

# MASSACHUSETTS/RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE FOR NURSING NEWSLETTER

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**Important Dates:**

- **2/28/12** Scholarship applications due for PN and Nurse Educator/Masters students.
- **3/23/12** MARILN Annual Meeting: Pamela Jeffries, DNS, RN, ANEF, FAAN "Incorporating Simulation into your Curriculum"
- **7/31/12** Scholarship applications due for RN and Nurse Educator/Doctoral Students.
- **10/26/12** MARILN Fall Meeting: Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, RN, CPNP/PMHNP, FNAP, FANN "Teaching Students Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing"

**Newsletter Committee:**

- Nancy Phoenix Bittner, PhD, RN  
 Peter Keenan, RN, MS, PNP  
 Mary T. Mathieu, RN BSN  
 Margaret Motyka, MS, RNC  
 Margaret O'Connor, MS, RN  
 Kathleen Tracy, RNC, MSN, MPH

## WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER!

MARILN OVERVIEW:

The Massachusetts and Rhode Island League for Nursing (MARILN), is a Constituent League for the National League for Nursing. As the professional organization for nurse educators at all levels in Mass & RI, we are the voice for nursing programs, program leaders and faculty of all program types (LPN to Doctoral). We are fully approved as a constituent league representing the National League for Nursing in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Our mission is "to promote and implement the mission of the National League for Nursing, Inc.", which is "to promote excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce at the constituent level".

We work closely with nursing program leaders as well as educational groups at the local, state and regional levels. MARILN is instrumental in moving forward the current Nursing Initiatives in



**MARILN Board of Directors**

Massachusetts including the work on the Nurse of the Future Core Competencies. Specifically, the goals that include 1) to assist in determining contributing factors relevant to nursing, nursing education and nurse educator workforce supply and 2) to advocate for all types of academic and lifelong learning programs in nursing.

MARILN is honored to be a contributor in disseminating the IOM findings and working with the group to reach all nursing diverse constituent groups to build support for a seamless state wide model of academic progression.

## NLN EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT

The NLN Educational Summit was held in September, 2011 in Orlando, Florida. Several MARILN Board of Directors and Officers attended the Summit-Advancing the Health of the Nation. The focus of the Summit was on the addressing of the IOM report's call for seamless academic progression, strengthening of the evidence for the basis of teaching, simulation and practice, integration of the NLN's core values and

creating networks of nurse educators. Judith A. Halstead, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF, professor and executive associate dean for academic affairs at Indiana University School of Nursing in Indianapolis, was installed as president of the NLN at the annual NLN Business Meeting on Saturday, September 24. The president-elect for the past two years, Dr. Halstead takes over the office from Cathleen

M. Shultz, PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN, who stepped down at the end of her two-year term. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Donna Shalala, Chair of the RWJ Foundation Initiative on the future of nursing. Dr. Shalala also received the President's Award for National Leadership and Public Service. Her inspiring message was appreciated by the participants at all levels of nursing education.

**Did You Know?**

Did you know that the Massachusetts/Rhode Island League for Nursing approves continuing education programs for organizations that provide educational programs for nurses? Our Continuing Education Program Committee uses the continuing education standards in accordance with the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing regulations as the criteria for reviewing continuing educational programs and awarding continuing education contact hours. Our Continuing Education committee is happy to assist with the application approval process for the programs that have been submitted to MARILN for review. This is a service that is included with the competitive rates. Rates are listed below.

**Requested Contact Hrs/  
Fee:**

- 1-3.9/\$70**
- 4-7.9/\$125**
- 8-12.9/\$175**
- 13-20.9/\$250**
- 21-29.9/\$300**
- 30-39.9/\$400**
- 40+/\$500**



**RHODE ISLAND REPORT**

- There is robust enrollment in all RI Nursing Programs
- The RI Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education revised the draft of the proposed rules and regulations, particularly with reference to nursing education. One change is the requirement for the chief academic officer of a nursing program regardless of level of RN preparation program to hold a doctoral credential. Current administrators are grandfathered. Preceptors must be an RN and there is no requirement for specific

- education background or experience. A public hearing will be scheduled for sometime in October.
- RINI Charter School (Middle College Academy) has opened with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held this month.
- Rhode Island Nursing programs are participating in the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) educational redesign. This has continued to be an excellent opportunity for agencies and educational institutions to exchange ideas on nursing and nursing education collaboration.
- RI has recently been designated as an Action Coalition.

- New England Tech has recently opened a new building which contains state-of-the-art laboratories for nursing in particular.
- RIC and URI have recently completed the feasibility study for the proposed new shared nursing building in the Knowledge District. URI was also actively involved in the meetings and data required for the study.
- Dr. Peggy Matteson is on leave from Salve University and the new interim nursing chair is Eileen Gray. Dr. Matteson is the current President of RI BON.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

We are 3/4 of the way through our fiscal year. We budgeted for an income of \$43,420.00 and are currently at \$37,006.00 Our Fall & Annual meetings continue to exceed our expected income. We have continued to bring in nationally known speakers. We offer a Continuing Education Program approval

at a very competitive rate. Most years, we make \$6000.00, but to date, we are only at \$3010.00. We are also down on MARILN sponsorship by the AD/Dip committee programs and Member dues overall. MARILN has extremely low individual member dues of \$40 per year. If you have not renewed your

membership for this year, please consider renewing your membership.



**CURRENT ISSUES/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Regis College Nursing receives the NLN Center of Excellence Award Re-designation:** The Center of Excellence (COE) is a distinguished award bestowed upon Nursing programs that exhibit excellence in their area of specialty. Our category revolved around the development of the student with a collective vision by the faculty. We first received the designation in 2008 for 3 years. We were then re-designated in July for 4 years.

Of the 2500 nursing programs in the country only 17 have achieved the designation and fewer have received it a second time.

**Member Presentations:**

**Mary Herbowy & Mary Ellen Croft-LaFrance** presented a poster on Peer Tutoring at the NLN Education Summit in Orlando, FLA in September- Good work!

**Helen Mahoney West, MSN, RN and Nancy Phoenix Bittner, PhD, RN** presented: *Promoting*

*Success in Nursing Education among Students from Underserved Populations* at the "The Face of the Immigrant" at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh September 29-30.

**Certified Nurse Educators:**

Congratulations to **Carol Berube, MSN,RN**, faculty at Signature Healthcare/Brockton Hospital on receiving her CNE.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Executive:

Carol Bosworth, RN, MS, MBA  
Cynthia Bechtel, PhD, RN, CNE  
Margaret O'Connor, MS, RN  
Margaret Motyka, MS, RNC

### Finance:

Margaret O'Connor, MS, RN  
Cynthia Bechtel, PhD, RN, CNE  
David Becker, MSN, RN, CNE  
Nancy Phoenix Bittner, PhD, RN  
Mary Beth Scanlon, MS, RN

### Nominations:

Janet Lusk, PhD, RN, CNE  
Kathleen Delesky, DNP, RN  
Kathleen Gehly, MS, RN  
Gretchen Rosoff, MSN, RN  
Brian Skirvin-Leclair, MSN, RN

### Strategic Planning:

Cynthia Bechtel, PhD, RN, CNE  
Margaret Cifuni, MSN, RN  
Susan Maciewicz, MSN, RN, CNE  
Jean Simmons, MSN, RN  
Susan Taylor, MSN, RN



If you are interested in joining a committee please email us!

### **Best Practice Tip:** **Orientation & Mentoring New Faculty**

Recent literature demonstrates the need for comprehensive orientation and mentoring for new faculty, especially novice faculty. This is often identified as a challenge for many programs because it is time and resource intensive. We know from our own study: "Determining Barriers and Concerns Related To Nursing Faculty Satisfaction" that faculty report relationships with colleagues is a determinant of how successful they perceive themselves in their work. A best practice to address this is to have a formal orientation and mentoring program for new faculty which includes evaluation for effectiveness. Strategies include a variety of approaches such as phased orientation, pairing of mentors/mentees and ways to determine the needs of novice faculty. Documenting the program, supporting the mentees and mentors and then demonstrating the outcomes (with a tool), provides important data for success. We welcome your suggestions regarding programs you may have established. For ideas on how Regis College Nursing has done their program - please feel free to contact Nancy Bittner at [nancy.bittner@regiscollege.edu](mailto:nancy.bittner@regiscollege.edu).

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The MARLIN Board of Directors has seven special committees. The special committees are formed as needed to support current work in the areas of nursing education. Currently we have committees for each level of practice for pre-licensure- PN, AD/Diploma and BS. In addition, we have a Continuing Education Committee, Scholarship Committee, Program Committee and Nurse of the Future Committee.

**Continuing Education:** works to approve CEU programs for

those that are offering programs for their institution.

**Program:** works to plan the two educational programs per year. One in the Fall and the Annual Meeting in the Spring.

**Scholarship:** works to oversee the process and polices as well as selecting the candidates for the MARILN scholarships which are awarded in Fall and Spring to nursing students at all levels.

**Nurse of the Future:** representatives work on state wide initiatives related to the NOF and

Department of Higher Education Redesign initiatives. Board members are on the Nursing Leadership Coalition, NOF Academic -Practice Committee, Computerized Clinical Placement and the Website Design group.

The Program, Continuing Education and Scholarship Committees are welcoming new members from MARLIN. Please contact MARILN if you are interested in joining these committees.

## Have a Happy and Safe Halloween!



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*“We promote  
excellence in  
nursing education”*

**2011-2012 Board of Directors:**

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*President-Elect: Cynthia Bechtel, PhD, RN, CNE*

*Treasurer: Margaret O’Connor, MS, RN*

*Secretary: Margaret Motyka, MS, RNC*

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*Susan Maciewicz, MSN, RN, CNE*

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