



U.S. Public Health Service Nursing
Chief Nurse Officer's Newsletter
RADM Kerry Paige Nessler
August 2012



Dear PHS Civilian, Tribal, and Commissioned Corps Nurses,

Congratulations to the Nurse Officers who were selected for Temporary and Permanent promotions! Selection for this honor acknowledges your exceptional performance, outstanding leadership, and unwavering commitment to our mission to *protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation*. It also points toward a significantly new level of responsibility for you to demonstrate officership, duty to your fellow officers, and the people we serve.

I look forward to attending the upcoming promotion ceremonies organized by the different agencies.

Congratulations to the award winners during the 2012 Nurse Category Day:

2012 Nurse Responder of the year Award

CAPT Angela Martinelli was the **2012 Nurse Responder of the year Award recipient**. Each year, the Nurse Professional Advisory Committee honors a Commissioned Corps Officer for commitment and contributions to the readiness and response in the nurse category with the Nurse Responder of the Year Award. There were many distinguished candidates this year and the selection process was highly competitive. CAPT Martinelli was selected for exceptional nursing care on the Preventive Medicine Team in Nicaragua and Panama while participating in the Continuing Promise 2010 mission on the USS Iwo Jima.

Lucille Woodville Award

CAPT Betty Chern-Hughes and **Mr. Clifton Kenon** were the winners of the **2012 Lucille Woodville Award**. Lucille Woodville started her noteworthy career in the Indian Health Service (IHS) in 1956. She established the first Nurse Midwifery Service in Bethel, Alaska, to guarantee the underserved there received high quality obstetrical care. She retired in 1973, after serving as Assistant Chief (1964-1971) and Chief (1971-1973) of the Maternal Child Health Branch, Division of Indian Health. An award in her honor is given out every year to a nurse midwife or a maternal-child health nurse whose work has resulted in significant contributions to the health and well-being of mothers and newborns. This year the NPAC is pleased to announce that there are two winners of the Lucille Woodville award.

Mabel May Wagner Award

CDR Sophia Russell was the recipient for the **2012 Mabel May Wagner Award**, which recognizes professional nurses who have demonstrated resourcefulness, dedication, outstanding technical skills, and exceptional ability to apply nursing standards and principles.

Carruth Wagner Innovative Collaboration Award

CDR Moira McGuire and **CDR Marilyn Ridenour** were the recipients for the **2012 Carruth Wagner Innovative Collaboration Award** which recognizes professional nurses who have innovatively contributed to successful partnerships or collaborations between countries, programs, agencies, projects or initiatives. This award recognizes successful contributions to building health partnerships and collaborations that foster the development of innovative health delivery systems and healthy populations.

Carruth Wagner Nurse of the Year Award

Ms. Leah Westover was the recipient for the **2012 Carruth Wagner Nurse of the Year Award, and**

Carruth Wagner Nursing Leadership Award

CDR Joseph Bertulfo was the recipient for the **2012 Carruth Wagner Nursing Leadership Award,**

Both Carruth Wagner awards acknowledges the nominee's successful leadership and contributions to education, training, career development and mentoring, all of which contribute to building a strong nursing workforce and a strong public health infrastructure.

Past Conferences & Meetings:

2012 Nurse Leaders in Native Care Conference (NLiNC)

The 2012 Nurse Leaders in Native Care Conference (NLiNC) took place from 12-15 June 2012, in San Diego, California. The theme was "Nursing Leadership: Influencing and Shaping Healthcare". Some major topics included a focus on the IOM Report on the Future of Nursing, mental and behavioral health strategies, non-communicable disease burden, healthy weight – healthy diet, future of nursing workforce, EHR, Baby Friendly Hospitals, nursing leadership, and medical home concepts. I spoke about the Global Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases, National Prevention Strategy, Affordable Care Act and Nursing, and the Federal Public Health Service Nursing Strategic Plan.

Congratulations to the 2012 NLiNC Award recipients. And, congratulations to CAPT Celissa Stephens on her appointment as the new IHS Chief Nurse Officer and to CAPT Regena Dale for her outstanding year as Acting IHS Chief Nurse. CAPT Dale was given a PHS nurse lantern for her continual demonstration of leadership and officership.

Some photos taken from the conference can be found below:



Photo: RADM Nessler and CAPT Stephens along with Native American Nurses and dancers



Photo: Native American performance during the 2012 Nurse Leaders in Native Care Conference (NLiNC)

FY 2012 second Nursing All-Hands Meeting

This year's second Nursing All-Hands Meeting for FY 2012 took place on 13 June 2012 in San Diego, California in conjunction with the NLiNC meeting. The meeting was well-attended and many thanks to CAPTs Celissa Stephens, Regena Dale, and other IHS Nurses for leading and coordinating this significant event.

COF Training Symposium and Nurse Category Day – College Park, Maryland.

The 2012 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium was held in College Park, Maryland, 19-21 June. Both the Symposium and the Nurse Category Day events were a huge success. We were honored by the presentations and attendance of the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH), Dr. Howard Koh, and the Surgeon General, VADM Regina Benjamin, during the Symposium. Over 1,200 participants attended. The Nurse Category Day event examined the Role of the Affordable Care Act in the National Prevention Strategy, How Implementation of Evidence-Based Strategies Impacts the Tobacco Epidemic, National Nursing Center Consortium, and Federal Nurses Contributing to Advancing the National Prevention Strategy

Congratulations to CAPT Susan Orsega, NPAC Chair, CDRs Bernetta Lane & Nicole Knight, Nurse Category Day Chairs, and the Nursing Category Day Planning Committee on a job well done!

Spotlight on PHS Nurses and others:

Please join me in congratulating these nurses for their exceptional leadership and accomplishments!

Hope and Smiles, by David Cline, CDMRP science writer, US Army Medical Department:

CAPT Angela Martinelli, a PHS Nurse Officer with the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs is a volunteer with Operation Smile, an organization that provides safe, effective reconstructive surgery for children and adults born with facial deformities such as cleft lip and cleft palate. A recent mission to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, CAPT Martinelli's 14th since 1993, provided another example of just how special an operating room can be when an entire staff works together. What followed after two days of screening was four, 10-hour days of surgery, consulting, consoling, and reassuring. More than 100 surgeries were performed, and nearly every patient came away with a story of joy. CAPT Martinelli said, "I had long been interested in practicing nursing in remote locations and non-traditional settings, and Operation Smile offered both of those. The opportunity to get to know the people of the community and their culture was invaluable."

A big thank you to CAPT Martinelli for the wonderful work that she has been doing for almost a decade in representing PHS and the Nurse Category by serving those in remote locations and non-traditional settings.



Photo: CAPT Angela Martinelli, a Nurse Officer with the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, comforts an 11-month old boy following cleft lip surgery.

CDR Stephanie Bardack was presented with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Outstanding Student Award at the USUHS Graduate School of Nursing Awards Ceremony on 14 May 2012. Congratulations, CDR Bardack, you bring great honor to the USPHS Nursing Corps!

The Outstanding Student Award is sponsored by MOAA, and is the highest academic program honor graduating students can receive from their faculty. This award is presented to the graduating student who demonstrates the highest levels of academic performance while simultaneously demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities. There is one award given for the GSN PhD program. Criteria for the award include GPA, excellence in research/scholarship, oral presentation/writing skills, clinical competence, leadership, officership, a commitment to fellow students, military nursing professionalism, and team building/class professionalism.



Photo: L-R - Dr. Charles Rice, USUHS President; Dr. Ada Sue Hinshaw, GSN Dean; CDR Bardack; Dr. Penny Pierce, PhD Program Director; CAPT Kathryn M. Beasley (USN Retired), MOAA representative

LCDR Colleen Wahl recently completed and graduated from the University of Maryland, School of Nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program in June 2012. She graduated from the advanced nursing education program with honors. Congratulations to LCDR Wahl on reaching a major milestone and bringing evidence-based nursing practice to PHS!



Photo: LCDR Colleen Wahl, far left

“Hope”, Quilted Poster by CDR LaQuitha Mohair

“Hope”, known as the poster that just happens to be quilted! “Hope”, originated as a power point presentation with the distinguished title, “Deployment Perspective: A Bird’s Eye View.”

CDR LaQuitha Mohair states:

“I submitted an abstract for a power point presentation and anxiously awaited the email response. When I received the less than favorable response, I was quite disappointed. I was then offered the opportunity to submit a poster presentation in lieu of the power point presentation. Resolving myself to the lesser academic representation of my Deployment Perspective to a poster presentation, I graciously accepted the offer. As I began to envision how to share my Deployment Perspective, I thought, I’ll just quilt my poster.

There are so many things I want to share related to the success of the intricate processes accomplished during my deployment to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as a USPHS Officer, during the aftermath of hurricane Gustav. It seemed my real life success stories would have to wait. I wanted to highlight USPHS, and the role we, **Officers** play as we support our nation and the world during times of disaster.

I also wanted to introduce the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) to future generations, and young adults currently pursuing careers in health related fields. **“HOPE”**, the quilted poster, relays to its viewers that **USPHS Officers** are **currently** being deployed for Worldwide Disasters, under a wide umbrella of health related disciplines and we, **USPHS Officers**, are **ready** and **willing** to **serve**.”



Photo: CDR LaQuitha Mohair with the "Hope" Quilted Poster

Recent Reports and Programs:

First Lady Michelle Obama today announced the winners of the *Let's Move!* [Communities on the Move](#) video challenge.

The initiative invited faith and community leaders to share their stories about their efforts to promote wellness and solve the problem of childhood obesity in their communities. The First Lady encouraged participating organizations to create videos that showcased programs related to *Let's Move Faith and Communities* that were creative, effective, sustainable, replicable, and inspirational. Videos focused on at least one focus area, including efforts to promote physical activity, access to healthy, affordable food for children, and healthy eating using MyPlate, the federal government's new food icon.

Communities across the country responded enthusiastically to the challenge, submitting videos that represented a broad range of programs, strategies and age groups -- from toddlers to teenagers -- with submissions from 21 states. A panel of judges from *Let's Move!*, USDA, and HHS chose one winner and several Honorable Mentions. The Popular Choice Award was given to the eligible video with the most votes online. All the winners will be invited to the White House and will meet First Lady Michelle Obama at a date to be announced.

To view the winners of the *Let's Move! Communities on the Move* video challenge, please visit:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/07/11/first-lady-michelle-obama-announces-winners-let-s-move-video-challenge>.

First Lady Michelle Obama and the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition have announced the new fitness initiative to support the families of deployed members of the National Guard and Reserve by helping them lead healthier, more active lifestyles.

The program partners with trade associations representing fitness professionals and health clubs, which are providing free services such as personal training, fitness instruction, and free 6-month health club memberships for certain family members of deployed Reservists and National Guard members. Clubs may also provide additional benefits such as childcare, children's programming, group classes, discounts for veterans, and discounts for active duty families.

Service members and their families can learn more online about this effort and [find participating fitness instruction](#). They can also find participating clubs [online](#).

For more information about [Joining Forces](#) and how military families can lead healthier and more active lifestyles, visit the [President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition](#).

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings:

The 118th Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) Meeting is scheduled for 11-16 November 2012, in Phoenix, AZ.

News pertaining to Commissioned Corps Nurse Officers:

Operational Dress Uniform (ODU)

The new ODU will be available for purchase in the August/September 2012 timeframe. Please be on the lookout for policy and directives of proper ODU wear to be posted on CCMIS. You will be provided up to 1 year to purchase the new ODU.

Enjoy the remaining hot days of Summer 2012 and *thank you* for your outstanding nursing service.

Sincerely,

Kerry

RADM Kerry Paige Nesseler
Assistant Surgeon General
Chief Nurse Officer, USPHS
