



National Association of Catholic Nurses-U.S.A.

Where *NURSING, MINISTRY and CATHOLIC MISSION* meet
“Unity in Charity”



www.nacn-usa.org

Fall 2017 Newsletter

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President's Letter

by Diana Ruzicka, RN, MSN, MA,
MA, CNS-BC

As I write this on August 15th, I pray that God will bless each one of you on this Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our patroness, the Immaculate Conception, intercede for us.

The summer months have been very active for the Board and Committees. The scholarship and Awards Committee designed a new evaluation tool for selecting the scholarship awardee. Thank you Dr. Linda Lopp, MSN/Ed, RN and Dr. Mary Lee Barron, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC for your expertise. Thank you also Marylee Meehan, MA, RN and Dr. Diana Newman, EdD, RN for selecting a well deserving candidate from a number of very well deserving applicants. See this newsletter for the awardee.

The Ethics and Spirituality Committee has been very active responding to issues from congress, HHS, ANA and AMA. Under the leadership of Dr. Carolyn Laabs, PhD, FNP, MA, FNP-BC, RN, the committee urged Secretary Price of the Department of Health and Human Services to not support the Pew Charitable Trust nation-wide push to implement POLST (Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment). NACN-USA signed on to a letter requesting the legislature to support the Conscience Protection Act of 2017 (HR 644). Through the committee's efforts NACN-USA provided comment on the ANA draft revision of their *Position Statement on the Ethical Responsibility to Manage Pain and Suffering* and also sent a second letter urging the AMA not to change their policy of opposition to physician assisted suicide prior to the August meeting of the AMA Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA).

In July, the USCCB convened an unprecedented gathering of key leaders from dioceses and Catholic organizations from across the country in order to assess the challenges and opportunities of our time. Dr. Marie Hilliard, MS, MA, JCL, PhD, RN; Alma Abuelouf, BSN, RN and I were blessed to attend. Participating on

President's Letter (cont'd)

the Health Care Panel was a great honor. I am humbled by the nice article Marie wrote in this issue. See www.nacn-usa.org on the Convocation.

The Regional Directors were welcomed to their new positions with a nice orientation by our President-Elect Dr. Marie Hilliard. They have been introducing themselves within their regions, emailing new and old members and encouraging all to join us in Cape Cod in October. We invite you all to the Summit in Cape Cod, 6-8 October. Also, please contact your Regional Director if you would like to start a local council in your area catholicnurses@nacn-usa.org.

After hearing how much Dr. Jane Cardea, PhD, RN (Immediate Past President) enjoyed the seminars, I decided to complete the National Catholic Bioethics Certification (NCBC) program in Healthcare Ethics this year. In August I attended the introductory seminar at St. Mary's University in Bismarck, North Dakota. The NCBC staff made ethical decision-making intelligible and discussed several timely difficult issues. I encourage each of you to attend one of these annual seminars if not the full certification course. We need more nurses to be the voice of reason in this confused world.

On a personal note, I am again in California with my parents as my 84 year old Mom is completing her journey on this side of the veil. It has been such a blessing for me to watch my parents' love for each other during this difficult time. Requiring 24 hour nursing care, Dad has ensured she has been well cared for. She received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and an Apostolic Pardon. We have been blessed that her memory has been intact. During this time I am reminded of the promises of Jesus to St. Faustina regarding praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at the bedside of a dying person, **"At the hour of their death, I defend as my own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the pardon is the same. When this chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person, God's anger is placated, unfathomable mercy envelops the soul, and the very depths of My tender mercy are moved for the sake of the sorrowful Passion of My Son"** (811). I pray for each of you going through personal health issue and those assisting your friends, relatives and parents. May God grant you all the virtues especially strength, patience and charity.



*Rev. Michael Whyte,
NACN-USA Chaplain*

----- Chaplain to National Association of Catholic Nurses--USA

by Reverend Michael Whyte

This is by way of a long overdue introduction: My name is Father Michael Whyte and I am a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford (Conn), ordained on 7 June 2003, and was appointed Chaplain to the NACN.

As a second vocation, I entered Saint John Seminary in Brighton (Boston) in 1995 earning a BPhil and an MDiv. Prior to that, I earned a BA in Government and Public Affairs and then a Masters of Public Affairs (MPA) in Gerontology before working as a contract lobbyist for various entities focusing on legislative and grassroots lobbying.

Since 2003 I have had two parish assignments. First as a parochial vicar at St. Mark the Evangelist in West Hartford and now as pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena in West Simsbury, Conn. My current assignment has realized a great deal of growth with registered households increasing from 840 families to more than 1300 families. Our parish has numerous ministries to feed the hungry in nearby Hartford, a growing youth ministry for Junior and Senior high school students, more than 600 children in our religious education and Confirmation programs, and a strong volunteer base offering parishioners numerous opportunities to minister to God by ministering to others.

For the past 8 years St Catherine of Siena parishioners have supported healthcare ministry through the Knights of Malta's mobile healthcare clinics through our Advent Giving Tree

Chaplain to NACN-USA (cont'd)

Program, raising annually over \$30,000 to support this vital Catholic healthcare ministry, with an additional \$30,000 going to our Neighbors in Need Fund.

Along with my parish duties I am a member of the Archdiocese of Hartford's Presbyteral Council, the College of Consultors, and am director of the Archdiocesan Office of Continuing Priest Formation.

In my role as Chaplain, I sit on the NACN Ethics Committee and am available by phone to discuss any question or concern you might have as you live out your Catholic faith in and through your vocation as a Catholic nurse and healthcare advocate. The motto of the NACN is "Where Nursing, Ministry and Catholic Mission Meet" is more than just a tag line, it illustrates a calling given by God to each Catholic nurse who seeks to assist creation in recognizing and seeing their body as a temple of God's Holy Spirit, a dwelling place for the Divine. Something to be cared for in right relationship.

Catholic nurses have a role to educate the other about the great gift of life given to us by a loving God. In that role as caregiver and advocate, your own understanding and practice of your Catholic faith (a live faith experience) will impact how you care for another, enabling you to dovetail faith and reason with science, which must be "dance partners, and not boxing opponents."

As a Type One, brittle diabetic and one who has been blessed with a new kidney, I know the God-given miracle of science and healthcare--as well as the impact a nurse of faith is able to offer one who is suffering. A well-educated, caring and faith filled nurse is a miracle in the healthcare world.

I hope you will feel comfortable to reach out to me either at my parish office on 860 658 1642 x1642 or Fr.whyte@aohct.org.

Peace and blessings,
-Fr. Michael Whyte
St Catherine of Siena Parish
PO Box 184
West Simsbury, Conn 06092

Prayer for those affected by Hurricanes Irma & Harvey

by Fr. Whyte

Father, in Your magnificence You created the earth and filled it with Your beauty, from this gracious generosity we can only imagine what You, our God, are like.

Then in Your Love You redeemed us, Your children, by the blood of Your Son on the Cross and opened for us the way to Salvation. In Love beyond all telling You then sent Your Holy Spirit to keep us in Your Providential care, leading us to You.

Lord, we now pray for our sisters and brothers who are suffering from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and we ask You to keep them safe and secure, to heal the wounded and to bring to Eternal Light those who have died. In these human tragedies You call us to serve You in serving others in need. Bless all first responders, our neighbors, all nurses, doctors and other medical professionals who selflessly place their lives at the service of others.

+ We ask these and all our prayers through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, patroness of our nation and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Committees:

By-laws; Membership & Elections; Ethics & Spirituality; Communications;
Awards & Scholarships; Education, Practice & Research

On which committee are you called to serve?

Open Committee positions:

**Chair, Communications Committee /
Webmaster / MailChimp Coordinator**

Volunteer at www.nacn-usa.org or catholicnurses@nacn-usa.org



Dr. Marie Hilliard,
President-Elect

NACN-USA President Diana Ruzicka Gives Riveting Presentation at USCCB Convocation of Catholic Leaders

by Dr. Marie Hilliard, MS, MA, JCL, PhD, RN

Diana Ruzicka, President of the National Association of Catholic Nurses-U.S.A. was an invited panelist at the U.S. Conference of Bishops' *Convocation of Catholic Leaders* in Orlando, Florida over the 4th of July

weekend, culminating its *Fortnight for Freedom*. The panel was titled "Catholic Health Care: Ministering to the Spiritual and Physical Needs of All People." The goal of the session was to enable participants to "understand the

opportunities and responsibilities we all have to transform the culture of healthcare and to go forth as missionary disciples bringing the Truth, that is Jesus Christ to their practice."



President Ruzicka was the first of the panelists to speak after introductions by Bishop James Conley (Lincoln) and Archbishop Peter Smith (Portland) and the Moderator, Dr. Steven White. She gave a compelling presentation to a standing-room-only audience, addressing conscience protection, nursing education, euthanasia, and redemptive suffering. She wove these themes together by the concept of "Truth," as found in *Humanae Vitae*, *Veritatis Splendor*, *Evangelium Vitae*, and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's *Declaration on Euthanasia*. She stressed the necessity of having a properly formed conscience when invoking conscience protection.

The realities of threats to conscience, beginning in nursing education through years of professional practice, were identified with practical examples of how to reinforce health care practice that supports the spiritual and physical wellbeing of patients, as well as methods of evangelization of parish communities. President Ruzicka continued to identify challenges to moral health care practice through the life span, with the escalating threats of euthanasia, enabled by such documents as Physicians



Dr. Marie Hilliard, Diana Ruzicka, Alma Abuelouf
USCCB Convocation of Catholic Leaders, Orlando, Florida, 1-4 July 2017
Thank you Peg Olson for the banner and picture

Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment, which can provide for the denial of proportionately beneficial treatment for those facing challenges at the end-of-life. She gave a very compelling example, with an excellent culminating analysis of our understanding of redemptive suffering. President Ruzicka was followed by representatives of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, the

USCCB Convocation (cont'd)

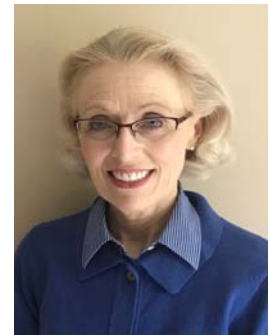
Catholic Medical Association, Catholic hospital administration, and health care sharing ministries, which provide alternatives to participating in health insurance mandates that violate conscience. A lively discussion with the audience, supportive of conscience rights, followed. Many opportunities for interagency collaboration surfaced resulting in Diana Ruzicka being invited to present at the national convention of the Catholic Medical Association. The National Association of Catholic Nurses-U.S.A. was extremely well represented by President Diana Ruzicka, and we thank her profusely for this witness of faith in practice.

----- **Ethics & Spirituality Committee Report**

By Carolyn Laabs, PhD, MA, FNP-BC

The Board of Directors and the Ethics and Spirituality Committee have been actively participating in several issues that affect nursing and the patients we serve. This month the NACN-USA:

- 1) Signed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief written by the Thomas More Society on the surrogacy case, *M.C. v. C.M.* The purpose of the brief is to aid the U.S. Supreme Court in understanding the physical and psychological effects of gestational surrogacy on surrogate mothers and their children. The goal is to have surrogacy contracts declared unconstitutional. The NACN-USA was joined on this brief by the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Catholic Medical Association, the Charlotte Lozier Institute, and the National Catholic Bioethics Center.
- 2) Signed an amicus curiae brief written by counsel for the USCCB on the case of *Masterpiece Cake Shop versus Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. This is a 2012 case in which a baker refused to make a cake for a same-sex “wedding.” It is expected to be a significant case on conscience rights and its ruling could affect nurses. Beside the USCCB, the NACN was joined on this brief by the Catholic Medical Association, Colorado Catholic Conference, the Catholic Bar Association and the National Catholic Bioethics Center.
- 3) Reviewed the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UN HRC) draft *General Comment on Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* on which comments were invited. Article 6 addresses the Right to Life. A major concern of this draft is that it clearly excludes the unborn from a right to life, thus imposing a worldwide right to abortion, and allows for euthanasia. The General Comment is accessible at http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CCPR/GCArticle6/GCArticle6_EN.pdf. The Center for Family and Human Rights composed a response to the UN HRC and invited others to sign their petition which can be found at <https://c-fam.org/right-life-international/>. The NACN-USA encourages members and others to sign the petition urging the UN HRC to recognize the right to life from conception until natural death. The NACN-USA is collaborating with the National Catholic Bioethics Center in providing comment. The deadline for comments is October 6, 2017.
- 4) Reviewed and provided comment on the American Nurses Association (ANA) draft of, “*A Call to Action: Cultivating Moral Resilience and a Culture of Ethical Practice*.” In response to the problem of moral distress, the draft, vaguely written and lacking in moral principles and ethical grounding, proposed developing programs aimed at promoting “moral resilience” among nurses and within organizations. Given, as described in recent medical literature, that moral resiliency programs for health care professionals have been developed in Canada for the purpose of decreasing distress when participating in euthanasia and, given the newly revised ANA Position Statement on Nutrition and Hydration which endorses Voluntary Stopping of Eating and Drinking (VSED) for the purpose of hastening death, a form of passive euthanasia, NACN-USA comments to the ANA express our grave concerns regarding this Call to Action and our strenuous opposition to euthanasia in any form. Comments to the ANA are due September 15th.



*Dr. Carolyn Laabs,
Chair Ethics & Spirituality
Committee*

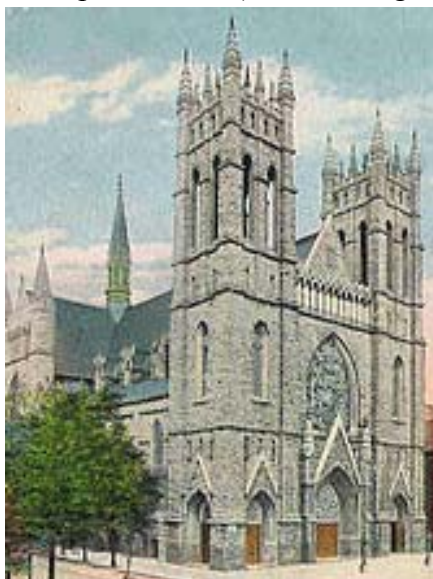


**Another Hidden Treasurer! Discovering the
Youngstown Council of Catholic Nurses**

By Cheryl Hettman, PhD, RN

Nursing Consultant & Educator; Chairperson, Archives/History
Committee; and Past NACN-USA President, 2010-2012

If you happened to be reading *The Evening Independent*, in Massillon, Ohio, on November 23, 1945, on page 7 – right next to The Ideal Company’s pre-Christmas *Nifty & Gifty* ad for everything from handkerchiefs and ladies lamb coats, to white wine, you would have found an article announcing that the Diocesan “Council of Catholic Nurses, will be formally inaugurated by Bishop James A. McFadden, Sunday when more than 600 Catholic registered nurses of the Youngstown diocese will be given an opportunity to band together”(The Evening Independent, 1945b, p.7). The article did not mention a previous Mass celebrated by the bishop and Rev. Austin W. Scully on October 28th in the chapel at Massillon State Hospital to first mark the beginning of the Council (The Evening Independent, 1945a). However, it did note that expected to attend the event was the president of the National Council of Catholic Nurses-USA, Miss Ann Houck, of Maumee Valley Hospital in Toledo, and Miss Winifred Coyle of St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Youngstown, who would serve as the temporary chairman of the new council until the officers would be elected later that afternoon. Also mentioned was that there would be “chapters” of the Council set up in each of the six deaneries of the diocese. This followed a practice that had already been taking place prior to the efforts of the U.S. bishop’s National Welfare Conference that helped establish the National Council of Catholic Nurses-USA (NCCN) in 1940, in response to Pope Pius XI’s call for all Catholic nurses to belong to associations of Catholic nurses. With this new charge, existing groups were being reorganized. What previously began in 1938 as an “original body” of nurses called the Cleveland Diocese Federation of Catholic Nurses, and it’s “secondary body” or “affiliated chapter,” St. Elizabeth’s Hospital Nurses’ Alumni Association in Youngstown – was being revamped to become affiliated with the national association. “The purpose of the nurses' council is to protect, encourage and advance the spiritual, material and professional welfare and social contacts of Catholic nurses and to foster among all nurses the spirit of charity in the care of the ill by emphasizing spiritual and social values and opportunities in the exercise of the profession of nursing and to provide an "agency through which Catholic nurses will be able to speak corporately in matters of common interest to their profession” (The Evening Independent, 1945b, p.9).



And band together they did! From that first official Mass in St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown, Ohio on November 25, 1945, and sustaining through the disbanding of the National Council of Catholic Nurses-USA in 1969 through the dedication shown by then Bishop Malone of Youngstown to keep the nurses in his diocese together and form their own council after the NCCN dissolved - the Youngstown Council of Catholic Nurses remains strong and a stellar example to all for their persistence and commitment to their Catholic identity as healthcare professionals, to their community, and to each other. Yet, despite this heroic effort to remain viable, the group essentially remained unknown to those of us outside the organization – that is, to our own current National Association of Catholic Nurses (NACN-USA) – and we remained unknown to them! It is hard to believe that it took me

stumbling upon a tax exemption record online in August 2016 that signified the existence of the

Youngstown Council of Catholic Nurses (cont'd)

Youngstown Council of Catholic Nurses. This ignited my quest to track down this group and to reunite with our Catholic nurse colleagues. The tax document provided me with the name of Linda Fuller in Canfield, Ohio as the contact person. I looked up Catholic churches in Canfield and found St. Michaels. Next, I explored their website hoping to find the Youngstown Council listed, but instead I found Lynda's name and phone number on a bulletin as a contact person for an upcoming event at the church. After a few phone calls over a month's time and having to leave messages with no response, I was concerned that I had gotten my wires crossed regarding the right contact for the Council or that it no longer existed. But to my great joy, I received Lynda's return call on August 4, 2016. I had an amazing, fact-finding conversation with Lynda, who is a lovely 30-year member of the Youngstown Council of Catholic Nurses (YCCN). Before our first call ended, Lynda had invited me to attend the group's meeting and special memorial service that was coming up in October. When I hung up, I felt like a kid who had just found a buried treasure and the box was now opened!

It was a most beautiful fall-colored day, making my nearly 2-hour drive to Youngstown, Ohio quite pleasurable. I arrived early on October 19, 2016 to find Lynda and others working diligently to prepare the room where their luncheon meeting would take place following their annual Memorial Mass. Meticulous care was being given to the table arrangements and communications with the kitchen staff about what was soon to



be a wonderful meal. As we entered the same St. Columba Cathedral where the original Diocesan Council first began, I was struck by the beautiful ripples of colored light streaming through the stained-glass windows. I was overcome by a sense of reverence not only for the deceased members in the past year whom we were there to honor, but also a sense of an era gone by considering this was the same place where the initial inaugural dedication was held when the reorganization took place in 1945. About 65 of the current 95 Council members, along with



many others from the community attended the Mass. It was a very lovely service, and a moving homily was delivered by the celebrant, Monsignor Peter M. Polando, who also is the Moderator for the Council. After Mass, we shared in the lunch after Monsignor Polando gave the blessing. I had the opportunity to meet and talk with the group, and to hear their stories, as well as, to share information with them about the NCCN-USA. Much of the membership is comprised of older, retired nurses – some are even in their 90's...now that's dedication! They do have a handful of what they call "Emeritus

Members" who are shut-ins and unable to attend meetings in person, but they are kept in contact with so they still know what is going on and have a sense of care and belonging. Some members even qualify for what they call their "Lifetime Membership" – the criteria for which is that you must be over 85 years old and have been a member for at least 10 years! Wow! To think that there are a number of ladies who meet this requirement is such a blessing – such as Patricia Weickenand, who has been a member since the group's 1969 beginning (no wonder she serves as their historian!). I was told that many members are actively involved at the meetings, with an average of around 45 attendees each 3rd Wednesday of the month (except no regular meetings are held in January, July, or August). Many members serve on the Board or on any of the 11 different committees, including: Program; Publicity; Telephone; Sunshine; Membership Book; Membership; Revisions & Bylaws; Bereavement; Audit; Ways & Means; and finally, Prayer List

Youngstown Council of Catholic Nurses (cont'd)

& Visitations. The council's Membership Manual contains all members' names, addresses, birthdays, committee assignments, etc. Lynda told me she has personally served as vice-president, president, and she is now the secretary. Other current officers include the president, Carole DeWitt, along with Mary Ellen Burke (VP), and Virginia Criscione-Janacone (Treasurer).

(*Pictured 1st: Carole DeWitt; 2nd: L to R - front: Patricia Weickenand & Virginia Criscione-Janacone; Back: Lynda Fuller & Cheryl Hettman)



O MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP, grant that I may ever invoke thy most powerful name, which is the safeguard of the living and the salvation of the dying. O Purest Mary, O Sweetest Mary, let thy name henceforth be ever on my lips. Delay not, O Blessed Lady, to help me whenever I call on thee. Mary, O! what consolation, what sweetness, what confidence, what emotion fill my soul when I pronounce thy sacred name or even only think of thee. I thank God for having given thee, for my good, so sweet, so powerful, so lovely a name. I will not be content with merely pronouncing thy name. Let my love for thee prompt me ever to hail thee.
Amen

Meetings are opened with a prayer to their patroness, Our Lady of Perpetual Help...hum...this just might be the secret to the council's longevity!!! Each February, YCCN members attend the annual White Mass held by the bishop of Youngstown, currently Bishop George V. Murry, S.J., which affords the nurses the opportunity for worship as an inter-professional group with persons from various healthcare and related professions in the community. In March or April, they have a special Lenten Reflection given by Monsignor Polando, along with a Q&A Session with him, during which they may ask any questions they have, which are usually about current topics of interest or other concerns that deal with or may impact their Catholic faith and practices as a healthcare provider. During the month of June, members gather at the 277-acre greenspace in Youngstown called Boardman Park for a summer picnic. Fall brings the annual Memorial Mass and luncheon, and then there is the lovely Christmas Party to celebrate the Lord's birth. Aside from typical membership meetings and special celebrations noted, the Council enjoys other activities, both social and spiritual – for example, they have held meetings at restaurants to “change-up the atmosphere” from time to time – they hold an honor guard at the funeral of members who pass on to their eternal home - and last

fall the YCCN was a co-sponsor, along The Mercy Health Foundation, The Youngstown Diocese Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Life, and The Catholic Medical Association of the Diocese of Youngstown – for nationally known speaker, psychologist, Dr. Ray Guarendi, PhD,



seen on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN,) who spoke to an audience of about 75 on the topic of what makes “strong families.” While members helped by stuffing envelopes and do the mailing of invitations for the event, they also served the cake, which made for a great means for networking! By the way, the group has been able to recruit 13 new members so far, this year! One recruitment strategy used is that of automatically enrolling Youngstown School of Nursing graduates as Council members to start them out. This helps with the addition of the younger nurses and to

seen on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN,) who spoke to an audience of about 75 on the topic of what makes “strong families.” While members helped by stuffing envelopes and do the mailing of invitations for the event, they



Youngstown Council of Catholic Nurses (cont'd) “keep the ball rolling.” And the ball has been



rolling for this vibrant – and now know about group – that will soon be celebrating a 50-year anniversary in 2019! Thank you, Youngstown Council of Catholic Nurses, for the warm welcome during my visit and for your inspirational example of how to live out the desire of

Pope Pius XI for “every Catholic nurse to belong to Catholic Associations of Nurses and to promote them in every possible way.”

God bless you all!



References Evening Independent (1945a). Bishop to visit state hospital chapel. Retrieved online at <https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/3593286/>
 Evening Independent (1945b). Nurses form organization. Retrieved online at <https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/3605600/>

Clinical Talking Points

by John Dinolfo, PhD

Despite the growing acceptance of clinician-assisted dying in some U.S. states and abroad, in much of the US, clinically assisted death and euthanasia are not a settled matter in healthcare policy and law or in the court of public opinion.

Controversies about how patients at the end of life can experience death with dignity are opportunities for dialogue among healthcare professionals, health policy makers, and the general public. Catholics healthcare professional have much to contribute to such discussions.

It is not clear how many states will choose assisted dying as health policy, following California and five other states to date. Many state legislatures may decide not to allow clinician-assisted dying. The Supreme Court may be asked to rule on whether a constitutional right exists for choosing and implementing clinician-assisted death.

Research is needed on the knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of Catholic American men and women regarding clinician-assisted dying and existing or proposed alternatives.



*Dr. John Dinolfo, PhD
 Ethics & Spirituality /
 Education, Research &
 Practice Committee*



Newsletter Editor

Dr. Marian Nowak Inducted into FAAN

by Courtney Donahue MS, RN, FNP-BC, PCCN

Dr. Marian Nowak, DNP, RN, MPH, MEd, CSN, PN was recently inducted into the FAAN. This prestigious honor was given to her for her profound dedication to nursing throughout her career. Dr. Nowak served as a high school nurse for 27 years. After retirement, she sought a university position and pursued a doctorate of nursing practice. She currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Rowan University School of Health Professions, is a United Nations Nurse Delegate and the Pan American President of CICIAMS (The International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants), which allows her to build membership and have a developed and international consulting team of experts



*Dr. Mimi Nowak,
FAAN Inductee*

Dr. Nowak received her DNP from a premier nursing school, Case Western Reserve University. She believes that her advanced degree has given her more tools to serve and that it has opened doors to new ways of thinking while blending the science and art of nursing. She states that her doctorate and committee chairperson, Dr. Fitzpatrick, has been a guiding example for her for years and helped her to develop as a nurse and leader for "doing the right thing." Dr. Fitzpatrick advises, "To whom much is given, much will be required" Luke 12:48.

Dr. Nowak graduated from a Catholic nursing program and has "always seen our profession as one that involves mental, physical, social and spiritual aspects of care." She also states, "a lifelong journey has been how to practice nursing as a vocation (a calling from God) to use the gifts I have been given to serve others."

Dr. Nowak would like Catholic nurses and members of NACN to know that we need to "reach out to others to support their mission and the mission of the church. We need the church and the church needs us."

We are honored to have such a dedicated, faithful nurse on our board of Directors at NACN. You are truly an inspiration for all members and Catholic nurses around the world! Congratulations Dr. Nowak!

Scholarship Recipient

by Mary Lee Barron, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

Congratulations to Courtney Donahue MS, RN, FNP-BC, PCCN, the NACN Scholarship recipient for 2017!



*Courtney Donahue, 2017
Scholarship Recipient*

Courtney is a Stroke Nurse Practitioner at New York Presbyterian and a student in the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University, Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Bringing her Catholic faith and her nursing practice together Courtney expresses this as "It is my faith that helps me talk to a dying patient, celebrate an optimal prognosis with someone who suffered a devastating stroke and help patients hear all the risks/benefits of treatments and medications. It is with God's grace that I have the courage to deal with these situations with my patients."



*Dr. Mary Lee Barron,
Chair, Awards &
Scholarship
Committee*

In her doctoral student role Courtney currently is working closely with her School of Nursing advisor, Dr. Joyce Fitzpatrick. They are traveling to Ireland to work closely with nurses specializing in stroke awareness. NACN is blessed to have this member who is making excellent contributions to the profession. Congratulations Courtney!

Council of Catholic Nurses, Diocese of Joliet, Illinois Updates

by Janet Salihar RN, CCM



Jan Salihar, RN, CCM

We received good news in the fight against the new Illinois state law, SB 1564. There is now a preliminary injunction prohibiting enforcement of the law that would require nurses, doctors and pregnancy centers to make referrals for abortion, and other treatments that take and devalue the life and dignity of a human being. On July 19, 2017, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois issued the injunction declaring that it “targets the free speech rights of people who have a specific viewpoint.” The preliminary injunction was issued in *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates et al v. Rauner et al* and is a general prohibition on enforcement of the law in Illinois. It thereby provides the same relief for the plaintiffs in the Thomas More Society case, *Dr. Ronald L. Schroeder et al v. Rauner et al.*, and in consolidated state actions the Thomas More Society filed in Sangamon County, IL earlier this year. Please pray that our religious freedom will be protected when the cases are decided.

Abortion Pill Reversal

by Debbie Bradel, RN

Swallowing pills to eliminate pregnancy is becoming more and more popular. Medical abortion is touted as convenient and private so much so that 40% are provided this way instead of surgically if the woman is between 6-10 weeks pregnant. This method requires an in-clinic visit to take the first of two pills (mifepristone). At home, the rest of the treatment is taken at the 24-48 hour mark. The first pill destabilizes the uterus by blocking progesterone receptors and the second pills expel the embryo. Spotting usually starts at 24 hours. Heavy bleeding starts about 3 hours after the second set of pills called misoprostol (Cytotec).

Contrary to Planned Parenthood’s customer satisfaction surveys, women do feel regret for aborting, sometimes even in the parking lot before leaving the clinic. Providentially, there is help for women who are undergoing the medical abortion treatment process and would like to stop it. Though mifepristone blocks her own progesterone made by her ovaries, bio-identical progesterone is available commercially or made by compounders from a vegetable source mixed into a peanut oil, sesame oil or ethyl oleate base. Many doctors who support a woman’s right to make a second choice to protect, instead of harm her child, will prescribe and manage her reversal case with progesterone. Dr. George Delgado, FAAFP, San Diego, CA is one such provider who prescribed progesterone injections for his then 19 year old client, who took mifepristone and regretted it before taking the misoprostol. A regimen based on NaPro Technology, a Women’s Health Science created at John Paul II Institute in Omaha, successfully overcame the effects of mifepristone and produced a healthy baby who is now 6 years old. Getting together with other providers who support women’s rights, Na Pro Technology or had used progesterone for other women’s reproductive needs, Dr. Delgado put together a case series of 7 similar cases across the US, published in *Annals of Pharmacotherapy* in May 2012 and set up our website www.abortionpillreversal.com the same year.

As founder and medical director of Abortion Pill Reversal, he oversees our registry of at least 350 providers and 25 nurses who take call 24/7 from women who either “Google” us or have heard about us from pregnancy medical clinics.

Our foundational principles are three-fold: women have the right to change their mind and cannot be coerced to undergo an abortion against their will; taking mifepristone does not increase birth defect risk and taking progesterone to reverse mifepristone is safe. From 2012 to present, there are approximately 320 mothers who have had successful outcomes, namely, a healthy baby

Abortion Pill Reversal (cont'd)

or two! The progesterone reversal success rate is up to 65%, not 100% because of factors other than mifepristone which can cause fetal demise. The sooner the progesterone begins after mifepristone and the closer to 10 weeks the gestation, the closer to 65% is the success rate. Our nurses are trained to speak non-judgmentally and compassionately with each caller even the ones who mistakenly think we sell abortion pills. When reproductive loss occurs, our nurses have links to resources and support in their region. Almost 50 pro-life nurses have been trained to answer the phone for APR and most have said they have thoroughly enjoyed being on the front lines of the prolife battle. We have room for more nurses to take a 24 hour shift per month or more if you are able. Mother-Baby nursing and good computer skills are helpful but passionate prolife values are critical. If you are interested, please contact APR Nurse Manager, apreversalnurse@gmail.com or 619-577-0997.

Ellen Gianoli, Pacific Regional Director recently shared that the California Board of Registered Nursing reversed its decision and issued a letter to Heartbeat International, the pro-life pregnancy help network. To “cease and desist” offering nurses CEUs for Abortion Pill Reversal classes. See the article at this link: <https://pregnancyhelpnews.com/california-nursing-board-flip-flops-will-now-deny-women-abortion-related-choice>

Call for Nominations – 2018-2020 Come share your talent with this dynamic organization



The National Association of Catholic Nurses (NACN-USA) invites nominations for the 2018-2020 Board of Directors. Self-nominations are encouraged. Please ask permission of the nominee if you wish to a nominate peer or colleague.

Please send nominations including a curriculum vitae of the nominees to Dr. Diana Newman, Chair Membership and Elections Committee at dianadoc@comcast.net. Nominees are sought for six Board of Director positions whose two year terms end in 2018:

President –Elect

Corresponding Secretary

Regional Directors:

---**Region 1- Upper Northeast (UNE)** - Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island.

---**Region 2- Lower Northeast (LNE)** - New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Archdiocese of the Military Services (AMS) in the District of Columbia

---**Region 6, South Central (SC)** - Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.

---**Region 7, Midwest (MW)** - North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming

Term Limits: For all positions other than the President, President-Elect and Immediate Past President, persons may not be elected to serve more than three consecutive terms in the same position. No person shall serve in elected positions of the Board of Directors for a total of more than eight consecutive years. No elected person shall hold more than one position in the Board of Directors simultaneously. (Article VIII, Section 1, D).

Note: Odd numbered regions term change in odd years; Even numbered regions' terms change in even years. If elected in the alternate year, candidate will be asked to serve 1 or 3 years instead of the usual 2 year term of office.

See the position descriptions in the bylaws at the bottom of the page at this link: <https://nacb-usa.org/about-us/board-of-directors/>

Upcoming Events



Now and before 10Feb2018 -

National Catholic Certification program in Health Care Ethics – It is not too late to register for the fall program. Enrollment is also accepted for the mid-academic year class running February through December – www.ncbcenter.org
Email: jkelly@ncbcenter.org;

October 6-8, 2017

The Summit, Cape Cod, MA. Register at www.NACN-USA.org (see flier in this newsletter)



October 13, 2017 – 100th anniversary of the miracles at Fatima, Portugal. “The Day the Sun Danced at Fatima”
Our Lady of Fatima, Pray for Us.

Saturday, October 14, 2017

Understanding Redemptive Suffering
The Council of Catholic Nurses Diocese of Joliet invites you to Mass and a Presentation by Fr. Edward Cronin, Pastor of St. Jane de Chantal Parish, Sister Maria-Paulina Sterling and Dr. Thomas Zabiega, to look at the treasure of Redemptive Suffering. Explore the value of suffering and its mysterious purpose in the Providence of God. Be amazed at the abundance of grace obtained by the power of our prayer with our suffering.

St. Joan of Arc Church, Lisle
8:15 AM Mass followed by Coffee and rolls
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Presentation
RN contact Hours will be awarded.

To Register or for questions contact:
Sandra Razka, Parish Nurse
Phone: 630 353 4533
Email: srazka@sjalisle.org
Cost: \$10.00 \$5.00 for retirees; Add \$5.00 for Contact hours

October 21, 2017; 8:30am to 3:30pm – Gospel of Life Conference – *Defeating the Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing who Attach the Church*. St. Thomas More 8035 S. Quebec Street, Englewood, CO 80112; GospelOfLifeCo.org (register here).

January 13, 2018 – Colorado State Capitol – Rally 1pm; March 2pm;
www.liferockymountains.org

March 22-25, 2018, 6:30am to noon.
Retreat and Bioethics & Legislative Conference, 3rd Annual Florida Guilds of the Catholic Medical Association. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat & Spirituality Center 3989 S. Moon Drive, Venice, FL 34292.
<https://www.cathmedflorida.org> ;
FloridaCMAretreat@gmail.com; registration deadline: Thursday, March 15, 2018.

April 4-6, 2018 – *Humane Vitae (1968-2018) Embracing God’s Vision for Marriage, Love and Live, A 50th Anniversary Symposium*. Catholic University of America. Registration opened 5Sep2017. Questions: Theresa Notare, PhD, 202-541-3240 or tnotare@usccb.org;
<http://cuatoday.com/hv2018>

July 25, 2018 --- 50th anniversary of the papal encyclical, *Humane Vitae*

August 2-3, 2018 – NACN-USA Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas – *Responding to Healthcare Challenges Influencing Catholic Nursing Practice*. Room rate available 1-4 August. Register online www.nacn-usa.org after November 1, 2017. Board meeting 1Aug2018.



September 4-8, 2018 - CICIAMS (International Council of Catholic Nurses and Medico Social Assistants) Congress, Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia (beginning with Opening Mass on the evening of 4th). There will be a full day General Council Meeting on Tuesday, 4 September. In addition, there will be a one hour General Council Meeting on the evening of 5 September for the purpose of elections to the vacant positions on the Board. Executive Board may also meet at the conclusion of the Congress on Friday, 8 September.

September 20-22, 2018 - CMA 87th Annual Educational Conference, Dallas, Texas; *Restoring Healthcare in a Technocratic Age: Building Parallel Structures to Deliver Compassionate Care*



2017 Summit / Conference

Catholic Nurses Ministering in the Spirit of Francis

National Association of Catholic Nurses - USA

Cape Cod, MA October 6-8, 2017 <https://nacn-usa.org>



Summit:

The Summit provides a venue where Catholic Nurse can explore issues challenging vulnerable patient populations in parishes and practices throughout our nation. Each Summit/Conference day begins with inspirational presentations from internationally recognized Catholic leaders grounding attendees in related Catholic principles. Next, renowned Blue Ribbon Panel Members will report best practices, current research, available clinical tools for their topic area followed by an “open mic” session. Afternoon task force work groups will development, document, and report proposed Action Plans. The vision behind the Summit supports the intent to develop a NACN-USA Action Plan for members.

Location: Saint Pius X Parish Life Center, 5 Barbara St.
South Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02664 (Cape Cod)

Topics: Friday October 6, 2017 Drugs: Pre-birth to Pre-death
Saturday October 7, 2017 Service members and Veteran Suicide Prevention
Sunday October 8, 2017 The truth about yoga and reiki. Healing & Fitness
consistent with Catholic teachings

Registration Online: nacn-usa.org

NACN-USA members: 1 day = \$40 2 days = \$75 3 days = \$100
NACN-USA students: 1 day = \$10 2 days = \$20 3 days = \$25
Non-members 1 day = \$50 2 days = \$100 3 days = \$150
Students non-members 1 day = \$15 2 days = \$25 3 days = \$35

Join NACN-USA:

Annual Membership Fee: \$50.00 Retirees: \$40.00
Annual Student Membership Fee Waived @ Registration

Lodging: Register by August 31, 2017

Offsite – rooms and bargain prices are held until August 15, 2017
See website nacn-usa.org (Area lodging sells out most holiday weekends)

Columbus Day Weekend (Seaside Festival, Fireworks, 5K Road Race)

Bring the Family for Columbus Day Weekend (Family fun while your conferencing)

Fishing, Whale & Seal Watching, Sailing, Ferry boat to Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard,
Visit “Plymouth Rock”, tour Hyannis Port, Sea bikeway, Cape Cod National Seashore, Heritage
Museums & Gardens, Lighthouse Tours, JFK Memorial & Museum

Catholic nurses impacting the health of our nation one person, one family, & one parish/community at a time

Guest Speakers & Blue Ribbon Panel Members (Day 1: Drugs Pre-birth to Pre-death; Day 2: Military Service and Veteran Suicide Prevention; Day 3: Healing & Fitness Consistent with Catholic Teachings)



Guests from the Shrine & Museum
2012 First American Nurse Saint



Mary Lee Barron PhD FNP BC FAANP Women’s Health
Margaret Humm MSN CNS-MCH APN Intrauterine Drug Exposure
Katherine Prihoda DNP APN Drugs: School Age & Adolescence
Diana Ruzicka MA RN CNS-BC Pres NACN-USA Palliative Care
Deacon Gallerizzo Physician Asst’d Suicide & Euthanasia Vatican Study



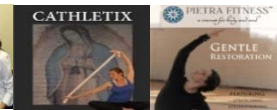
Dir, Wendy Lakso Dept of Defense Nat’l Outreach Wash. DC
Coor. Abigail Beagan VA Boston, MA 1 of 4 in MA



Lt Colonel Barbara Mc Mormick served Iraq & Afghanistan Prevention Services
Chaplain Catholic War Veterans



Deacon J. Cooley UNBOUND Archdiocese of Boston
Dir, Diane Johnson RN Curatio Apostolate for Healthcare Professionals



Dir. Roxanne Rubinc Cathletix DVD
Dir. Karen Barbieri Pietra Fitness DVD



Notice of Clarification & Correction of Brief #7

By Cheryl Hettman, PhD, RN

Chair, Ad hoc Archives & History Committee

Regarding the previous Brief #7 in the Spring 2017 Newsletter, dates and names of the popes involved in the origin of the National Council of Catholic Nurses-USA (NCCN) were based on archived documents from the NCCN. However, a subsequent review of additional documents collected revealed a discrepancy in one of the dates in the timeline. Based upon copies of original letters issued by the appointed representative of Popes Pius XI and XII (Cardinal Pizzardo), along with others from representatives of the U.S. bishops - and to the best of our knowledge from available documents right now - the corrected timeline, including a few other key details leading to the origin of the NCCN, is as follows:

1935 – 2nd International Congress of Catholic Nurses – Held in Rome

Pope Pius XI addressed over 2,000 attendees at an audience at Castel Gondolfo about how it was “the duty of every Catholic nurse to belong to Catholic Associations of Nurses and to promote them in every possible way.”

1937 – 3rd International Congress of Catholic Nurses – Held in London

Attendees were addressed by Pope Pius XI’s representative, Cardinal Giuseppe Pizzardo (the assigned “Protector” from the Holy See to the International Council of Catholic Nurses – CICIAMS). He spoke on behalf of the pope and his great desire that “ways and means be found” to have all Catholic nurses belong to Catholic Associations of Nurses.

April 8, 1938 – Letter from Cardinal Pizzardo to each of the American Bishops

He reminded them of the 1935 address by Pope Pius XI at the 2nd International Congress of Catholic Nurses. He told them the pope wished that “the Catholic nurses of the United States be gathered into one national association under the direction of the respective Ordinaries and the Hierarchy.” And that “Archbishops and bishops should organize local associations of Catholic nurses according to the needs of their respective dioceses, and which in due time, under the guidance of the Hierarchy, might be united to create a National Federation of Catholic Nurses.”

May 6, 1938 – Letter from Cardinal Pizzardo to Monsignor Michael Ready, General Secretary, National Catholic Welfare Conference (U.S. Bishops).

He sent him a copy of his April 8 letter to the bishops and the expressed the desire for forming “a Catholic Action Association for the Catholic nurses of the United States.”

May 16, 1938 – Monsignor Ready met with Archbishop Rummel, Chair of the Lay Organizations Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, to discuss Cardinal



Pope Pius XI

Pizzardo’s proposal for a National Federation of Catholic nurses. Archbishop Rummel noted there had been a once flourishing Federation of Catholic Nurses that they should look to reorganize, by first contacting Archbishop Mooney, who was on the Administrative Board of the bishop’s Conference, to ask about the feasibility of having a meeting with current officers of the existing nursing Federation. It was also suggested that they put the topic on the agenda for the upcoming Bishop’s Meeting in October, 1938.



Pope Pius XII

February 2, 1939 – Passing of Pope Pius XI – the newly elected pope was Pope Pius XII.

Archives & History Committee (*cont'd*)

Spring 1939 – Meeting of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference - asked Archbishop Joseph Rummel to lead the effort for the reorganization of nurses in the U.S.

May 6, 1939 – Letter from Cardinal Pizzardo to Monsignor Ready in response to a request from the bishops for clarification to address some element of concern (not specifically disclosed in the letter). He stated, “You will note that the proposed Association has as its object the mutual religious and moral aid of the members and the instructing of them on the moral and religious duties of their profession, and is in no wise to be considered as a union for the furthering of professional interests.”

August 17, 1939 – First, preliminary meeting held in Chicago with a small group of mid-west nurses and priest directors from 15 archdioceses/dioceses regarding how best to do a reorganization of the National Federation of Catholic Nurses.

October 23, 1939 – Letter sent by Monsignor Ready to Cardinal Pizzardo with an update regarding the preliminary meeting of August 17. He also noted that he was going to bring the proposal up for further discussion again at the Bishops Meeting in November, 1939.

June 10, 1940 – The official organizational meeting of the National Council of Catholic Nurses-USA was held in Chicago, with Archbishop Rummel presiding...and so it began!



***FREE CONSULTATION SERVICES ON
BIOETHICAL ISSUES
AVAILABLE THROUGH THE
NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER***



The NCBC offers a free consultation service, by a credentialed bioethicist, who can share with you the Catholic principles for addressing an ethical dilemma involving health care or the life sciences. If you have a specific time-sensitive question concerning such a matter that cannot wait until regular business hours, please call: **(215) 877-2660, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week**. Follow the prompts to leave a message and an ethicist will be paged and respond to your call as soon as possible.

If your question is not related to a time sensitive matter please call the same number during regular business hours 9am - 5pm Eastern Time or use the Online Consultation Request Form: <https://www.ncbcenter.org/consultation/submit-request/>

NOTE: The National Catholic Bioethics Center (Center) is a non-profit research and educational institute committed to applying the moral teachings of the Catholic Church to ethical issues arising in health care and the life sciences. The Center provides consultations to institutions and individuals seeking its opinion on the appropriate application of Catholic moral teachings to these ethical issues.

Neither the Center's moral analyses nor any other project of the Center should be construed as an attempt to offer or render a legal or medical opinion or otherwise to engage in the practice of law or medicine, or other health care disciplines.

What Do You See Nurses

What do you see, nurses, what do you see?
What are you thinking, when you look at me?
A crabby old woman, not very wise.
Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes,
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply,
When you say in a loud voice "I do wish you'd try!"

Who seems not to notice the things that you do,
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe.
Who, unresisting or not; lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.
Is that what you're thinking, is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse, you're not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still.
As I rise at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of 10 with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters, who love one another.
A young girl of 16 with wings on her feet,
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet.
A bride soon at 20 – my heart gives a leap,
Remembering the vows that I promised to keep.

At 25 now, I have young of my own,
Who need me to build a secure happy home.
A woman of 30, my young now grow fast,
Bound to each other with ties that should last.
At 40, my young sons have grown and are gone,
But my man's beside me to see I don't mourn.
At 50 once more babies play around my knee,
Again, we know children, my loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead,
I look at the future, I shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing young of their own.
And I think of the years and the love that I've known.
I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel,
'Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body is crumbled, grace and vigor depart,
There is now a stone, where I once had a heart.

But inside this old carcass, a young girl still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells.
I remember the joys, I remember the pain,
And I'm loving and living life over again.
I think of the years all too few – gone too fast,
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
So, open your eyes, nurses, open and see,
Not a crabby old woman, look closer -----See Me!

– Anonymous

Our Mission:



The National Association of Catholic Nurses, U.S.A. gives nurses of different backgrounds, but with the same Roman Catholic values, the opportunity to promote moral principles within the Catholic context in nursing and stimulate desire for professional development. This approach to Roman Catholic doctrine focuses on educational programs, spiritual nourishment, patient advocacy, and integration of faith and health. As we continue to share our faith and values with each other, and with other healthcare providers, we simultaneously reach outward to the larger Church and also our communities, as we offer support to those in need.

Objectives of NACN

- To promote education in Catholic nursing ethics
- To nurture spiritual growth
- To provide guidance, support and networking for Catholic nurses and nursing students, as well as other healthcare professionals and non-healthcare professionals who support the mission and objectives of the NACN-USA
- To advocate for those in need through efforts which integrate faith and health



Articles must be received by the following deadlines to be considered for the newsletter:

Winter (published in Dec.):
Nov. 15

Spring (published in March): Feb. 15

Summer (published in June): May 15

Fall (published in September): Aug. 15

Please send your submissions by e-mail to:

Courtney Donahue MS, RN, FNP-BC,
PCCN, Newsletter Editor at
courtneygdonahue@yahoo.com.



NACN MEMBERSHIP:

Membership dues are \$50/yr and can be paid via the website

<http://www.nacn-usa.org/>.

Questions? Email Richard Zazycki, Treasurer at:

billing@nacn-usa.org. Thank you for renewing. Welcome to those joining.

Mailing Address:

Richard Zazycki, NACN-USA Treasurer
c/o Circles of Mercy, 11 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY 12144; 518-462-0899