

THE CANADIAN GERONTOLOGICAL NURSE



Vol. 28 #2 Newsletter of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association Fall 2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings for the Fall Issue for our organization. I mentioned in the previous Newsletter that the Executive and Board of CGNA had reviewed and presented at the AGM, the 5 Strategic directions for CGNA for 2011-2013. I thought I would review these and describe some of the work that the executive and board are doing in moving these forward.

Our first strategic area related to: **Membership Retention and Recruitment.** We wish to retain our present members; this means we need to ensure we are meeting the needs, providing the benefits that CGNA has to offer to current members. It also includes recruiting new members; this includes bringing in other provinces and the territories as well as reaching out to other colleagues in conjoint provinces, to strengthen our voice on behalf of older adults and the nurses who care for them.

The second strategic area is to: **Promote the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association.** This includes representing CGNA in a variety of local, provincial, national and international venues. So it includes building relationships with nursing and other health providers, such as our links with the National Gerontological Nursing Association in the United States and with Canadian Association of Gerontology. We have had CGNA members attending both of these within the past month. This strategy also includes how we visually present our image, how we 'brand' CGNA so that we increase the image recognition of our association.

The third strategic area is **Dissemination of Knowledge and Expertise,** broadly speaking this is how we communicate within and beyond CGNA. This is an area that has been growing in recent years and will likely grow even more. This area includes our Website, our peer reviewed

journal for CGNA: Perspectives, our newsletter: The Canadian Gerontological Nurse, the Webinars and the Newsflashes. All of these are ways in which we communicate with membership. The goals of each of these serve different purposes but all with the intent to help meet the Mission of CGNA which is: to address the health of older Canadians and the nurses who participate with them in health care.

The fourth strategic area that of: **Political Action and Advocacy** is one which is still in the development stages. Nurses do have a history of being politically active on behalf of older adults and health care; we are looking to ways to increase our knowledge and actions in this area. Provinces and chapters within provinces are not only being politically active but are more often sharing their strategies and actions and we hope to do more of this.

The final and fifth strategy is: **Organizational Functioning**. This includes finding ways to respond to members needs. It can include identifying services that will support the work of CGNA members within chapters and provinces, it includes having additional committees if needed such as for political action or for finding ways to provide more dollars for gerontological nursing research and for nursing scholarships for those nurses furthering their education in gerontology.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Buchanan RN, PhD, GNA(C) CGNA President

Newsletter – purpose & function

As in past years, four issues of *The Canadian Gerontological Nurse* will occur each year. We will plan to have brief reports from each province as well as national/international news and upcoming events. The aim is to have a brief succinct newsletter.

One of the functions of the CGNA executive is to represent CGNA at provincial, national and international events related to health care of older adults. One such event that occurs annually is for two members of CGNA to attend the National Gerontological Nurses Association conference in the United States. This fall, Beverley Laurila, Past-President and Diane Buchanan, President attended the meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. We brought greetings from Canada and shared ideas with our NGNA colleagues on issues related to nursing and health care of older adults. At meeting such as this one, we gain ideas of how to strengthen our organizations, the clinical, educational, research and political advocacy for the populations we work with and those with whom we work.

REPORTS FROM CGNA PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES

ALBERTA GERONTOLOGICAL NURSES ASSOCIATION

www.agna.ca

Mollie Cole, President of AGNA noted AGNA welcomed two new chapters that have started in Alberta this year: Medicine Hat and Fort McMurray. In April 2011, AGNA hosted their provincial educational conference celebrating 30 years of AGNA. Recently, the executive met with Alberta Health Services, in November with the goal of advocating gerontological nursing content with all sectors of healthcare. Chapter education sessions have occurred over the past year in the four chapters of Medicine Hat, Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer.

Upcoming Alberta Events for Winter of 2011-2012:

Both Calgary and Edmonton will host study groups to support RNs interested in writing the C.N.A. Certification exam

GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.gnabc.com

GNABC hosted a conference: 'Coming of Age: The baby boomer effect on healthcare.' This annual conference, hosted by the Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Simon Fraser, and Mountainview chapters was held in September in Richmond of BC. Currently, GNABC is actively working with Malachite in planning for the CGNA conference to be held in Vancouver, BC in 2013. They will keep us informed as plans develop.

MANITOBA GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING ASSOCIATION

Barbara Tallman, President noted that MGNA hosted an education session in November. As well, MGNA Executive had a brainstorming session to develop strategies on increasing membership within the province. The Executive agreed to develop a survey to find out needs of membership and how MGNA could help to meet those needs.

NEW BRUNSWICK GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING ASSOCIATION

Newly re-established as of October 1, 2011, the NBGNA members are busy making plans. They would like to see a few more new and old members join. Bilingualism and reaching out to the other health network may be a challenge. On October 1, 2011 they put on an education session on The 3 D's in the morning then had the business portion in the afternoon. Diane, President of CGNA, presented on CGNA and the importance of having a provincial association. Our executive was established during that time. NBGNA is planning on hosting another session in December to present the new bylaws. NBGNA is aiming to host at least 4 sessions per year to keep members engaged.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR GERONTOLOGICAL NURSES' ASSOCIATION

Paula Walters reported that NLGNA has been working with Head Office to have online membership set up for the province. On November 4th, NLGNA hosted a conference on 'Shaping Quality Care of the Older Adult.'

NOVA SCOTIA GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING ASSOCIATION

Dana McNamara Morse, President NSGNA, reported they hosted a dinner this fall in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association conference.

GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING ASSOCIATION ONTARIO

www.gnaontario.org

Susan Ward-Moser, Past President, reported that the provincial board met in September and a main topic of discussion was on social media. Susan reported that Lori Schindel-Martin is now the President having begun November 1. Susan noted that a meeting will be held with RPNAO to discuss ways to improve membership with RPNs in Ontario. A year ago, at the GNAO Board meeting, the "image" of nurses working in gerontology was identified as a major area of concern. This continues to be a challenge at all levels: locally & provincially. The Board recently explored various forms of social media to increase effective communication with our membership. It was decided to improve the GNAO website with our Facebook set up as a professional page referring the reader back to our website.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING ASSOCIATION

Anna Enman, President, noted that all meetings in PEI are face-to-face meetings. The association is working on offering full membership to RPNs/LPNs. The education session was held on November 16, 2011 to talk about the new nursing standards. The next Annual Education Day will be held in April 2012. Anna noted that PEI membership has expressed interest in hosting the 2015 CGNA conference and will be contacting the Executive for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

7- 10 March 2012. 27th International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International. ExCeL London, UK. Deadline to submit Abstracts: 14 October 2011. Info adi2012@mci-group.com

Canadian Nursing Association Biennial Conference – Vancouver, BC. June 19-21, 2012: www.cna-aiic.ca
CGNA 2012 AGM to be held Sunday, June 19, 2012 – Vancouver, BC details to follow.

National Gerontological Nursing Association (NGNA) will host their annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland from October 4-7, 2012. Info: www.ngna



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