement, Martha Catlette, DSN, RN, and Dean of Nursing Education at Delta State University. From left, are Rebecca West, MSN, RN, director, Division of Nursing, Northeast Mississippi Community College and council secretary, Libby Mahaffey, Ph.D., RN, Dean of Nursing, Nursing/Allied Health Center at Hinds Community College and council president, Mary Ware and Martha Catlette.

## Disaster training offered free to MNA members

In response to the ever-increasing demand for a trained response to natural and domestic disasters, MNA is working with the Department of Homeland Security's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Ala., to offer an intensive hands-on, week long All-Hazards Preparedness Training and Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents.

The schedule for the training program will be announced following the MNA annual convention in October.

"This is a new direction for MNA and its educational offerings," said Executive Director Ricki Garrett. "The training program will be offered free to all MNA members who can make a five-day program fit into their schedules. We will

chartered a bus to Anniston. Lodging and meals will be provided at no cost to responders or their agency."

CDP representative Van Alford will present a CE session on All-Hazards Preparedness Training at the annual convention in Tupelo at 8 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 18.

"I am hoping that our presence at the convention will generate interest and provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions and obtain additional information about making a commitment to onsite training," Alford said.

Additionally, MNA is making plans to conduct a two-day, hands on training session with the CDP in Florence, Ala., at the Marriott Shoals Convention Center in April 2009.

"Any of us who responded to Katrina are well aware of the need for statewide preparedness," said MNA President Pam Farris. "This is an excellent opportunity to receive training that in the past has been limited. I want to encourage any member who can to find a way to work this training into their schedule."

For more information on the CDP and its programs go to <http://cdp.dhs.gov>.

## RESOLUTIONS

From Page 5

personal safety and appropriate organizational response are necessary for nurses to provide safe, quality care under these most critical and stressful circumstances; and,

WHEREAS, appropriate education and continued training regarding patient care and safety, personal safety and appropri-

ate organizational response are necessary for nurses to provide safe, quality care under these most critical and stressful circumstances,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Nurses Association will:

1. Provide leadership among the

state nursing organizations to develop nursing's response to disaster events.

2. Support efforts in promoting the participation of RNs in the planning and implementation of disaster preparedness at the local, state and national level.

3. Promote education and training to heighten awareness of threats from weapons of mass

destruction.

4. Promote workplace initiatives that support nurse volunteer efforts during local, state, and federal emergencies and disasters.

5. Support Federal legislation that would support volunteer efforts and protect the employment rights of nurses who volunteer and are absent from their jobs during disasters.

# CONVENTION

From Page 1

2007 Expo Thursday, Oct. 18 at the BancorpSouth Arena. The grand opening ceremonies begin at 9 a.m. The grand prize giveaway – *five days on a Carnival Fantasy Cruise to the Western Caribbean for two!* – will be at 10:40 a.m. You must be present to win. Exhibitors will be on hand throughout the day.

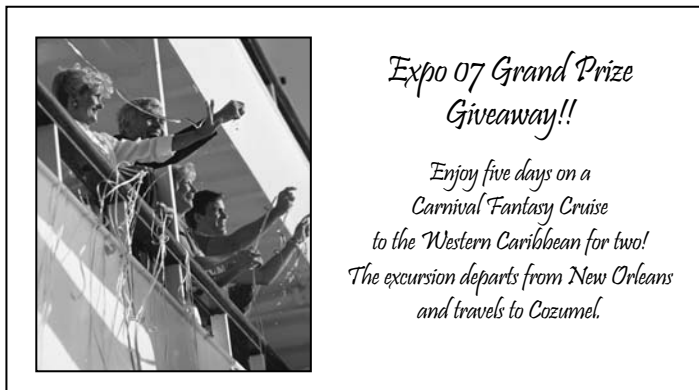
## Poster Session

Also on Thursday, The Mississippi Nurses Association's Council on Nursing Research, the MNA Provider Unit, and the Mississippi Nurses Foundation's Research Committee will present the winners in the jointly sponsored poster session. The poster presentation session from 11 a.m. until noon will be provided with continuing education credit through MNA.

## Sigma Theta Tau

The Pi Xi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau at Delta State University is the host chapter for this year's luncheon at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18 featuring Sheila P. Davis, RN, PhD. Dr. Davis. Her talk will equal 1.0 contact hours. Dr. Davis is the editor of *Online Journal of Health Ethics*, assistant dean of Doctoral Studies and deputy director of The Mississippi Institute for Improvement of Geographic Minority Health, as well as a professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing.

Tickets are \$25 and maybe purchased in advance. Sigma Theta Tau supports the learning and professional development of members who strive to improve nursing worldwide.



## Expo 07 Grand Prize Giveaway!!

*Enjoy five days on a Carnival Fantasy Cruise to the Western Caribbean for two! The excursion departs from New Orleans and travels to Cozumel.*

## Developing Nurse Leader Program

The third annual Developing Nurse Leader Program is scheduled from 1-5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18. The mission of the program is to cultivate aspiring nurse leaders within MNA, employing agencies, and communities by providing registered nurses with knowledge and skills necessary to support leadership growth. The program offers opportunities for involvement in general convention activities as well as public speaking, group interaction and one-on-one discussions.

## Statewide Political Rally

At 2:45 p.m., MNA will sponsor a political rally. Statewide candidates have been invited to speak about their positions on nursing issues in the state. This is a great opportunity to get to know the men and women who will serve Mississippi the next four years.

## Receptions

The convention boasts of three receptions. Two will take place from 5 - 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17 in the BancorpSouth Conference Center. All convention attendees are invited. The University of Southern Mississippi School of Nursing and MNA will sponsor the

*Nurses: Inspiring the Future* Reception in the Sweetgum Ballroom and The University of Mississippi will host the *Nursing Alumni and Friends* Reception.

North Mississippi Medical Center, Itawamba Community College School of Nursing, Mississippi University for Women School of Nursing, Northeast Mississippi Community College School of Nursing and MNA District 25 will sponsor *Taking Nursing to New Heights* Reception from 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 18, on the rooftop of the Park Height Restaurant in the Fairpark District in downtown Tupelo. Entertainment will be presented by *The Gents*.

## NP Fall Workshop

Convention activities will conclude, Friday, Oct. 19 with the Nurse Practitioner Fall Workshop at the BancorpSouth Conference Center.

The Mississippi Nurses Association is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

# Quick Notes

## Registration funds available in Districts 5 & 6

The MNA Board will pay the registration fee for 25 members in both District 5 and District 6 to attend the MNA annual convention, Oct. 16-19, in Tupelo. The board will use Katrina Relief Funds to pay the \$180 registration fee for 50 members to attend convention.

Attendees will pay for all other convention expenses. In District 5, call Deborah Mauffray at (228) 865-3047 or e-mail [dmauffray@bellsouth.net](mailto:dmauffray@bellsouth.net). In District 6, call Kim Williams at (228) 218-1707 or e-mail [kwilliams@usouthal.edu](mailto:kwilliams@usouthal.edu).

## Win a custom grill!

District 32 (Attala, Carroll, Grenada, Holmes, Leflore, and Montgomery counties) will give away a custom grill Thursday, Oct. 18 at convention.

According to District President Jenni Gallagher, donations are \$1 and the winner does not have to be present to win. Look for their table to make your donation.

## Silent Auction

The Historical Special Interest Group will sponsor its third silent auction from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18.

For more information contact, Jeanette Waits at (601) 353-9820.



The Mississippi Nurses' Association  
is the voice of registered nurses in Mississippi  
and provides leadership to improve  
the health of the people.

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**Save  
THE DATE**

## September

2008 Nightingale Awards Gala  
Planning Committee  
1 p.m., Monday, Sept. 24  
UMC School of Nursing, Jackson, Miss.

Mississippi Nurses Foundation  
Board of Trustees  
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 27  
The Mississippi Center for Nursing  
Madison, Miss.

MNA Board of Directors  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Friday, Sept. 28  
The Mississippi Center for Nursing  
Madison, Miss.

## October

Mississippi State Board of Nursing  
Oct. 3-5, 1935, Jackson, Miss.

Mississippi Nurses Foundation  
Scholarship  
and Stipend Committee  
1 p.m., Wednesday, Oct 10  
The Mississippi Center for Nursing  
Madison, Miss.

MNA 94th Annual Convention  
Wednesday - Friday, Oct. 16-19  
BancorpSouth Arena and Convention Center,  
Tupelo, Miss.

Deadline for Nominees  
for the 2008 Nightingale Awards  
5 p.m. Oct. 31

## November

Nurse Practitioner Controlled Substance  
Thursday and Friday, Nov. 1 & 2  
The Mississippi Center for Nursing  
Madison, Miss.

## Coming in 2008

2008 Nursing Summit  
Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2008  
Mississippi Trade Mart, Jackson, Miss.

2008 Nightingale Awards Gala  
Monday, Feb. 4, 2008  
Marriott Hotel Downtown, Jackson, Miss.

Mississippi Nurses Foundation  
Harmony for Health -- Land Cruise  
April 19, 2008

2008 Nurses Practitioner Spring Conference  
April 25 - 26, Natchez, Miss.

2008 95th Annual MNA Convention  
Oct. 21-24, 2008  
Beau Rivage Resort & Casino and  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum  
Biloxi, Miss.