Welcome to Spring!
We are so fortunate, this time of year, given what the news has to share about the rest of the country. The Arizona League for Nursing has completed its annual report, budget projections and strategic plan for 2016. We remain solid with money in the bank and 42 members on the roster. In 2015 we accomplished some great things including the creation of our website http://www.nln.org/membership/constituent-leagues/arizona, the production of this quarterly newsletter and co-hosting of a statewide conference on simulation in November.

As we look ahead to 2016, our strategic plan is already being implemented with the purchase of member access to the Dr. Patricia Benner webinars on Educating Nurses. http://www.educatingnurses.com/ If you have not received your 1 year access code and password, please let us know by emailing arizonaleaguefornursing@gmail.com. This access is available to all members, so encourage your colleagues to join on our website for $20 and obtain access shortly thereafter. Be sure to take advantage of these modules, as they are only available until January 2017.

April 29th, 2016 should be reserved on your calendar! Dr. Marilyn Oermann PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN will be presenting on Best Practices in Clinical Teaching and Evaluation. We are close to securing a west valley location and registration will be available soon.

The weakness of our annual report was with the open Board positions we have. We are seeking nominees for Vice President/President elect and several chair committee roles. Over the next month you will see additional information about these needs. Please do some personal reflection of how you would like to become more actively involved in the AzLN.

Karin Sherrill
Getting to Know Our Members

Meet Selina Bliss, PhD., RN, Professor at Yavapai College

I am in the unique position to serve on the Boards of the Arizona League for Nursing as well as the Arizona Nurses Association. As such, I am contacting you to ask for your support of a very important issue that is going before the legislature this term—an update of the Nurse Practice Act (NPA) that will improve patients’ access to care by granting full practice authority for all Advanced Practice Nurses in Arizona: Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurse Midwives and Nurse Anesthetists. This update of the Arizona NPA affects patient outcomes and nurses at all levels and is in response to the IOM recommendation that nurses practice to the full extent of their education and training.

The opposition to this bill has been building over the last year. The Arizona Medical Association strongly opposes this legislation. The Sunrise Hearing (the process which allows the bill to go forward to the legislature) that occurred last fall narrowly passed by a vote of 5 to 4. In short, nursing has an uphill battle and we are asking for “all hands on deck”.

My request is that you (or your designee) serve as a champion in your school by passing along important announcements and to encourage action from students, faculty and their social networks. For example, at certain points in the process legislators will need to hear from not only Registered Nurses and APRNs, but also consumers who are in support of the bill. We want to be sure they hear from us as nurses!

Will you support this effort? I can continue to forward announcements to you unless you “opt out” or designate someone else from your organization. I can also communicate regularly with all AzLN members so either you or some of your faculty may receive cross-postings; please forgive the “over-communication”. As you know, however, many faculty, pre-licensure students and licensed students will not be contacted through our membership lists—you will be key to reaching them. I hope we can count on your support by forwarding upcoming announcements to your faculty and student body.

Sincerely,
Selina Bliss, PhD, RN, CNE, RN-BC
Treasurer, Arizona Constituency League - AzLN
Secretary, Arizona Nurses Association

Upcoming Workshops & Conferences


ATI faculty Development conference: April 6 – 8, 2016, San Diego, CA.

Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing: Nursing Education Research Conference, April 7 – 9, 2016, Washington DC.

National Student Nurses’ Association NSNA 62nd Annual Convention, April 9 – 13, 2016, Nashville, TN.

The Johns Hopkins Nursing center for Evidence Based Practice Boot camp, 11-15 April 2016 — Baltimore, Maryland, USA.


NLN Education Summit: September 21 – 23, 2016, Orlando, FL.

Electronic Devices and Nursing Education

Andrews, Jiji, RN., (MSN), PCCN

When the smartphone was introduced in later half of 2000’s no one probably envisioned how it will change the way, people can interact and how it has impacted changes in health care and education. Smartphones have changed the way patients and healthcare workers think and make clinical decisions. A smartphone could be defined as a mobile phone that has additional functions similar to personal digital assistant devices (Gill, Kamath, & Gill, 2012). Examples of smartphones include iPhone and Samsung, Nokia Lumina, Blackberry and the list is growing. A smartphone application (app) is defined as a software application that runs on a smartphone or other portable device. Apps are run on smartphones and media tablets with or without Internet connectivity (Gill, Kamath, & Gill, 2012). Some of the apps are free and for some, there is a minimal payment. There are about 2,177 health care apps and about 75 nursing education apps to date.

Nurses preparing for certification exams have found smartphone apps to be very useful. Many certification review applications consist primarily of practice questions, which can be valuable for building test-taking skills through repetition (Curran, 2014). There are several apps that can be used when studying in a group. “Quizzlet” is an app, where one person can type the question and the answer, and anyone can review them from anywhere. These can be made into flashcards and other group members can also print and use them. They are an easy tool to practice for NCLEX licensure preparation.

References


Useful link: