President-Elect's Message

SUNA's Legacy

I recently had the opportunity to attend the History Forum at the American Urological Association’s (AUA) Annual Meeting in San Francisco, during which Pat Hanson, a fellow SUNA member, presented the history of the American Urological Association Allied (AUAA) / Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates (SUNA) to the AUA membership. I was so proud! Her very informative discussion was replete with our organization’s many accomplishments as well as humorous anecdotes and wonderful photos. It was obvious that a lot of time and research went into the making of this presentation, and Pat gave credit to those individuals who had helped her. My sincere thanks to Pat as well as others who have had a hand in preserving SUNA’s wonderful legacy: Ardeth Hale, SUNA historian; Katherine Jeter, our first certified nurse; Liz Anderson, who donated many old and valuable photos depicting our history; and Patti Bates, my friend and role model.

Our organization began in 1968 under the leadership of President Russell Church, RN. Although I did not know him, by all accounts he was a charismatic, dynamic, and visionary leader who pioneered the early beginnings of our organization prior to his untimely death. I know he would be very proud of the tremendous progress we have made over the years. And I am honored to be a part of the SUNA leadership that continues to exhibit the same selfless commitment that contributed to the success of our early leaders.

The Board of Directors recently approved two position statements reflecting SUNA’s stand on critical issues that impact every member. The first addresses nurse education funding. SUNA, in partnership with other major nursing organizations, supports the passage of a bill that will help fund nursing education as well as workforce retention grants. Thanks to Jeff Albaugh for his work on this critical issue. The second position statement addresses bladder cancer and smoking. This important document was authored by Malou Blanco Yarosh. Please go to SUNA’s Web site to access these position statements. (Go to www.suna.org, click on “Resources,” and click on “Position Statements.”) As an advocate for our profession and our patients and as a health care consumer, these are tools we can use to influence legislators!

As SUNA grows so does our realm of influence. We are constantly

SUNA Candidate Information

The profiles of all national and regional candidates for elected office in 2004-05 appear on pages 7-9 of this issue of the Uro-Gram. Please read the information carefully to familiarize yourself with each candidate. Ballots were mailed to all SUNA members in June. Ballots must be returned by July 20, 2004.

Voting is one of the many privileges of SUNA membership. Take this opportunity to make your voice heard — VOTE!
Once again this issue of the *Uro-Gram* is filled with valuable information for our members. We are proud to present our newest legislative column by Penny Noto. This column promises to keep us informed about the latest legislative activities affecting health care in general and urology in particular. We welcome Penny to the *Uro-Gram* and look forward to seeing her articles regularly in these pages.

Anne Smith-Young also gives us an interesting look at the history of some of SUNA’s annual awards. It is fascinating to see how these awards were initiated and have evolved over the years.

Also make sure to look at the candidate profiles in this issue and to vote and return your ballot by the designated deadline. SUNA’s Annual Conference is a few short months away. Read about the plans for the best conference ever and we will see you in Orlando!

Evey Kliever, MA, RN, CRRN-A, CURN
Editor
eveyk@chartermi.net

---

**Committee Convenes to Plan for 2005 Symposium**

The planning committee for SUNA’s Annual Symposium: Disorders of the Bladder, Bowel, and Pelvic Floor recently met in Philadelphia for an intensive meeting to organize for the 2005 conference. The committee members are Cheryl LeCroy (chairperson), Donna Thompson, Betsy Omeis, Saundra Seidel, Connie Whitesell, Donna Clar, Leslie Woolridge, Michaelene Ribbeck, and Jean Wyman. During the 2005 symposium, preconference sessions will be offered on the basics of bladder and bowel, urodynamics, pelvic floor therapy, development of a continence center, and advanced urodynamics. New in 2005 will be topics in pediatrics, female sexual dysfunction, and pessary fitting. The conference will highlight evidence-based practice and current research during presentations, and networking opportunities will be incorporated. Many exciting topics and speakers are planned with the ever popular advanced case studies expanded. An outside tour of San Diego also will be offered to give attendees a chance to enjoy the meeting location.

Mark your calendars now for next year’s Annual Symposium: Disorders of the Bladder, Bowel, and Pelvic Floor scheduled for March 3-5, 2005, at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina in San Diego, California. This is one conference you don't want to miss!

Cheryl LeCroy, BSN, RN
Symposium Planning Committee Chairperson
SUNA Urges Senate Support for Urology Bill

Along with a national coalition of patients, researchers, and health care providers, SUNA has intensified efforts to lobby Congress for a bill that would help millions of people suffering from urologic diseases. SUNA has called on its more than 3,000 members to help propel national support for the Training and Research in Urology Act (TRU). The bill (HR 1002) was introduced in the House on February 27, 2003, with bipartisan support, and Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) is currently considering introducing it in the Senate.

“As nurses, we see the suffering and needless shame that urologic conditions cause patients,” said SUNA President Marie Page. “Far too often, we cannot help them because research has failed to keep pace. The TRU Act would assure that urologic conditions receive appropriate attention at the federal level.”

The TRU Act calls for:

- Increased funding for research, clinical trials, training programs, and education on urologic diseases.
- A new urology division at the National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health (NIDDK-NIH) led by a new director. (Previously, urology, kidney, and hematologic diseases were combined under one division.)
- A national research plan that identifies research needs in such areas as pediatrics, interstitial cystitis, incontinence, stone disease, urinary tract infections, and benign prostatic diseases.
- A national database (derived from patient populations); and a national clearinghouse (to educate patients, the public, and health care providers).
- Loan repayment for health care professionals and scientists pursuing urology research.
- No less than 15 urologic disease research centers.

The full text of the bill is available at http://thomas.loc.gov/.

Page recently contacted Senator Specter encouraging him to introduce the TRU Act in the Senate and citing the national costs of urologic conditions. For example, Page said, “incontinence costs the U.S. health care system $23 billion each year and is a leading reason people are forced to enter nursing homes.”

Along with urging SUNA members to contact their Congressional representatives, the association is also a member of the Coalition for Urologic Research & Education (CURE), an organization representing patients, researchers, and health care providers across the country. According to CURE, urologic conditions “cost tens of billions of dollars a year, but are among the most under-funded areas of research in the nation. Increased research could save lives and money.” CURE has posted details about the TRU Act on its Web site, www.urologyhealth.org/cure.htm. There is also a link for site visitors to send a letter of support to elected officials through the American Urological Association (AUA) legislative action center.

SUNA Releases New Position Statements

Nursing Shortage

Responding to the alarm bell that has been ringing for America’s nursing shortage, SUNA has released a position statement urging increased federal funding and outlining actions to forestall serious consequences. In the statement, SUNA Position on Nurse Education Funding from the Federal Government, SUNA requests $205 million for fiscal year 2005 for Title VIII nurse education funding under the Health Resources and Services Administration. This funding is “critical in resolving the nursing shortage in America today,” according to the statement. SUNA specifies that its request is made in unity with other national nursing organizations.

The increase in funding would go toward entry level nursing education scholarships and grants; advanced nursing education; nursing faculty education programs; workforce diversity initiatives; and grants to improve nursing workforce retention. The statement warns that “the future of professional nursing is threatened today by the current and impending shortage.” SUNA also cites statistics on the aging of the nursing workforce and the dwindling number of nursing faculty, factors that will worsen the shortage if no action is taken.

Bladder Cancer

Smoking is one of the major risk factors associated with bladder cancer. In an effort to educate the public, SUNA has released a position statement calling for a far-reaching education program targeting schools, health care agencies, and the media.

According to the statement, Bladder Cancer and Smoking, SUNA advocates “smoking cessation as a preventive strategy to bladder cancer,” and suggests that the financial costs of educating the public should be borne by tobacco companies. SUNA’s paper also states that it is crucial to include African-Americans in education initiatives, as this population has a poorer survival rate and suffers from more extensive, aggressive disease than white patients.

Bladder cancer is the ninth most common cause of cancer death in the United States and the fourth most common cause of cancer death among octogenarian males, according to the paper. Studies have shown that cigarette, pipe, and cigar smokers are three times more at risk for developing bladder cancer than nonsmokers. Patients with the disease face a significant risk of morbidity, and treatments involve invasive surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. Some patients may need organs removed or resected, and treatment can result in “psychological stress and a disruption of lifestyle,” according to SUNA.

The position statement was written by Malou Blanco Yarosh, MSN, RN, CNS, Clinical Specialist and Manager, Urology and Head and Neck Services, UCLA Department of Nursing. It was approved by the SUNA Board of Directors in April 2004.

The full text of SUNA’s Position Statement are available on the SUNA Web site at www.suna.org. (Go to “Resources” section and click on “Position Statements” in menu at left.)
approached by outside organizations for our support, collaboration, and/or endorsement. The Board of Directors critically reviews each proposal and ensures that our response is in support of and congruent with SUNA's missions and goals. One of the organizations that shares mutual educational goals is the Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nurses (WOCN). Lil Hormozdi and Cindy McLean from the Florida Sunshine Chapter and Tina Yancey from the Florida Treasure Coast Chapter hosted a SUNA exhibit booth at the WOCN National Conference in Tampa in June. Thank you Lil, Cindy, and Tina for your enthusiastic support and public relations on behalf of SUNA. WOCN also will be exhibiting at SUNA’s Annual Conference in Orlando.

In terms of meeting SUNA’s educational goals, I want to commend Deni von Merveldt, the chair of SUNA’s Approver Unit and her committee members. This is a busy group! They are responsible for the review of all continuing education packet applications submitted to SUNA. And this year surpasses all other years for the number of continuing education programs reviewed and approved by the committee. Each of the members does a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes in order to successfully accomplish this ongoing task. SUNA Approver Unit members include Pam Bilyeu, Nancy Brownlee, Debra Buback, Debbie Elia, Kay Gaines, Debbie Hensley, Katherine Marchese, and Helen Rittermeyer. Thank you all for a job well done!

As you receive this issue of the Uro-Gram, I hope you are finalizing your plans to attend SUNA’s 35th Annual Conference in Orlando. It is going to be a great conference, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Nancy McFadin Mueller, MSN, MA, RN, CURN
SUNA President-Elect
Welcome to your new SUNA Legislative Center. It is my hope that this column will both educate and spur each and every SUNA member to action. I’m not talking about being a political vigilante, just proactive. In my new role as SUNA Legislative Representative, I will present legislative and health policy issues that affect the health care consumer as well as us as health care providers. These issues may have a direct impact on urology health issues or may have a more general focus.

Each and every one of us counts. Every phone call, email, or letter to an elected official makes a difference. We will be forming a legislative committee with regional representation. Our first official meeting will be held at SUNA’s 35th Annual Conference in October. Additional meetings will be held via teleconference. Plans for frequent and timely dissemination of information include a legislative action center on the SUNA Web site, columns in the Uro-Gram, E-news, and the Urologic Nursing Journal, and email listserv alerts when action is required immediately.

As part of my new role, SUNA sponsored my attendance at the 2004 Nurse In Washington Internship (NIWI) program held February 29 through March 3 at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, DC. Jeffrey Albaugh, MS, APRN-BC, CUCNS, also attended as a SUNA Board representative. NIWI is sponsored by the Nursing Organizations Alliance and provides attendees the opportunity to learn how to influence health care through the legislative and regulatory processes. Participants learn from health policy experts and government officials, network with other nurses, and visit members of Congress. Our experience at NIWI was very positive and productive. There were excellent opportunities to network with representatives from other nursing organizations that share similar goals, and some of these relationships will be developed into strategic alliances to promote legislation and health policy common to both groups. The conference culminated with visits to Capitol Hill to meet with elected officials to discuss pertinent issues on behalf of our sponsoring organizations.

The following is a summary of some of the issues discussed with legislators on behalf of SUNA members.

1. Nursing Workforce Development Programs of Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act
Funding supports the nurse education, recruitment, and retention programs administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) including the new programs authorized by the Nurse Reinvestment Act.
   a. Funding for FY 2004 was approved by Congress at $142 million. This represents a 26% increase, the largest single-year funding increase since 1974. Nursing is one of the few professions in the health community to receive consistent increases over the past 5 years.
   b. Requests for funding for FY 2005 by the combined nursing community is for $205 million. This represents a 44% increase over FY 2004 funding. This will be a difficult task to accomplish; however, continued contact with legislators concerning the importance of this funding to address the growing nursing shortage is critical if we are to make progress in this crisis situation.
   c. SUNA has joined forces with the Americans for Nursing Shortage Relief (ANSR). ANSR is an alliance of nursing organizations formed in part to present a unified voice on Capitol Hill to advocate for nursing and health care issues. ANSR has recently submitted a funding request letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Committee. This letter was backed by 32 national nursing organizations, including SUNA.
   d. As of this writing, 41 Senators and 123 members of the House of Representatives have signed letters of support for the $205 million funding goal. These letters demonstrate the largest bipartisan support for increased funding for nursing recruitment and retention to date.

2. The Registered Nurse Staffing Act of 2003 (S 991/HR 3656)
S 991 was sponsored by Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and introduced into the Senate on May 5, 2003. HR 3656 is a companion bill that was sponsored by Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA) on December 8, 2003. These companion bills would allow for the development of staffing systems that require the input of direct care registered nurses (RNs) and provide for whistle-blower protection for RNs who speak out about patient care issues.
   a. For more information about these bills, go to the Thomas Web site (http://thomas.loc.gov) and enter the bill number.
   b. To send a form or custom letter of support to your elected officials, can go to the American Nurses Association (ANA) Web site (www.nursingworld.org), click on Government Affairs, and follow the links.

3. Overtime Pay Rule
Department of Labor (DOL) revision to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) rules announced April 20 now revised in response to concern voiced by many groups, including ANA. Under the current revision, a larger number of low-wage workers would become eligible for overtime pay than originally proposed. However, the language in the rule still includes some ambiguities that make it difficult to determine if RNs will have overtime pay protections. The potential lack of eligibility to receive overtime pay would severely hamper efforts to stem the nursing shortage, especially when mandatory overtime is a common practice.
We’re Everything We Say We Are’ Membership Campaign

Congratulations to the following recruiters who have participated in SUNA’s 2004 Membership Campaign. Please continue to recruit new members. The current campaign will run through August 2004.

SUNA Champion

Jeffrey A. Albaugh
Renee M. Benoit
Cheryl Bothwell
Kami Bourque
Tamara Chasar-Swartout
Lori Cheney
Darla Cleaves
Amanda L. Denmark
Susan Dulczak
Kristine Evavold
Emily Feeney
Leasa Fishburn
Zaleha Fuller
Bernadette Galli
Kelly M. Gollar
Maria Hedstrom
Barbara Houdek
Ruth D. Hughes
Kathy Iger
Donna Johnson
Janice Johnson
Nancy L. Keeler
Sherri Killian
Colleen Layton
Theresa A. Lesher
TerriLyn LeJeune
Suzanne Linton
Christine J. Llewellyn
Amy LoPresti
Barbara J. Mathias
Silvia Maxwell
Janis M. Miller
Nannette Perez
Tracy A. Powell
Susanne A. Quallich
Sabrina Ray
Christina Rogers
Karen Sasso
Olinga W. Scales
Judith T. Secrist
Karen Sellers
Carole Shirk
Diane A. Smith
Joanie Sparks
Terry J. Spear
Faye Tuttle
Shanna Vail
Jeanne A. Waldon
Karen B. Wall
Mary Anne Wasner
Patricia Watson
Eileen B. Wilson

SUNA Champion – Bronze
Edith Acey
Valerie Boeldt-Umbright
Genevieve N. Jacobs
Jean Jones
Charlene P. Kirkpatrick
Lee Ann Knutson
Sara Kolasinski
Grace Machi
Irma Moodt
Valerie Reed
Wendy C. Smith
Suzann St. Marie
Glenda B. Wilkinson
Delia Williams

SUNA Champion – Silver
Jennifer K. Eckerman
Susan Baum Lipsy

Manual of Urologic Nursing CE Articles Now Available

Accumulating contact hours is a way of life for nurses, especially those required to have them for re-licensure and those needing to attain or maintain certification. There are numerous methods to achieve contact hours, and SUNA has compiled a manual of continuing education (CE) articles that have appeared in the Urologic Nursing Journal over the last several years. This manual enables someone searching for contact hours to have a resource with approximately 40 contact hours available in one product. Once the article is read and the evaluation form is completed and returned to SUNA (with the appropriate fee), a certificate of completion will be issued.

The content found in these articles covers all areas of urologic nursing practice: urologic cancers, patient education about alternative medications, erectile and female sexual dysfunction, urinary incontinence, and professional nursing challenges to name just a few. This group of articles will be of assistance to any professional working in urologic specialty practices, whether or not you are concerned about accumulating contact hours. To order the manual, send your check in the amount of $24 for SUNA members or $30 for nonmembers to SUNA Continuing Education Articles, East Holly Avenue Box 56, Pitman, NJ 08071. If paying by credit card you may order the manual on the Web site (www.suna.org) or via fax (856-589-7463).
President-Elect

Jeffrey Albaugh, MS, APRN-BC, CUCNS

Current Position
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Center for Urology, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL

Education
Masters of Science with a Major in Nursing, 2002, North Park University, Chicago, IL
Bachelor of Science in Nursing, 1990, DePaul University, Chicago, IL
Diploma of Nursing, 1986, Jewish Hospital School of Nursing at Washington University, St. Louis, MO
Associate of Arts in Communication, 1982, St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, MO

Certification
Certified Urologic Clinical Nurse Specialist, 2002, Certification Board for Urologic Nurses and Associates

Professional Organizations
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
American Nurses Society
Sigma Theta Tau
Oncology Nursing Society
Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nurses

SUNA Activities
National Secretary, 2003-04
Annual Conference Chairperson, 2002-03
Annual Conference Committee, 2000-01
Chicago Metro President-Elect, 2002; President, 2003, Past President, 2004; Board Liaison, 2001-02

Goals for the Position
If elected as President of the Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates, I would hope to continue moving our incredible organization forward. SUNA is a wonderful organization of health care clinicians that offers many opportunities for networking, education, and research. I believe in SUNA’s vision to become “the authority in the management of person’s with urologic health concerns.” I would like to see our organization become the expert organization to go to for comprehensive accurate urologic information for both patients and health care providers. It is essential that we continue to provide excellent opportunities for health care providers to expand their knowledge base in urology through education and networking. Also, SUNA should be actively involved in educating the community on important urologic issues. The future for SUNA is very bright, but there continues to be much work to be done. SUNA must continue to provide the highest quality education to its members, networking forums for exchanging ideas, professional collaboration with other organizations to promote nursing and urology, and opportunities to expand the urologic knowledge base through research. If I am elected President, I hope to continue to engender passion and excitement in our members for the wonderful opportunities we have in caring for individuals with urologic problems.

Treasurer

Tamara Dickinson, RN, CURN, CCCN

Current Position
Senior Clinical Research Nurse, Department of Urology, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX

Education
University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, 1996-1997
Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Memphis, TN, April 1990

Certification
Certified Urology Registered Nurse, 1996, Certification Board for Urologic Nurses and Associates
Certified Continence Care Nurse, 1999, Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Certification Board
BCIA-PMDB (Pelvic Muscle Dysfunction and Biofeedback), pending, Biofeedback Certification Institute of America

Professional Organizations
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates, 1994-present
International Continence Society, 2003-present
Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society, 1995-2000
Tennessee Nurses Association, 1996-98
Association of Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback, 1996-98

SUNA Activities
National Treasurer, 2002-04
DFW Chapter President, 2003-present
Journal manuscript reviewer, 2000-present
Faculty at national meetings, 2000-present
Certification Task Force, Leader, 2002
Marketing Task Force, Member, 2001
Urodynamics Special Interest Group Co-leader, 2001-02
SUNA/WOCN, Continence Coalition, SUNA Representative, 2000-02
Clinical Practice Standards Committee, Chairperson, 1998-2001
Clinical Practice Standards Committee, Member, 1997-98

Goals for the Position
It has been my pleasure to serve as Treasurer for the last 2 years, and I am thrilled at the prospect of serving again. SUNA is a growing, vivacious organization. In my term as Treasurer, new policies for our management of financial accounts have been put into place. We have contracted with our accounting firm for interim assessments of our financial status, and we continue to be extremely financially sound. I have had the privilege of being involved with the Board of Directors as we promote certification in urology, launched a new Web site, and instituted a membership campaign that has grown our organization to approximately 3,000 members. As a member of SUNA and a member of your Board of Directors, I am committed to promoting excellence in urology nursing, increasing the visibility of our organization, and continually evaluating the needs of our members and patients.
Western Regional Director

Donna Clar, MSN/MBA-HCM, RN, PHN, CRRN

Current Position
VASDHCS Urology Nurse Case Manager

Education
MSN/MBA-HCM, University of Phoenix, San Diego, CA, 2001
BSN, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, 1993
Biological Psychology Major, Hayward State University, California, Hayward, CA, 1986-89
Pacific College of Medical & Dental Assistants, San Diego, CA, Valedictorian, 1982
Zoology Major, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, 1979-81

Professional Organizations
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Case Management Society of America
Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Omicron Delta Chapter

SUNA Activities
Member, Southern California Chapter & National, 2001-present
President-Elect, Southern California Chapter, 2003-present
Author, Southern California Chapter Bylaws Coordinator, Southern California Chapter Educational offering: Urology Fair, VASDHCS, SD, CA, 5/2003
Member, SUNA National Long Range Strategic Planning Committee, 2003
Member, 2005 Annual Symposium: Disorders of the Bladder, Bowel and Pelvic Floor Planning Committee, 2004
Attendee, SUNA Annual Conference, 2003
Attendee, Annual Symposium: Disorders of the Bladder, Bowel and Pelvic Floor, 2004

Goals for the Position
• Facilitate communication/networking in order to enhance peer support and group development.
• Determine current member interests and organized educational offerings needs, while encouraging national participation in Annual Conferences.
• Continue promotion of active recruitment of new SUNA members, and retention of current members.
• Encourage each chapter to create a newsletter to facilitate exchange of ideas and knowledge.
• Encourage and support research ideas and activities.
• Keep Western Region members informed of pertinent news from SUNA/CBUNA via contact with chapter presidents in a timely manner.
• Encourage members to become certified urology nurses/associates.
• Meet with each chapter personally to identify their needs, address any concerns, provide support and guidance to the best of my ability.

Western Regional Director

Penny Smoot, BSN, RN,C, CURN

Current Position
I currently work in a busy urology office with 4 urologists. I work with a physician in the office and at outreach clinics. We travel 2-3 days every week. I schedule clinics and surgeries, do the patient education, office procedures, follow-ups, and urodynamics.

Education
BSN, Montana State University

Professional Organizations
MNA, 1992
SUNA, 2001
NAEMT, 2004

SUNA Activities
Attended national convention, 2001
Started Big Sky Chapter of SUNA 2003 and was president of the chapter
Attended national convention, 2003

Goals for the Position
I would like to increase excitement throughout and participation in SUNA within the local chapters. With that, hopefully increase local activity and educational programs. I also would like to increase awareness of SUNA within our own profession, and in doing that, increase membership in SUNA. I would like to introduce the thought of using available high tech avenues to bring together the chapters in the west which cover a vast area. I would like to represent the Western Region with any concerns at the national level.
This column has been created to recognize “behind-the-scenes” members of SUNA who contribute to the organization and urologic nursing at the grassroots level. If you know of a member whose service to SUNA deserves recognition and would like to highlight his/her contributions in this column, please contact Urogram Editor Evey Kliever (eveyk@chartermi.net).

Some people walk quietly through our lives and we may not notice them, but they are always there — working hard, lining things up, and making the complex look easy. Their commitment runs deep, their quiet energy deeper. This is true of Nancy Shackelford of the Metropolitan Baltimore Chapter. “Shack,” as she is affectionately called, is the quiet undercurrent of this chapter.

Joining the Baltimore Urology Nurses group in the early 1990s before a formal SUNA chapter was created, Nancy worked with the operating room nurses from many of the area hospitals to provide educational opportunities and share nursing skills. As the SUNA chapter formed and large urology groups developed outside of the hospitals, Nancy became the quiet leader to keep things going as others moved on due to life changes and needs.

Elected chapter president in 2000, Nancy has worked tirelessly to recruit, encourage, and mentor anyone who wanted a chance to participate. She has been the coordinator for the spring seminars, working with many people and industry representatives to ensure quality exhibits, great speakers, and fun. Yes, Nancy likes to have fun. In the interview for this spotlight, Nancy said, “I really just want to make the meetings fun and enjoyable for people. That’s why we try to have a variety of locations and meeting types and venues.”

It was under Nancy’s leadership that the Baltimore Chapter was recognized as “Most Improved Chapter.” Nancy is like that on the job, too. She is in a busy urology practice at GBMC. She works with several physicians and has a great staff to support her, but she is “the go-to girl.” If someone wants anything or needs anything, they know to go to Nancy.

In 2001 Nancy Shackleford (right) accepted the Most Improved Chapter Award on behalf of the Baltimore Chapter from Northeast Regional Director Lisa Neu.

Northeast Regional Director

Susan Lipsy, MS, RN, CURN

Current Position
Urology Nurse Practitioner, Urology Consultants of Syracuse

Education
Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Cum Laude
Master of Science in Nursing
Post-Graduate Certified Adult Nurse Practitioner/Primary Care Nursing

Professional Organizations
Coalition of Nurse Practitioners - State and Local Chapters
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates

SUNA Activities
Member since 1996
Assistant Northeast Regional Director, 2002-present
Inpatient SIG Leader, 1999-present
Chapter President, 1998-2002
Chapter Treasurer, 2002
Chapter Recognition Task Force Member, 2002
Communication Task Force Member, 2002
Position Statement Task Force Chairperson, 2003-04

Goals for the Position
My goals for the Regional Director position are ambitious and have been developed from the many leadership positions I have held within SUNA. I am committed to strengthening the leadership skills of chapter officers. I plan to encourage regular leadership education programs within the Northeast Region. In addition, I will develop new communication patterns between chapter leadership to encourage the exchange of ideas.

In my current position as Assistant Regional Director, I have had the opportunity to foster the growth and development of existing chapters. I have helped chapter presidents successfully work through challenges. I am planning to continue to provide my full support to chapters in an effort to promote teamwork and assist with conflict resolution.

As Northeast Regional Director, I will become a strong advocate for communicating concerns to the national Board of Directors. I will proudly represent the region and strive to create new ideas to enhance growth and change.

Finally, our region has many chapters in various stages of development. I have had the opportunity to both develop and assist in the development of chapters as a chapter president and as Assistant Regional Director. I have the ability to guide and mentor newly forming chapters as they reach their goals. I am planning to continue to form many more new chapters as our region continues to expand.

Lisa Neu, BS, RN, CRNP-BC, CURN
Northeast Regional Director
bad2bne@aol.com
Northeast

New leadership is urgently needed for the South Central Pennsylvania Chapter. After many years as chapter leader and mentor, Connie Laudermilch is stepping down due to job changes. Please contact Connie (claude-milch@psu.edu), Lisa Neu (bad2bne@aol.com), or Susan Lipsey (slipsy@twcny.rr.com) regarding your interest in helping keep this chapter alive.

The newly formed Tidewater Virginia Chapter was granted probationary chapter status in June. Contact Valerie Reed (vlree2362@aol.com) for more information about this chapter.

The Twin State Chapter had a great meeting on April 13. Contact Laura Stempkowski (laura.stempkowski@hitchcock.org) for updates on the chapter’s fall schedule. This is a very busy and progressive group! Please check this chapter out if you are in the area, and take a friend! There’s lots to learn, and it’s a great opportunity to network and offer your talents.

The New Jersey Chapter held a half-day seminar at the Princeton Medical Center on April 3. A lot of individuals attended to learn about female sexual dysfunction from a national leading authority, Dr Naomi Vilko, from the Vilko-Goldfarb Center for Sexual Health. For more information about programs in the fall, contact Gale Yetman at yetman@psu.edu.

The New England Chapter held its annual spring conference at the Best Western Plaza Hotel in Fitchburg, MA, on April 17. There was a very good turnout for the conference, and plans are underway for next year! Contact Jennifer Reimer (ornurse@comcast.net) for more information.

The Metropolitan Baltimore Chapter held chapter elections in June. Ann Fabula, RN, is the chapter president, Kristen Burns, RN, is vice president, and Rosmond Lynch, RN, is secretary. The chapter’s 2005 Bi-Annual Spring Conference is in the planning stages. For more information, contact Kristen Burns at kokane97@juno.com.

The Central Virginia Chapter continues its regular dinner and a lecture series. Contact Marcie Donkle, chapter president, (mwdonkle@uro.com) for more information.

Julia Bowens, RN, Diane Durell, RN, Helen La Rose, RN, and Carolyn Grous, RN, have completed the review and revitalization of the Delaware Valley Chapter. The chapter held a seminar in May in conjunction with Penn Center for Continence and is busy planning its fall meetings and topics. To suggest speakers, volunteer to help, or join this energetic group, contact Julia Bowens (julia.bowens@uphs.upenn.edu).

The Central New York Chapter will take the summer off and return in time for SUNA’s Annual Conference. For more information, contact Maureen Kiernan at maureen_kiernan@urmc.rochester.edu.

The Syracuse Chapter has a busy educational and community service schedule for the summer and is in the process of setting the schedule for the fall. Contact Amy Lopresti (nlopresti1@hotmail.com) for more information.

The Washington, DC Metropolitan Chapter held its end of the year seminar on May 15. Gerry Sue Young and her team are hard at work planning more activities. For more information on meetings and locations, contact Gerry Sue at gerrysuern@aol.com.

Susan Lipsey, assistant regional director, is continuing to help a chapter in the early stages of formation in the Utica, NY area. Meetings have been held, and officers have completed the ground work for probationary status. To learn more about this new group, contact Susan Lipsey at slipsy@twcny.rr.com.

Everyone has worked hard, had fun, and made great networking contacts this year. It has been an exciting year, and I wish each of you a wonderful and fun-filled summer.

Lisa Neu, BS, RN, CRNP-BC, CURN Northeast Regional Director bad2bne@aol.com

North Central

Upper Midwest Chapter
President Melanie Pofahl reports that the chapter hosted Overactive Bladder Screening on May 11. This free event was well attended. The chapter is busy planning another free dinner and continuing education event. They also are working on developing the curriculum for a basic urology course.

Great Lakes Chapter
President Susanne Quallich informs me that three of their members are presenting at the Annual Conference: Susanne Quallich, Shelly Lajiness, NP, and Robin Rye, CUNP. I’m looking forward to hearing these speakers. Planning is underway for the chapter elections in the fall to coincide with the national meeting.

Vic Senese
The Kansas City Chapter, under the leadership of President Janey Rouse, will be holding its 35th annual seminar on September 24. The chapter is making plans now for the speakers.

Chicago Metro Chapter President Mary Anne Wasner reports that the chapter’s annual conference, Urology Nursing: Let’s Keep Learning, was held May 21-22 at Hamburger University in Oakbrook. A lot of great topics were presented. On September 11, the chapter will hold its second annual certification review course.

Mississippi Valley Chapter President Helen Rittenmeyer is hard at work for her chapter. A fall meeting is being planned.

Victor P. Senese, BSN, RN, CURN
North Central Regional Director
v.senese@att.net

Western

At a SUNA conference not long ago, I talked with a nurse who had been a SUNA member in the past but had only recently renewed her membership. She said she was very impressed with the “new face of SUNA” as she called it. She particularly liked the Web site and thought that the quality of the articles in the Urologic Nursing Journal was excellent. She said SUNA had really become THE organization for urologic nursing information and that she planned to become active again in the organization. In reflecting on her comments, I am sure there are a number of previous SUNA members in the region who may have lost interest in SUNA for some reason in the past, but should be reintroduced to the “new face of SUNA.” I hope each of you will look around you for these nurses and associates and invite them back to SUNA. The membership drive has been quite successful, but a personal invitation from you is one of the best forms of membership recruitment.

All of the chapters have concluded their spring meetings and are now in the planning stages for late summer and early fall. The Dallas Ft. Worth Chapter and President Tamara Dickinson are busy planning a Fall Urology Symposium to be held September 11 at the Dallas Hilton Park Cities. Speakers will include Jean Lewis, Nancy McFadin Mueller, and Tamara Dickinson. For more information, contact Tamara at tamara.dickinson@utsouthwestern.edu.

In April I visited with members and attended the Florida Sunshine Chapter’s Half Day at the Bay in Clearwater, FL. It was a great experience to see and be a part of a successful seminar. The program focused on genitourinary trauma, renal stones, laparoscopic nephrectomy, and palliative care. Thanks to Lil Hormozdi for the opportunity to visit and learn. I also want to introduce Lil as the Assistant Southeast Regional Director. She is a welcome asset to me and SUNA.

Sharon Bretz, president of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, reports that the Western Slope Meeting was a success. It could become a regular spring meeting. She would like to thank Amy Turley, LPN, of Dr. Jeff Fegan’s office for her efforts to promote SUNA to the Western Slope. Plans are underway for the annual seminar, which will be held August 21 at the Inverness Hotel and Conference. For more information, contact Sharon at sbcolonatv@aol.com.

I would like to introduce Jody Purifoy of Little Rock, AR. She is the first president of the developing Central Arkansas Chapter and has just earned her master’s degree in nursing. She works as an advanced practice nurse in the Urology Department at UAMS. The newly forming chapter held a meeting on April 22 with 28 attendees. Jody gave a nurse-focused presentation on the PDE-5 inhibitors. She appointed committees and addressed the bylaws. The group held another meeting on June 17 and is planning a fall weekend meeting in Eureka Springs offering approximately 16 CE credits. Congratulations for a great start! For further information on meetings and membership, contact Jody at purifoyjodya@uams.edu.

There also has been interest in the Southeast Region to form new and/or reactivate chapters in Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Beginning a new chapter requires determination and dedication. Becoming actively involved in your local SUNA chapter provides an opportunity for members to come together and have an impact on the urologic care that is provided to their community. Chapters represent an opportunity for professional growth in urologic health care, leadership at the local and national levels, and a place to honor and recognize our colleagues.

Carolyn North, RN
Southeast Regional Director
jnnorth1@comcast.net

Joyce Colling
PhD, RN, FAAN
Western Regional Director
jcolS03@verizon.net

Carolyn North
Southeast Regional Director
jnnorth1@comcast.net
SUNA’s Awards Programs

Each year when we attend SUNA’s Annual Conference, there is a plethora of ways to obtain urologic information, including keynote lectures of interest to all attendees and concurrent breakout sessions that allow attendees to choose the topic or speaker providing the most appropriate information for their needs or interests. In addition, there are specialty sessions during which we learn from our peers.

During the Annual Conference, members also are recognized with awards. The organization’s two oldest awards programs date from 1976 and were established through the efforts of Alice Morel. Alice approached Stephen Young of American Cystoscope Makers, Inc., about sponsoring an award to encourage members to participate in the Annual Assembly (now Annual Conference). Through this collaboration, the “Pearls” were created. A “Pearl” is a unique idea shared by a member pertaining to methods, programs, procedures, or policies that improves patient care or the operation of the urologic facility in a given area. The first “Pearls” session was held in 1977 with first place being awarded to Janet D’Agostino for her presentation “Problems Oriented to Nursing as Practiced on the Urological Unit.” In 2002, the name of the Pearls session was changed to “SUNA Search” with ACMI, Corporation still sponsoring the session.

The January 2004 issue of the Uro-Gram highlighted the history of SUNA’s Chapter of the Year. The first sponsor of that award in 1977 was Pharmaseal of Glendale, CA. The award was later sponsored by American Medical Systems. The first chapter to receive the award was the Washington DC Chapter. Currently, the Chapter of the Year Award is sponsored by VIVUS, Inc.

The Macfarlane Award was introduced in 1980 by the American Board of Urological Allied Health Professionals (ABUAHP) – now the Certification Board for Urologic Nurses and Associates (CBUNA). The award was created and funded by Dr. Curtis and Jan Macfarlane. The Macfarlanes were members of ABUAHP from its inception in 1972. Dr. Macfarlane was one of the first examiners, and Jan was one of the first examinees. This award is presented annually to the allied health professional who scores highest on the certification examination. The purpose of the award is to encourage and recognize knowledge and expertise. The first recipient of this award was Cheryl Aikey, CURN.

1984 was the year for patient education. Dr. Vernon Urich, a Michigan urologist and member of the AUA Allied Health Professions Committee, created and funded the Joan Urich Patient Education Award in honor of his wife who was a nurse. The purpose of the award was to encourage patient education via written, visual, or lecture programs. The first award went to Sharon Stalkfleet at the 1985 Annual Assembly for her video, “Testicular Self-Examination.” This video was made available to high schools and colleges as well as professional organizations.

The Poster Session presentations are an excellent opportunity to graphically display and then discuss research or practice reports. There is no captive audience; rather interested individuals “stop” to discuss the projects displayed and exchange information and/or experiences. The Poster Session, which started in 1984, was sponsored by C.R. Bard Urological and provided a format to encourage research. The first place winner was Georgeanne Constantino, MS, RN, for her poster entitled “Cost-Effective Treatment of Urinary Incontinence in Nursing Home Confined Females.” Second place was presented to Agnes Yost, CURN, for her poster entitled “Compliance with Intermittent Self-Catheterizations.”

A Literary Excellence Award (now called The Catherine-Ann Lawrence Literary Excellence Award), originally sponsored by Convatec, A Squibb Company, was announced in November 1984. Members were given an opportunity to submit their manuscripts to the Urologic Nursing Journal to be considered for award in 1985. The first recipients for their collaborative effort were Kathryn Jeter, EdD, ET; Todd Pillen, CUT; and Brian Stephens, RN.

The Rosetta Stone Award was named after a stone found in Egypt during the 18th century that provided a key to deciphering ancient Egyptian writing, thus opening new horizons in the study of ancient civilizations. The award recognized individuals who had opened new horizons in urologic nursing. Established in 1988 through the efforts of Rita Dana, CURN, Dr. Larian Gillespie sponsored the first Rosetta Stone Award. Carralee Sueppel, CURN, received first place in the audiovisual category for a video entitled “Prostate Cancer.” First place in the written category went to Rose Ravalli, CURN, and Nancy Rosen, CURN for “Intravenous Papaverine-Regitine Injection.” The award was $1500.

In 1991, outgoing president Mikel Gray created the President’s Trophy to recognize members for their outstanding past services to the association president and members. The first trophies were presented to Patti Bates, CURN, editor of Urologic Nursing, and Paula Smith, RN, editor of the Uro-Gram.

The association also has presented memorial scholarships over the years. The Jan LeBouton Certification Scholarship was established in 1996 in memory of Jan LeBouton, RN, CURN, in recognition of
her dedication to SUNA and CBUNA. Jan was active on the Board of Directors of both organizations and in her local chapter. The scholarship is awarded annually by SUNA and covers the certification fee and registration for the SUNA Annual Conference. The first recipient was Glenda Wilkinson, BS, RN, CURN.

The Career Mobility Scholarship was established by Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc. It was later renamed the Ron Brady Career Mobility Scholarship in memory of Ron Brady, a longtime employee who served as SUNA’s Executive Director. Ron passed away unexpectedly early in 1998. The purpose of the $1500 scholarship is to offset the financial burdens of continuing education for a member seeking to complete a baccalaureate or other advanced degree that will enhance his/her urologic nursing practice. The first recipient was Suzanne VanHaften, who used the scholarship to help with the expenses of her BSN degree.

Over the years, there also have been ongoing competitions for membership recruitment. The rewards for recruiting the most new members has varied from Olympus cameras, to conference registration, to roundtrip airfare to the Annual Conference, to hotel accommodations for the Annual Conference. The best reward is the personal satisfaction and recognition of peers.

As you can see from all of the award opportunities listed above, attending a SUNA Conference is not just a rewarding educational experience for you as an individual. The conference provides an opportunity to see a different part of the country each year. It can enhance your career, and you can apply to enter any number of competitions and perhaps win a prize. Most of all, you will be sharing your expertise with your peers. Enjoy your next SUNA conference!

Anne Smith-Young, BS, CUA
History Committee

Call for Manuscripts for Urologic Nursing Journal

Urologic Nursing is currently accepting for review manuscripts on the following topics:

- Interstitial cystitis
- Patient education related to urologic functions
- Robotic assisted surgery for urologic disorders
- Nursing responsibilities related to robotic assisted surgery instruments and endourologic instruments
- Developing and running a continence center
- Role of the Nurse Practitioner or Physician’s Assistant in a urologic practice
- Patient advocacy
- Urogynecology
- Female sexual dysfunction
- Erectile dysfunction
- Vulvodynia
- Catheter (Foley) care (long-term)
- Contigen collagen therapy
- Ureteroscopy
- Fecal incontinence
- Radical prostatectomy
- Nephrolithiasis/Urolithiasis: medical, endourologic, surgical and lithotripsy treatments
- Biofeedback
- Vescicopexy, prostatectomy, TURP, etc.
- Urinary diversions
- Treating uncomplicated and complicated urethritis, cystitis, pyelonephritis
- Options for patients with prostate, bladder, testicular, or penile cancers
- Coping with a cancer diagnosis
- Incontinence treatments (medical and surgical)
- Networking/Entrepreneurship
- Pediatric urology topics
- Effects of radiation therapy and chemotherapy
- BPH with medical and/or surgical treatments
- Prostatitis
- Epididymitis, orchitis
- Testicular torsion
- Varicocele
- Hydrocele, hematocoele, spermatocele
- Vasectomy
- Undescended testicles
- Paraphimosis
- Peyronie’s disease
- Hypospadias, epispadias
- Priapism
- Hydrouraer and hydronephrosis
- Urosepsis
- Urinary reflux
- Urethral stenosis
- Bladder scanning
- Postoperative urinary retention
- Neurogenic bladder
- Autonomic dysreflexia
- Urologic emergencies/trauma
- Congenital anomalies
- Genetic testing for urologic conditions
- Quality improvement methods
- Informatics
- Self esteem, coping and self image related to urologic disorders

For more information or to request author guidelines, contact: Urologic Nursing, East Holly Avenue Box 56, Pitman, NJ 08071-0056; 856-256-2300; fax 856-589-7463; uronsg@ajj.com
Special Interest Groups

ESWL/OR/Cystoscopy

I received the following product notification from Advanced Sterilization Products® concerning Cidex® OPA. I am sharing it with you via the Uro-Gram so that you can take the appropriate steps necessary in your facilities. The notification called for some changes in our protocol in processing flexible cystoscopes, and it may affect some of your areas as well. We continue to use CIDEX OPA in our clinic but have separated and marked three flexible cystoscopes that are sterilized using the Steris system for our bladder tumor patients. The other flexible scopes are still being disinfected in CIDEX OPA and being rinsed/submerged in two separate containers with sterile water for a minimum of 1 minute. To date, we have not had any patients with post cysto urinary tract infections or other related problems.

Advanced Sterilization Products, maker of Cidex OPA, submitted a product notification as a new contraindication for CIDEX OPA solution, and it reads as follows:

In rare instances CIDEX OPA solution has been associated with anaphylaxis-like reactions in bladder cancer patients undergoing repeated surveillance cystoscopies. Therefore, ASP is contraindicating the use of CIDEX OPA solution for the reprocessing of any urological instruments to be used on patients with a history of bladder cancer. Additionally, reports have been received that healthcare workers experienced an irritation or possible allergic reaction that may be associated with exposure to CIDEX OPA solution. It appears that in most of these cases that the healthcare worker was not using the product in a manner consistent with the instructions for use. In order to reduce the risk of residual disinfectant exposure to your patients and staff, please make sure to follow all recommendations in the IFU, and especially the instructions for cleaning and rinsing instruments, wearing the appropriate PPE and cleaning them in a well ventilated area when using CIDEX OPA. Should you need an alternate high-level disinfectant, CIDEX Activated Dialdehyde solution and other glutaraldehyde solutions are available through your distributor. If you have any questions please call 1-800-370-4632.

I am looking for a replacement to fill my position as SIG leader. If you have any interest in this position, please let me know as soon as possible so that you can be introduced at SUNA’s 35th Annual Conference in Orlando.

Frank Salazar, LVN
SIG Leader
majbowie@aol.com

Urodynamics

Recently I have been asked several questions about urodynamic certification. People have wondered why and when this may take place and what to do about it now. Currently, there are no requirements regarding who can perform urodynamics; however, only a physician can order and interpret the test. Tests are performed by a variety of providers (physicians, nurses, physician assistants, and technicians) and set up in a variety of ways.

At the present time there is no certification for urodynamics. There has been a lot of discussion internationally and currently SUNA is working on standards. This hopefully will be followed by later testing with a minimum case requirement (30 has been the number discussed). Testing will necessitate a specific knowledge level to perform urodynamic studies. I do not expect this to occur for several years. In the meantime, I would suggest that clinical staff make/keep contact with a supportive physician. I also would collect caseload information and written references from those you have trained and worked with so that you have a historical record. Certification may eventually be required for reimbursement and protection of the public.

Saundra Seidel, APN, BC
SIG Co-Leader
sseidel@cox-internet.com

There’s no better way to show your patients and colleagues you have taken that extra step to validate your knowledge and skills. Order the official CBUNA certification pin today!

For more information on purchasing a pin, contact the CBUNA office at 856-256-2351 or visit us online at www.suna.org and click on the certification tab.

Certification Pin Now Available
Consider Nontraditional Approaches to Patient Education and Support

Irrespective of setting, urologic nurses and associates are often the critical link to patient education and support. We frequently instruct patients on areas such as: treatment options and self-care of urinary retention, nocturnal enuresis, recurrent urinary tract infection, congenital anomalies, erectile and voiding dysfunctions, incontinence, and side effects of cancer treatment. Many of these topics would be more effectively handled in a group situation. For selected patients, a group setting not only would allow urology specialists more time to discuss a specific topic but open discourse among patients facilitating knowledge acquisition and providing support.

Long recognized as an effective and efficient method of patient education and support as well as the evaluation and management of patients, in systems such as Kaiser, group visits are gaining popularity in traditional medical practices and may enhance patient trust in their providers. If the purpose of the encounter is solely for instruction or support, consider charging patients directly for your time. Alternatively, consider charging patients who is legally able to directly bill for services and documentation that meets the criteria of the E&M code and the participation of a provider. The latter scenario requires the following: an evaluation of each patient’s current status (history), an appropriate level of physical examination, and the participation of a provider who is legally able to directly bill for services and documentation that meets the criteria of the E&M code that is billed. In order to make a group visit work, however, significant participation by a highly skilled assistant (nurse, urologic associate, or health educator) is considered mandatory.

A strong proponent for group visits, Edward B. Noffsinger, PhD, describes group visits as a win-win solution benefitting doctors and patients alike and believes that group visits are significantly underutilized. There is a plethora of information on “group visits.” A few of the sources are listed below.

Urology mid-level practitioners, nurses, and associates would do well to explore how group visits might enhance their patient care, their value to their work settings, and their own job satisfaction.

Marta Krissovich, MS, RN, NP, CCVN
SUNA Liaison to Urology Coding Alert

Suggested Readings


CBUNA Meets in Chicago

The Certification Board for Urologic Nurses and Associates (CBUNA) met in Chicago March 20-21, 2004, during SUNA’s successful Annual Symposium: Disorders of the Bladder, Bowel, and Pelvic Floor. It was great meeting many of the attendees at the CBUNA booth in the exhibit hall. CBUNA hopes that the enthusiasm from so many of you eager to take the exam becomes a reality in the near future. Good luck!

CBUNA had a productive board meeting discussing such issues as marketing strategies for certification and recertification, steps to update the CBUNA Examination Preparation Guide, and changing CBUNA’s Bylaws to allow for a President-Elect position. The board also welcomed Michael Brennan, CBUNA’s new Executive Director. Michael brings many new ideas and energy to the board. Additionally, the CBUNA and SUNA boards had a joint breakfast meeting to network and brainstorm on issues concerning certification. The positive ideas being generated were truly inspiring.

By now, you have probably seen the ad for the new CBUNA certification pin. I hope to see many of you wearing it with pride at the SUNA Annual Conference in Orlando. To order the pin, go to www.suna.org and click on the Certification tab. Also, note that the application for the certification exam is now available online.

CBUNA will be offering a concurrent session at the 2004 SUNA Annual Conference in Orlando. This will be your opportunity to dialogue directly with the board and ask your questions regarding the certification/recertification process. Hope to see you there.

Remember, think excellence in urologic nursing — think certification!

Jan Giroux, MSN, CURN
CBUNA President
Have you made plans to attend SUNA’s 35th Annual Conference yet? We are going back to Orlando to the beautiful and expanded Florida grounds of the Hilton Walt Disney World Resort. The planning committee has assembled a line up of talented speakers and great topics to bring you the latest information on urologic health care.

The theme of the conference, which will be held October 22-26, 2004, is Celebrate SUNA’s Future Hand in Hand. This conference will offer something for everyone with plenty of opportunities to learn and share experiences and ideas with peers from across the United States and world! We are providing an opportunity for you as a SUNA member to take an active role in your professional development to improve your practice and enhance patient care. I cannot think of a more exciting time to be a part of SUNA!

Check out the preconference programs and sessions now, and start planning how to get the most out of your SUNA conference! If you have not received your registration brochure, you can review conference activities and even register online at www.suna.org. Don’t forget to make your hotel reservations early and order your discount Disney World Theme Park tickets by October 6. If you need any assistance with your conference planning, please call the SUNA office at 1-888-TAP-SUNA.

Join us for a week of education, fun, and networking as we “celebrate our future hand in hand.” See you in Orlando!

Debbie Hensley, BSN, RN
Annual Conference Chairperson