



WELS Nursing Today

Note from our Coordinator

As I am writing this, I'm realizing the summer is going fast, where has the time gone? It seems like we just had our 2018 WELSNA Spring Conference. It was such a blessing to have an inspiring opening devotion in the beautiful Chapel of the Christ at Martin Luther College, to hear such great presentations, and to have great food and fellowship on the beautiful campuses of Bethany Lutheran College and Martin Luther College in



Minnesota. We were so thankful for good weather, too. I saw many smiles those two days. And that is our mission to support, encourage, and enrich WELS and ELS nurses.

In this issue, you will get to meet the new council members. They are: Miriam Henning, coordinator-elect from New Ulm, Minn.; Catharine Soule, secretary from Belview, Minn.; and Allison Nass, communications coordinator from Sioux Falls, S.D. Kathleen Lee continues as treasurer and Sue Bolha as parish nurse coordinator. I was secretary, and now I am the coordinator for one year.

Let me tell you a little bit about myself: I live in Madison, Wis., and have been a nurse for 11 years. My specialty is geriatrics and dementia care. Currently, I am a CNA instructor at a local high school and also serve as a parish nurse and camp nurse. I have been married 42 years, and my husband and I have been blessed with seven children (one is in heaven) and six grandchildren. We are members at Eastside Lutheran Church in Madison.

I especially want to thank our outgoing coordinator, Wendy Cray, for her four years of service on the council.

God's blessings to you and your families.

By Anne Mackey, WELSNA Council Coordinator

Meet our new council members

Coordinator-elect

Miriam Henning received her associate's degree in Nursing from Rasmussen College in Mankato, Minn., in March 2017. She has been working at the Belle Plaine Lutheran Home since April 2017. She recently started a new position as a clinical coordinator at the facility. She attended the recent WELSNA conference after her mother mentioned that it would be in New Ulm, Minn., where she lives. She accepted the position of coordinator-elect while at the conference. Miriam is currently working towards obtaining her BSN through Rasmussen College

Secretary

Catharine Soule has been a registered nurse for three years. She achieved her AS degree in Nursing from South Central College in North Mankato, Minn., and her BSN from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn. She currently works the night shift in Labor and Delivery, Post-Partum, and Nursery, and absolutely loves it! It's an exciting and rewarding area to work in. She became interested in WELSNA after hearing about it from a friend, and seeing their Facebook page. She feels it is wonderful to be a part of this association, where the members



From L-R: Kathleen Lee, treasurer; Wendy Crary, outgoing council coordinator; Anne Mackey, new council coordinator; Miriam Henning, council coordinator-elect; Catherine Soule, secretary; Allison Nass, communications coordinator

can share not only their passion about nursing, but also share in their commitment to the faith, and how they can let their faith shine in their care for others. It is a privilege to serve others as a servant of Christ!

She is married to Andrew, and they just celebrated their second anniversary. He is an ELS pastor of two rural churches in southwest Minnesota. In their free time, they love to travel, garden, visit coffee shops, and have three cats.

Communications coordinator

Allison Nass graduated from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D., in 2013 and has spent the last five years working on two different inpatient telemetry units as well as being a clinical instructor for nursing students and a mentor to new nurses. She is amazed by all of the new things she learns each day, not only about the physical heart but also about the heart it takes to care for others during their time of illness. As she steps into the communications coordinator role, she hopes that she can be a blessing to you as she encourages you with ideas of how to use your nursing skills to benefit others in your congregation.

How you can become involved in WELSNA

I want to take this opportunity to share with you more information about WELSNA. WELSNA aims to educate and support nurses, encouraging them to serve others with Christ-centered care. It is affiliated with the WELS Commission on Special Ministries. Our pastoral advisor is Reverend James Behringer.

Any active WELS/Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) member in the nursing profession may become a member of the WELS Nurses Association. The nursing profession is defined as RN or LPN. Student nurses are also welcome to become members. At this time there are no membership dues. A nurse simply completes the online membership form found on the WELSNA website, welsnurses.net.

The organization holds an annual meeting and conference. Presentations on a variety of topics of interest to Christian nurses are offered during the conferences. The most recent conference in April

2018 was held in New Ulm, Minn.

A resource library for all nurses, and specifically for parish nurses, is found on the WELSNA website. This includes information on establishing a parish nurse program in a congregation.

In partnership with Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC), a college-level parish nurse course is offered every other year. The next anticipated offering is in 2019.

WELSNA has established a scholarship for nursing students attending WLC. Annually, \$1000 is awarded. During the recent conference in New Ulm, a preconference visit to Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato took place. Nursing courses were offered for the first time at Bethany during the fall 2017 semester. A special collection for Bethany nursing scholarships was taken in conjunction with the recent conference.

If you are a nurse, consider joining WELSNA. If you are not a nurse, share this information with your nurse friends. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

By Kathleen Lee

Bethany College's new nursing program

Bethany has successfully completed the first year of the new nursing program. The program experienced many highlights such as hiring additional faculty, the development of the Bethany Student Nurses Association, and hosting the WELSNA conference in April.

One of the most exciting events was the cultural immersion trip in Nicaragua in March as part of the Transcultural Nursing course. Dr. Sara Traylor led the nursing students on a nine-day trip exploring Nicaraguan history, politics, health care, culture, and country. The group visited a variety of health care agencies including a women's clinic, children's hospital, agency for children with disabilities, and a

home for expectant mothers. The group also learned about global health care during conversations with individuals including an epidemiologist and representatives from organizations for people living with chronic renal failure and AIDS.

A homestay in a rural community, visiting a volcano, a boat tour of Lake Nicaragua, and swimming in a volcanic lake were some of the features of the trip. Over-the-counter medications were collected by nursing students prior to the trip and donated to two clinics in desperate need of medication and medical supplies.

Students' reflections after the trip were overwhelmingly positive and suggested students learned a lot about global health care. The trip will occur again next year with the junior nursing students. Donations for medications and medical supplies are greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact Dr. Sara Traylor, director of Nursing, at sara.traylor@blc.edu.

By Dr. Sara Traylor



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