In June NOVA held its 35th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The theme “Building On The Past To Create Health Care Partnerships For The Future” acknowledged our association’s history and challenged us to seek out those who share our mission of caring for veterans. NOVA continues to collaborate with other professional associations as well as Veteran Service Organizations to advocate for the necessary funds to improve the care provided to veterans, to advance the education of those who provide care, and to ensure that research is conducted to improve the lives of those we serve.

First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden’s “Joining Forces” Campaign and the American Academy of Nursing’s “Have You Ever Served?” Campaign help remind our nation that not every veteran is enrolled in the VA system and in order to improve the care to veterans we must work to improve the health care of our nation overall.

NOVA was honored to have Secretary Robert McDonald as the Keynote Speaker for our Annual Meeting. Secretary McDonald’s presentation “Remembering Nursing’s Care Values” was recorded and is available on the NOVA website. It is evident the Secretary is aware of the opportunities for improvement within our system. NOVA’s key issues - human resources support for recruitment and hiring, information technology needs, as well as the aging infrastructure of VA facilities - are also important issues for the Secretary. The NOVA Board of Directors looks forward to meeting with the Secretary to discuss how our association can continue to help with implementing many of the plans he has outlined since assuming his role one year ago.

Nancy Claflin continued the afternoon with a presentation of the highlights of NOVA’s 35 year history. We welcomed and acknowledged the seven Past Presidents in attendance. Margaret Kruckemeyer (1998-2000), Sarah Myers (2000-2002), Vince Elliott (2002-2004), Dianne Nelson (2006-2008), Cecilia McVey (2008-2010), Nancy Claflin (2010-2013), and Joan Clifford (2013-2015) were with us to honor our history. Nancy Claflin created a video slide show with pictures of our history that played during the breaks. Nancy’s history presentation and photo journal, as well as several of the other conference speakers’ slides, are available on the NOVA website.

In preparation for Hill Visits on Thursday, we welcomed Veteran Service Organizations to share their legislative priorities with us and discussed how VA nurses can partner with VSOs to move veteran’s health care forward. NOVA’s Manager of Advocacy and Government Relations, Teresa Morris, moderated a panel with representatives from the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Disabled Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America. If your NOVA chapter has not met with the VSO representatives at your facility, I encourage you to establish this partnership. The VSOs are extremely supportive of VA nurses as we share the same goals.

Thursday morning began with a panel discussion with four guests from professional associations on how to advance partnerships within the nursing community. These partnerships are extremely vital at ensuring the VA moves forward with Full Practice Authority. Penny Jensen spoke about the work the Office of Nursing Services has been doing in order to establish a VHA Nursing Handbook. There are parts of other handbooks that describe the who, what, why, and where, of nursing practice within the VA system but
President’s Message
continued from page 1

there has never been one comprehensive handbook that brings all the elements together in one place. Full Practice Authority within the VA system for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) would increase access to care as well as remove inefficiencies and boundaries to practice that add no value to patient outcomes. While this was included in the handbook, no regulation exists for the VA to enforce. NOVA as well as the nursing community as a whole is waiting for this regulation to be posted in the Federal Register for public comment.

Thursday afternoon, VA nurses met with their congressional representatives on Capitol Hill. This was followed by a reception in the foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building hosted by Jeff Miller, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman.

While NOVA members visited with their elected officials, the NOVA Board of Directors met with members of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. Both committees are responsible for any VA related legislation and NOVA continues a collaborative partnership with these members. It is through this partnership that NOVA was invited to testify on May 15, 2015, on Overcoming Barriers to More Efficient and Effective VA Staffing. NOVA Past President Joan Clifford’s written testimony and video of the hearing are available on NOVA’s website.

Friday’s sessions began with the Annual Awards Breakfast. NOVA acknowledged our members who were selected by their peers for the NOVA Professional Nurse Award for Leadership, Mary Mather of the South Texas VA Health Care System; NOVA Professional Nurse Award for Clinical Excellence, Yvette Twum-Danson of the W.J. Bryant Dorn VA Medical Center. NOVA’s Veteran Award was presented to hospice volunteer Robert K. Boyer from the Lebanon VA. NOVA’s highest honor, the Barbara Chambers Award, was presented to Nancy Claflin.

The first presenter on Friday, Cheryl Dellasega from Penn State University, shared with us her work on Partnering to Prevent Lateral Violence. The old adage that “nurses eat their young” suggests that negativity that may still be present on some nursing units. Lateral violence, “bullying,” and incivility may be the new terms given to this unfortunate problem, but no matter what it is called, a hostile work environment affects retention of nurses in the workplace and in the profession. The American Nurses Association recently established the Professional Issues Panel on Workplace Violence and Incivility and several VA nurses are participating in developing a position statement and guidance for nurses and employers.

The Annual Meeting concluded Friday afternoon with Donna Gage, VHA Chief Nursing Officer. Dr. Gage prepared a presentation but chose to use the time to have an informal town hall meeting. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to interact with and ask questions of Dr. Gage. NOVA continues to have monthly calls with the Office of Nursing Services so please continue to let us know if you have questions or concerns about nursing practice within our system.

We honored our past 35 years over these three days as new friends were made and previous connections were strengthened. NOVA continues to be the voice for nursing practice within the VA, and in doing so, we must strive to be the professional association that VA nurses want to be a part of as we change and grow over the next 35 years. NOVA welcomes our nursing colleagues, licensed professional nurses/licensed vocational nurses as NOVA members as we work together to provide the “Best Care Anywhere.” A membership campaign and materials to recruit LPN/LVN members is forthcoming, but there is no need to wait to share with them the reason why you are an active NOVA member.

Hope to see you at the 36th NOVA Annual Meeting, June 22-25, 2016, at The Peppermill Resort Hotel, Reno, Nevada.

36th NOVA Annual Meeting
Reno, Nevada

Mark your calendar NOW to attend the 36th NOVA Annual Meeting, June 22-25, 2016, at The Peppermill Resort Hotel, Reno, Nevada.

You will have an opportunity to meet with all levels of VA nurses from across the country, share and exchange professional ideas and experiences, and attend valuable educational sessions with nationally recognized speakers.

NOVA Welcomes New Associate Member!


Walden University
A higher degree. A higher purpose.

Walden University
650 S. Exeter Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Kimberly Martin, Field Representative VA/MD/WVA
Toll Free: 1-855-591-7858
Kimberly.Martin@waldenu.edu
www.walden.edu
The NOVA Board of Directors and Staff wish to thank the following companies and organizations for supporting the NOVA 35th Anniversary Annual Meeting...

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CAPELLA UNIVERSITY
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Heard on the Hill

Greetings, NOVA Members!

By Teresa Morris, Manager, Advocacy & Government Relations

I hope all of you who attended this year’s NOVA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C are well rested and looking forward to an exciting year ahead. I want to say that I was honored to be a part of such a historic meeting - one that saw the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Chief Nurse for the VA Office of Nursing Services and members of the nursing community all speaking to nurses who make a difference in the lives of veterans.

Secretary Robert McDonald, or “Bob” as he likes to be called, was candid about the changes being made at VA and where VA is headed in the future. He recognizes that his administration has a long way to go to fix some of the issues identified in 2014 and that nurses will continue to play a pivotal part in finding solutions. His presentation can be found at www.vanurse.org/documents/McDonald.pptx.

I believe that in order to be part of the solution, NOVA must have a strong advocacy message and continue to relay that message on Capitol Hill. You, the members, have to speak freely about issues taking place within VA and at your facilities. You should meet with your members of Congress and their staff and discuss critical issues facing nurses and how that translates into the delivery of care to America’s veterans.

Many of you participated in our “Storm the Hill” event and reported back that your meetings went exceptionally well. This is the gateway into building relationships with Congress and key staff, which opens the door to greater advocacy. I urge you to continue your efforts by following up and scheduling an appointment during their August recess.

Congressional leaders spend the entire month of August in their district offices, often attending local events and listening to their constituents’ concerns. It’s a great time to introduce yourself and meet those working in the district offices. Plan to schedule a meeting by contacting the district office. Information on district offices, to include phone numbers, can be found in your local phone directories.

For those of you who didn’t attend the Annual Meeting or participate in our Hill day, plan to visit your member, attend a local Town Hall meeting and discuss VA health care in your area. Discuss NOVA’s critical issues, and relay any local concerns you may have with your facility. For more information, take a look at my presentation at www.vanurse.org/documents/Morris.pptx.

To be a strong advocate, we need to have a consistent message that emphasizes NOVA’s mission, its partnership with VA and the common bond of caring for all veterans. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

www.vanurse.org
Provided below are links to NOVA’s Annual Meeting including a Photo Gallery of participants. http://s1290.photobucket.com/user/NOVAvanurse/slideshow/2015%20NOVA%20Annual%20Meeting


**Certification Partnerships**

The Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs has entered into a number of partnerships with various nursing organizations which offer NOVA members discounts on certifications and re-certifications. NOVA is a proud certification partner with the following organizations:

- American Academy of HIV Medicine
- Commission on Nurse Certification
- Infusion Nurses Certification Corporation
- Joint Commission Resources
- Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission
- Orthopaedic Nurses Certification Board
- Vascular Access Certification Corporation
- Wound Care Education Institute

For more information, please visit NOVA website at www.vanurse.org

**NALA Scholarship Awarded To NOVA Secretary/Treasurer**

Congratulations to Thelma Roach-Serry, BSN, RN, NE-BC, of Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, upon receiving a scholarship to the Nursing Alliance Leadership Academy, August 29-30, 2015! Founded in 2001, the Alliance is comprised of over 60 nursing associations and organizations. The Alliance represents member interests through education, including opportunities for collaboration and communication.

**2015 NOVA Award Recipients**

**NOVA Professional Nurse Award for Leadership**

Mary Mather, MSN, RN-BC, CNL, VHA-CM (Pictured in the middle) South Texas VA Health Care System

**NOVA Professional Nurse Award for Clinical Excellence**

Yvette Twum-Danson, RN, MSN, CCRN (Pictured in the middle) W.J. Bryant Dorn VA Medical Center

**Barbara Chambers Award**

Nancy Claflin, DNP, MS, RN, CENP, NEA-BC, CPHQ, FNAHQ (Pictured in the middle) NOVA Nurse Emeritus

**Veterans Award**

Robert K. Boyer (Pictured in the middle)

www.vanurse.org

**Congratulations!**
Chapter News

Chapter 110
Phoenix, VA
By Nancy Claflin, Nurse Emeritus

Nancy Claflin, DNP, MS, RN, CENP, NEA-BC, CPHQ, FNNAHQ, NOVA Nurse Emeritus, made three Hill Visits on June 11, 2015, during which Dr. Claflin covered NOVA’s critical issues.

Nancy Claflin met with Congressman Matt Salmon, who stayed for a few minutes to get a picture with her. Then, she met with Jenell Biggs from the Congressman’s Washington Office and Janet Bosley who was visiting from his Gilbert, AZ, Office. Dr. Claflin talked with them about ensuring that the Chief Nursing Officer in Washington, D.C., is having an equal voice with the physicians and other leaders. Nancy Claflin discussed the importance of the Nurse Executive at each facility being included in all decisions that impact nurses at the facility; the importance of streamlining hiring and credentialing of nurses and other Title 38 employees. She emphasized the importance of funding the RN Transition to Practice Program for all facilities, so new graduate RNs would have the support to function in the VA and enhance retention, while providing necessary patient care at the same time.

Dr. Claflin met with Austin Kennedy from Senator John McCain’s Office. They discussed the problem of VA canceling travel that had been approved right before the NOVA Annual Meeting. He noted that this didn’t make sense because the money had already been spent, (e.g., tuition already paid). Nancy Claflin brought up the problem of reclassifying positions and downgrading them. This particularly affects sterile processing technicians, making it extremely difficult to find people to hire for these very important positions. Dr. Claflin emphasized the importance of reviewing nursing salaries and nurse pay scales to enable the recruitment and retention of nurses in the VA.

Finally, Dr. Claflin met with Meghan Bush from Senator Jeff Flake’s Office. They discussed the problems with information technology not being appropriately funded and updated; the problem of information technology being centralized so that IT employees don’t work for anybody at the facility, and the difficulty in getting things accomplished. Nancy Claflin added that the VA at one time led the nation in the electronic health record, but that now many improvements need to be made but are held up by a lack of funds.

Chapter 114
Tucson, AZ
By Carol Chavez, RN

The Southern Arizona (Tucson) NOVA Saguaro Chapter 114 has kicked off our local spring and summer fundraising event of t-shirt sales with the VA logo “Caring for Our Heroes” offering 11 different occupational logos inclusive of RN and LPN. This fundraiser allows our chapter to sponsor local events such as Nurses Week, our Annual Starbright Nursing Scholarship Ceremony, Evidence Based Practice Seminar and other local nursing events. We also awarded our 2015 local NOVA Starbright Nursing Scholarship Award of $1000 to Monica Martinez-Garayzar, RN, who is pursuing a nurse practitioner degree. Our chapter is looking forward to welcoming LPN/LVN into NOVA nationally and locally.

Chapter 116
Fayetteville, AR
By Cindy Sloan, BSN, RN

Ms. Anne Burnett is pursuing the highest degree in nursing, the doctorate of nursing practice (DNP), and her capstone focus is directed at not just supporting nursing practice, but also supporting and moving evidence-based practice forward in the nursing community at the VHSO. She most recently designed an educational offering that received approval for two hours of CEUs, entitled “Developing EBP Preceptors.” Ms. Burnett also authored “The ABCs of Evidence-Based Practice” in the American Nurse Today April 2013 issue.

Ms. Burnett was tapped as the Chair of the Upper Western Market (UWM) VISN 16 SAIL improvement committee. The committee is tasked with evaluating SAIL results and potential solutions, sharing best practices across the UWM. Ms. Burnett chairs the VHSO EBP Council and has led and supported several EBP projects locally at the VHSO. Additionally, she assisted the VHSO APRN SG Council in developing and producing an APRN Brochure for use during APRN Week in November 2014. Ms. Burnett is a member of the Systems Redesign Steering Committee. Ms. Burnett was the lead author for Category 6 for the Carey Application that was awarded the 2013 Circle of Excellence. In addition, her work in Category 6 was instrumental in VHSO’s winning Baldrige application. VHSO was the sole winner of the Arkansas Governor’s Quality Award in 2013. This is the highest quality award offered by the state of Arkansas.

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Ms. Anne Burnett is completely dedicated to improving veteran health care, as evidenced by her work as EBP Council chair, her support of nursing colleagues, and her commitment to continual improvement of self and the nursing profession. Her commitment to Patient Centered Care is demonstrated in the development of spiritual assessment competency handouts. This was an in-depth learning tool for staff to do self-assessment and improve competency in patient spirituality evaluation.

As a NOVA member of Chapter 116, Ms. Burnett has worked tirelessly for those veterans in our local Psycho-Social Rehabilitation and Recovery Center, including an annual Christmas Party sponsored by our local NOVA chapter. She initiated two annual NOVA Nursing Scholarships to ensure our local chapter promotes nursing development and professionalism.

Chapter 129
Palo Alto, CA
By Christine Camp, MSN, RN-BC

NOVA Chapter 129, Palo Alto, CA, invited all levels of nursing to a nursing conference on February 5, 2015, titled “Nursing Ethics: Promoting Civility and Respect in the Workplace.” We had a wonderful attendance of 73 VA staff including a few who are not nurses. The conference was well received with many positive comments and opportunity for questions and answers. The lunch was deliciously catered by Country Gourmet. Thank you to our Executive Nurse Gloria Martinez for her strong support of NOVA and introductory comments regarding RN nurse satisfaction survey results and how VA nurses can support each other.

Karen Wall, EdDc, RN-BC, BSN, was our keynote speaker and gave her presentation “Bullying: Not Just for Kids Anymore” with many video clips of nurses bullying nurses, identification of “bullying,” and how to counteract this disruptive conduct. Timothy Langford, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR); Beth Stovall, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO); and Beth Hardison, Civility, Respect, and Engagement in the Workplace (CREW) presented their services in a panel discussion and provided information as VA resources for those in attendance.

Christine Camp, MSN, RN-BC, Chapter 129 President from 2011-2015, stepped down from her role and received a certification of appreciation and beautiful orchid from the board members. We hope to have another exciting conference in the fall of 2015 and are excited to have LPN/LVNs join NOVA both nationally and on a local level.

Chapter 224
Bedford, MA
By Kathy Lehmann, RN

Chapter President Nancy Reagan and member Kathy Lehmann attended the Nurses in Washington Internship (NIWI) in March 2015. This program provided intensive training in advocacy for nursing issues at the legislative level. Both nurses were able to successfully brief Representative Seth Moulton and senior staffers in Senator Markey’s, Senator Warren’s, and Representative Lynch’s offices on a variety of active nursing concerns. Nancy and Kathy were able to follow up as part of the NOVA delegation in June 2015 to report the progress on H.R.1247 – Veteran’s Access to Care/APRN Full Practice. Our Congressmen are strong supporters of this issue on behalf of our organization. Both nurses were successful poster presenters at the 2015 NOVA Annual Meeting. NOVA Chapter 224 member Patricia Watson was a membership campaign winner for recruiting 25 new members. All returned home to report their successful participation in this year’s NOVA activities to nursing management and executive leadership.

Chapter 226
Boston, MA
By Kelly Skinner, RN

On Friday, June 5, 2015, our chapter held an impromptu fundraiser which consisted of NOVA nurses, VA employees, friends and family who stopped by after work for dinner and drinks. Each person who attended this event donated $20 per person. Bobby Welch, a Nurse Epidemiologist at the VA Boston Healthcare System, was the winner of the 50/50 raffle. We raised a total of $1,183 which will go towards the 2015 NOVA Chapter 226 Scholarships. On behalf of our local
NOVA Chapter 226 Fundraiser

Our local chapter was well represented at NOVA’s 35th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in June 2015. Carmen Concepcion, Joan Clifford, Paula Finneran, Catherine Giasson, Rebecca Lavarin, Mary Littlefield, Kristen Leonard, Carol McLean, Ceci McVey, Maria Rivera, Kelly Skinner, Susan Vickory, and Shari Wilson were in attendance. On Thursday, June 11, 2015, we had an opportunity to “Storm the Hill” and were able to speak to members of Congress about NOVA’s 2015 Legislative Agenda. We met with Melea Atkins in Senator Elizabeth Warren’s office, Alexander Hundley Jones in Senator Ed Markey’s office and James Gordon in Congressman Stephen Lynch’s office. What a great experience!

NOVA Members with Melea Atkins in Senator Elizabeth Warren’s Office

NOVA Members with Senator Ed Markey

NOVA Members with Senator Edward Markey

NOVA Members with James Gordon in Congressman Stephen Lynch’s Office

NOVA Chapter 226 Members on Capitol Hill

Chapter 344

**Erie, PA**

By Heron Warren, CRNP

NOVA Chapter at Erie VAMC had an exciting quarter.

In April, we held an educational program related to Women Veterans in a Techno World. It was well attended, and our speaker, a Nurse Practitioner completing her DNP, developed an application that will allow women veterans to access the areas of health care and informational resources more specific for the female gender. In addition, a female veteran who is now also a VA employee shared her experience while in the military and after and how this information presented today would have been beneficial to her.

In May, as part of Nurse’s Week, our chapter did a quilt raffle as a fundraiser. Nurses were encouraged to donate a swatch of material from an old scrub. One nurse donated her time and resources and designed the quilt. It was absolutely beautiful, as seen in the photo on page 8. On the back of the quilt, there were swatches of material representing the different branches of the military. The stitching was done in stars and stripes. The fundraiser was successful. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the HBPC Program’s food pantry.

Also, in May, our members helped at a 5k walk and run for a women’s center in Erie. In June, we held a journal club presenting the topic of Alzheimer’s Dementia; CNUs were available. We continue to look at ways to recruit new members and offer more events to the nursing staff.

board, I would like to express our deepest appreciation for the generous donations of those who attended as well as those who were unable to attend.
Pictured Above: The winner of the quilt, Marian McGuire, the NIC Supervisor.

Chapter 364
Sturgis, SD
By Michelle Salazar, RN and TJ Wilcox-Olson, MHS, RN

NOVA MEMBERS FROM SOUTH DAKOTA “STORM THE HILL” ON JUNE 11!

Valerie Anderson, Michelle Salazar, and TJ Wilcox-Olson from Black Hills Health Care System Chapter 364 and Holly Francis from Clement J. Zablocki Chapter 446 attended the 35th NOVA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in June 2015. Prior to arriving in DC, they worked with schedulers for South Dakota’s Senators and Representative to make appointments to meet with them. One of the schedulers invited them to participate in the South Dakota Sunrise Breakfast, scheduled for the morning of June 10, prior to the beginning of the NOVA Annual Meeting. Michelle and Valerie were able to take part in the breakfast and had the opportunity to meet with staff from Senator Thune, Senator Rounds and Representative Noem’s offices, as well as the aforementioned. They were able to give a brief synopsis of the issues they wished to discuss the following day as well as meet other South Dakotans. They were able to have a photo opportunity with Senator Thune and Representative Noem.

While in Washington, DC, the four met with South Dakota Senator John Thune and his Legislative Assistant, Jonathan Abdnor, and Legislative Correspondent, Joseph Boddicker; South Dakota Senator Mike Rounds and his Legislative Assistant, Peter Eckrich; and South Dakota Congresswoman Kristi Noem’s Legislative Assistant, Matt Hittle, to discuss critical issues from NOVA’s legislative agenda. After visiting with the two Senators, they were escorted to the Rayburn Building by the Staff Assistant to Senator Rounds, Joe Bliss. Mr. Bliss offered to schedule them for a tour of the Capitol Building the following day. After another successful NOVA Annual Meeting ended, Valerie, Michelle, Holly, and TJ headed back to the Capitol for their tour. They were able to skip the lines of tourists as they were guided through the building by two South Dakota interns. They enjoyed asking the interns about their experiences working with a Senator and living in DC.

Valerie, Michelle, and TJ spent the weekend touring the world famous monuments. To round out their Capitol Hill experience, they participated in a ghost tour of the Hill to learn more about the politicians who still hang out there despite the fact that their terms expired hundreds of years ago.

Pictured Above: NOVA Board Member Holly Francis, NOVA Member Valerie Anderson, NOVA Board Member TJ Wilcox-Olson, Senator John Thune, and NOVA Member Michelle Salazar.

Pictured Above: NOVA Board Member Holly Francis, NOVA Member Valerie Anderson, Senator Mike Rounds, NOVA Member Michelle Salazar and NOVA Board Member TJ Wilcox-Olson.

Pictured Above: NOVA Board Member Holly Francis, Congresswoman Kristie Noem's Legislative Assistant Matt Hittle, NOVA Member Michelle Salazar, NOVA Board Member TJ Wilcox-Olson, and NOVA Member Valerie Anderson.

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MEMBER-GET-A-MEMBER CAMPAIGN

November 1, 2014 - May 1, 2015

The 2014-2015 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign resulted in recruiting nearly 200 new members and is now officially over. We are excited to announce the names of the campaign winners!

- 2015 Complimentary Annual Meeting Registration and 2 complimentary nights at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel, Washington, D.C., for recruiting 25 new members are awarded to:
  - Ericka Reynolds, James A. Haley Veterans Hospital
  - Patricia Watson, Edith Nourse Rogers VA Medical Center

- 2015 Complimentary Annual Meeting Registration for recruiting 15 new members is awarded to:
  - Larry Lemos, VA Long Beach Health Care System

- 2016 Complimentary NOVA membership for recruiting at least five new members is awarded to:
  - Amanda Graves, Charles George VA Medical Center
  - Gwendolyn Sanders, VA Northern Arizona Health Care System
  - Martha Van Kaupp, Charles George VA Medical Center
  - Rebecca White, Lexington VA Medical Center
  - Wendall Wilson, Overton Brooks VA Medical Center

We would like to thank all NOVA members who participated in this campaign. We look forward to your participation in future campaigns and, as always, encourage you to spread the word about NOVA, the only professional organization for VA nurses.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!
Welcome Aboard! New NOVA Members
May 1 - July 1, 2015

102 BIRMINGHAM VA MEDICAL CENTER
Kim Rutley-Campbell

116 VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OF THE OZARKS
Ladona Kuhnert

126 VA LONG BEACH HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Aquilina Abonita
Jennifer Bisol
Marta Castro
Erin Ellithorpe
Yvonne Ginez-Gonzales
Brian Groover
LaShawn Jennings
Katherine Kadrilk-Petrarca
Brad Luke
Ryan Manapat
Kaitlyn Nguyen
Lee Petrarca
Shirelyn Smith
Sue Tin
Vi Tran
Jennifer Tumulak
Chiomia Uduhiri
Marla Weiss
Lori Wommack

129 VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Allison Beasley
Bridget McShea

130 VA GREATER LOS ANGELES HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Rozalind Barnett-Hampton
Stephanie Crook
Khahn Hoang
Diane Howell
Cynthia Key
Tracy Purifoy

140 SAN FRANCISCO VA MEDICAL CENTER
Cynthia Hallmark

154 WILMINGTON VA MEDICAL CENTER
Linda Tyler

156 WASHINGTON DC VA MEDICAL CENTER
Patricia Crawford

166 JAMES A. HALEY VA HOSPITAL
Mary Jane Britt
Carolyn Hysell
Anne Prince
Jaime Roia
Kelly Sanford

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170 ATLANTA VA MEDICAL CENTER
Jeanne Samter

202 VA EASTERN KANSAS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Kayla Vanden Hull

206 LEXINGTON VA MEDICAL CENTER
Lynn Adams
Sue Berry
Brenda Broughton
Yvonne Chabot
Marjorie Jamison
Tonya Page

212 SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Shynell Bennett
Francine Perkins

218 VA MARYLAND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Sheila Bryson-Eckroade
Michella Carter
Joseph Johnson
Laura Nielsen

224 EDITH NOURSE ROGERS MEMORIAL VA
Marilyn Arnold
Mark Higuera
Jackie Honnors
Larry Johansen
Berenece Kobu
Christopher O’Doherty
James Okeyigwe
Emily Veloso

226 VA BOSTON HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
William Farrell
Paula Finneran
Michael Frazer
Ngoc Hoang
Kristen Leonard
Finneran Paula
Mary Rovaris
Cynthia Tibert

236 JOHN D. DINGELL VA MEDICAL CENTER
Clara Roper

238 VA ANN ARBOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Barbara Watson

246 MINNEAPOLIS VA MEDICAL CENTER
Jill David Jensen

256 KANSAS CITY VA MEDICAL CENTER
Carrie Johnson
Patrick Onweazu

260 ST. LOUIS VA MEDICAL CENTER
Mark Zacheis

262 VA MONTANA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Susan Niebaum

273 VA SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Regina McFerren

274 MANCHESTER VA MEDICAL CENTER
Cynthia Harvey

282 SAMUEL S. STRATTON VA MEDICAL CENTER
Clarice Cabahug

290 VA NEW YORK HARBOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Esteban Ramirez-Orta

294 VA WESTERN NEW YORK HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Megan Diaz

308 CHARLES GEORGE VA MEDICAL CENTER
Sandra Cagle
Theodora Ledford
Natalie Parce
Dianne Warney

312 FAYETTEVILLE VA MEDICAL CENTER
Deanna Lane

322 LOUIS STOKES CLEVELAND VA MEDICAL CENTER
Michelle Augustine

326 JOHN D. DINGELL VA MEDICAL CENTER
Clara Roper

328 VA ANN ARBOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Barbara Watson

346 LEBANON VA MEDICAL CENTER
Bobbie Yoder

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Sharon Schippang

384 VA NORTH TEXAS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Janice Walker

388 MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY VA MEDICAL CENTER
Claire Whipple

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Patricia Gerichten
Adelaide Mason
Esther McClatchie
Malliga Ravindar
Verlecia Self
Vasuki Sethuraman
Rhoda Smith
Theresa Taylor
Lois Walters-Threat
Barbara Zello

444 TOMAH VA MEDICAL CENTER
Rebecca Mandel

NOVA News
SUMMER 2015

Welcome Aboard! New NOVA Members
May 1 - July 1, 2015

NOVA News is published four times a year and is your newsletter. Submit articles that are of interest to our members. Let us know about your chapter activities. Write a few lines about what your chapter did this year and send a picture. Sharing what you do can provide recognition for your chapter as well as ideas for other chapters.

The next deadline for articles: October 1, 2015.
Send your articles via email to nova@vanurse.org
Ahead of Our Time
Chapel Hill’s First Nightingales

In 1951, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill opened its doors to the new School of Nursing’s small class of 27 female freshman students—the first full class of freshman women at the university.

In this collection of memoirs, nurses who graduated from the program share memories of their journey through the state’s first four-year bachelor of science in nursing program and how this new approach to nursing education shaped the rest of their lives and influenced the education of nurses in North Carolina.

UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing, Class of 1955

Arlene Morgan Thurstone
Bette Leon Davis
Donna Blair Booe
Geraldine Snider Laport
Gloria Huss Peele
Gwenlyn Huss Butler
Janet Merritt Littlejohn
Joy Smith Burton
Louise Norwood Thomas
Martha Yount Cline
Mary Anderson Leggette
Pat Colvard Johnson
Ramelle Hylton Starnes
Sally Winn Nicholson
Sara Blaylock Flynn
Virginia Edwards Coupe

Order your copy of Ahead of Our Time: Chapel Hill’s First Nightingales at www.amzn.com/0692320059
Paperback: $15 Kindle eBook: $4.49
All profits will be donated to the UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing

Retired And Still A Resource...

If you plan to retire from the VA within the next six months, please consider joining as a NOVA Nurse Emeritus Member.

GOVERNANCE

The Nurse Emeritus Group is comprised of NOVA members who have retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs or who plan retirement within the next calendar year.

The Nurse Emeritus Group is an established group within the Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA) and, as such, adheres to all policies and practices as governed by the Bylaws of NOVA.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Nurse Emeritus Group exists to support the mission and vision of NOVA through continuing engagement of nurses who have retired or have immediate plans to retire from active employment in VA.

The Nurse Emeritus Group seeks to recognize and value the expertise of retired VA nurses through substantive projects that support the working VA nurses and the veterans they serve.

The Nurse Emeritus Group strives to recognize and celebrate the contribution of retired VA nurses through positive affirmation programs and projects.

What are the dues for Nurse Emeritus members?
The dues for NOVA Nurse Emeritus members are $50 per year.

What does the Nurse Emeritus Group do?
Nurse Emeritus projects currently include: “Cool Scarves” for soldiers deployed in the Middle East and NOVA membership promotion and fundraising efforts to support nursing scholarships.

Wear Your NOVA Membership Pin Wherever You Go!

Show others the pride you take in your professional organization and your VA nursing career!

Go to the NOVA website and purchase your NOVA pin today! Price: $20.00.
Celebrating NOVA’s History - Part I

By Nancy Claflin, DNP, MS, RN, CENP, NEA-BC, CPHQ, FNAHQ

NOVA began in the fall of 1980, when Public Law 96-330 was passed by Congress giving raises only to VA physicians without the benefit of direct input from VA nurses. This precipitated a call for action. Barbara Chambers, Chuck Naparalla, and Tom Fiala from Hines developed a nationwide professional nursing organization for VA nurses with an educational and legislative focus.

In the years that followed, NOVA exceeded expectations, becoming the voice of VA nurses nationwide. This is a brief summary of NOVA’s legislative highlights:

Hearings, Testimony, and Influence by NOVA

- January, 1982 Oversight Hearings with Senator Dennis DeConcini in Arizona with NOVA RNs from Phoenix, Prescott, and Tucson testifying, the first time a direct care RN gave testimony.
- April 24, 1985 Annamarie Leyden testified at House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Hearings regarding impact on VA of Grace Commission recommendation to reduce Grade 11-15 positions, sharing NOVA’s concerns about maintaining quality of care if VA can’t recruit and retain qualified staff.
- 1987 NOVA tested before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on VA Medical Fiscal Year 1988 Budget.
- February 4, 1987 Testimony by E. Elaine Lloyd and Noreen Sommer entered into Hearing record.
- April 22, 1987 Elaine Lloyd testified for House Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care on status of recruitment and retention of VA health care personnel.
- May 21, 1987 Elaine Lloyd testified before Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.
- March, 1988 Noreen Sommer testified before the Department of Health and Human Services Commission on Nursing on retention of nurses.
- June, 1988 Claudette Morrissey testified before Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on nursing shortage and recruitment and retention of VA nurses.
- September, 1988 Testimony presented to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs addressing recruitment, retention, supplies, medications, equipment, support staff.
- February 9, 1989 Claudette Morrissey testified at House Committee on Veterans Affairs on budget.
- April, 1989 Testimony submitted to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on recruitment and retention.
- April 12, 1989 Claudette Morrissey testified before House Veterans Affairs Committee on HR 1199, which expanded the VA nurse salary schedule.
- June 20, 1990 Testimony presented for first public hearing of VA Commission on Future Structure of Health Care.
- July 11, 1990 Bette Davis presented testimony to House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on status of child care centers.
- August 28, 1990 Noreen Sommer presented testimony to House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on delivery of health care by Dallas VA.
- February, 1991 Noreen Sommer presented NOVA’s testimony on Fiscal Year 1992 budget for House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs.
- May 22, 1991 Noreen Sommer prepared a statement for Commission on Future Structure of Veterans Health Care, recommending elevation of Chief Nurse Executive in VA and, that at local level, the Chief Nurse position be parallel to Chief of Staff.
- August 21, 1991 Noreen Sommer presented testimony to House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on delivery of benefits and services to women veterans.
- February 19, 1992 Noreen Sommer testified before House Veterans Affairs Committee on funding for patient care.
- February 27, 1992 Noreen Sommer testified before Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on funding for patient care.
- April 29, 1992 Bette Davis testified before Hospitals and Health Care Subcommittee of House Veterans Affairs Committee on amendments to the Nurse Pay Act of 1990.
- June 3, 1992 Bette Davis testified before Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on amendments to Nurse Pay Act of 1990.
- 1992 Bette Davis and Margaret Kruckemeyer testified before House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on sexual harassment in the work place and women veterans’ health care.
- April 27, 1993 Louise Stephens presented testimony for NOVA and ANA before Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on role of VA health care in national health care reform.
- 1993 Bette Davis and Nancy Lydon attended a briefing on President’s Task Force on National Health Care Reform at White House.
- May 14, 1993 NOVA submitted responses to questions submitted by Senator Rockefeller as a follow up to April 27, 1993 Hearing.
- June 23, 1993 Bette Davis testified before House VA Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on VA Provisions of Health Care to Women Veterans and other issues, and provided written testimony for Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on sexual trauma services, women’s healthcare, education debt reduction, rural health care clinics, adult day health care, hospice services.

www.vanurse.org

(Part II and Part III to appear in future NOVA newsletters.)
NOVA 2015 Board of Directors

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NOVA Mission Statement
NOVA: Shaping and Influencing Health Care within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

NOVA Vision Statement
VA nurses will provide high quality nursing care. VA nurses will have an optimal work environment. VA nurses will be well informed on relevant issues that impact VA health care and nursing practice. VA nurses will have a strong voice in the legislative arena. VA nurses will have a strong presence at the VHA corporate leadership level. VA nurses will be NOVA members.