

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS NEWS

December 2009

WNA NEWS

- WNA held its Annual Conference/Meeting Oct 22-24. The Conference keynote presenters provided inspiring words and ideas beginning with Barbara Nichols, former WNA and ANA President, who shared the important role of professional nursing associations as the only true advocates advocating for patient and community access to professional nursing care and services. Saturday morning's keynote, Tim Porter-O'Grady, guided the audience in acknowledging, embracing and engaging in the major transformation and transitions taking place within the nursing profession and our health care settings. O'Grady talked about the shift in clinical practices and professional behaviors to assist community and health services to transition to the new models of clinical service. ANA's President, Rebecca Patton, provided the latest information regarding the active and significant leadership role ANA is involved with in regards to: advancing quality and evidence-based nursing practice standards; research demonstrating the importance of sufficient numbers of nursing staff in achieving quality care and patient safety; and, policy that supports patient access to quality, cost-effective care delivered by nurses.
- The members reviewed and approved changes to the WNA Bylaws which will now allow a new RN graduate who do not pass the NCLEX the first time to remain a member and remove the requirement of holding a RN license to be a member of ANA/WNA. This requirement will allow a retired nurse to remain a member of ANA/WNA. The other changes to the Bylaws were the development of further clarification and processes regarding WNA disaffiliating from ANA. The WNA Bylaws are posted on WNA's website at: www.wisconsinnurses.org
- The members also approved four Reference Reports that were submitted by the WNA Reference Committee, which can be viewed at the WNA's website.

Wisconsin Nursing Coalition

- *Facts about Nurse Fatigue and Patient Safety*: Literature was reviewed and discussed regarding nurse fatigue. The WNC members finalized the wording on the WNC paper on Nurse Fatigue which will be posted on the WNA website
- The process for RN license renewal will begin January 6, 2010 and end March 1, 2010. This upcoming renewal will include an accompanying survey. RN's can complete the survey from home computers, work computers, at DWD Job Centers across the state or at public libraries. All the information received from RN's is kept strictly confidential and is not identifiable. If RN's are not able to complete the e-survey, DRL will provide a paper copy. The online version would be the most efficient method to meet the new requirement and complete the renewal process. If nurses do not want to pay online, DRL will provide a paper renewal invoice, but the nurse can still complete the survey online.

Submitted by Marlene Nahavandi RN BSN CAPA