President-Elect's Message

SUNA SOS: Send a Lifeboat for Chapter Rescue

Maintaining a vibrant SUNA chapter can be exhausting to say the least. Sometimes chapter leaders become increasingly frustrated with the lack of volunteers, causing the same leaders to assume leadership roles. Likewise, chapter members become increasingly busy with the many challenges of life and work and attending SUNA meetings is placed below other priorities. Whatever the reason(s), some chapters begin to struggle to stay afloat. If this sounds like your current chapter’s scenario, SUNA can provide survival ideas through the chapter rescue plan.

When should chapters start considering the need for a chapter rescue plan? Chapters need a chapter rescue plan if membership drops below the required six national members needed to maintain active chapter status. When chapters cannot rotate chapter leaders and the same individuals continue to maintain leadership positions, a chapter rescue plan is appropriate. Weakening chapter morale or disinterest among chapter members also indicates the need for a chapter rescue plan. Finally, chapters with communication breakdowns between chapter leaders and members or between chapters and the SUNA leadership should consider a chapter rescue plan.

How does a chapter initiate the chapter rescue plan process? Your Regional Director or Assistant Regional Director can help get your chapter started. All your chapter needs to do is identify the area of concern. Chapter members should communicate with each other to validate the main concern that caused the decision to initiate the chapter rescue plan. Next, the Regional Director / Assistant Regional Director will work with your chapter to develop a realistic rescue plan to start reviving the chapter. The Regional Director / Assistant Regional Director will then continue to communicate with your chapter on an ongoing basis regarding your chapter’s progress towards recovery. The Regional Director will communicate your chapter’s plan and ongoing progress to the SUNA leadership at regular intervals.

How can your chapter put together a realistic and individualized rescue plan? Chapter rescue plans will require some creativity and must be individualized to address each chapter’s unique concerns. Some of the activities I have seen chapters implement successfully may help your chapter.

The buddy system can be very helpful. In this system, one larger thriving chapter in the region will pair up with a chapter in need of rescue. These buddy chapters can share ideas about chapter maintenance while providing support and mentoring. Often, sharing of resources for meeting programs is an end result.

continued on page 4
In the month of July we are surrounded by red, white, and blue. We are reminded of the freedoms we have in this country that aren't universally granted to our brothers and sisters in other places of the world. Many of our SUNA members have served and are currently serving as members of the military. These individuals have served our country to preserve our freedom, and I would like to say “thank you.” Thank you for giving of yourselves so our nation remains free.

One of the most emotionally overwhelming experiences I have had was several years ago when I visited the war memorials in Washington, DC. The Vietnam Memorial particularly tore at me. I was a teenager and young adult during the years of that conflict and all those young people were my age and died fighting in an unpopular war. Freedom is truly not free. The memorial that touched me the most was the Nurse’s Memorial where the military nurse is tending to the wounded and dying soldier lying in her arms. It is an image I will not forget.

Happy Birthday, America! May we always be free.

Evey Kliever MA, RN, CURN
Editor

Urologic Nursing Featured On the QSEN Web Site


The overall goal of QSEN initiatives is to prepare nurses to continuously improve the quality and safety of the health care systems within which they work. Led by a national advisory board and distinguished faculty, QSEN pursues strategies to develop effective teaching approaches to assure that future graduates develop competencies in patient-centered care, teamwork and collaboration, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, safety, and informatics. QSEN also funds national studies to educate nursing students on patient safety and health care quality.
SUNA’s 40th Annual Conference will be held October 2-5, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, IL. This special anniversary conference promises to be an educational, energizing, and fun event! The meeting will feature optional preconference workshops, a choice of concurrent sessions on varied topics, Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings, networking opportunities, social events, and an exhibit hall featuring the latest products and services in the specialty.

Preconference Preview

This year’s educational program will offer attendees a choice of four optional preconference workshops on Friday, October 2. The preconference workshops are designed to allow time for a more in-depth investigation of a topic than is possible during general or concurrent sessions. The Annual Conference Planning Committee selected content for these workshops focusing on topics that appeal to individuals practicing in varying areas of urologic nursing.

The first session, which has been offered several times before with positive feedback, is the Urologic Certification Review Course. This course focuses on providing an in-depth review for those individuals who are preparing to take the urologic nursing certification exam. It is also a wonderful review for anyone wanting an overall review of urologic patient care issues. The course will cover pediatric anomalies, urinary tract inflammations, voiding dysfunction, obstructive uropathies, male infertility, and sexual dysfunction.

This workshop has received rave reviews from past attendees. If you are thinking about becoming certified in urologic nursing, this course is for you!

The second preconference session will focus on Advanced Practice Nurses in Urology Practice. The workshop will feature an in-depth review of topics such as treating urinary tract infections (UTIs) in the presence of antibiotic resistance, challenging diagnoses, and the latest pharmacologic updates. The newly developed Advanced Practice Continence Nurse in Long Term Care: Scope and Standards of Practice also will be presented, along with coding rules and changes. An interactive discussion will enlighten your understanding of the new and expanding role of the urologic advanced practice nurse (APN). If you’re an APN practicing in urology, you won’t want to miss this workshop!

A workshop on Basic Urology is designed for SUNA’s associate members, those new to urology, or those seeking a basic review of urology. Anatomy and physiology, diagnostic tests, terms and definitions, bladder and urethra disorders, kidney and ureter disorders, as well as prostate and male reproductive/genitalia disorders are topics included in the agenda. If you are new to urology practice or looking for a basic review of urology topics, this is the place to be!

Sacral Nerve Stimulation: Putting the Puzzle Together/Setting the Stage for Success is a new addition to this year’s program. This workshop will assist clinicians in making decisions about starting up a program for sacral nerve stimulation (SNS). A discussion of insurance and pre-determination issues will be included. The workshop also will feature a review of patient selection as well as patient recruitment strategies. In addition, a review of the percutaneous lead placement in the clinic will be included. The end of this half-day workshop will feature a panel discussion with the instructors who will tie everything together.

Registration Information

Conference registration brochures were mailed to all SUNA members in June. Additional copies are available by contacting the SUNA national office (888-827-7862, suna@ajj.com). You also may view the conference program and register online at www.suna.org. Register by August 27 to take advantage of reduced registration fees.
Scholarships Available for Annual Symposium

Applications for the scholarships to attend the SUNA Annual Symposium to be held at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, CO, March 10-13, 2010, are due to be submitted by September 1, 2009. There are two scholarships available for this symposium. Two lucky SUNA members will have the opportunity to learn in luxury as they receive funding for the symposium. Shouldn’t one of these recipients be you?

The scholarships include conference registration, travel expenses (economy airfare, train fare, or mileage and parking) not to exceed $500, one half of the SUNA negotiated room rate at the conference hotel for 4 nights, and a per diem of $50 during days of the meeting when meals are not provided.

Additional information and application forms for these scholarships are available on the SUNA Web site. Go to www.suna.org, click on the Foundation tab, and click on “What We Provide.”

Scholarship Recipients

The SUNA Foundation Selection Committee has been busy reviewing applications for the SUNA Annual Conference Scholarships and the Complimentary Registration for the Life-Tech Urodynamics Workshop in October. Recipients for the two scholarships available for the 2009 SUNA Annual Conference Scholarship have been identified. They are Catherine Salk, RN, CURN, of Auburn, ME, and Jennifer Valenta, LPN-C, of Crete, NE. Congratulations!

The recipient of the Complimentary Registration for the Urodynamics Registration will be announced in the September issue of the Uro-Gram.

2009 Silent Auction

Summer is here, and fall is not far away. The SUNA Foundation is getting ready to host another successful Silent Auction at the Annual Conference in Chicago in October. We are busy seeking more donations for the auction. A number of donation forms have been received and more promised. There should be something to tempt most everyone at auction time. If you have a hobby, why not donate one of your original creations? It’s tax deductible and someone will enjoy the fruits of your talent. Donation forms are available on the SUNA Web site (www.suna.org) under the Foundation tab.

While waiting for the Silent Auction to come to fruition, plans also are being made for the annual raffle at the Symposium next year. In San Francisco it became evident that some changes could expedite ticket sales and awarding of the prizes. These changes will be implemented in Colorado Springs.

More surprises are in store for the Annual Conference in Chicago. Be sure to attend so you can find out what they are!

Ardeth Hale, CURN
SUNA Foundation Chair & Trustee

President-Elect’s Message

continued from page 1

Rotation of chapter leaders is an essential component of chapter survival. Chapters must review their bylaws and enforce the terms of offices. New leaders bring new ideas and enthusiasm that can be used to revive the chapter. Mentoring and training both new and existing leaders should be an ongoing priority for chapters. SUNA offers a leadership workshop at the Annual Conference during alternating years. The workshop has been valuable for providing ideas for maintaining chapters. For the first time, SUNA will offer a leadership networking session at the 2009 Annual Conference. This session will be open to current and potential chapter leaders, and Regional Directors will have more information to share about this event soon.

Recruiting new members can be difficult. SUNA’s new membership recruitment program (details available on the Web site at www.suna.org) has created some fantastic incentives to help struggling chapters.

Offering chapter programs remains one of the biggest challenges facing chapters. Due to economic changes and limiting of previously allocated resources, programs are becoming increasingly more difficult to hold. Chapters must think creatively to continue to provide different types of programs for their members.

Webinars are becoming increasingly popular and allow members to participate in the comfort of their own homes. Many pharmaceutical companies have educational programs available that can be used for a meeting. Journal reviews also make interesting meetings. As SUNA updates its technology, chapters will soon be able to access educational programs for meetings.

Raising money for chapter funds also may be extremely challenging. Some medical and pharmaceutical companies have grant monies available for chapters to use for programs or chapter events. Some chapters also have held fundraising raffles at meetings to provide extra income.

Chapters all experience “bumps in the road” as they move along through the years. There are many chapters that need a lifeboat for chapter rescue. The chapter rescue plan is an opportunity to bring forth issues to revitalize your chapter and re-energize chapter members. So jump on board with SUNA and get the support and help your chapter needs to get back on deck at full speed. The SUNA Board encourages your chapter to send your SUNA SOS signals now.

Susan Lipsy, APRN-BC, CUNP
SUNA President-Elect
SUNA has been working with a nursing alliance on legislative issues relating to nursing and health care reform. The tag line for the nursing community logo will now state “Supporting America’s Health through Nursing Care.” This logo will be used on letters or other documents when more than half of the group signs on so look for this endorsement.

Both houses of Congress passed a spending blueprint incorporating the President’s major policy goals, including health care reform, on April 29, 2009. The budget plan allocates $3.5 trillion for fiscal year (FY) 2010 and sets aside $634 billion over the next 10 years for a reserve fund to reform the nation’s health care system. The good news for nursing is that the proposal includes $263 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs. Should this level pass Congress, it will be the highest level of appropriations since the programs were created in 1964. The two programs to receive increases over FY 2009 levels are the Nurse Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program ($125 million, a 238% increase) and the Nurse Faculty Loan Program ($16 million, a 39% increase). Below are two links that provide additional information:

- Specific Funding Levels for Nursing Education Programs - www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/FY2010Chart.pdf

The President’s request would offer significant relief to help alleviate the 11-year national nursing shortage that is projected to grow in the coming years. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), nursing is the nation’s top profession in terms of projected job growth with more than 587,000 new nursing positions being created through 2016. The demand for nurses will continue to grow as the baby boomer population ages, experienced nurses retire, and the need for primary and specialty health care intensifies. BLS projects that more than one million new and replacement nurses will be needed by 2016.

Last, the final post on President Obama’s cabinet was officially filled on April 28, 2009, as the Senate approved the long awaited confirmation of Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. This appointment is a crucial step towards achieving the goal of health care reform this summer. Secretary Sebelius will be responsible for coordinating all government agencies involved in health and welfare programs.

Saundra L. Seidel, APRN-BC, CUCNS
Legislative Committee Chairperson

SUNA is pleased to announce a new and exciting initiative. SUNA has created an Online Library, a valuable educational resource for members. The Online Library will include a few key components.

First, SUNA is very excited to offer a free continuing nursing education (CNE) opportunity in the library entitled Summary of Current Policy to Address Urinary Incontinence. This CNE article appears in the May-June issue of the Urologic Nursing Journal. To read this article and earn free CNE credits in the Online Library, simply visit www.prolibraries.com/suna. Create your Online Library account and access the article immediately.

Second, all of the educational sessions at SUNA’s 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago will be recorded and made accessible in the Online Library. Conference attendees will have free access to the content of the meeting (audio recordings and session handouts) for 1 full year! Individuals who can not attend the conference in Chicago will have the opportunity to attend sessions “virtually” and earn CNE credits in the Online Library by purchasing those sessions that are of interest to them.

Furthermore, in our continuing efforts to “go green,” SUNA will implement a paperless evaluation and CNE process at the 2009 Annual Conference. This means that conference attendees will not have to worry about completing an evaluation form and certificate and turning it in onsite. Attendees will simply visit the Online Library, complete their evaluations, and print their CNE certificates. Also, if an attendee ever loses his/her CNE certificate, their conference CNE certificate will be accessible at any time in the Online Library.

Finally, SUNA President Mary Anne Wasner will keep members “up to the minute” with important news with her “Presidential Minute” that can be heard in the Online Library. Be sure to check the Online Library periodically to stay up to date with all the SUNA news and happenings.

We hope that you are as excited about this new initiative as SUNA is! Watch for more exciting opportunities in SUNA’s Online Library. Create your account now at www.prolibraries.com/suna.
UNA will host its next Annual Symposium on March 10-13, 2010, at the Broadmoor Hotel and Resort in Colorado Springs, CO. This beautiful resort and exciting city offer a unique setting for the meeting.

In 1916, Spencer Penrose from Philadelphia bought the Broadmoor Casino and Hotel with the objective of creating the most beautiful resort in the world with the highest level of service. Those who visit the resort attest that the same level of service and beauty continues today – almost 100 years later. The Broadmoor has been the vacation destination of hundreds of presidents, statesmen, and celebrities, in addition to many entertainment and sports personalities.

The Broadmoor Hotel covers 3,000 acres with 700 hotel rooms and suites surrounding Cheyenne Lake. The resort features golf courses, a tennis club, restaurants, cafes and lounges, a full-service spa, a state-of-the-art fitness center, along with distinct boutique shops located throughout the property.

Home to the Broadmoor, Colorado Springs is surrounded by the Rocky Mountains with Pike’s Peak as the best known mountain in the area. The scenery is phenomenal, the people are laid back and welcoming, and there is plenty to see and do!

Museums in the area include the Pioneers and Museum. Located downtown in what was once the El Paso County Courthouse, the museum houses pioneer relics and American Indian artifacts. The Fine Arts Center has rotating exhibitions, museum displays, and special events. Glen Eyrie, an 800 acre estate, is the original 18th century castle home of the founder of Colorado Springs. The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, 30 miles west of Colorado Springs, presents geological history as far back as 34 million years.

Attend SUNA’s Annual Symposium in Colorado Springs and stay a few extra days to enjoy the surrounding sites and attractions. Start planning your itinerary now!

Here’s a list of some of the top things to see and do in Colorado Springs.

- **Visit the Garden of the Gods**, a breathtaking park with rock formations and trails that change with each curve you walk around. This 1,300-acre park, a Registered National Natural Landmark of towering red sandstone rock formations, is set at the foot of Pike’s Peak. Near the Garden of the Gods is the Rock Ledge Ranch, a historic ranch with docents enacting life in the pioneer days.
- **Climb the stairs at Seven Falls.** This area is known as “The Grandest Mile of Scenery in Colorado.” Drive along a box canyon through amazing rock formations. An express elevator tunnels into the mountainside and rises 130 feet to the Eagle’s Nest Platform. A 224-step stairway beside the falls leads to panoramic overlooks of Colorado Springs and eastern Colorado.
- **Take a ride on the Pikes Peak Cog Railway.** Sit back and relax as the world’s highest cog train takes you up 14,110 feet to the top of Pike’s Peak, America’s best-known mountain. Since 1891, the Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway, the world’s highest cog railroad, the highest Colorado railroad and highest train in the United States, has taken passengers to the summit of Pike’s Peak.
- **Take the Royal Gorge Train Ride.** Visit the world-famous Royal Gorge and look down at the river 1,000 feet below. Ride the tram or cable-car and enjoy the spectacular scenery that surrounds you. Then board the train in Canon City and enjoy the 2-hour ride through the gorge.
- **Tour Manitou Springs Cliff Dwellings and Museum.** Opened in 1907, the museum includes some of the finest architecture of the Cliff Dwelling Anasazi Indians. The outdoor preserve demonstrates the Anasazi’s fine stonework with a dwelling of over 40 rooms that can be explored on a self-guided tour.
- **Tour the Cave of the Winds.** The oldest attraction in the Pikes Peak region, visitors can choose from two 3-hour tours through subterranean chambers to get different perspectives on Colorado’s geological wonders.
- **Ride or walk across the Royal Gorge Bridge,** the highest suspension bridge in the world and an unforgettable quarter-mile journey through the clouds.
- **Wander the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo,** which has a giraffe herd, a 1920s historic carousel, an African Rift Valley, all with spectacular views of Colorado Springs. America’s “highest” zoo, at 6,800 feet on 50 acres, features more than 700 diverse and exotic creatures.
- **Visit Old Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs,** the home of numerous arts and crafts centers. Old Colorado Springs is a national historic district offering shopping, entertainment, art galleries, and eating establishments. Some of the buildings date back to the 1859 gold rush.
- **Tour the Air Force Academy Chapel,** home of numerous arts and crafts centers. Old Colorado Springs is a national historic district offering shopping, entertainment, art galleries, and eating establishments. Some of the buildings date back to the 1859 gold rush.
- **Attend SUNA’s Annual Symposium in Colorado Springs and stay a few extra days to enjoy the surrounding sites and attractions. Start planning your itinerary now!**
Regional News

Western

Many of the Western Region chapters are taking some well deserved time this summer to spend with family and friends. The chapter presidents are still busy planning events for the fall. There is no better time than now to show support and become involved with your local chapter. I hope that many of you are making plans to attend the Annual Conference in Chicago this October.

The Puget Sound Chapter under the direction of Jean Dearn, CURN, has had another successful year by offering some wonderful educational events for members. The chapter enjoyed a Webinar in June sponsored by Bioderm that focused on the Liberty™ pouch for male incontinence. As always, there is a need for increased participation in planning and hosting events. Jean would like to let members know that your chapter is there for you and if you have ideas or would like to initiate any projects or community service events to contact her at jdearn@comcast.net.

Portland Chapter President Renee Benoit wants to plan an educational event for the fall but needs the help of local members to make this event happen. It can be an exciting and rewarding personal experience to be a part of an organization such as SUNA. Please contact Renee at renee@theurologyclinic.com to offer your support.

Edith Acey reports that the Utah Chapter held a well attended dinner meeting sponsored by Sanofi Aventis on April 15. Plans are to take the summer off, enjoy the Utah summer, and reconvene in the fall to start planning for the next year’s educational offerings.

The Arizona Chapter is actively seeking members who may be interested in assisting with planning activities or assuming a leadership role as a board member. President Linda Sabre is looking to transition from her role as president. If you are interested in contributing to this active chapter, contact Linda at davlinsabre@msn.com.

Northern California Chapter President Jan Jensen reports that planning for the Western Section SUNA Conference to be held on October 26-27 is progressing well. This meeting will be held in Las Vegas in conjunction with the Western Section American Urological Association (AUA) conference. This event will offer great speakers and a great venue, so mark your calendars for a very informative and fun event. Contact Jan at kpuronurse@hotmail.com to offer any help with this meeting or to find out more information.

The Yakima Chapter co-hosted a meeting with Bev Davison, facilitator for The Man to Man Prostate Cancer Support Group, on April 16. This evening event featured Dr. Lovern, a local urologist, who gave a very interesting talk on understanding the values of PSA testing for patients, family members, and nurses. On May 8 the chapter was able to offer support for a fundraiser with the Yakima Urology Relay for Life Stream Team by providing some of the items for a hot dog sale held during a craft bazaar. The proceeds from the sale were donated to the Relay for Life Cancer Walk fund.

Debbie Bailey, president of the Big Sky Chapter, has been working to try to pull members together. She needs to hear from chapter members with ideas for meetings or Webinars. Geography is a big obstacle for this chapter, and she is open to any suggestions. Please contact Debbie at dbailey@billingsclinic.com.

Cindie Neufeld, RN
Western Regional Director
cneufeld@yua.com

North Central

The North Central Region wrapped up a busy spring season of chapter meetings, educational events, and community involvement efforts. By the time you read this article, the chapters will be taking a well deserved summer break and gearing up for the fall season!

Upper Midwest Chapter President Theresa Kolle shares that the chapter again hosted a very successful Spring Seminar. Several attendees spent the day learning more about the latest updates in urology. A food drive also was conducted for the local food banks, and attendees contributed items as part of the seminar registration. Thanks to all those who contributed! Theresa and her team are looking to expand these efforts in the future.

Michelle Radke and Maureen Johnson are busy working with the planning committee to prepare for the Annual Conference in Chicago. Theresa Lesher and Jean Lewis are busily preparing for the Fall Seminar to be held in September. As the chapter moves forward with its next election, it invites all members to step up and run for an elected office. More information is available on the chapter Web site at www.umcsuna.org. The chapter also would like to thank Dale Williams for all of the up-to-date changes he has made to the Web site. Check it out!

Southeast Nebraska Chapter President Peggy Poe reports that springtime was busy for her and her
Midwest colleagues so their chapter is quiet now. No meetings are planned until November when one will be held in conjunction with Urology Nurses and Associates Week. The chapter also will welcome a new chapter president in August: Jessica Boro-Grosse, PA-C. Thanks for taking the reins, Jessica! And thanks to Peggy for her excellent leadership this past year.

The Kansas City Chapter enjoyed a dinner lecture on interstitial cystitis presented by Saundra Seidel, APRN-BC, CNOR, CUCNS, on May 7. Ten members from the greater Kansas City and St. Joseph areas were present. President Bea Stuck reports that the next big chapter event will include a conference on September 25 and a prostate screening in September in St. Joseph and Fairfax, MO.

Vanessa Spears, president of the Chicago Metro Chapter, is proud to announce that Jeff Albaugh, past chapter and national president, has completed his PhD. Congratulations, Dr. Albaugh! Vanessa also shares that another past president, Kathy Marchese, is now a nurse practitioner and has relocated to Central DuPage Hospital. Well done, Kathy!

The chapter ran the SUNA booth at the national AUA meeting in Chicago and assisted with a PSA screening for retired NFL players. Go Bears! The chapter continues to hold monthly educational sessions. Upcoming meetings will focus on working with prostate cancer patients (featuring a roundtable discussion with survivors and their spouses) as well as overactive bladder. The chapter hosted a well attended Spring Conference with 89 attendees (including some from Michigan, Iowa, and Indiana) and great industry support with 14 vendors participating.

Vanessa and her fellow Chicagoleans hope to see everyone at SUNA’s Annual Conference in October. This also should be the time that we will find out if Chicago is the host city for the 2016 Olympics. Please visit the chapter Web site at chicagometrosuna.org for pictures of past conferences and information about upcoming meetings.

President Mary Campigotto reports that the Mississippi Valley Chapter had a successful Spring Conference in St. Louis on February 28 with talks on hypospadias, prostate cancer, neuromodulation in voiding dysfunction, urology medical mission trip, and a holistic approach to the urinary system. The Iowa area group hosted their annual Spring Conference with presentations on understanding pathology reports, urinary tract infections, benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), radiology interpretations, and a lecture with a national interstitial cystitis (IC) spokesperson.

At an earlier January meeting there was much discussion about the economy and how it is affecting our practices, and it was reported that some outpatient operating room nurses were going home early to avoid nursing layoffs. They are now rotating days off without pay to avoid layoffs. The chapter decided they needed to do something to help those who are hurting, so they are collecting food at all of their meetings to donate to local food pantries. So far they have donated 81 items with more to come! Good job, Mary and team!

Finally, the Kentucky Chapter is pleased to report a very successful second annual Spring Conference. Chapter President Gwen Hooper and her team invited Diane Newman to speak at an industry-supported dinner meeting on a Friday evening and hosted about 30 attendees for a day-long seminar the next day. Held in conjunction with the Thunder Over Louisville fireworks show and the opening of the Kentucky Derby Festival, Gwen and her team offered Derby-related prizes for attendees. They also recruited 10 new members at the meeting! The chapter ended the spring season with a presentation on Myths and Truths About DaVinci Robotic Surgery on May 28.

Amy Driscoll, BSN, CURN
North Central Regional Director
amydriscoll@comcast.net

Northeast

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter held their annual educational offering, Atypical Urologic Sonography Findings: Cause for Concern? was presented by President Jeff Guse. He is also offering this presentation to other chapters. If interested, contact Jeff at wildgeese4@juno.com. The chapter plans to take the summer off and resume activities in the fall. If you are interested in volunteering in the chapter, contact Jeff.

Secretary Eileen Kochis-Whittman and the Northern New Jersey Chapter held a membership recruitment day at Hackensack University Medical Center. They also held a dinner meeting in May sponsored by Hollister/CCS Medical. The new slate of officers for the next year includes President Josephine Finnerty, President-Elect Bernadette Galli, Treasurer Tara Bal, and Secretary Eileen Kotchis-Whittman. The board attempted to have a computer meeting and had difficulties, but they are still committed to finding a way to meet. They are planning a voice conference next time. If you are interested in working with the board in any capacity, please contact Eileen at ekochis@humed.com.

The Tidewater Virginia Chapter has gone through some changes this year and is regrouping with some new (and returning) leaders. Michele Schindler is the new president, Amelia Knight is the new president-elect, and Barbara Napier will return as secretary/treasurer. They are looking for volunteers; if you are interested, please contact Barbara at bjnapier@sentara.com. A meeting was held in May, and the chapter is now off for the summer with start-up planned for the fall.

Kris Green from the New England Chapter and Kathy Felder from the Twin State Chapter have been working to plan a joint conference. Although they had hoped for a June conference, they are now looking towards April 2010. Any help and assistance would be greatly appreciated. Contact Kris at kgreen@crhc.org or Kathy at gkfelder@comcast.net.
The Metropolitan Baltimore Chapter is planning a dinner meeting on the new overactive bladder (OAB) drug on July 22. For further information or to volunteer, please contact Kristen Burns at kokanee97@juno.com.

The Central Virginia Chapter held two dinner meetings that were well attended. One meeting addressed a new medication for prostate cancer and the other focused on BPH and OAB medications. Anyone interested in more information on upcoming events should contact Diane Overberg at dwoverberg@uro.com.

I had the pleasure of “visiting” with Marianne Borch and the Central New York Chapter via a phone meeting. They recently published an article in Urologic Nursing and are busy planning to write another article about a new treatment for IC. This is such an energetic group!

The Washington DC Chapter is getting a new start! Heather Casseaux has agreed to serve as interim president, and Laila Bailey has agreed to be the interim president-elect. We met in April in Northern Virginia, and they are excited to help restart this chapter! They are looking for volunteers to help plan future meetings and events. They are planning a meeting in the fall with more information to follow. If you are interested in more information or would like to volunteer, please contact Heather at hcausseaux@live.com.

Cheryl LeCroy
Northeast Regional Director
clecroy@vwcenter.com

Southeast

The Southeast chapters are keeping busy with plans for many fall conferences and events. At the national level we are gearing up for the SUNA Annual Conference. It is sure to be packed with up-to-date information on a variety of urologic topics as well as opportunities for networking through industry-sponsored symposia, Special Interest Group meetings, and regional meetings. Make your plans now to attend the Annual Conference to be held in the “Windy City” (Chicago).

The San Antonio-Alamo Chapter held the 17th Annual Seminar in Urology, The Cutting Edge of Urology, on March 28. It was a successful all-day conference with excellent presentations and more than 80 attendees! The day was filled with educational presentations, networking, and door prizes that climaxed with the grand prize of $1,000. The prizewinner, Criselda Sanders, will receive funding to attend the Annual Conference in Chicago. Congratulations, Criselda!

The chapter presented a gift to longtime friend and board member, Debbie Hensley, who will be relocating to Dallas later this year. She has served as past president and has been serving as treasurer this year. Debbie will be greatly missed! The chapter board recognized Debbie for her hard work, devotion, and commitment to the chapter. A patient also presented her with a handmade, wood-carved mirror with a personal note written on the back. It was touching to see the patient present his gift to her. As a nurse, you never know how much you may affect a patient’s life.

Please check out the chapter’s Web site at www.alamosuna.org for information about upcoming events and pictures of past activities.

The Florida Sunshine Chapter held the 8th Annual Urology Conference at Edison State College in Ft. Myers, FL, on June 13. Topics included renal failure, degarelix (a new treatment for advanced prostate cancer), urologic prosthetics, advanced urodynamics, management of OAB and urinary incontinence, and urinary diversion review. A raffle was held for the grand prize, which included registration for the SUNA Annual Conference in October plus a stipend for travel expenses! If you have new ideas or would like to participate at any level in the chapter, please contact Cindy McLean at cmclean@comcast.net.

The Oklahoma Chapter hosted a Urology Update conference in Tulsa, OK, on May 22. There was an excellent turnout of nurses, MAs, and PAs. Several vendors also were present to educate members on the latest urology medical products. The agenda included presentations on prostate cancer, urodynamics, incontinence, neuromodulation, and pharmacology. Thank you to Saundra Seidel, conference chairperson, who did an incredible job coordinating this event.

The chapter is also planning to participate in the fundraiser for the SUNA Foundation at the Annual Conference by providing an item for the Silent Auction. For further information on upcoming events, contact Chapter President Glenn Sulley at Glenn-Sulley@ouhsc.edu.

The Dallas Fort Worth Chapter is currently in the planning phase for a fall meeting. If anyone is interested in helping plan the meeting or in running for office, please contact Chapter President Allison Beaver (214-645-8788, Allison.Beaver@utsouthwestern.edu).
The Research Triangle Chapter sponsored a spring educational conference entitled *Spring into SUNA* in Cary, NC, on March 21. There were 73 attendees! Four vendors supported the chapter and provided product information to participants. Attendees brought nonperishable food items to donate to a local food bank. The chapter hopes to continue community-focused activities. The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive.

The chapter will be holding a fall educational meeting in Greensboro, NC, on September 19. Although still in the early planning stages, the following topics are on the agenda: painful bladder syndrome, robotic prostatectomy, cryoablation of renal masses, complimentary therapies in urology, critical thinking skills in postoperative care, and dealing with difficult people. North Carolina is beautiful in the fall. Save the date and plan to attend! For more information, contact Chapter President Sue Forloines-Lynn at slynn@unch.unc.edu.

The Research Triangle Chapter continues to promote excellent urologic care through education. To that end, the chapter is providing five scholarships for SUNA members to attend the chapter’s fall educational conference. These scholarships are offered to those members whose employers do NOT reimburse for continuing education. Each scholarship includes the conference registration fee and the cost of a one-night hotel double accommodation. If more than five individuals apply, names will be drawn at random for the award.

To promote certification, if a Research Triangle Chapter member passes the urologic certification exam and is NOT reimbursed by his/her employer, the chapter offers reimbursement of the exam fee ($195). For more information, email Fran Bryant at fb Bryant@hotmail.com.

Research Triangle Chapter member Fran Bryant is the Assistant Southeast Regional Director and is currently serving on the program committee for the SUNA Annual Conference in Chicago. We are very proud of her continued efforts as the chapter program chairperson as well as her representation of the chapter at the national level. Excellent work, Fran!

The Rocky Mountain Chapter hosted a successful dinner meeting in April with new attendees. It is always exciting to see new faces. More urology medical assistants are attending meetings. They are very appreciative of the knowledge they gain and are interested in the certification process. The chapter held a dinner meeting on BPH at Pappadeaux’s Seafood Kitchen on June 18. We also are working on our annual seminar, *Urology Collage 2009*, which will be held August 15 at the Rita Bass Auditorium of the Denver Health Medical Center.

Our chapter is growing, and we are planning to hold dinner meetings both north and south of Denver. Distance sometimes is a factor that affects active participation. We also hope to get back to the Western Slope for a meeting that would reach the mountain urology groups.

Chapter members who are part of The Urology Center of Colorado will be sitting for the certification exam in the near future. Good luck for a successful exam!

Lee Ann Boyd, MSN, ARNP-C, CUNP
Southeast Regional Director
lboyd@rtsx.com

San Antonio-Alamo Chapter members gathered for the chapter’s 17th Annual Seminar in March. Pictured (from right) are chapter officers Myra Joseph, Nancy Mueller, Debbie Hensley, Barbara Brooks, and Sylvia Sluter as well as chapter members Joseph Laken and Phyllis Morton.

2009 Corporate Members

| AmeriPath | Cook Medical |
| Amgen, Inc. | Dura Medical Products, Inc. |
| Astellas Pharma US, Inc. | Duraline Medical Products, Inc. |
| Astra Tech, Inc. | Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. |
| AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, LP | HDIS (Home Delivery Incontinent Supplies Company) |
| Bard Medical Division | Hollister Incorporated |
| Coloplast Corporation | Laborie Medical |
| | Liberty Medical Supply |
| | Life-Tech, Inc. |
| | Medtronic |
| | Mediwatch PLC |
| | Novartis Oncology |
| | Olympus-Gyrus ACMI |
| | OncoDiagnostic Laboratory, Inc. |
| | Pfizer, Inc. |
| | Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals |
| | Rochester Medical Corporation |
| | sanofi pasteur |
| | T-DOC Company, LLC |
| | Uroplasty, Inc. |
| | VIVUS, Inc. |
Coming Soon! Journal Preview

Look for these articles and more in future issues of *Urologic Nursing*.

**July/August 2009**

*Special Issue on Pelvic Disorders*
- Improving Evidence-Based Practice: Use of the POP-Q System for Assessment of Pelvic Organ Prolapse - CNE
- Evaluation of the Pelvic Floor and Pelvic Wall Muscles in Chronic Pelvic Pain - CNE
- Body Image and Sexuality in Women with Pelvic Organ Prolapse
- The Relationship of Interstitial Cystitis/Painful Bladder Syndrome to Vulvodynia

**September/October 2009**

*Special Issue on Informatics*
- Terminology Use in Electronic Health Records: Basic Principles
- System Evaluation of an Electronic Bar Code Medication Administration Information System in an Acute Care Unit
- Building in Clinical Decision Support Interventions into the Electronic Health Record Systems
- Essential Steps in Superuser Training for Ambulatory Clinic Nurses
- Reminder Systems to Reduce the Duration of Indwelling Urinary Catheters: A Narrative Review
- Advancing a Nurses Understanding of EHR Standards and Interoperability
- The Perceptions and Overall Readiness of Clinicians Prior to the Introduction of New Computer-Based Electronic Record
- Protecting Patient Information in an Electronic Age: A Sacred Trust

---

**Member Spotlight**

Linda Adams, LVN, is one of those dedicated and caring urology nurses who is devoted and passionate about SUNA as well as her job performing urodynamics. Linda joined SUNA in 1996 and has been a vital part of her chapter’s success.

Linda has been an LVN for 26 years, working many different areas in nursing both inpatient and outpatient. She began her career as a urology nurse 8 years ago, having spent the last 6 years at Stanford Hospital and Clinics where her main role is performing urodynamics. She also is employed as a clinic nurse, working with general urology patients specifically in the areas of incontinence, InterStim, and interstitial cystitis. She is part of the Service Champion Group, a committee at Stanford that has been identified to model characteristics of service excellence. She serves in this leadership role to promote service to coworkers and patients.

Linda has been involved with her local SUNA chapter, the Northern California Chapter, for as “long as she has been in urology,” serving as vice president and now co-president with Jan Jensen. She loves being involved in the educational aspect and organizing the conferences, her favorite being the Annual Napa Urodynamics Day with a fabulous venue in the wine country. With the help of her husband she has created and maintained the Northern California Chapter Web site. As well as being such a vital part of her local chapter, Linda still finds time to be involved with SUNA on the national level by serving on the Annual Conference planning committee and co-authoring a chapter for the urodynamics manual. She regularly attends the Annual Conference and Annual Symposium where she has made many very good friends that she can call on with questions about urodynamics and vice versa.

When Linda is not busy with work and all her duties with SUNA, she enjoys spending time with her husband and children. Her most recent delight is becoming a grandmother. Her son has a beautiful 5-month-old baby girl, and her daughter is expecting in October. Congratulations! In addition to continuing her education taking classes for her RN degree, she still finds time to enjoy cooking, baking, and kick boxing. Linda has unselfishly given so much to urology nursing and SUNA. SUNA is lucky to have such a giving member. Now it is her turn to be recognized for all her hard work. Thank you, Linda!

Cindie Neufeld, RN
Western Regional Director

---

Scholarships are available to attend **SUNA’s 2010 Annual Symposium** (March 10-13, Colorado Springs, CO)

See details in the SUNA Foundation article on page 4.
Sacral Nerve Stimulation

As I write this article, it is spring in Iowa and my favorite time of year. I think of spring as a time of renewal. The planting begins, and the countryside turns from winter brown to green. I feel renewed at the same time. I have all my flowers in the garage ready to start my planting.

I want to remind members about the continuing nursing education (CNE) program on sacral nerve stimulation (SNS) that is available on the SUNA Web site. This PowerPoint presentation, entitled Use of Sacral Neuromodulation in the Management of Voiding Dysfunction, addresses the prevalence and treatment of urinary control problems and the use of sacral neuromodulation as a treatment option for patients with urinary urgency-frequency, urinary urge incontinence, and/or urinary retention who fail or cannot tolerate conservative treatments. The program, which was sponsored by Medtronic, offers 1.0 contact hours and is available for free on the SUNA Web site. This activity may be viewed online or downloaded to be used for group presentation in your facility or chapter. This is a great program to use if you are planning a 1-hour dinner for your chapter or just looking for more information about SNS and how it works. To access this resource online, go to www.suna.org, click on the Education tab, and select Continuing Nursing Education Activities/Offerings. This program is a good source of information.

The Annual Conference is scheduled for October 2-5 at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, IL, this year. I am excited because it’s really close to home and a nice drive from Iowa City, IA. This year we were given another opportunity to have a 4-hour workshop on SNS. The focus will be on developing and implementing SNS in your practice, putting all the pieces together. The preconference workshop, offered on Friday, October 2, will feature information on pre-approvals, which patients are candidates, a discussion of percutaneous placement in the clinic vs. stage one and two, as well as discussion of how urodynamics helps with decision making. We are hoping to hold a social hour afterward if enough people attend. I hope you will plan to attend. For more information, see the article regarding the 2009 Annual Conference on page 3 of this issue, or visit SUNA’s Web site at www.suna.org.

I was informed this month that several of the insurance companies are denying claims for stage one Interstim®. Our hospital has decided to do percutaneous nerve evaluation (PNE) with a temporary implanted lead placed in the clinic. You may want to confirm that your patients have been pre-approved for their stage one. You may want to contact your local insurance companies to determine what they are approving.

I know there are many of you who have a great interest in the SIG and also in sacral nerve stimulation. I am wondering who might like to take that interest to the next level. One way to get involved both in the SUNA organization and to update others on the most current information is to serve as the SIG leader. I will be stepping down as SIG leader in October and would love to hear from someone who is interested in being part of this wonderful organization. If you are interested in the position of SIG leader, please let me know. It is important we keep this SIG thriving and moving forward, and that takes commitment. I would be happy to serve as a mentor to anyone interested in assuming this leadership role.

Another way to get more involved is to submit an abstract or paper and be part of either the Annual Conference in October or the Annual Symposium in March.

Have a great spring and summer. I love the sunshine and look forward to that garden growing.

Helen Rittenmeyer, BSN, RN
SIG Leader
hlr316@hotmail.com

Continence Specialists and Services

Have you ever felt like you were in the dark about what is going on within SUNA? Maybe you don’t know what a “Special Interest Group” is or what it has to do with you? Or, you want to get involved or ask an expert a question but you don’t know how? Well, you are not alone! Despite several years of experience working within SUNA as a member at large, a symposium committee member and chairperson, a journal reviewer, a speaker, and now a Special Interest Group (SIG) leader, I still have a lot to learn about our organization!

I was humbled today when I found out we have a Discussion board on the SUNA Web site, with a section dedicated to each Special Interest Group (SIG)! I have been your SIG leader for 9 months and am just now getting a clue! Because I missed finding the Discussion board page, I feel sure there are others out there who are not aware of the site. To get to the site, go to www.suna.org and use your member login. Open the “Resources” tab at the top of the page, then click on “Discussion Area.” Next, click on “Members Only” and you will be directed to a list of all the SIGs, including Continence Specialists and Services.

I am so excited to have a new way to communicate with others who are interested in the same things I am! What a great way to ask a question and receive an expert’s answer, share a “best practice tip,” or present a case for everyone to provide input and learn from each other.

I will not abandon the email list yet. I want to see how active we can make our Continence Discussion board. My challenge to you this month is to go to the Discussion board and let us know who you are, where you are, and what your interests are. That will be a good start toward using the Continence SIG for the benefit of us all. I look forward to seeing you all online!

Shanna Atnip, MSN, WHNP-BC
SIG Leader
Advanced Practice

The following is a synopsis of the topics presented and discussed by members of our SIG.

A discussion was raised regarding the efficacy of Flomax® vs. Uroxatral® in the female patient. A survey was held regarding PMRs, and the response leaned towards Prometheus.

The following case study was presented: “Do you have guidelines that set out the basics (step by step) that a nurse should follow when a hospitalized elderly female patient complains constantly for 2 days that she cannot ‘pee’ although a Foley catheter is in place; patient’s urine samples are taken each day by various nurses and notes are made indicating ‘hematuria,’ hazy, amber; her overall edema is between 3+ severe and 4+ severe during the first 12 days of hospitalization; abdominal area swollen.” Numerous suggestions were made regarding resolution of the problem.

A second case study prompted another discussion. “A 96-year-old male patient had urinary retention last year and needed to wear an indwelling catheter for 4-5 months. After the catheter was removed, the patient was put on diapers. He said he can’t control his urination flow. What treatment plan would you use to help this patient? Timed voiding? Pelvic floor exercises? Bladder training? I only recently saw him for the first time and wanted to address his problems with incontinence.”

Information was requested regarding the removal of nephrostomy tubes and what level of nurse should perform this task. In order to make a decision whether the nurse should or should not, one of the questions asked on the decision making form from the Board of Nursing and the medical center credentialing form is whether the act or practice is consistent with standards of practice of a national nursing organization or nursing literature and research. That is why I would like to get your responses as members of a national nursing organization.

Trends regarding BCG were compared across the country. In one area, they have been told by billing people that Medicare is no longer paying for BCG. In the past we obtained the BCG from the pharmacy and administered it to the patient charging the patient’s insurance. A few weeks ago we were told the patient would have to go to the pharmacy, pick up the BCG, and pay for it out of pocket if he/she had Medicare. I have had two Medicare patients who are struggling to pay for their BCG. Has anyone heard of this? Have the codes changed?

As you can see, our discussions are varied. If you are an advanced practice nurse, we invite you to join us! Simply email your request, and I will gladly add you to the list.

Connie Whitesell, MSN, CCCN, RN, CNP
SIG Leader
cwhitesell@ucurology.com

Urodynamics

Greetings fellow urodynamics (UDS) clinicians. In the last issue of the Uro-Gram, I invited anyone who would be interested in becoming a mentor or would like to be mentored to contact me via email. I explained what information I needed from you in order to match you up with an experienced UDS clinician. I have received inquiries asking, “What are the roles of a mentor and someone being mentored?”

If we all look back in our life, we can think of a special teacher, Girl Scouts leader, coach, neighbor, supervisor, priest, or pastor who were instrumental in our life. We can think of someone who was willing to take the time to listen to us and teach us along the way. Maybe some of you are already a mentor to someone in your area of work or in your community.

It is my desire, as an expert in the field of UDS, to promote a venue so that everyone new to UDS can excel. That will take time. I wish in 1999 when I had started UDS, I had found a mentor – someone whom I could ask questions, someone I could vent to regarding the studies I was performing and yet did not really comprehend. Currently, SUNA offers a certificate of attendance for participants in the UDS track at the Annual Symposium; however, there is no certification in UDS. Other than the UDS track offered at SUNA’s Annual Symposium, this mentoring opportunity could be the next best thing, offering you the opportunity to have a mentor to call upon and learn from in your own time.

I researched the topic of mentoring in order to answer some of your questions. Following is what I found in the book The Fine Art of Mentoring (Engstrom, & Rohrer, 1989). A mentor is a person who:

• Has achieved superior rank on an organizational or professional ladder.
• Is an authority in his/her field as a result of disciplined work, study, and experience.
• Has a certain measure of influence in his/her chosen field.
• Is genuinely interested in a protege’s growth and development.
• Is willing to commit time and emotional energy to a relationship with an understudy. This goes beyond mere interest and is a commitment that, more often than not, is intense.
• There also are some things that a mentor is not. A mentor is not automatically a pal or a buddy or someone to be included necessarily in family gatherings or other social functions. A mentor is not “on call” for grievances and frustrations, imagined or real. A good mentor may well have more than one mentee so the mentor’s time should be limited to discussions about major opportunities, problems, and tactics, not minor ones. A mentor is not to be gracefully dismissed when the mentee decides that the relationship is no longer useful. The association has a natural cycle of its own – not a predictable span of time but a function of individual growth adapting to changing circumstances. There is also advice for the individual who is being

dcontinued on page 15
SUNA has developed a continuing nursing education (CNE) program on sacral nerve stimulation entitled *Use of Sacral Neuromodulation in the Management of Voiding Dysfunction*. This PowerPoint presentation addresses the prevalence and treatment of urinary control problems and the use of sacral neuromodulation as a treatment option for patients with urinary urgency-frequency, urinary urge incontinence, and/or urinary retention who fail or cannot tolerate conservative treatments.

The CNE program, which was sponsored by Medtronic, offers 1.0 contact hours and is available for free on the SUNA Web site. This program may be used in two ways: as an independent study module for individual use or as a group activity at a SUNA chapter meeting. Because this program has received a grant from Medtronic, individuals may complete the program and receive contact hours for free!

To access this program online, go to www.suna.org, click on the Education tab, and select Continuing Nursing Education Activities/Offerings. This activity may be viewed in its entirety online or it may be downloaded to your computer to be used for group presentation. To download, open the PowerPoint presentation and save it to your computer.

As an independent module, read through the PowerPoint presentation and the note pages that accompany those slides, and then complete the evaluation form. Submit the evaluation form to the SUNA National Office, and a contact hour certificate will be mailed to you. The CNE processing fee has been waived for individual learners!

This module also can be used as a chapter activity for continuing nursing education. The group can gather together and watch the PowerPoint presentation and note pages, discussing along the way what everyone is learning. If the program is used for group presentation, you must print enough evaluation forms for everyone in attendance to complete one. Then the evaluation forms must be submitted to the SUNA National Office for participants to receive a contact hour certificate.

CNE processing is available to individual SUNA members for free! If a SUNA chapter would like to use the program for a group of members, they will need to download and print enough evaluations so that each attendee can complete one following the presentation. A designated person will mail the evaluation forms to the National Office, and then the chapter will be charged a $25 processing fee for the National Office to print and mail the completed certificates to attendees.
mentored:

- Ask your mentor to help you ask the right questions, search in the right places, and stay interested in the right answers.
- Decide what degree of excellence or perfection you want. Generally the object of mentoring is improvement, not perfection. Perhaps only a few can be truly excellent, but all can be better.
- Accept a subordinate, learning position. Don’t let ego get in the way of learning or try to impress the mentor with your knowledge or ability and thus set up a mental barrier against taking in information as fast as it’s being shared.
- Respect the mentor but don’t idolize him/her. Respect allows us to accept what we are being taught. Making the mentor an idol removes the critical faculty of fitting a mentor’s thinking to us.
- Put into effect immediately what you are learning. The best mentoring is intensity in a narrow field. Learn, practice, and assimilate.
- Set up a discipline for relating to the mentor. Arrange for an ample and consistent time schedule, select the subject matter in advance, and do your homework to make the sessions profitable.
- Reward your mentor with your own progress. If you show appreciation but make no progress, the mentor has failed. Your progress is the highest reward.
- Learn to ask crucial questions, ones that prove you have been thinking between sessions, questions that show progress in your perception.
- Don’t threaten to give up. Let your mentor know that you have made a decision for progress, that you are a persistent person. Then the mentor knows he/she is not wasting time.
- Do your best as a mentor and protege to make the time count.

I hope this helps you to understand what it is you will be committing to when you contact me about getting involved in this mentoring opportunity. I hope this will inspire you to sign up to be a mentor or to find one. Finally, I would like to leave you with this quote. “Leadership is both something you are and something you do. A mentor is not a person who can do the work better than his followers; he is a person who can get his followers to do the work better than he can” (Fred Smith). I look forward to hearing from you.

Myra Joseph, RN
SIG Leader
vudsqueen@yahoo.com

Reference

---

**National Recognition of Certification**

I want to bring our certified members and those of you who intend to certify up to speed regarding the CBUNA’s vision for the future. Several certified members have contacted the Board with concerns regarding CBUNA certification not being nationally recognized. Due to the lack of national recognition status, some employers have denied acknowledgement of CBUNA’s certification credentials and financial support for the certification or recertification process for these individuals.

Many specialty certification boards share this dilemma. Tina Cimini, CBUNA’s Immediate Past President, has researched a mechanism by which CBUNA can attain this status. The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) offers accreditation of certification testing for specialty organizations. At our recent Board meeting in Chicago, the Board made the decision to move forward with this endeavor. This will entail a lengthy process of compiling documentation of our process and testing data for submission with the application. Tina’s willingness to spearhead this endeavor is greatly appreciated. Part of the process will include surveying the SUNA membership to update a practice analysis at each level of testing. When contacted, we would appreciate your timely response to the questionnaire.

Becoming nationally recognized as a certifying body has benefits for you, the SUNA membership; however it will demand some changes to the process. The Board will continue to provide certification for associate level candidates, but this credential will not be included for ABNS recognition. The reason being that the associate level encompasses a wide variety of practices, many of which are non-nursing focused. The other segment affected is the advanced practice group. The Board will no longer be able to offer new certification for physician assistants (PAs) or clinical nurse specialists (CNSs). Recertification of PAs and CNSs with current credentialing will be “grandfathered.” The target date for implementation is May 31, 2010. This will provide three testing opportunities for anyone in the PA and CNS category who wishes to take the advanced practice exam prior to the anticipated change. CNS candidates in the future will be offered the opportunity to take the registered nurse exam for CURN status. The advanced practice exam will be available to nurse practitioners (NPs) and doctors of nursing practice (DNP) candidates.

If you have questions regarding these changes, please feel free to contact the Board via e-mail or telephone through the national office. Contact information is available in the CBUNA section of the SUNA Web site at [www.suna.org](http://www.suna.org).

Phyllis A. Matthews, MS, ANP-BC, CUNP
CBUNA President
SUNA encourages the submission of news items and photos of interest to SUNA members. By virtue of your submission, you agree to the usage and editing of your submission for possible publication in SUNA’s newsletter, Web site, and other promotional and educational materials.

**Editor**
Evey Kliever, MA, RN, CURN

**Associate Editor**
Jeanne Held-Warmkessel, MSN, RN, AOCN®, ACNS-BC

---

**Visit SUNA’s Web site at** [www.suna.org](http://www.suna.org)

---

**Mission Statement**
The Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates is a professional organization committed to excellence in clinical practice and research through education of its members, patients, family, and community.

---

**Celebrate Urology Nurses and Associates Week!**

SUNA will celebrate the unique skills and contributions of urology nurses and associates during Urology Nurses and Associates Week – November 1-7, 2009. During this special week, facilities and organizations across the country will honor the dedicated work of urology nurses and associates. Patients, employers, and colleagues will show their appreciation for urology nurses and associates with activities recognizing their commitment to education and improving quality of life.

Urology nurses and associates care for patients across the lifespan, providing guidance and treatment for a variety of urologic diseases and concerns. They work in all health care settings and specialize in such areas as continence care, male/female sexual dysfunction, infertility, oncology, surgery, cystoscopy and urodynamics. Urology nurses and associates are committed to their patients and work tirelessly to improve their quality of life. They deserve to be recognized for their incredible work, and SUNA is proud to lead this effort.

Urology Nurses and Associates Week began in 2006 and was a highlight of SUNA’s 2006 Annual Conference in Kansas City, MO. November 1-7 has been set aside each year to give employers, patients, and others a chance to thank urology nurses and associates for their work.

In addition to recognizing urology nurses and associates, the week is also meant to encourage other nurses to explore the many career opportunities available in urology nursing.

For more information about Urology Nurses and Associates Week as well as products to help you celebrate, go to [www.suna.org](http://www.suna.org) (click on the About SUNA tab and select Urology Nurses and Associates Week).