When the National League for Nursing created the Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) exam, the NLN distinguished academic nursing education as a specialty area of practice and an advanced practice role within professional nursing. As a specialty, nurse educators need to stay current with their specialized knowledge, skills, and abilities through professional development. In addition to attending continuing education programs regarding nursing care, nurse educators need to stay current on trends in education and teaching. One great way to do this is by attending the NLN Education Summit which is held in September each year. We had quite a few MARILN members attending in Phoenix this year. It was great to network with colleagues and meet educators from around the country. I believe 1500 educators attended this year. Prior to the start of the Summit I was able to represent MARILN at the Constituent League Workshop with Janet Monagle, President-elect of MARILN and Sheila Blomquist, Administrative Assistant for MARILN and learn what other leagues are doing. Attending the breakout sessions allowed me to learn about deliberate practice, Google Hangouts, a rubric for professional behavior, and mentoring adjunct faculty. If at all possible, plan to attend the 2015 Summit in Las Vegas. Locally, MARILN is committed to offering two outstanding programs a year with nationally known speakers. We are the only organization in Massachusetts offering programs specifically for nurse educators and nurse educator students. Your membership in MARILN helps to support these excellent, economical programs. Please consider joining or maintaining your membership in MARILN.
MARILN BYLAW REVISIONS:
The last MARILN bylaws were revised in 2003. They were typewritten and VERY outdated! In order to be more efficient, practice had changed by the bylaws dictating the practice had not changed. Three board members, Janet Monagle, Mary Beth Scanlon and Peggy O’Connor reviewed the bylaws and made suggestions for updating the bylaws. Listed below are the proposed changes and rationales:

- Membership dues and Membership year: MARILN offers an incentive to join in April & October while registering for the two continuing education programs. The majority of members have joined in these two months. Renewals lag in other months and require an increased workload for our Administrative Assistant. If a renewal was due after April 2014 & before October, the due date for Fall 2014 has been delayed until October 2014. If a renewal is due after October 2014 and before April 2015, the due date has been delayed until April

- Notices to be sent via mail: The 2003 by laws only allowed for regular mail for notices, practice has changed since electronic mail is now more commonly used, so at any point in the by laws where standard mail was the normal route for notification, electronic mail has been substituted, since this is now the normal practice (This occurs in multiple places in the by laws)

- Elections: MARILN has been using an electronic ballot for voting, which eliminates the proxy ballots and the written ballots, so the language has been changed to reflect the current practice. This occurs a few times in the by laws

- Conference Call meetings of the Board: The new Roberts Rules of Order state that any teleconferences need to be addressed as a viable option in the by laws. The board has been holding conference call meetings twice per year and has allowed member directors and/or officers to call in to a live meeting via a conference call. This practice changed because of bad weather and a lack of a quorum when not enough were present. Since the practice changed, board members have been present in person or by conference call making every meeting count

- Term of Office for All Officers & Member Directors: Recently, the board voted to change the annual meeting to October and that the terms would end on December 31st of that year. This makes the MARILN strategic plan and budget coincide with the calendar year, rather than April to April. This change affects all of the elected officers and the member directors

- Submission of minutes: Minutes from standing an special committees should submit the minutes to the secretary. The secretary or administrative assistant shall have custody of the seal of the organization

- Notice of meetings: The Administrative Assistant is responsible for sending notices by electronic mail, so the by laws are being updated to reflect current practice

- Membership Committee: This committee is added as a new standing committee. Recruiting & maintaining membership is important to the organization

I hope this helps to explain why we have made these vast changes. COAC, the Constituent League oversight committee of the NLN, has approved the changes and rationales for the changes. We received full approval from them and the board members. Thank you. Submitted by Peggy O’Connor, MARILN Treasurer.

MARILN TREASURER’S REPORT

We are 3/4 of the way through our fiscal year. We budgeted for an income of $54,725.00 and are currently at $39,979.58. Our Bi-annual meetings continue to exceed our expected income. We have continued to bring in nationally known speakers. We also offer a Continuing Education Program approval at a very competitive rate. This has traditionally been a good source of income. At this point in time, we have an income of $5294.56, which puts us ahead of our budgeted income of $5000.00. We encourage all members to continue to support the MARILN conferences. The Board of Directors is actively engaged in gaining, maintaining and retaining MARILN members. For a number of years, new members receive a reduction in member dues and membership rate when becoming a member while registering for one of our programs. Beginning this year, we have changed the membership renewal to twice per year. The new renewal date will be either April or October, coinciding with the program offerings. MARILN is the local chapter of the NLN, an organization that is for nurse educators and nursing education. The Board of Directors is committed to continuing the valuable programs such as the Bi-annual meetings, Continuing Education Program approval, Scholarships and involvement in the Constituent League meetings at the NLN Summit.
Constituent League Workshop Attendees (pictured below) included: Sheila Blomquist, MARILN Administrative Assistant, Janet Lusk Monagle, MARILN President-Elect, Bev Malone, NLN CEO, Marsha Adams, NLN President, Cynthia Bechtel, MARILN President, JoAnn Mulready-Shick, MARILN Board/Scholarship Chair

MARILN MEMBER, Judith Healey Walsh, accepted an NLN Award at the summit. Judy and Eileen Stuart-Shor, from University of Massachusetts, Boston and Anna Karani, from University of Nairobi, have been funded by the National League for Nursing in the amount of $24,858 for their research titled "A Mixed Methods Case Study of Partnerships in International Service-Learning: Exploring Reciprocity and Bi-directional Benefits." Congratulations to Judy!

*JoAnn and colleague Kathleen Flanagan published "Building the Evidence for DEU Sustainability and Partnership Success" in Nursing Education Perspectives (Volume 35, Issue 5, September 2014).

JoAnn Mulready-Shick, MARILN Board/Scholarship Chair (pictured above) presented a poster on Clinical Education Quality on DEUs.

NLN’s New Accreditation Commission –CNEA

Does your nursing program have questions about NLN’s new accreditation commission? Dr. Judith Halstead, former NLN President, is the newly appointed executive director of CNEA, the Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation. Standards are being finalized this fall and will fully incorporate NLN’s core values of caring, integrity, diversity, and excellence. Services will be commencing in 2015. Get your questions answered at http://www.nln.org/aboutnln/C-NEA_FAQs.htm
**AN IMPORTANT STUDY**
Alexander, M., Hayden, J., Jeffries, P., Kardong-Edgren, S., & Smiley, R. (2014). The NCSBN National Simulation Study: A Longitudinal, Randomized, Controlled Study Replacing Clinical Hours with Simulation in Pre-Licensure Nursing Education. *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, 5(2), S1-S64.

A brief synopsis is provided below.

Ten schools participated (five ADN and five BSN) and 666 students completed the study. The students were randomized into three groups:
- 50% simulation
- 25% simulation
- Traditional clinical (no more than 10% simulation)

The measures included but were not limited to:
- ATI exams for knowledge
- Creighton Competency Evaluation Tool for clinical competence
- NCLEX
- Critical Thinking Diagnostic Test

**There were no significant differences between the three groups!**

The study participants were also followed 6 months later and evaluated by their managers.....again the results showed no significant differences between the 3 groups.

The study has important implications for educators and strongly supports simulation as an educational method. The authors clearly describe, however, that the simulation must be high quality and use best practices that incorporate clear objectives, knowledgeable faculty and debriefing.

Please take some time to read this important research. **Submitted by: Janet Monagle, MARILN President –Elect**

**MARILN PROGRAM REPORT**

The program committee has been working diligently to recruit nationally known speakers. In April, Nurse Tim presented on strategies to use when teaching using the pedagogy of the flipped classroom. This is an excellent program to assist faculty with this pedagogy and creative methods to get the students to ‘buy-in’ to the teaching strategy. On October 24, Donna (Iggy) Ignatavicius will present on *Increasing Student Success on the NCLEX through Raising the Difficulty of Test Questions and Item Writing*. This should be an exciting program as she is a nationally known expert in item writing and increasing the difficulty of test items. In April 2014, we have Cindy Clark from Boise State scheduled to present on March 27, 2015 and the topic is Civility.

**2014 Board of Directors:**
- **Officer Directors:**
  - President: Cynthia Bechtel, PhD, RN, CNE
  - President-Elect: Janet Lusk Monagle, PhD, RN, CNE
  - Treasurer: Margaret O’Connor, MS, RN
  - Secretary: Diane Welsh, DNP, APRN, CNE
- **Member Directors:**
  - David Becker, MSN, RN, CNE
  - Nancy Phoenix Bittner, PhD, RN
  - Patricia Demers, MS, MPH, RN, NE-BC, CNE
  - Susan Maciewicz, MSN, RN, CNE
  - Maureen McGarry, PhD, RN
  - Judith Pelletier, MSN, RN, CNE
  - JoAnn Mulready-Shick, EdD, RN, CNE, ANEF
  - Gretchen Rosoff, RN, MSN, CNE
  - Mary Beth Scanlon, MS, RN
  - Sandra Shapiro, PhD(c), MSN, RN, CNE
  - Mary M. Tarbell, MS, RN

Would you like to have a **POSTER** at the next MARILN Conference on 3/27/15? Please contact Sheila Blomquist at: nursing.mariln.org for more information.