

MNA *Members Only*

SPRING

MISSISSIPPI NURSES' ASSOCIATION

2007

2007 Nurse Practitioner conference goes regional

Register now for the first regional conference for Nurse Practitioners sponsored by the Mississippi Nurses Association. NPs from Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Tennessee are signing up for an education-packed, fun-filled, two-day event set in the heart of the beautiful Tennessee Valley on May 4 and 5.

The conference is booked at the luxurious Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa in Florence, Ala.

The program not only offers more than 23 hours in continuing education and the invaluable opportunity to network with colleagues from four states, but also provides you with the best opportunity to meet Mississippi Board of



Along with luxury accommodations, the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa offers guests two spacious pools, live music, and a state-of-the-art fitness center set against the beauty of the renowned Robert Trent Jones Trail, deep in the heart of the Tennessee River Valley.

Nursing requirements for controlled substance certification with a bonus presentation by Kelly Engelmann, CFNP of Jackson, Miss., on Chronic Pain Management.

"We expect to have excellent participation from Nurse

Practitioners in Mississippi and its surrounding states," said MNA Director of the Council on Nursing Education Marilyn Ellis. "The Provider Unit has worked very hard to arrange a variety of speakers and

SEE CONFERENCE, PAGE 7

Tupelo site of 2007 convention

The Mississippi Nurses Annual Convention will be held in Tupelo, Miss., the birthplace of Elvis Presley, Oct. 16-19 at the Bancorpsouth Arena and Convention Hall.

Built in the heart of the Mid-South, the \$16 million facility is designed to accommodate events that demand comfort, convenience and flexibility.



The Tupelo convention will be the 94th gathering of Mississippi nurses and will be focused on — to steal one of Elvis' lines — *Taking Care of*

Business. Mark your calendars. The event promises to be outstanding.

More information will be available in the upcoming issue of *Mississippi RN* and at www.msurses.org.

Save THE DATE

Johnson & Johnson
The Promise of Nursing
Gala event
April 24, 6-10 p.m.
Beau Rivage Resort & Casino
Biloxi, Miss.

MNA
2007 Nurse Practitioners
Regional Conference
May 4 & 5
Florence, Ala.

MNA/ANA
Statewide MNA Membership
Campaign and
National Nurses Week
May 6-12

MNA
94th Annual Convention
2008 Political Rally

Oct. 16-19
Tupelo, Miss.

Mississippi Nurses
Foundation's
Harmony for Health
June 2, 6 - 9 p.m.
Whisper Lake Country Club
Madison, Miss.

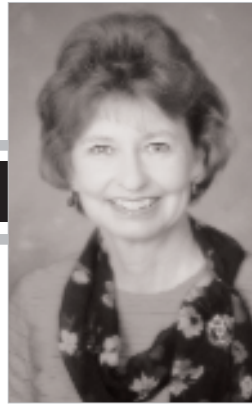
MNA COMING SOON!
2008 Nightingale Awards
2008 Nurses Summit
2008 Expo
2008 Nurses Practitioner Fall
Conference

For more information
on any of these events, contact
MNA at (601) 898-0670 or go to
www.msurses.org/calendar

Executive

A MESSAGE FROM THE

Director



We have reached the end of the legislative session and are proud of our accomplishments. As you know, our lobbyist, Betty Dickson, and I spend a lot of time both at the capitol and in other communications with our state lawmakers. Those relationships help us to represent nurses and nursing as legislators debate bills that directly affect your profession and your practice. This session we are very pleased that legislators approved another \$6,000 pay raise for the nursing faculty of the state. Last year's raise helped our schools of nursing to retain and to recruit faculty at a time when 25 percent of the faculty are eligible to retire. We are deeply grateful to Sen. Jack Gordon, Sen. Alan Nunnelee, Rep. Johnny Stringer, Rep. Steve Holland, Speaker of the House Billy McCoy, and many others for their support of nurses.

We have also successfully lobbied for a new high school LPN program that will provide for students to complete their high school degree while also becoming an LPN. This program will help to alleviate some of the shortages in our nursing homes and serve as an alternative to medication techs. Hopefully, these students will also continue their education and become registered nurses. This project is a collaborative

effort of the Mississippi Nurses Association, the Office of Nursing Workforce, the Community Colleges, the Department of Education, and the Mississippi Health Care Association. MNA has also advocated successfully for school nurses to be housed in the Department of Education, although we need to continue to urge our lawmakers to increase funding for additional school nurses.

We are looking forward to the Johnson & Johnson Promise of Nursing event on April 24 at the Beau Rivage. Johnson & Johnson is hosting this event for 1,000 nurses.

Proceeds from this event, anticipated to be about \$200,000, will be utilized for educational purposes in our state.

We have decided that most of the funds will be used for scholarships for nurses returning to school for advanced degrees, and the remainder will be used for continuing education opportunities to assist nurses on the coast with post-Katrina mental health issues. We greatly appreciate J & J for this generosity.

Our annual nurse practitioner conference is being promoted this year as our first Regional Nurse Practitioner Conference with additional continuing education opportuni-

ties and some fun and relaxation at the beautiful Shoals Marriott Hotel and Spa in Florence, Ala. Invitations are being extended to nurse practitioners in Louisiana, Alabama, and Tennessee as well as to those in Mississippi. The dates are May 4 and 5.

I have had the opportunity to share the work and successes of our task force on the Nursing Faculty Shortage with nursing leaders in other states. I was asked to speak to the Alabama deans and directors in March and will present to a conference hosted by the Texas Coordinating Board in April. Our task force met again on April 9, with Dr. Kim Hoover as facilitator, to update our strategic plan, receive reports from the various subcommittees, and determine our next steps in addressing the faculty shortage.

As we move into a campaign season, I encourage all of you to become familiar with the issues and with the candidates. Our PAC board will be surveying the candidates, and we will work to support those who support nursing. Please remember, too, how important your membership is to our association. We thank you for that and encourage you to help us educate all nurses about the importance of their professional association.

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Marketing and Communications
Director

Johnson & Johnson brings Promise of Nursing gala to Mississippi Gulf Coast

Johnson & Johnson will bring The Promise of Nursing gala to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Tuesday, April 24 at the Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi. The two-course dinner event, a component of The Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing's Future.

"This event provides a national platform for hospitals, health systems and businesses to give back to the nurses on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, who by profession give above and beyond the call of duty on a daily basis, but have had to answer professionally under unreal circumstances the 20 months since Hurricane Katrina devastated their hometowns," said Mississippi Nurses Association Executive Director Ricki Garrett.

In February of 2002, Johnson & Johnson launched the Campaign for

"Our nation faces the most profound shortage of nursing professionals in its history. By 2015, a shortage of more than 800,000 nurses . . . threatens both the quality and availability of health care services."

Johnson & Johnson
Campaign for Nursing's Future

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, by they also raise money for the local nursing community.

Garrett said the funds from the Mississippi event will be used for scholarships for nursing students and nurses returning to school, and the remainder will be used for continuing education opportunities to assist nurses on the Coast with post-Katrina mental health issues.

Johnson & Johnson is expecting more than 500 nurses to attend the evening's event. The sponsorship levels begin at \$10,000. All contributions are tax deductible. For more information, please contact Lorie Krainak at 732-524-1716 or loriek@corus.jnj.com.

Harmony for Health scheduled in June

Harmony For Health, the annual outdoor community concert sponsored by The Mississippi Nurses Foundation, will be from 7-9 p.m., Saturday, June 2 on the 18th fairway at Whisper Lake County Club, 414 Annandale Parkway, Madison.

The annual fundraiser, now in its third year, will feature an evening under stars with musical selections performed by the Mississippi Community Symphonic Band. Maggie Wade of WBLT-TV will again emcee this exciting event.

"This is our most anticipated event by both adults and children," said Charlotte Cockrell, executive director of the foundation. "We encourage everyone to bring their lawn chairs or blankets. There will be plenty of food vendors and a number of special activities for the children."

The Mississippi Nurses Foundation, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to improving the quality of life and health of all Mississippians through community health education programs and nursing scholarships.

Harmony for Health is an event that provides our friends throughout the state an opportunity to join the nurses of Mississippi as we raise funds for wellness and disease prevention projects such as: a hand washing program in elementary schools across the state, a statewide childhood obesity project, health education workshops and screenings for adults.

Sponsorship of this event also gives hospitals and other businesses the opportunity to provide their customers, employees, family and friends a fun and relaxing evening. It also allows the Mississippi Nurses Foundation to

promote these sponsors as supporters of quality health education across our state.

"Sponsors for the event include River Oaks Health System, Baptist Health Systems, Arthur Davis Publishing Agency, BancorpSouth, Joe T's Wine & Spirits, Edward Jones Investments, Prime Care, J & J Specialty Advertising, Carr Riggs & Ingram and University Orthopaedic Associates," Cockrell said.

Sponsorship ranges from \$5,000 to \$250. Sponsors are recognized in printed material and signage at the event.

Tickets are \$5 per person. Gate opens at 6 p.m. The concert is scheduled from 7-9 p.m.

For more information, call 601-898-0850 or e-mail foundation@msnurses.org.



Bess C.

MNA BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Blackwell

Professionalism has been Bess C. Blackwell's career trademark. Contributing to her professional organizations has been a priority that has given her immeasurable returns. "It is a must to be active in whatever association that supports your profession," she said. "Involvement provides you with both an understanding of your profession on a state or national-level and an informed voice with which you can influence your profession locally."

Blackwell, assistant director of Hospital Education in the Department of Hospital Education at The University of Mississippi Medical Center, has been a nurse for 31 years. She is a member of the American Nurses' Association, the Mississippi Nurses' Association, Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi, the University of Mississippi Alumni Association, Sigma Theta Tau - Theta Beta Chapter, National Black Nurses' Association, and the American Association University Women. She served on the Advisory Board for LPN

students, Hinds Community College and Mississippi Board of Nursing.

"Every voice counts," she said. "Every voice matters. Nursing in Mississippi is gaining both political and economical strength. It is important that we have a voice in the future of our profession. The only way to be heard is to be involved."

As chair of the MNA Council on Health Affairs, she and other council members participated in the legislative initiative this session that brought about the passage of the second phase of a two-year pay raise for nursing faculty and the implementation of a pilot program to train additional LPNs.

The LPN program is a first step in opening a new avenue to students who are eager to work right out of high school, Blackwell said. "By starting these students in their careers early, this program may well put these new LPNs on the track to seek more education and become more involved in making more of their careers in nursing."

Blackwell sees nursing as a one of the

Top left: Bess C. Blackwell, right, challenges fate and warnings by Charlene Gray, left, by opening a MNA umbrella indoors for closer examination at a directors meeting. Center: Blackwell talks with one of her UMC colleagues. As a graduate student from UMC, Blackwell was honored with the Nursing Alumni of the Decade Award — Bess C. Blackwell Nurse Executive Award. Bottom: There is a confidence and an inspiration that exudes from Bess Blackwell's smile.

most vital and varied careers in the future.

"From the simplest smile or pat on the back given by a bedside nurse to research and making of policy, the only way nurses will shape their future is by being involved."

MNA Council of Health Affairs

Legislative initiatives prove successful

Mississippi's nursing faculty will receive a \$6,000 pay raise as of July 1. The increase is the second installment of a planned two-year pay raise to retain and recruit teaching staff at schools of nursing across the state. Over 500 nursing faculty will receive the pay increase.

Other significant legislation

DOE's Office of Healthy Schools. Funding in the amount of \$2,550,000 will cover all the nurses who once worked through the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi. That money will move from the Health Department into the Department of Education.

In another school nurse

\$500,000 with \$50,000 going to the ONW.

Increase in Licensure Fees

Licensure fees for Mississippi nurses will see an increase as a result of SB 2671. This bill authorizes the Board of Nursing to increase fees up to \$100 over a two-year time frame. Before this

The state legislature continues to be a source of support and understanding for the critical issues facing nurses and their profession.

Executive Director Ricki Garrett, Mississippi Nurses Association

affecting nurses includes a comprehensive school nurse program to be housed in the Department of Education, licensure fee increase by the Mississippi Board of Nursing, and an innovative program offering dual enrollment for training licensed practical nurses (LPNs) in high schools.

Salary Increase

The nurse faculty pay raise language is found in three bills passed March 30 by the Mississippi legislature: SB 3129 - Appropriations for the Institutions of Higher Learning; SB 3128 - Appropriations for the University Medical Center and SB 3130 - Appropriations for Community and Junior Colleges.

School Nurses

School nurses won a major victory with HB 1132 which moves them under the direction of the Department of Education. In a plan developed by the school nurses, they will work through the

issue, the cap on the number of nurses eligible for a salary increase upon completion of the national certification program was increased to 26.

Dual Enrollment for High School Students

The dual enrollment LPN program will be designed by the community colleges to be piloted in up to four locations in Mississippi and will involve curriculum development, planning for the pilots and coordination of outcomes by the Office of Nursing Workforce.

This program is a result of efforts by the Mississippi Nurses Association, Office of Nursing Workforce and Libby Mahaffey, dean of Allied Science at Hinds Community College, to respond to a need for more staff in long term care in this state. The nursing home industry and the Mississippi Hospital Association are working closely with this effort and have indicated their desire to participate. The legislature funded this start up program at

bill, the Board of Nursing charged \$50 per year for licensure. This increase is the first in 30 years and the legislature agreed. The bill goes into affect July 1.

Reorganization of the Department of Health

A significant measure before the Mississippi legislature was the reorganization of the Department of Health. MNA was disappointed in the final language restructuring the board.

The Mississippi Nurses Association submitted a list of nurses as candidates to Gov. Hailey Barbour, Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck and Attorney General Jim Hood.

The governor will sign the bill at which time current board members will cease and new board members will be named.

Finally, we were successful in having the medication technician bill killed by inserting the new LPN program as a solution to the staffing problems in long-term care.

Mary Kirkpatrick Haskell-Mary Sprayberry Public School Nurse Program

Responsibilities of the school nurse in the Mary Kirkpatrick Haskell-Mary Sprayberry Public School Nurse Program are outlined in the statute:

The School Nurse:

- serves as the coordinator of the health services program and provide nursing care;
- provides health education to students;
- implements activities to promote health and prevent tobacco, alcohol and substance use and abuse;
- identifies health and safety concerns in the school environment and promote a nurturing social environment;
- administers medications and help students manage their health problems;
- supports healthy food services programs;
- promotes healthy physical education, sports policies and practices;
- promotes dropout prevention programs; and
- participates in allied health programs to introduce students to health careers.

Second pay raise okayed

Mississippi's nursing faculty will receive a \$6,000 salary increase July 1. This is the second installment of a planned two-year pay raise to retain and recruit teaching staff at schools of nursing across the state. Over 500 nursing faculty will receive the pay increase.

"This pay raise shows significant commitment by the legislature to solve the faculty shortage issue," said Executive Director of the Mississippi Nurses Association Ricki Garrett. "We are extremely grateful."

Mississippi's shortage of nursing faculty is more than double the national average. "Our schools of nursing this year alone turned away nearly 2,500 qualified students due to a lack of required teachers in the classrooms," said Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee Jack Gordon of Okolona. "The passage of this second phase of pay raises for nursing faculty puts us in a position to be more able to retain current faculty and a little more competitive in recruiting new faculty."

"Enrollment in Mississippi's nursing schools is at an all-time high," said Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee Johnny Stringer of Montrose. "We can expect there to be as much as an 8.8 percent increase in the number of teaching vacancies this year. This is about the same as last year when the initial phase of the two-year salary increase was imple-



Sen. Alice Harden, District 28-Jackson, right, speaks with Mississippi Public Broadcasting News reporter/producer, Lawayne Childrey, about the second installment of the nursing faculty pay increase at the Faculty Shortage Task Force meeting, April 9, at the MNA headquarters in Madison.

mented. It is our hope we will gain additional ground this year in the keeping and the hiring nursing faculty."

The pay raise, supported by the Mississippi Nurses Association, received national notice from health-related associations and organizations. "Associations in Alabama, Louisiana and Texas have recognized the work we have accomplished in increasing faculty salaries," Garrett said. "We will continue to work to find innovative ways to resolve critical issues facing the health-care industry in our state."

LPN pilot program funded

The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges received \$500,000 in their appropriations bill earmarked for a pilot program to implement dual-enrollment opportunities in practical nursing programs for secondary students. The pilot will include implementation in four sites across the state, and includes the admission of 30 students at each site.

Background Information

The current shortage of nurses in the state of Mississippi includes a shortage of licensed practical nurses as well as regis-

tered nurses. Data collected by the Office of Nursing Workforce from the annual surveys of acute care hospitals and long-term care facilities indicates there is a higher vacancy rate for licensed practical nurses than that of registered nurses.

Several states have established practical nursing programs that are implemented over a two- or three-year period for high school students. Currently, the Mississippi Department of Education has undertaken a program that, in part, focuses on preparing

Membership drive slated with National Nurses Week recognition

MNA is going to take advantage of the focus on nursing during National Nursing Week, May 6-12 to launch a statewide membership campaign.

"We have never really undertaken a coordinated membership drive," said Ricki Garrett, executive director, Mississippi Nurses Association. "Last year, membership in the association increased by about 10 percent. However, there is still so much to be done in making nurses in the state aware of the benefits belonging and participating in their professional organization."

The primary goal of the association it to help nurses meet their professional responsibilities, Garret explained. "From educational programs, insurance plans, legislative advocacy and leadership opportunities, MNA provides resources at an economical cost," she said.

"Plans for the campaign include billboards, mailings, television and radios PSAs and giveaways, and features on the association's accomplishments and rich history," said Marketing and Communications Director Betty Ruth Hawkins. "All our efforts will be to make nurses aware of the activities and resources that MNA provides."

Membership in the association is \$276.00 a year — only \$23 per month through payroll deduction plans.

Like any professional organization, MNA serves as a clearinghouse for information and current business practices that affect nurses in Mississippi. But the relationship and respect the organization has cultivated gives the association a positive advantage in having a strong voice in matters that influence the professional lives of nurses.

Membership in MNA matters. Join us now at www.nurses.org.

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CONFERENCE

From Page 1

programs for both general and focus areas. We plan to continue to expand and improve this meeting. Our goal is to make the MNA Spring NP Conference the place to go for continuing education in the south.”

Kelly Engelmann of Jackson will present, *Chronic Pain Management*. The two-hour session will meet the Mississippi Board of Nursing requirements for controlled substance certification. Registration for the bonus review course is only \$50 with full registration to the conference.

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

To register, copy this form or go online to www.msurses.org and download the registration form.

PILOT

From Page 4

students to enter the workforce upon graduation. While there is currently an allied health pathway in most secondary career centers, most students in the allied health pathway graduate without any employment options.

Dual-enrollment in a community college practical nursing program would provide an opportunity for a student to leave high school prepared to take the NCLEX-PN®, the national exam required for state licensure. Another part of the Mississippi Department of Education redesign is to better prepare students for entry into either a community college or institution of higher learning. Most of the associate degree nursing programs offered in the community colleges and senior colleges offer fast-track options for licensed practical nurses. After meeting admission requirements, and with the completion of required support courses, dual-enrolled students can typically complete the associate degree nursing program requirements in one calendar year.

Coordination of Project

Coordination of the project to include initial planning through outcomes assessment will be essential to the success of the future statewide implementation. The Office of Nursing Workforce would coordinate the project, bringing together representatives including, but not limited to State Board of Community and Junior Colleges, Mississippi Department of Education, Practical Nursing Programs, Mississippi Council of Directors of Practical Nursing Programs, Mississippi Nurses Association, Mississippi Board of Nursing, Mississippi Health Care Association, Mississippi Hospital Association, Mississippi Primary Care Association, Mississippi Organization of Nurse Executives, Mississippi Council of Deans and Directors of Schools of Nursing, and Mississippi Department of Employment Security, for appropriate task forces and advisory committees.

Registration Form

2007 Nurse Practitioner Conference
May 4 & 5 ♦ Florence, Alabama

MNA Member \$225.00 _____

(Active members of other state associations will be charged the MNA member rate. Proof of membership is required with registration.)

Non-MNA Member \$245.00 _____

Full-time Graduate Student \$170.00 _____

(Student must be a MNA member and must submit enrollment documentation of a minimum of nine hours.)

Bonus: Controlled Substances

Review Course (2.0 c/h) \$50.00 _____

Late Registration Fee \$50.00 _____

(Late after April 20)

Total Enclosed _____

PLEASE PRINT

This form will be used to generate your name badge.

Name: _____

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Current Position: _____

Method of Payment

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Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail or Fax Registration Form to:

MNA Nurse Practitioner Conference
31 Woodgreen Place, Madison MS 39110
Fax: (601) 898-0190

If you have questions, call (601) 898-0670

MNA reserves the right to cancel this activity at which time a full refund will be given to advanced-registered participants.



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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Association

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MNA welcomes new staff

Deborah Norman, of Madison and Betty Ruth Hawkins of Jackson have recently joined the staff at Mississippi Nurses Association in Madison.

Norman, formerly an office manager of BancSouth Insurance Group in Flowood, will serve as the association's financial administrator.

She is a graduate of Delta State University in Cleveland with a BBA in Management Information Systems and has served as both, an audit officer and an investment compliance officer for Trustmark National Bank. She was also a partner and chief financial officer for Primary Color, Inc., of Jackson.

Norman's background also includes self-employment as an investment compliance con-

sultant and the owner of a production and sales company, Cards By Kids, which specialized in Christmas cards designed by children.

She and her husband, Ricky, who is the chief technology officer for Sourcelink in Madison, have two daughters. Rachel is a freshman at Rosa Scott and Ashley is a sophomore at Madison Central High School.

Hawkins joins the staff as the marketing and communications director. She is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women in Columbus with a BS in journalism.

Prior to her move to the association, Hawkins owned and operated b.r. studios & designs, digital photography studio and graphic design firm in Waveland.



Deborah Norman

Her background includes writing, editing and design work for *The Lake Charles American Press*, *The Madison County Herald*, *The Sea Coast Echo* and *The Clarion Ledger* newspapers.

She served as marketing director for NorthPark Mall, information services director for the Board of Trustees of



Betty Ruth Hawkins

State Institutions of Higher Learning and media services chief for InDyne Corporation at Stennis Space Center.

She has two children, Emily, a sophomore at Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga., and Joseph, who is an airman in the U.S. Navy and is stationed in Japan.