

Inside this issue:

<i>A Note from the Presidents - Past and Future</i>	1
<i>MDNA Announces New Officers</i>	2
<i>Thank you to exiting Board members</i>	2
<i>MDNA Spring Banquet Recap</i>	3
<i>MDNA Service Award Winners</i>	3
<i>The Milwaukee Lamplight Celebration</i>	4
<i>Nurse of the Year Award Winner</i>	5
<i>Welcome to new members</i>	5
<i>What did your Nurse of the Year letter say?</i>	6-7
<i>Editors News and Views</i>	7
<i>Diversity in Nursing</i>	8
<i>MDNA Board of Directors & Calendar of Events</i>	9

A Last Note from Judith Kowatsch, President

This is my final note to you as President of MDNA. This has been a fabulous experience for me in this leadership role to represent all of the nurses in Milwaukee. I have made many wonderful connections with so many of you. I will miss this but will continue to be involved with MDNA in some capacity. I have made many friends during my eight years on the board in various roles. I will continue to stay in touch with these individuals so I will not lose touch with the hard working men and women of this community. We should all be proud of the work the outgoing board members have done. Jodi Johnson was an outstanding Secretary to keep us all on track. I thank you Jodi, for your hard work. The other member of the board who will be leaving is Eileen Zens, PR Chairperson. Eileen worked hard on both MDNA's board and the Lamplight Committee to keep MDNA and nurses in the public's eye. I also thank her for her endeavors. Eileen will be returning to MDNA's board in a different capacity, she will keep an eye on our website and keep it updated. The new board is in good hands. President Cindy Benson will provide the ongoing leadership that MDNA will need in the coming years. I have no doubts that she will do wonderful things during her presidency. I wish the Board continued success in supporting and promoting the nursing profession in years to come. Good-bye for now and I hope to see you at the next MDNA Annual Meeting, WNA Annual Convention, or other activities put on by MDNA.

Reclaiming the Passion *The vision of Cynthia Benson, MDNA President*

The past year as President Elect of the Milwaukee District Nurses Association has assisted and prepared me for the transition to President of the MDNA. Judy Kowatsch, Past President and the MDNA Board of Directors have done a phenomenal job. As new Board Members take on the challenge for the upcoming year, last year's Board members will be at their side. We all need support systems. And as the saying goes, "Behind every great nurse is another great nurse"

I read a book titled, Reclaiming the Passion, (2004), by Kristen Baird, RN, BSN, MHA. The book is a collection of stories written by nurses about a defining career moment that rekindled a passion for nursing. Two years from now, I would like to write a story about how the nurses in the Milwaukee District recognized the importance of their professional organization and came out in great numbers. The nurses assisted their elected MDNA officials as committee members and reclaimed the Passion of being part of organization representing the greatest profession on earth – Nursing.

I am looking forward to representing the nurses of the Milwaukee District Nurses Association and hope to meet many of you in the near future.

Cynthia Benson, RN MSN

MDNA Announces New officers

I would like to introduce the new officers for 2006-2008 to the Milwaukee District Nurses Association.

Secretary: Carol Graham

Health Policy: Jennifer Liska

Public Relations: Ernest Colburn

Fund Development/Scholarship:

Rachel Schiffman

Program: Catherine Whitcroft

Nominations Committee: Barbara Bechtel and Genee Brukwitzki

Continuing Officers are:

President: Cynthia Benson

Vice President: Paula Lucey

Treasurer: Mary Kay Bultman

Bylaws: Catherine Liebau

Membership: Maureen Greene

MNC: Amy Kirkland

Legislative Liaison: Suzanne Schuler

Nominations: Susan Kartes- Chair, Catherine Lageson, Kay Jansen

We had a full ballot and want to thank all those candidates who ran for office. Several committees welcome committee members so feel free to contact committee chairs to become active committee members and to learn more about your MDNA.

Thank You to Exiting Board Members

As chairperson of the Bylaws Committee I would like to extend my appreciation to those Board members stepping out of their leadership role on the MDNA Board. First let me say "Thank you" for your support and desire to serve the nurses of Milwaukee. It is truly an honor to serve with women who place the practice of nursing high on their priority list. It takes time, dedication and commitment to the nursing profession all of which are daily displayed by those individuals who choose to serve this board. Clearly your role modeling of nursing leadership is one you espouse everyday in all of your interactions. Thank you for your generosity, your selflessness, your professionalism, and your desire to see the spirit of the professional nurse continue.

Respectfully,

Catherine Liebau RN BSN

MDNA's 2006 Spring Awards Banquet

Latin music wafted through the gray evening on May 17th as guests tentatively entered Sol Fire restaurant (2014 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee) "Is this where the nurses' dinner is?" many asked, only to be welcomed out of the rain and into the warm embrace of our celebration of excellence in nursing.

Delicious Latin cuisine nourished our bodies while laughter with friends, family and colleagues nourished our spirits. MDNA's Service Awards were presented by Eileen Zens, while Katie Mullen from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel recognized the 2006 Nurse of the Year Awardees.

Service Awardees

Janet Bitzan – Education
Mary Busalacchi – Clinical
Janet Fine – Administration

Nurse of the Year Awardees

Mary Busalacchi – 2006 Nurse of the Year
Hilda Graham – 1st Runner-up
Lil Sullivan – 2nd Runner-up

Board members were recognized for their service and our newly elected board was sworn in by Hon. Jean DiMotto. Congratulations to all our award winners and a special thank you to Judy Kowatsch for her leadership and guidance during my first term as Program Chair. Thanks also to the 60 individuals who attended this year's Spring Awards Banquet! You all helped make this celebration our biggest and best in recent memory!

Do you have thoughts about where you'd like next year's events to be held? Please feel free to contact me with suggestions. Thanks for another great year. I'm looking forward to serving you for 2 more years!

Cathie Whitcroft – Program Chair
whitcro2@uwm.edu

MDNA Service Awards

On Wednesday, May 17th, the Sol Fire on Farwell Avenue was the place to be. Over sixty people were present for the MDNA service awards. Three awards were presented to deserving recipients.

The first award for *Management and Administration* went to Janet Fine, who is both a registered nurse and licensed nursing home administrator. Janet is the Executive Director of Laurel Oaks, a retirement community in Glendale. As executive director, Janet has had the opportunity to create and implement many programs and systems which have benefited the facility, staff and residents. She is currently a finalist in competition for a three year Nurse Leadership Fellowship from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The second award, the *Margo Yukovich Education* award went to Janet Bitzen, PhD. Dr. Bitzen has been part of UW Milwaukee's School of Nursing for the past thirteen years, serving in various roles. She is currently a clinical Associate Professor and received tenure recently. Dr. Bitzen has numerous publications in her field of study, Gerontology. This semester, she is teaching a Parish Nurse specialty course to junior standing students. She is also responsible for a nursing science course. Her excellence in teaching has been borne out through student comments of appreciation.

The third service award for *Clinical Practice* was presented to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Nurse of the Year for 2006, Mary Busalacchi. Mary is an AIDS certified RN who has spent most of her career helping people with HIV and AIDS. She currently works for Aurora Medical Group in the AIDS clinic and is a clinician for Dr. Ian Gilson. She has been associated with him since her early days as a visiting nurse for VNA where she first led the way in nursing care for people with HIV and AIDS.

Mary is currently President elect of the Southeastern WI Chapter of Association of Nurses in AIDS care. In addition, she runs a support group for women with AIDS which she founded.

Eileen Zens NP, Public Relations Chair

THE MILWAUKEE LAMPLIGHT CELEBRATION

Written by Janet Bitzan 2/10/06

A History

The Milwaukee Lamplight Walk is currently in its 16th year of existence. The event is one of the largest celebrations in the nation during National Nurses' Week boasting attendance figures of 700 or more nurses each year. Lamplight was born out of a desire of the Milwaukee District Nurses' Association (MDNA) to assist in the effort for the Gulf War. The first Lamplight celebration took place on a windy rainy night in 1991 at the Grain Exchange and was both a celebration of nursing and a tribute to nurse veterans.

The Lamplight celebration was the brainchild of Bill Wucherer, a 1983 graduate of the UWM College of Nursing. Bill's idea was influenced by two special people, his mother-in-law and his sister-in-law. He was very touched that, at the time of his wife's pinning at Columbia College of Nursing, his mother-in-law, Eunice Wolff, a graduate of Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing, passed her Nightingale lamp to his wife, Linda Wolff. In addition, his sister-in-law, Lori Bucherer, worked for a television station and told him that nurses worked in an invisible profession. The ideas of the Lamp and the need for greater exposure of nurses combined into the idea of the Lamplight celebration.

Bill took his ideas to Patricia Kingsberry, then Chairperson of the MDNA Public Relations Committee. Another key player in the history of the Lamplight celebration was Janet Fine. In subsequent years, Patricia and Janet both served as chairpersons of the event and it was Janet who actually developed the Lamplight logo.

Building on the success of the first event and having already outgrown the space of the Grain Exchange, the Lamplight celebrations were moved to the Italian Community Center and, in 1995, to the current location at Serb Hall. Each year the celebration includes a Walk during which the nurses take to the streets in a show of solidarity of, as the 2005 theme stated, "many roles, one profession." The Walk is always held on the Monday evening during National Nurses' Week, a week fixed by the ANA to coincide with the birthday of Florence Nightingale. It has been billed by past committees as "THE social event of the year for nurses." The evening provides opportunities for nurses to connect with past and present colleagues, to meet nurses from other settings, and to share professional and personal achievements.

Sponsorship of the Lamplight Walk expanded from MDNA to other nursing organizations through the efforts of long time committee members, such as Kathy Glaser, Diane Wernette, and Sue Simon. The current Lamplight Walk is sponsored by a coalition that includes the Milwaukee District Nurses' Association, the Greater Milwaukee Area Chapter of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, and the Wisconsin League for Nursing.

The Lamplight Committee is currently chaired by S. Mary Evelyn Zimbauer, SDS, who stepped into the role in 2001 when there were serious concerns about whether or not it was feasible to continue the tradition. The current committee has continued the tradition of vendors, short speeches by nursing or political guests, door prizes, food and music – all the ingredients of a successful celebration. Honored guests have included Judge Jean DiMotto, Mayor John Norquist, Representative/Mayor Tom Barrett, and Senator Herb Kohl. In addition, the Nurse of the Year, sponsored by the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, as well as runner-ups are invited to and introduced at each celebration.

Recent success has enabled the Lamplight Committee to give back to nursing in the form of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students in nursing. This year the committee has awarded \$5000 to five nurses. See you at the next Lamplight Celebration in 2007!

Nurse of the Year Awards

by Eileen Zens, ANP
MDNA Public Relations Chair

2006 proved to be a record year for nominees for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Nurse of the Year award. The seven judges read through 150 different nominees to come up with these years' selections. Although there were a lot of nominee papers to review, the Nurse of the Year, Mary Busalacchi, RN, ACRN was easy to select. She practices wholeheartedly the theme for this year's Nurses week: *strength, commitment and compassion* in her compassion and commitment to AIDs patients throughout the Milwaukee area and other parts of the developing world. There is no doubt of her strength to persevere in the 1980's when others were afraid to care for these types of patients. Patients who wrote to the MJS made it clear that the reason they are still living is because of Mary and her expertise. Mary Busalacchi works for Aurora Healthcare.

Hilda Graham is a nurse at Froedtert Hospital/ Medical College of Wisconsin who works with bone marrow patients and administers a special treatment to post bone marrow therapy patients, called photophoresis. She is known nationally and internationally for this. She is also active in clinical research in her practice. Hilda mentioned that she really gets to know her patients well as many of them need photophoresis five times per week

and this process takes hours to complete.

Lil Sullivan is a MPS school nurse in the school-age parent program. She works with pregnant teens, helping them cope with the choices they have made, and educates them in all aspects of baby development and care. She is well known at Lady Pitts School for this. Her work is invaluable in assisting the girls to become successful mothers.

First runner-up, Hilda Graham and second runner-up Lil Sullivan are also both deserving of this award as strength, commitment and compassion were also evident in their specific practices. We examined the criteria for selection from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and incorporated the theme for nurses' week to arrive at a decision.

The judges for this year included: Sandy Baumgartner, RN Nurse of the Year for 2005 from REM, Wisconsin II, Tiffany Kather, FNP from Community Care Organization, Judy Kowatsch, MSN, RN from Marquette University, Amy Kirkland, RN, Nurses & Medical Staffing, Inc, Marianne Ewig from September Managed Care of Later Years, and Eileen Zens, ANP from VA Medical Center.

Welcome New Members!

The Milwaukee District Nurses Association extends a warm welcome to our newest members:

Mary Hobus
Linda Cottreau
Ann Rohrer
Rebecca Troeller
Julie Parve
Shakoor Lee
Karen Morin
Clyde Pischner
Janice Ziebell

Hana Assad
Jaqueline Gouge
Rita Wermers
Cheryl Watt
Lisa Green
Ernest Colburn
Laura Kirkegaard
Bridget Costigan
Cory Foster

Nurse of the Year Nomination Letters 2006

“What did your letters say?”

by

Amy L Kirkland RN, President
NURSES & Medical Staffing
HMD Consulting

As a judge for “Nurse of the Year” for several years it has become apparent to myself and my colleagues that each year certain themes or sentiments present themselves within the first few letters and then are repeated over and over throughout the rest of the nomination letters.

A few years ago the over whelming sentiment involved highly technical nursing surrounding life threatening and life-saving events. Another year highlighted OB and the miracle of birth. Yet another year displayed ordinary people (nurses) doing extraordinary things, serving some of our voiceless patients, the homeless or the public school pupil.

This year the nomination letters reflected “high touch rather than high tech.” ***The central theme in your letters for 2006 was nurses connecting and honestly communicating with their patients, clients, residents and their families with compassion.*** It is all about the sense that the nurses looked at each patient as a person, connected with them and that the nurses became their friends. The idea of being friends can cause conflict for the nurse, this would imply an emotional relationship rather than the typical therapeutic relationship. As the judges commented on this, we concluded that the effective nurse maintains the therapeutic relationship at all times with their patients but is perceived as a personal relationship. The nurses that were able to effectively straddle this line seemed to promote the most positive image and most positive effect on their clients.

“Consistently kind;.. brought hope,.. always cheerful, always smiling” “Treats everyone the same, like they are the most important people in the world”. Another theme, “comes in on her time off”; “called me later that night even though she worked all day”; “picked up my prescription for me and delivered it at my home at 8:00 at night even though she’d worked all day”. A letter nominating a nurse at Children’s Hospital wrote “he arrives an hour before his shift to visit his kids who have moved from ICU to continue their healing on other floors”. Another wrote, “Despite personal issues...went to work to care for others”, this sentiment was written often.

Students from a Milwaukee public school wrote about their nurse nominee, ,..”..Talked so we could understand,..”. Brought gross things to school (cow’s eye) that was the best.” “talked about things that would help us”

The excerpts reflect the feeling of friendship and support “...I came to look forward to seeing her – even though going meant painful, uncomfortable treatments”. “Always smiling, cheerful.” “Involves my husband” Another reoccurring attribute “...great nurse who understands people”

Continued on page 7...

The judges this year also commented on the increase in nominations for male nurses and the very numerous Long Term Care, LTC, (nursing home and retirement community) nurses. The LTC nurse in the typical geriatric model works within a residential setting and cares for their residents' emotional, psychosocial and physical health, on a daily and long-term basis. This is in contrast with the acute (hospital) short stay dynamic focus on curing or alternatively, the rehabilitation focus of regaining as much function as possible to return to the home setting.

The LTC nurse is there to make a difference in the long term with the results or the impact on the resident more subtle. This impact is felt over time, which does not always come through in as compelling ways as high tech, life saving hospital nursing or some of the amazing things that occur in rehabilitation. The increase in nominations for male nurses signifies a change in our stereotypes and is most welcome. The increase in LTC nominations reflects changing national demographics and new settings for elder care services. Worthy of note was the numerous nominations for nurses working with veterans, in the home as home care nurses and those functioning as hospice nurses.

All of the above reflects well on the theme for National Nurses Week 2006: NURSES, Strength, Compassion, and Commitment. As the complexity of our society in general and the health, emotional, social and spiritual needs of our clients, in particular emerges, it is with great pride that Nursing, the most trusted of all professions in America is stepping up to meet these great demands and needs of our society. This at a time when everything seems to be changing and the needs are so great.

Editor's News and Views

By Amy L. Kirkland

Another year has come and gone. Here at MDNA our year revolves around our Board of Directors election cycle. In this issue of the MNC, you will find the exciting election results identifying the new members of the Board of Directors. An equal number of Directors will stay in their current positions until next year when we will have another election and new members to the Board.

In this issue, we have the Lamplight History, by Janet Bitzan. Janet is viewed as our unofficial historian, I found the article fascinating as it shows how a small group of individuals can come together and develop something that lives on way after the originators. Because of those individuals, this is a nationally recognized event due to its size and longevity.

Also in this issue is Nurse of the Year results and the behind the scenes voting and contemplation that goes with that annual event.

This May we honored nursing leaders for their exceptional contributions at our Service Award Banquet, all MDNA members are encouraged to attend. Take a moment to read that article and I will bet that almost all of you will know at least one of the winners. In addition, please note, we did not award anyone for excellence in Research nor did we award any Scholarships thus far this year. MDNA Board would appreciate a bit more involvement from our members so leaders can be honored and deserving candidates may receive scholarships.

The legislative breakfast is coming right up. Although we have the completely glorious Wisconsin summer in front of us, please mark your calendars for September 11, 2006, this is a great opportunity for nurses to express their concerns and hear what the candidates that will be running for legislative offices in November, have to say about issues nurses' hold near and dear. Trust me this will be lively as the election is very competitive this term!

As always, I encourage you to write, phone, or email your Board of Directors to express your experiences. Consider an article for publication in this newsletter. We are here to represent you and to promote the image and profession of nursing. You all do such a good job at the latter that the Board really needs to hear about your challenges. The next MNC will be in August, the new board will introduce themselves, we will have annual reports from all the committees and we will keep you informed of upcoming events. Happy Summer!!!

DIVERSITY IN NURSING
BY
JUDY KOWTASCH MSN, RNC
PRESIDENT MDNA

Diversity in nursing has many different meanings today. When we talk about diversity we look at the practice areas, clinical agencies, academic institutions and communities in general. I was gratified to see so many different types of nursing represented this year in the Nurse of the Year competition. The judges read letters from patients/ families and coworkers who nominated nurses from community agencies, school practice settings, inpatient units and hospice. We read about nurses who are practicing in critical care areas and are providing a high tech/high touch level of care. Others are practicing in the home, where patients and families feel the warmth and caring of “their” nurse. Patients and families are comforted by hospice nurses who help provide end of life cares and support.

Our Nurse of the Year practices in an AIDS clinic, providing a sensitive and compassionate level of care for her patients. Our first runner up works on the Bone Marrow Transplant unit at Froedtert Hospital and is a nationally and internationally known speaker in her specialty area of practice. She is a caring and compassionate individual to her patients and provides a humanized level of care and support for the patients she cares for. Our second runner up is a school nurse providing support and care for her teenage patients. As you can see from the individuals chosen for their expertise in practice, the diversity is obvious.

Nursing is providing care to diverse populations, in homes, hospitals, community clinics, and schools. Nurses are taking up the challenges of being where they are needed. Educational institutions are recruiting the best and brightest students into their programs and are trying to reflect the communities that need representation in the health care systems. We are seeing more Latinas, African American, and males applying to the academic programs that reflect these needs. The challenge is to recruit more of these individuals to the profession. We hope that by educating these individuals that we can better the health of this community and lessen the impact of the nursing shortage of the future.

During Nurses Week, we celebrate our diversity and the achievements that we, as nurses, have accomplished over this past year. We celebrate all who are providing compassionate care for their patients, families, and coworkers in their areas of practice. Nurses Week theme this year “Strength, Commitment, and Compassion” exemplify what we are all about.

“Nursing is the protection, promotion and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities and populations.”

“Music is what you can’t put into words and what you can’t keep silent.”

- Victor Hugo

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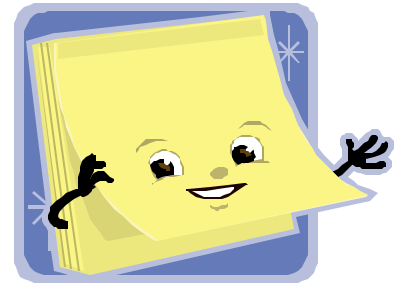
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Amy Kirkland – MNC Editor
amy@nurseinc.net

Mark Your Calendars!



- ? **2nd Annual Healthy Nurse Summit, June 22-23, 2006**
Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan, WI
- ? **Legislative Breakfast, Monday, September 11, 2006**, Luther Manor, Wauwatosa, WI
- ? **WNA/WSNA Annual Convention, Thursday-Saturday, October 19-21, 2006**
Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, WI
- ? **Leadership Day, Friday, December 1, 2006**, Heritage Congregational Church, Madison, WI
- ? **Nurses Day at the Capitol, Tuesday, March 6, 2007**, Masonic Center, Madison, WI
- ? **Wisconsin Association of School Nurses Conference, April 25-27, 2007**, Country Springs Hotel and Conference Center, Waukesha, WI

MDNA

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Return Service Requested

Remember...

The Milwaukee District Nurses Association has a website.

Visit us at www.milwaukeedistrictnurses.org

Or you can link to our site through the WNA website, here is how!

- ? Go to www.wisconsinnurses.org
- ? On the left, click on District/special interest group
 - ? District Nurses Association
 - ? Milwaukee District Nurses- #4
 - ? Click on the website link listed