

MNA Members Only

March - April

MISSISSIPPI NURSES' ASSOCIATION

2008

Ever-evolving technology facilitates changes

MNA newsletter goes digital

This will be the last membership-wide mailing of *MNA Members Only*. The May-June issue will be delivered by e-mail.

"Moving the newsletter to electronic distribution will save the association about \$7,000 a

year by going to the MNA Website at www.msurses.org by going to the www.msurses.org/mna/mna_newsletter.asp.

"In order for the membership to make sure the newsletter keeps coming without interrup-

"We have done some electronic publication recently with blast e-mails announcing programs such as the MNA Historical SIG meeting held here Tuesday and with the Save-the-Date notice for the Nurse Practitioner Convention to be held April 25 and 26 in Natchez," Ricki Garrett, MNA executive director explained. "By using electronic notification, we can get more information to our membership in a more responsive manner than in the past."

There are several steps members should take in order to make sure receipt of the MNA electronic publications are accepted in their business or personal mail boxes.

SEE TECHNOLOGY, PAGE 7

Please update your MNA profile at www.msurses.org by logging in and clicking on profile.

It is important your e-mail address is accurate.

year in printing and mailing costs," said Betty Ruth Hawkins, MNA's marketing and communications director.

Beginning with the May-June issue, *MNA's Members Only* will come to members as an e-mail publication.

A copy of the newsletter can also be downloaded from the

association's website. "In addition, we are asking everyone to update their MNA profile online by logging in and clicking profile. It is important that your e-mail address is accurate," Hawkins said.

There are approximately 400 members without e-mail addresses or with inaccurate e-mail addresses on file.

Mark calendars for NP convention 2008

Mark **Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26** on your calendar for the Mississippi Nurse Practitioners' Annual Convention to be held at the Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main St., in the heart of the Natchez Historic Downtown District.

Continuing Education tracks include: Adult and Family Practice, Gerontology Practice, Pediatric Practice, Controlled Substances and Independent

Practice. Speakers include: K.C. Arnold, Jamie Brockman, Catherine Wells, W. Lane Edwards Jr., Ricki Garrett, Kimberly Williams, Bruce Giamalva, Patsy Smyth, Kelly Engelman and more!

To download a registration form, go to http://www.msurses.org/event_items.asp and click on April 25 or 26.

For more information contact Angela Weathersby at aweathersby@msurses.org.

Make your hotel reservation at the Country Inn and Suites by March 24. Call: (601) 446-9994 Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Delegates named to ANA House

Members of the Mississippi Nurses Association will send 10 delegates to Washington, D.C., June 25-27 to participate in the American Nurses Association House of Delegates. Election of delegates was held in January.

Candidates for the House were self-nominated between October and the end of November.

Delegates are Debbie Allen, MSN, RN; Ann Barnes, BSN, RN; Pam Farris, BSN, RN, OCN; Juanita Graham, MSN, RN; Gayle Harrell, MSN, NP; Janet Harris, RN, MSN, CNA, BC; Phyllis Polk Johnson, MSN, APRN, BC; Carl Mangum, RN, MSN, PhD(c), CHS, FF; Donna Scoggin, RN, MSN, BC; and Mary A. Ware, MSN, Ed.D.

Alternates are Dan Burgess, RN, MS; Marilyn Ellis, RN, MSN; Deborah Mauffray, RN, BSN; and Kimberly Williams, PhD, MSN, RN.

Executive

A MESSAGE FROM THE

Director



I want to first thank all of you who have contributed in so many ways to the success of this year's Statewide Nursing Summit and to the 2008 Nightingale Awards. Although much of the responsibility for these events is placed on the MNA staff, we could not be successful without the hard work of the MNA board of directors and the committees. I want to express my appreciation to Bess Blackwell and the Health Affairs Committee and Phyllis Johnson

We are continuing to update our technology capability at MNA and would ask that you please provide us with your current e-mail address.

and the MNA PAC for their assistance with the Summit. It is always our intention to provide the nurses and nursing students of our state with up to date information on the healthcare issues that are important to them and to the citizens of the state and to provide informative and engaging speakers. We owe a great deal of appreciation, too, to our exhibitors. This year we had a record number – 57– and they were very enthusiastic about the event and our Events Coordinator, Angela Weathersby. Please help us continue to express our appreciation to those who support the work of the Mississippi Nurses Association.

I would also like to thank Rebecca Askew and the Nightingale Awards Committee for the beautiful gala on Feb. 4. Six hundred guests attended this event to recognize and honor those who represent the best in nursing and healthcare. Once again, *The Clarion Ledger* recognized our winners with a full page ad.

We are continuing to update our technology capability at MNA and would ask that you please provide us with your current e-mail address if you have one and we do not have it. *The Members Only* will be provided in the future in an online version, and we don't want you to miss receiving this important newsletter. We hope you are enjoying the blast e-mails and other communications from MNA.

Dr. Mary Stewart and the Johnson & Johnson committee are working hard to distribute the funds from the Johnson and Johnson event held on the coast last April. Scholarships have been made available, the criteria for awarding grants for faculty development at the schools of nursing is being developed, and mental health continuing education workshops will be offered to nurses on the Gulf Coast.

The legislative session is in full swing, and the MNA Health Affairs Committee is meeting every Friday afternoon to read the bills and decide on MNA's position. Our legislative agenda this year has included lobbying for school nurses, advocating for an increased faculty member at each school of nursing that desires to increase capacity and requesting funds to do a feasibility study on placing simulators in regions around the state for use by the schools of nursing and the local hospitals.

Please help us to promote the profession of nursing by becoming a member of MNA.

MNA BOARD

Pam Farris, RN, BSN, OCN
President
pfarris@nursing.umsmed.edu

Carl Mangum, RN, MSN, PhD(c),
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cmangum@son.umsmed.edu

Linda Todd, RN, BS, MS
Secretary
ltodd@jarmc.org

Donna Williams, RN, MSN
Treasurer
djwilliams@iccms.edu

Marilyn Ellis, NP
Council on Education
marvellis@aol.com

Bess C. Blackwell,
RN, MSN, CNA, BC
Council on Health Affairs
bblackwell@nursing.umsmed.edu

Ann Barnes, BSN, RN
Council on Organizational Affairs
abarnes@pcnursing.com

Laura Schenk, PhD., RN, CNNP
Council on Nursing Research
lschenk@son.umsmed.edu

Tearsanee Carlisle
RN, BSN, OCN, NP
Council on Nursing Practice
tearsin@aol.com

Jackie Williams, MSN, NP-C
Council on Advanced Practice
jackiewilliams@mbhs.org

MNA STAFF

Ricki R. Garrett
Executive Director

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Lobbyist

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Events and Continuing
Education Coordinator

Deborah Norman
Finance Administrator and
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Nurses honor exceptional service

A record turnout attended the fourth annual Mississippi Nurses Association and Foundation's 2008 Nightingale Awards Gala on Feb. 4, in the Marriott Hotel Downtown, Jackson.

The annual Nightingale Awards is the "academy award," honoring exceptional service in the nursing and healthcare industry across Mississippi.

Syndicated political columnist and *The Clarion Ledger* Perspective Editor, Sid Salter, was emcee of the black-tie event that recorded more than 600 in attendance.

"The Nightingale Awards distinguish those men, women and organizations that have made a special effort to excel in the area of healthcare," said Ricki Garrett, executive director of the Mississippi Nurses Association, co-host of the event.

MNA Hall of Fame 2008



Mary Pat Curtis



Mary Sprayberry



Mary Stainton

Inductees into the Mississippi Nurses Association Hall of Fame for 2008 are Mary Pat Curtis of Columbus, Mary Sprayberry of Nettleton and Mary E. Stainton of Hattiesburg.

Winners for 2008 include:

- Jennifer Brooke Edwards, University of Mississippi Health Care - Nurse Rookie of the Year;
- Paula Brown, North Mississippi Medical Center - Nurse Mentor of the Year;
- Tonya Moore, University of

Mississippi Medical Center - Nurse in Non-Traditional Setting of the Year;

- Sanjosa Martin, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center - Nurse Researcher of the Year;
- Judy Baker, Jones County Junior College and Rebecca Tustain, Hinds Community College - Nurse Educators of the Year;
- Kaye Bender, University of Mississippi Medical Center - School of Nursing Administrator of the Year;
- Northeast Mississippi Community College- School

of Nursing of the Year;

- Karen George, North MS Medical Center - Nursing Administrator of the Year;
- Deaconess HomeCare - Nurse Employer of the Year;
- Baptist Memorial Hospital, Union County - Hospital of the Year (Less than 100 Beds);
- University of Mississippi Health Care - Hospital of the Year (100 Beds or More);
- Leigh-Anne Scroggins, North MS Medical Center - Clinical Practice Nurse of the Year;
- Lisa Marie Byrd, Byrd Healthcare, LLC and the Bolton Family Clinic - Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year;
- Debrynda Davey, University of Mississippi Medical Center - Community Service Nurse of the Year; and,
- Pamela Gail Hodges, North Mississippi Medical Center - Nurse of the Year.

Council on Nursing Practice looking to grow membership

By **Tearsanee Carlisle**
Director, Council on Nursing Practice

I would like to take this opportunity to make an appeal to the nurses of the state to assist me in planning and implementing activities for the Council on Nursing Practice.

As you all know, Robyn Caldwell was unable to complete her term as the director of this council, and I was chosen to complete her term.

The Council on Nursing Practice is concerned with issues that affect our practice on all levels. Some popular topics are

unlicensed personnel, appropriate delegation, staffing, nursing shortage, continuing education, and safety.

In an effort to gain participation from all nurses in the state, I would like to include as many as possible in the planning process. I would like to hear from you personally.

Through March 21, I would like for you to e-mail me at tearsim@aol.com with your concerns related to nursing practice. If you are interested in serving on the council, indicate that in your correspondence.

Thanks for your interest. I look forward to hearing from you.

MNA Financial Report

July 1, 2007 - January 31, 2008

The following financial report of the Mississippi Nurses Association is provided to give the membership an up-to-date accounting of the year's revenue and expenditures to date. This report is in response to the request of the membership at the 2007 House of Delegates for increased transparency in financial reporting.

MNA President

Revenue		Expenditures	
Proposed YTD	Actual YTD	Proposed YTD	Actual YTD
\$542,764.96	\$539,160.83	\$542,765.46	\$466,192.82
		Profit YTD	
		\$72,968.01	

MNA's Reserve Fund continues to experience positive growth.



Members of the Council on Health Affairs meet regularly during the legislative session with MNA Executive Director Ricki Garrett, seated center left, and Lobbyist Betty Dickson, seated center right, to review legislation affecting Mississippi nurses. From left NP Jackie Williams, director, Council on Advanced Practice; Gillian Poole, MASN director of legislation and student nurse at University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing; Donna Scoggin, chair, Jones County Junior College Associate Degree Nursing Program; Melinda Rush, executive director, Mississippi State Board of Nursing; Deborah Hoover, MNA District 12 president, and Gayle Harrell, a Nurse Practitioner in the Department of Surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Legislative issues updated

The Mississippi legislature is now beyond two major deadlines: the first to pass bills out of committees in their own house and second, to pass bills from the floor of their own houses.

Bills that did not receive any attention in the committee process are now considered dead for this session. Included in dead bills is HB 521 which would have allowed the practice of Christian Science nursing from the Nursing Practice Law.

One of MNA's bills, SB 2590 to do a feasibility study on nursing **clinical simulation labs**, has passed the Senate. The companion bill, HB1091 has passed the House and has been sent to the Senate.

Both bills for the **schools nurses** never made it out of committee. HB 1356 and SB 2594 would have placed school nurses in the 'leave' section of the law relating to teachers and HB 776 and SB 2805 would have removed the cap on the number of school nurses eligible for the \$6,000 salary increase upon completion of school nurse certification. They both are dead for this session.

SB 2765, known as the **trauma care** bill, would implement a 'pay or play' program in order to fund trauma care in Mississippi. Hospitals not wishing to participate in the trauma

care program would have to pay into the plan if they opt out. This bill passed the Senate and there is a similar version in the House. The Mississippi Trauma Care System needs an additional \$32 million to stay afloat. This bill also allows for fee increases on driver's licenses, gun permits, boat registrations, ATV and motorcycle registrations.

HB 1327 is the first attempt at a serious plan to **fight obesity**. It authorizes the University of Mississippi Medical center to establish an obesity clinic in the Delta using federal money or private grants. Unfortunately, there is no state funding committed to this effort.

Other bills opposed by MNA have died in committee, and members can search for those bills online at www.ls.state.ms.us and clicking on bill status. Look for 'all measures' to find those bills that have died in committee.

Additional bills related to nurses included HB 473 and HB 852. The first allows NPs to be one of the team of two to examine patients for mental health commitment, and the other is an asthma bill that encourages additional school nurses in the school systems and encourages certification in **asthma education**.

Quick Notes

District 5 looking to connect members

District 5 continues to meet every other month in different locations to try to make it as inviting to as many of the members as possible. We will be electing officers in April and planning our activities for nurses' appreciation week and community service project. Our next meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 15. The location for the next meeting is still to be determined.

For more information, you may contact Deborah J. Mauffray at dmauffray@bellsouth.net or (228) 255-8034.

Trying to get nurses involved in MNA at the local and state levels is one way the district is focusing on membership. "Rather than continue to keep trying to recruit new members, we have decided to concentrate on our current members and get them involved," said Deborah J. Mauffray, district president, "The district communicates mostly via e-mail, so if you have an e-mail address, please let me know and if you do not have an email address, please let me know how to send information through the postal service to the correct mailing address.

Photo gallery now available on Web

With the celebration of the 2008 Nightingale Awards, MNA's ever-evolving Website has launched its first Photo Gallery. Images from the Nightingale Awards have been posted and can be downloaded to your computer for sharing or for printing. Each image is in a 7" x 11" format at 72 dpi which is perfect for downsizing to a 4" x 6" image printable at 300 dpi.

For more information, contact Betty Ruth Hawkins at brhawkins@msnurses.org

SEE ISSUES, PAGE 7

Foundation fund raiser set April 19

Join the Mississippi Nurses Foundation for the Harmony for Health Inaugural Land Cruise to the Caribbean, 7 p.m., Saturday, April 19 at the Jackson Yacht Club.

Jackson's own Compozionz will headline the evening that features a Caribbean-themed dinner, dancing and a \$5,000 draw down all in support of MNF's High-Five, hand washing wellness program.

The High-Five hand washing wellness program, is a collaborative program of the Mississippi Nurses Foundation funded, in part by a \$25,000 grant from the Health Management Associates (HMA)-Mississippi Division involving 11 elementary schools across the state. The program is conducted in the schools by school nurses.

Performing with and for such musical icons as Michael Bolton, Grace Bumbry, Cassandra Wilson, Peabo Bryson, Ronald Isley, The O'Jay's and an array of artists from Germany, Sweden and Italy, Jackson's own Compozionz will launch the foundation's first land cruise event in fine fashion. Their energetic, dynamic choreography and impeccable sound is guaranteed to make the crowd roar and embrace the rebirth of Popular/Soul music.

Tickets for the Land Cruise are \$50 each and include the Caribbean buffet and entertainment. Tickets for the \$5,000 Draw-down



The Mississippi Nurses Foundation invites you to share in the most dynamic and harmonic show on the planet at its Harmony for Health Inaugural Land Cruise to the Caribbean, April 19 at the Jackson Yacht Club. Jackson's own Compozionz headlines the evening which will feature dinner, dancing and a \$5,000 draw down all in support of the MNF's High-Five, hand washing wellness program.

are \$100. Ticket holders do not have to be present to win.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Jean Jones at the Mississippi Nurses Foundation at (601) 898-0850 or contact any of the following MNF Board :

- Lisa Haynie(601) 984-6226
lhaynie@son.umsmed.edu
- Renée Williams(601) 984-6227
rwilliams@son.umsmed.edu
- Linda Moore
lemoorej@aol.com
- Lance Davis(601) 605-0099
lancedavis@shearertaylor.com

- Vicki Bingham(662) 846-4257
vbingham@deltastate.edu
- Roland Robertson(601) 856-7116
rolrobertson@comcast.net
- Esther Mingee, RN(601) 445-6266
esther.mingee@nch.hma-corp.com
- Steve Brantley(601) 933-1000
stevebrantley@hotmail.com
- Tim Cockrell, MSN(601) 376-2681
tim.cockrell@cmmc.hma-corp.com
- Jason Fowler(601) 968-1545
jason.fowler@bxs.com
- Martha Rogers(601) 732-8944
martha@localink4.com

MNA Historical SIG previews newest UMMC library archive

David Juergens, Head of Collection Development and Archives Manager at the Rowland Medical Library, The University of Mississippi Medical Center, spoke to members and guests of the Mississippi Nurses Association's Historical Special Interest Group, Tuesday, Jan. 26 on the library's newest archive, *Mississippi Women in Health Professions, 1888-1977*.

The exhibit will open March 7 at the Jackson Medical Mall in conjunction with the library's presentation of the national traveling exhibit, *Changing the Face of Medicine*. The library is one of 61 sites to present this exhibit which honors the lives

and achievements of American women in medicine – both past and present.

Juergens said the library has worked almost two years in collecting and preparing the Mississippi exhibit which features a number of Mississippi nurses whose contributions have historic value.

Information regarding the library's programs during March and April can be accessed online at <http://library.umsmed.edu/> or by contacting the Rowland Medical Library at (601) 984-1230.

To join the MNA Historical SIG, contact Maureen Gruich or Jay Waits at mna@msnurses.org or call (601) 898-0670.



Juergens shows one slide included in the library's newest archive that features students from the University of Mississippi School of Nursing – 1940s including Joan Sullivan Berry, Wanda Stevens and Jay Waits.

MNA lobbying effort work for all Mississippi nurses regardless of participation, membership

By Pam Farris

President

Mississippi Nurses Association

Mississippi Nurses Association is the only nurse-affiliated association in the state that has its executive director and a full-time lobbyist at the Capitol. MNA's pres-

enrolled students can typically complete the associate degree nursing program requirements in one calendar year after graduation from high school

While the LPN program was a quick compromise and not particularly affecting registered nurses, had MNA not been actively working for all nurses, a level of

to address them. First, allowing anyone to be called a nurse without graduating from an accredited school of nursing and having passed licensure is unacceptable.

If my research is correct, there are only 21 states that have legislation that passed and that protects the use of the word *nurse* for any purpose other than the practice of nursing.

Perhaps, in the coming legislative session, MNA will look at adding Mississippi to the list of states which protects the use of the word *nursing*.

Second, the Christian Science Nursing bill would have opened the Nurse Practice Act to exempt a certain group of people from meeting requirements required of all others. I believe this sets a dangerous precedent for anyone to do this. The demand for qualified nurses will become more and more pressing in the future. The temptations to cut corners and lower requirements and qualifications will be great.

If bills such as the medication techs and this most recent Christian Science Nursing bill are not prevented from becoming law, not only will the profession of nursing be seriously compromised, the health and well being of those for whom we care will also be compromised.

*MNA is the voice
of the registered nurse in Mississippi.*

Our goal is to take care of you, while you take care of others.

ence at the Capitol and counsel to legislators are well-respected and often sought first when issues arise that need nurses' input to reach a solution.

Last year, a bill intended to provide more caregivers for long-term health care programs allowed for the creation of medication techs to administer medications with what MNA believed was insufficient training.

We responded by offering a proposal for an LPN dual-enrollment program that would provide an opportunity for students to leave high school prepared to take the NCLEX-PN® and with the completion of required support courses, these dual-

nursing care would have been, in our opinion, compromised.

This year, a bill supporting opening the Nurse Practice Act to allow a certain group of people identifying themselves as "Christian Science Nurses" was proposed during this legislative session. The measure exempted these specially identified individuals from the rules and regulations governing all nurses in the state by exempting them from having to graduate from a state-accredited nursing program and from taking and passing the NCLEX exam.

The bill died in committee, but there are two things about this proposed legislation that bothered me enough that I felt I needed

SEE EFFORTS, PAGE 7

Continuing Education Calendar

NOTE: An application for continuing nursing education credit has been submitted to the Mississippi Nurses Foundation, Inc., an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation for the following courses:

Multidisciplinary Vision:

Expanding New Horizons in Care

March 14

Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi, Inc.
Ridgeland, Miss.

Basic Arrhythmia Recognition

March 26, 27 & 28

Southwest Mississippi
Regional Medical Center
McComb, Miss.

The Wall of Silence

8th MHA Annual Conference

April 3-4

Mississippi Hospital Association
Madison, Miss.

What You Need To Know About Sterilization Services:

A Program

For Infection Control

April 22-24

University of Mississippi
Medical Center, Infection Control
Department
Jackson, Miss.

Current Issues Affecting African American Communities: Meeting Needs One by One

Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses
of Mississippi
May 1-4

Horizon Casino Hotel, Vicksburg, Miss.

technology

From Page 1

The first, Hawkins explained, is to make sure the e-mail address on file at MNA is an accurate e-mail address. And, the second step, is to check the blocked and spam folders on your e-mail editor and see that MNA or Constant Contact files are not blocked. Constant Contact is the digital service MNA uses for its electronic publications.

Members will have the opportunity to opt-out at anytime.

For more information, contact Betty Ruth Hawkins at brhawkins@msnurses.org or call (601) 898-0670.

ISSUES

From Page 4

These bills have passed the House and are now headed to the Senate.

Of particular interest to nurses is HB 1013, the Medicaid Technical Amendments Bill, which includes the \$1 increase in cigarette taxes. This bill passed the House and was sent to the Senate where it is anticipated that there will be no action on the tobacco tax.

Two important aspects of the Medicaid bill are the tax proposed on the hospitals (coming from the Senate) and a change to move the S-CHIP program under Medicaid.

MNA continues to work on the second phase of the nursing shortage task force, finding funding for additional nursing faculty in Mississippi Schools of Nursing. If MNA is successful, funding will be added into an appropriations bill.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

From Page 6

Here is the point, I guess I want to make: we are your advocates. Joining MNA gives you a voice in the process and lets you make a financial and personal contribution to the welfare of nursing in Mississippi.

I encourage you to become a part of the association that cares for you while you care for others.

MASN hosts second annual career day, expo



MASN hosted "Preparing for Your Career in Nursing" at the medical mall on February 9th. Over 100 students attended the free workshop. Students had the opportunity to listen to nurse leaders including MNA members Pam Farris, MNA President; Dr. Mary Ann Henriques, Lanelle Weems and Debbie Logan. The students also were able to meet the UMC aircare team and get an up close view of the helicopter. An afternoon session allowed students to talk individually with expert nurses from various fields of nursing. Students enjoyed networking with fellow students and nurses.





The Mississippi Nurses' Association
is the voice of registered nurses in Mississippi
and provides leadership to improve
the health of the people.

**31 Woodgreen Place
Madison, MS 39110**

Phone: (601) 898-0670

Fax: (601) 898-0190

E-mail: mna@msnurses.org

Visit us on the Web

www.msnurses.org

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For publishing information, contact

Betty Ruth Hawkins
at brhawkins@msnurses.org.

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MARCH - APRIL 2008 ISSUE

COPY AND USE FOR MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND EDUCATIONAL PROMOTION

**Save
THE DATE**

March

South Approver Unit Meeting

March 4 in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Contact JoAnn Johnson at (601) 288-2651

Mississippi Nurses Foundation

Trustees Meeting

Noon, Lunch; 12:30 p.m., Meeting, March 6

The Mississippi Center for Nursing
Madison, Miss.

Convention Planning Committee

10:30 - noon, Friday, March 14

The Mississippi Center for Nursing
Madison, Miss.

Joint Luncheon with the

**Convention Planning Committee
and Provider Unit**

Noon, Friday, March 14

The Mississippi Center for Nursing
Madison, Miss.

Provider Unit Meeting

1-3:30 p.m., Friday March 14,

The Mississippi Center for Nursing
Madison, Miss.

Health Affairs Council

1 p.m., Friday, March 14

The Mississippi Center for Nursing
Madison, Miss.

Health Affairs Council

1 p.m., Friday, March 21

The Mississippi Center for Nursing
Madison, Miss.

Health Affairs Council

1 p.m., Friday, March 28

The Mississippi Center for Nursing
Madison, Miss.

April

North Approver Unit Meeting Tupelo, MS

April 1, 2008 - 10:30 a.m.

North Miss. Regional Medical Center, Tupelo
Contact Lana Burnett at (662) 377-3546

MS School Nurses Convention

April 8-9, 2008

Pearl River Resort, Philadelphia

Harmony For Health 2008

Saturday, April 19

The Jackson Yacht Club, Jackson, Miss.

2008 Nurse Practitioner

Convention

Friday & Saturday, April 25 & 26

Natchez Convention Center
Natchez, MS

May

Provider Unit Meeting

1 p.m., Friday, May 23

The Mississippi Center for Nursing
Madison, Miss.

Health Affairs Council

1 p.m., Friday, March 14, 21, & 28

The Mississippi Center for Nursing
Madison, Miss.

MNA Board of Directors

10 a.m., Friday, March 28

The Mississippi Center for Nursing
Madison, Miss.

Coming Soon

Convention Planning Committee Meeting

Friday, June 6

Beau Rivage Casino and Resort