

E-News from
NOVA

Have you seen NOVA's new improved website? Visit the website and be sure to sign up for E-News from NOVA and encourage all NOVA members at your facility to do the same. Log onto www.vanurse.org to sign up. E-News from NOVA is NOVA's email news service highlighting the latest in health care and health care policies. NOVA uses E-News from NOVA to keep NOVA nurses updated on important legislative and other nursing issues.

NOVA needs your
current email
address!

Don't seem to be getting email messages from NOVA? We have some email addresses in the membership database that are not current. Be sure that you enter a valid, current email when signing up for E-News from NOVA on the NOVA website. If you have previously signed up for E-News from NOVA and are not receiving NOVA communications or have changed your email address since joining NOVA, please contact Luba Litvinova at the NOVA office at 703-444-5597.



A Privilege to Lead

By Joan Clifford
BSN, MSM, RN, FACHE

I consider it a great honor to assume the role of President of the Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA). It is my privilege to lead with all of you in this exciting time in health care to shape and influence the health care in the Department of Veterans Affairs. I would be remiss if I didn't mention and acknowledge Nancy Clafin for her positive leadership as NOVA President. I am looking forward to working with her as Immediate Past President and the other NOVA Board of Directors: Larry Lemos (Vice President), Mary Seaman (Treasurer), Sharon Johnson (Secretary), Dolores Zander (Membership Secretary), Mary Ann Church (Director), Janet Minard (Director), Melissa Nixon (Director), Thelma Roach-Serry (Director) and Kelly Skinner (Director).

"Change always comes bearing gifts." The 2010 Affordable Care Act, the Release of the IOM Report for the Future of Nursing, and the 112th Congress are all changes that are now upon us. The gift which comes with these changes is that we have a tremendous opportunity to shape and influence health care in the areas of education, research and legislation like no other time in recent memory.

Congratulations to Thelma Roach-Serry for a successful 2010 Annual Meeting in Arlington Virginia. Thelma's leadership was evident in her chairmanship of the Annual Meeting. The

planning committee's hard work was evident in the exceptional program presented, with something for everyone. The feedback from participants was outstanding. Many of our NOVA members stayed for the weekend and were involved in the 35th Annual Marine Corps Marathon as volunteers or participants in the marathon/10K event; all in support of the NOVA Foundation.

After an energizing NOVA Annual Meeting and the Marine Corps Marathon in October 2010, your new NOVA Board met in January in Washington DC to chart our course in these exciting times in health care. Our Annual Legislative Roundtable was one of the most interactive sessions in recent memory. The voice of the VA nurse is one that is respected, and building and maintaining working relationships with our Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), VA Program Offices, Congressional Staff and the Office of Nursing Services is an essential component in keeping NOVA as a trusted source to ensure the quality our veterans deserve. With a new Congress poised to take action, what VA nurses have to say matters.

Now, more than ever, we need to be the voice of the VA nurse. Be the leaders of this transition. I challenge each of

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Attention! All NOVA Members!

Participate in NOVA's
new "Member-Get-A-
Member" Campaign

January 1-May1, 2011
Tell your colleagues
about NOVA, recruit
new members, and win
exciting prizes!

- Recruit 5 new members and get a free 2012 NOVA membership!
- Recruit 15 new members and get a free registration at the 2011 Annual Meeting!
- Recruit 25 new members and get a free registration and complimentary 2 night stay at the Venetian Resort.

If you recruit a new member on payroll deduction, you receive your prize once the new member appears on the National Office Payroll Deduction Report.

Message from the Executive Director



By Susan H. Dove

My first year as NOVA's Executive Director has proven to be a very busy and exciting time! I must tell you how proud I am to have the opportunity to work with you, the NOVA members. In my 30+ years of leading many different nonprofit associations and foundations, I have never met a more dedicated, giving, patriotic, and incredibly intelligent group! I look forward to many more years of serving YOU and moving YOUR organization to greater achievement.

Thanks to Program Chair Thelma Roach-Serry and the entire Annual Meeting Program Committee, our 30th Anniversary Meeting last October was a great educational event with plenty of networking opportunities with nurse colleagues from around the country and also representatives of sponsor companies, including GlaxoSmithKline, Gallagher Benefit Services, Johnson & Johnson, Medline Industries, and others.

For the first time at NOVA's Annual Meeting, the NOVA Foundation held its Annual Charity Event, complete with reception, silent auction, dinner and entertainment. Many fabulous auction items were donated and bid on, helping to make this fund-raising event tremendously successful. Many attendees stayed over following the conclusion of the Annual Meeting and participated in the Marine Corps Marathon. For the 5th year, the NOVA Foundation was named a Charity Partner. These two tremendously successful fund-raisers enable the NOVA Foundation to award nearly \$20,000 in nurse scholarships during 2011!

The 2011 Annual Meeting will be held at the beautiful Venetian Resort in Las Vegas, June 29-July 1. Registration and program details will be emailed to all NOVA members shortly.

The Membership Committee has worked diligently to increase membership—and we now have over 3,300 members. Chapter contacts have grown which builds the grassroots effort to build knowledge of NOVA as well as increase membership. There are several chapters that are currently forming—and we recognized several new chapters at the Annual Business Meeting last October as they have become fully operational entities.

The member-get-a-member campaigns continue to be quite successful, helping to bring our membership to a new high. Remember, membership recruitment isn't just the job of the Membership Committee and the Board of Directors. It is important for ALL members to share with colleagues the importance of joining THEIR professional VA nursing organization.

Adding to the many services provided for NOVA members, a NEW Term Life Insurance Program has been approved by the NOVA Board of Directors. Details will be contained in an email announcement sent to all members.

Speaking of membership, I am happy to inform you that NOVA has become an Affiliate Member of the American Nurses Association and a member of the Nursing Organizations Alliance, a coalition of nursing organizations united to create a strong voice for nurses.

NOVA's Regional Meetings continue to bring education to members who, for a variety of reasons, may not be able to participate in the Annual Meeting. These one-day educational offerings allow local/regional members the opportunity to earn CEUs and network with colleagues at a low registration fee with no airline or hotel expense. During the last year and a half, Regional Meetings have been held in Baltimore, MD; Hershey, PA; Phoenix, AZ; St. Louis, MO; Cambridge, MA; and Tampa, FL. We are currently planning a Regional Meeting for Dallas and for Philadelphia to be held in the second half of the 2011 fiscal year.

The Board and I continue to meet regularly with Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committee staff members and we continue to monitor legislative activities directly impacting veterans and the VA nurses who care for them. This past January, NOVA hosted an informative Legislative Roundtable. Senate and House Affairs Committee staff members, veterans service organization representatives, and members of other professional organizations joined us to share their legislative agendas for 2011.

NOVA has begun transitioning to a more efficient use of electronic communication with our members—as evidenced by this newsletter. The website has been enhanced and there is continued review to keep information current and accurate. The NOVA Facebook Group has been established and we now have a member email distribution list to ensure timely delivery of announcements and other communications. I hope you enjoy our NEW NOVA News!

Warm regards, Susan



NOVA Annual Meeting 2011

“Hit the Jackpot: Empowering VA Nurses & Improving VA Care”



By Dolores Zander, MSN, RN-BC
Program Chair

The 2011 NOVA Annual Meeting will be held in Las Vegas on June 29 - July 1 at the beautiful Venetian Hotel. While some details are still being worked out, the theme for the 2-day event is “Hit the Jackpot: Empowering VA Nurses & Improving VA Care.” This theme is not only appropriate for the location of our meeting, but with the content. We will be learning about current trends in “Palliative Care/End of Life,” as well as the related subject, “Innovations in Pain Management,” presented by Robert Kerns, PhD, National Program Director for Pain Management, VHA. Expanding the opportunity for attendees to gain as much education as possible, Day 1 will include Concurrent Sessions held twice during the afternoon time frame and will provide information on “Proficiency Writing-Part I,” “Chapter Development,” and the “Nurse Emeritus Program.” Cathy Rick, Chief Nursing Officer, ONS, will present a session on “Linking the IOM Report to Nursing Strategic Initiatives,” which promises to be a VERY informative presentation.

Day 2 will provide “Proficiency Writing – Part II” where attendees can participate in a mock Nurse Professional Standards Board and gain a better understanding of this process that is integral to nursing promotion and recognition. A presentation on Financial/Retirement Planning, “Don’t Gamble on Your Future,” is being developed, and a “Grassroots Approach to Meeting with Your Legislators” will be held to increase our overall knowledge of, our role in, and the impact of the legislative process.

For attendees who would like to stay over in Las Vegas following the Annual Meeting, the Planning Committee is investigating an activity for Saturday, July 2nd – perhaps a tour of the Grand Canyon or Red Rock Canyon.

Please stay tuned for an email from the National Office.



www.vanurse.org

Call for Poster Presentations!



NOVA Annual Meeting
June 29 - July 1, 2011

The Venetian Resort, Las Vegas, NV

All Nurses, Nursing Students and Other Health Care Professionals...are invited to share your creative nursing care approaches, research finds, clinical innovations or student projects with your colleagues. You are invited to submit a poster proposal on any aspect of your practice, research, or student activities.

What is a Poster?

- The poster should be a summarization of a creative activity.
- It should fit on a poster board measuring 30” width x 36” height and fit easily on a easel or be a tri-fold poster board that can stand on a table. (NOVA will provide tri-fold poster boards for presenters’ use as requested.)
- A poster should reflect an innovative aspect of nursing practice, education, or research.
- It may be supplemented by handouts.
- A poster’s presenter must be available for the open poster session to address questions.

How to submit a poster proposal? Complete the poster submission form available from NOVA National Office and email it no later than May 1, 2011 to Susan Dove at sdove@vanurse.org. Submitters will be notified by June 1 if the poster is accepted.

Poster Policy - Posters must avoid commercialism and be professional in appearance. Posters that constitute promotion and advertising will not be accepted. Statements made in posters are the sole responsibility of the author or presenter. Statements should not be viewed as, or considered representative or, any formal stance or position taken on any subject, issue or product by NOVA. You do not have to be a NOVA member to submit a poster, but you **must be present at the Annual Meeting Poster Session** on Friday, July 1, 2011.

Selection Criteria - Each poster submission will be reviewed for the following elements: quality, broad appeal to the nursing community, creativity, timeliness, and uniqueness.

NOVA News
Winter 2011

Be a NOVA News Reporter

NOVA News is published four times a year and is your newsletter. Submit articles that are of interest to our members. Let us know about your chapter activities. Write a few lines about what your chapter did this year and send a picture. Sharing what you do can provide recognition for your chapter as well as ideas for other chapters. The next deadline for articles is May 1, 2011.

Send your articles via email to:
kellydskinner@hotmail.com

chapter news



Chapter 110

Phoenix, AZ

By Nancy Claflin, RN

The Phoenix Chapter supported the NOVA Foundation's participation in another successful Marine Corps Marathon and 10K. Nancy Claflin participated in the 10K. Thanks to everyone who contributed. The chapter raised \$1205.00 in contributions for nursing scholarships and nursing research. The 10K start was on the National Mall, right by the Smithsonian metro stop. The route continued through Crystal City, ending up at the Iwo Jima Memorial.

Thanks to Lucy Holt who was able to get two gift bags from Starbucks® and contributed a tea gift basket. Everybody who contributed to the 10K had a chance to be selected for these and other gifts. The winners were:

Arizona License Plate Purse – Melinda Yabut

Tote Bag – Bill Gardiner

Scrub Top – Jacque Jackson

Starbucks® Gift Bag – Merlyn Garcia

Starbucks® Gift Bag – Gail Smith

Tea Gift Basket – Dana Epstein

Wine Glass Gift Basket – Debra McDonald



Chapter 129

Palo Alto, CA

By Mary Montufar, RN & Christine Camp, RN

Several members attended the NOVA National Meeting in Washington, D.C. in October and were very enthusiastic about the program. Special congratulations to Fern Senti, Case Manager, who also completed the Marine Corps Marathon and represented our chapter!

In November, we hosted a Town Hall Meeting with the Nurse Executive, Gloria Martinez, with phone and V-Tel connections with other campuses. The meeting was open to all nursing staff. We had approximately 35 people attend from all sites. Mary Montufar, Chapter 129 President, Gloria Martinez, Nurse Executive/

VAPAHCS, Sandra Parkes, Chief Nurse ACS, Rosemary Strickland, Chief Nurse for Education and other NOVA members were in attendance. The meeting provided an opportunity to hear Ms. Martinez discuss the Nursing Service's Magnet Journey and the proposed Nursing Service Leadership Councils. This model will empower nurses to implement evidence based practice, enhance communication and collaboration with other services in the delivery of patient care. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions about initiatives that will impact nursing staff and practice at multiple levels. We hope these meetings will become an ongoing conversation within the nursing community, Ms. Martinez, other nursing leaders and stakeholders.

Our annual educational conference was held on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Milpitas, California. As usual, we had a great turnout with approximately 70 participants who shared their knowledge in the theme of "Mental Health Resources at the Palo Alto VA." Great food, raffle prizes, and familiar faces made for a great addition to the wealth of information shared that day. One particularly entertaining speaker, Dr. Geoffrey Lane, shared his PARO robot with the participants. PARO is a baby white seal robot being used in research study for calming behaviors in veterans with dementia. The first time PARO opened his eyes the whole audience cooed in delight as he started to interact with Dr. Lane.

Several new members joined the board of directors: Dr. Enna Trevathan from Ambulatory Care Clinics, Tamara Pomerantsev from Extended Care and Pia Marloff from Mental Health. Christine Camp was elected President. We bid Mary Montufar, President for the past three years a fond farewell, thanking her for her dedication to the VA nurses and commitment to NOVA. Ruby Bacalocos who left her position on the Board of Directors was also recognized.

We look forward to recharging our chapter by redesigning the board member roles and having a stronger connection to the Congressional Liaison with national NOVA. It is so important for NOVA nurses to know how their local chapter and national organization support them in Congress. We are in the process of making plans for other terrific conferences in July, October, and again in January.



chapter news continued...

Chapter 202

Topeka, KS

By Cletus Steinlage, RN

We had our annual Christmas Tea and Silent Auction on December 3, 2010. Hot cinnamon punch, coffee, fudge, cake, fruit and many other Christmas goodies were enjoyed by the hospital staff from the Topeka VAMC. It was a successful event that put the hospital staff in a joyful and giving mood. The Silent Auction proceeds were donated to the local Homeless Veterans Program. Many items were donated and the chapter collected over \$370. The current President, Linda Jones; Past President and retiree, Mary Haubold; Secretary, Denise Scott; Treasurer, Kristi Crowder and NOVA member Jeanyne Tangari, featured in the picture below, were just some of those who attended this annual event.



Chapter 224

Bedford, MA

By Sharon Bouchard, RN

Our chapter at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital is proud to award its first annual nursing scholarship to Primerose Chatelain for her sustained endeavors on her journey toward becoming a professional nurse. She continues to do this admirably as a front-line worker on the off-tours in GRECC. She exemplifies excellence in her commitment to nursing. We hope that our support can help her reach her personal and professional goals.



Chapter 226

Boston, MA

By Kelly Skinner, RN

Several of us attended NOVA's 30th Annual Meeting: "Healthy Nurses, Healthy Veterans Transforming Health Care" in October 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. It was certainly an excellent conference and a great forum to gain knowledge and network with other VA nurses.

Many of the VA Boston nurses who attended the NOVA Annual Meeting presented poster presentations on a variety of topics.

- Gilda Cain: "Bladder Protocol"
- Joan Clifford: "VHA Fix Bedside Care Collaborative (BCC): What We've Learned"
- Melissa McRae and Carolyn Keefe: "Maggot Debridement Therapy (MDT)"
- Sue Vickory: "Changing Our Focus to Prevention"
- Kelly Skinner: "Spinal Cord Injury: Let's Talk about Sex"
- Gilda Cain, Vanessa Coronel and Katie Shute: "Interdisciplinary Approach to Fall Prevention"

We were fortunate to be able to support Gilda Cain when she received The Professional Nurse Award for Leadership at the NOVA Conference. She is a nurse manager of a surgical unit at the VA Boston Health Care System. Gilda is more than deserving of this prestigious award due to her drive to empower the nursing staff and her commitment to provide quality care to the veterans.



Our annual election was held in October 2010. We are proud to announce the newly elected officers: Donna DeMartino (President), Carmen Concepcion (Vice President), Linda Stankiewicz (Treasurer), and Eileen Pflanz, Ekta Srinivasa, Theresa Kelley and Carol McLean (Board of Directors). Congratulations to all!

In December 2010, Donna DeMartino and Theresa Kelley coordinated an opportunity for the membership to support the veterans and their families during the

chapter news continued...

continued chapter 226

holidays. An email went out requesting staff to donate a variety of home-made as well as store-bought food items for the veterans' family members who were staying at the Fisher House during the week of Christmas. In response to the tremendous outpouring of support, Donna DeMartino so eloquently stated: "What a team effort! I hope this turns into a holiday tradition for the Boston Chapter of NOVA and the Fisher House. I think it embodies what nursing is all about...caring for the veteran and the family. It also exemplifies what NOVA is about...caring for our heroes!"

Chapter 358

Providence, RI

By Jean Taft, RN

We are working on revitalizing our chapter! Jean Taft attended the NOVA Annual Meeting in October 2010 and came away energized and ready to move the chapter into active status!

In November, Mary Seaman, who promotes the National Let's Get Certified Campaign, provided us with a series of presentations on certification. She also attended a Meet & Greet for new and prospective NOVA members. It was held open-house style and everyone had the opportunity to socialize with members and meet Mary Seaman. It was a fun and informal event with lots of networking and laughter. Current members received food, beverages, desserts and raffle prizes. Following this event, we have had three new members join and many more have expressed an interest in joining NOVA. We really appreciate Mary Seaman coming to Providence to help us kick off our revitalization efforts!

Many members requested to have a holiday project – and we haven't even had an official meeting or elected officers yet! Through a series of emails among the members, the decision was made to collect new articles of clothing for the Homeless Clinic. It is amazing how many are willing to participate with this project on such short notice. VA nurses are truly amazing!

A meeting to plan elections is tentatively scheduled for January. And after that, who knows? The response has been great. We are all looking forward to an active chapter. A special thank you goes out to all the members who worked on the Meet & Greet and to those who are working on the holiday clothing drive.

A Privilege to Lead

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you to shape and influence health care within the context of your workplace and beyond. Do not underestimate the power you have. You know what works and doesn't work in your system and it is the responsibility of each of us to be leaders of the change. We live in a data-driven world with instantaneous access to much, but data are just facts and figures. We need to turn data into information by giving it a connection to what we do so that it has meaning. Information combined with experience leads to knowledge, making that information useful and leading to understanding. Knowledge is power and sharing of knowledge unleashes that power so that it can lead to positive outcomes across our work units, organizations and VHA. We must gain the skills needed to effectively turn data into knowledge to make the case for nursing.

I encourage you to get involved in NOVA at the local and/or national level. Hopefully, you can attend NOVA's Annual Meeting in Las Vegas on June 29 - July 1, 2011. Come hear the presentations on a variety of topics impacting VA nurses and gain knowledge about current practices related to health care and legislation. At this NOVA Meeting, you will also have an excellent opportunity to network with other VA nurses across the nation.

It is our responsibility not only to tell the story but also to write the story of how the registered nurse influences the quality outcomes we want for our veterans. They deserve nothing less.

The Votes are In! New NOVA Logo

APPROVED

The votes are in and NOVA has a NEW logo!

Thank you to the nearly 200 NOVA members who responded and helped select the new logo.



NOVA Foundation: Pressing Forward



By Diane Nelson, BSN, RN
Chair, Board of Directors

As I write this article, the New Year is very young and we are planning our first Foundation Board meeting of the year. Janus, the Roman God of doorways, reminds us of the importance to see the past and look toward the future. The statues and pictures of Janus portray him as having two eyes, a nose, and a mouth on both the front and back of his head. The rationale for this unique portrayal is to show that a doorway is simultaneously both an entrance and an exit. As Janus stands in the doorway - the present - he can look forward and backward at the same time.

The month of January is named for Janus, as it indicates the end of the old year and the beginning of a fresh new year. As with Janus, we too can learn from where we have been while keeping our eyes focused on where we are going.

The future looks very bright for our NOVA Foundation. I say a sincere "thank you" to Mary Seaman for her leadership on the Board; she guided us through some rough times as we transitioned executive directors, revised the Bylaws, and updated the Strategic Plan for the Foundation. I also extend my appreciation for the support of Susan Dove and all of the Board members as I begin my term as chair of the Board.

A little background about myself: I am a native of Tucson, Arizona; I graduated from the University of Arizona with a BSN and immediately went to work for the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System; I retired in 2007 with 34 years of service. I served as NOVA President from 2004 to 2006; I joined the Foundation Board in 2005 and I am the vice-chair of the VA Nurse Emeritus group.

We have several relatively new Foundation Board members to introduce:

Virginia Beeson brings over 30 years of experience in nursing and health care, including corporate positions in policy/practice and manpower specialties, and ten years of teaching and consulting on leadership and management in health care organizations. She is comfortable with organizational change efforts and the

techniques required for the successful implementation of change; she is very adept with health care business practices and management of federal government and nursing budgets.

John DiMaggio is the Director of National Accounts of the federal division of GlaxoSmithKline, a global pharmaceutical company. The GSK mission is: "to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer." John is responsible for the development of the US Federal Marketplace (DoD, VA, and IHS). He serves both external and internal customers in order to attain common patient care, systemic, and business goals. In 2009 he earned the Winner's Circle (President's Club) Award and he brings great energy and marketing expertise to the Board.

Nancy Watterson-Diorio has an extensive background in non-profit management, strategic planning and leading administrative activities which directly support clinical research, education and clinical activities. Nancy is currently the Chief Executive Officer, Boston VA Research Institute, Inc. (BVARI). Her responsibilities include strategic planning, the overview and development of policy formation, facilitating long-term goals, maintaining oversight of compliance, grant development, and all budgetary matters.

Audrey Drake is well known to many of you; she served for over forty-five years as a VA nursing leader. She was the Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, Office of Nursing Services of the VHA. She also served as a Colonel in the Army National Guard, an instructor for numerous nursing programs, a mentor, a volunteer, an expert in VA Nurse Professional Standards Boards and the Nurse Qualification Standards and she is knowledgeable in many other arenas within the VHA.

Nancy Clafin joins the Board in an ex-officio capacity as the Immediate Past President of NOVA. She is the Associate Director Patient Care Services/Nurse Executive in the VA Phoenix Health Care System. In this role, her responsibilities include oversight and coordination of nursing service and nursing programs, including nursing quality improvement, nursing recruitment, nursing orientation, and nursing education.

Our "seasoned" Board members include Velma Hart, Larry Lemos, Steve Lieberman, Cecilia McVey, Teresa Morris, Mary Raymer, Cathy Snyder, Phyllis West and Susan Dove, our Executive Director.

Edith Lovejoy Pierce once said: "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day." The NOVA Foundation will do a lot of writing in the book of Opportunity during 2011!

NOVA Foundation Scholarships



The NOVA Foundation provides scholarships to VA staff for nursing study in accredited baccalaureate and post-graduate programs. Such educational programs are vital to ensure a pool of qualified VA nurses to care for our aging veteran population and our newest generation of veterans injured or traumatized in recent conflicts.

2010 Scholarship Recipients

NOVA Scholarships

Mary E. Walker - Indiana

Kerri Dixon - Illinois

Irene Su - Michigan

Linda Laughlin - Tennessee

Shameka Cody - Alabama

Debra Martin - Illinois

Philip Sullivan - Florida

Virginia Ulanimo - California

Jesse Brown Memorial Scholarship

Angela Sekosan - Illinois

The NOVA Foundation is dedicated to the advancement of VA Nursing. Through scholarships, the NOVA Foundation helps VA nurses deliver outstanding care to America's heroes. The NOVA Foundation depends entirely on corporate sponsorships, philanthropic grants, and individual donations for all of its funding. Show your support for America's VA nurses and the veterans they serve. Donate today!

Visit Us on facebook!

The bulletin board on the NOVA website (www.vanurse.org) was set up as a way for members to network by posting a message and reading responses. The bulletin board has been removed as NOVA is now on facebook (www.facebook.com). Since facebook has become a common way for individuals to keep up-to-date with friends and interests, the NOVA Board decided this was a great way to communicate. Membership to facebook is free and it is easy to set up a profile page. Once you set up a page, or if you are already a member, enter Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs in the search box at the top of the page and you will find our group page. Send a group member request and we will add you. NOVA Foundation has a group you can join too!

Here is the link to NOVA's facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/?sk=2361831622#!/group.php?gid=76597218404>

NOVA's 30th Annual Meeting



By Thelma Roach-Serry, BSN,
RN, NE-BC

NOVA's 30th Annual Meeting, "Healthy Nurses, Healthy Veterans Transforming Health Care" took place in October 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee worked diligently to make the program one that was both enlightening and fun. There were plenty of opportunities to learn about updates in health issues for men and women, issues in nursing, information pertaining to women veterans' health, and transformation in Community Living Centers in the VA. Attendees were able to dialogue with those who serve on U.S. Senate & House VA Committees, members of the Office of Nursing Services and OIF/OEF



Group Tour

veterans. During the Poster Presentation Session, nurses shared evidence-based research on a variety of health related issues. The NOVA Foundation activities such as The 3rd Annual Charity Event was held on Thursday evening with the renowned Silent Auction. 2010 marked the 5th anniversary for the NOVA Foundation serving as a Charity Partner of the Marine Corps Marathon which was held on Sunday, October 31, 2010. The Charity Event and the Marine Corps Marathon were opportunities to help the NOVA Foundation raise funds to award nursing scholarships and research grants to VA nurses. I hope that those who attended this conference left with an ignited sense of how valuable it is to be a VA nurse and a NOVA member, and how important it is for each of us to continue in our service to America's finest.

Visit Us At



2010-2011 NOVA Foundation 3rd Annual Charity Event Donors and Sponsors Report

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Mary Seaman

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Roger Smith

Ann Thraikill

Susan Vickory

Janice Wagner

Gene Walker

Silent Auction Donors & Participants

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Dave Ballard

Virginia Beeson

Alan Bernstein

Lynn Bouffard

Gaye Broadway

Laurie Burk

Christine Camp

Rick Campanelli

Mary Carlson

Nancy Clafin

Joan Clifford

John DiMaggio

Susan Dove

Bill Gardner

Connie Garrett

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Marine Corps Marathon

NOVA Foundation Donations January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010

\$500+

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NOVA Boston VA HCS Chapter

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\$100-\$249

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2010 NOVA Awards

By Melissa Nixon, MSN, RN, ANP-BC, COHN-S

Award recipients were publicly recognized at the NOVA Annual Meeting in October 2010. Due to the nominees' high level of comparable career achievements, the selection process to determine last year's recipients proved to be a serious challenge. All of the nominees were outstanding nurses and well deserving of national recognition by NOVA. Their dedication and commitment to nursing is a tribute to our veterans and the health care they receive daily.

We are pleased to announce the following awards recipients:

The Veterans Award

Margaret Kruckemeyer, RN, MSN, MHS, BS, CNP-C

The Professional Nurse Award for Clinical Excellence

Vivian Jones, RN

The Professional Nurse Award for Leadership

Gilda Cain, RN

The Barbara Chambers Award

Mary Raymer, PhD, RN, NEA-BC

The Silver Star Chapter Award

Chapter 420, Richmond, Virginia

Nominations for 2011 have been deferred due to the timing of the Annual NOVA Meeting. NOVA will resume the awards process in 2012; so join now if you are not a member. Announcements about the awards process will be disseminated via email. The NOVA Awards Committee would like to take this opportunity to applaud and formally recognize VA nurses for their service to our veterans. Thank you for caring for America's heroes!



Margaret Kruckemeyer



Vivian Jones



Gilda Cain



Mary Raymer

NOVA Mission Statement

"NOVA: Shaping and Influencing Health Care within the Department of Veterans Affairs."

NOVA Vision Statement

VA nurses will provide high quality nursing care. VA nurses will have an optimal work environment. VA nurses will be well informed on relevant issues that impact VA health care and nursing practice. VA nurses will have a strong voice in the legislative arena. VA nurses will have a strong presence at the VHA corporate leadership level.

Future Board Members



By Nancy Claflin, PhD, RN, CCRN, CPHQ, FNAHQ

In 2010, NOVA's Annual Meeting was held at the end of October in conjunction with the Marine Corps Marathon. The next Annual Meeting will be held June 29 – July 1, 2011 in Las Vegas, NV. Because there isn't a full year between the two meetings, NOVA won't be holding elections until 2012. But it's not too early to begin thinking about running for a position on the National NOVA Board of Directors!

In 2012 the following Board positions will be open:

President-Elect
Vice President
Secretary

NOVA will also have at least three Board member positions open. To be eligible to run for a Board position, you must have been a NOVA member for at least two years. Board members must have a home email address. As a Board member, you are responsible for attending meetings of the Board of Directors, generally held 2 or 3 times a year. There is a NOVA Board meeting at the Annual Meeting and at the Annual Legislative Roundtable. There are also 1 or 2 Board conference calls annually. Directors are automatically members of the NOVA Membership Committee. Other Board member responsibilities include serving as members of the Annual Meeting Committee, serving on the Legislative Committee, updating NOVA's history annually, and developing and publishing NOVA News. Board members also have the opportunity to make visits to Legislative Assistants on Capitol Hill to lobby for issues of concern to NOVA members. If you are interested in running for the Board of Directors, please contact me via email: nclaflin@cox.net or phone: 602 277-5551, ext. 7037. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved and make NOVA the organization you want it to be!

Board Briefs

The NOVA Board of Directors held a meeting in Washington, DC on Thursday, January 13, 2011.

The Following actions were taken.



NOVA Board of Directors

- Updated NOVA's Strategic Plan.
- Approved NOVA's October 31 Financial Statement.
- Approved NOVA's Proposed 2011 Budget.
- Approved NOVA's affiliate membership in the American Nurses Association.
- Approved three designs for a NEW NOVA logo to be sent to members for their vote.
- Approved new design for NOVA's electronic newsletter.
- Approved moving to an electronic version of the NOVA Membership Directory/Annual Report.
- Approved moving NOVA's Annual Legislative Roundtable from mid-January to mid-February.
- Approved moving the NOVA Annual Meeting to June each year.
- Requested NOVA staff investigate Nashville, Charleston, and New Orleans as potential sites for the 2012 and 2013 Annual Meetings.
- Requested the Legislative Committee be expanded to involve more NOVA members.
- Approved Membership Campaign, "11% by 11/11/11," with a goal of 356 new members by Veterans Day.

VA Nursing Scope of Practice

By Karen M. Ott, RN, MSN
Clinical Executive, Office of Nursing Services
Veterans Health Administration

Several recent events have prompted the Office of Nursing Services (ONS) to take a bold step. The passing of ground breaking legislation, the Affordable Health Care for America Act of 2009 (PL 111-163) has provided both the nursing and medical professions with an opportunity to play a major role in the transformation of health care toward a more patient-centered system (IOM, 2010). In October 2010, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation produced a landmark report with recommendations for the future of nursing. Entitled "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health," the report's key first message is that nurses must practice to the full extent of their education and training (IOM, 2010). And, very recently ONS received a congressional request to clarify the scope of practice for all categories of VA Registered Nurses. These recent events have presented ONS with the opportunity to establish new policy related to VA nursing scope of practice. The Chief Nursing Officer, Cathy Rick, has directed the staff to propose VA policy to ensure that all licensed nursing personnel have the same opportunity to deliver the type of care they are educated and competent to provide regardless of where they practice.

Scope of practice, as it is generally defined, encompasses all of the actions and activities (procedures, treatments, assessments, etc.) permitted by law for a specific professional's realm of practice. In the private sector, nursing scope of practice is specified by each State in the Nurse Practice Act. Private sector nurses are limited to actions and activities that are outlined in the Nurse Practice Act of the state in which the nurse is practicing. The VA has the authority to define scope of practice for all VA nursing roles including Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)/Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs), without regard to State Nurse Practice Acts.

Under 38 U.S.C. § 7402, all nurses employed by the VA must comply with state licensure or registration requirements for the purposes of practicing nursing. Under the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution, states are prohibited from regulating or controlling the activities of the federal government without Congressional consent [Goodyear Atomic Corp. v. Miller, 486 U.S. 174, 180 (1988)]. Examples of the types of activities that the federal government may establish are qualifications for the employment and scopes of practice for federal nursing and other health

care providers, currently detailed in VHA national policies that guide clinical practice. For VA nurses, qualifications for employment and scopes of practice (guided by the Dimensions of Practice) are outlined in the VA Nurse Qualification Standards (Department of Veterans Affairs, 2002). VA nursing scopes of practice may be modified, but not beyond national guidance, by the local clinical executive review body in order to meet the needs of the patient population served by the medical center. Local scopes of practice for VA nurses are developed in the context of interdisciplinary team-based care to specify actions and activities that account for patient care needs, and staff education, training and expertise.

Some barriers remain that prevent VA nurses from practicing to the full extent of their education, training and competence whether those barriers are the result of resistance from professional colleagues in both the medical and nursing disciplines or from outdated local policy. Whatever the reason however, ONS is committed to moving forward with the establishment of a VHA Nursing Handbook that will provide the policy to enable VA nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and training—a key first step in the transformation of nursing practice to impact the type of care envisioned by the Affordable Care Act of 2009 and the IOM's report on the Future of Nursing.

In the VA, APRNs serve as primary and specialty care providers, researchers, academic faculty, and as health care leaders. Currently, the practice authority of APRNs may in some states place severe limits on potential practice related to their competence and ability (IOM, 2010). As such, ONS is preparing to establish VA policy via the VHA Nursing Handbook that will provide APRNs with nationally standardized guidance aligned with qualification requirements for education, certification and competence to provide primary and specialty services for veterans in preventive care, acute care and chronic care management.

For all other RNs and LPNs/LVNs in the VA, the VHA Nursing Handbook will provide the guidance that allows practice at the level required to meet the needs of the VA Medical Center based on patient care requirements and staff education and competence. This scope of practice will guide the delivery of care whether that care is provided directly or delegated to other members of the health care team across all venues.

To ensure that all eligible VA beneficiaries have the widest possible access to competent, cost-effective health care providers and to ensure that full, evidence-based practice is permitted for all nursing providers regardless of

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February 28, 2011

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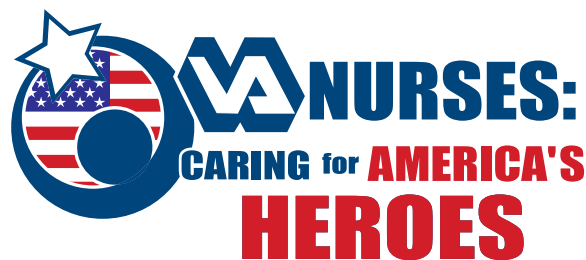
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VA Nursing Scope of Practice

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geographic location, VA policy must be able to support, not hamper the transition of all health care discipline practice-specifically nursing practice, the largest VA health care workforce.

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