



Provincial News

Winter/Spring 2016

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Message from the Provincial President

Hello everyone: once again another membership year is nearing its end and we are preparing for our Annual General Meeting and Education Day, to be held April 22 in Red Deer where we will celebrate our 35th Anniversary as a specialty practice group! (more information in separate item below) Like many similar organizations, this year AGNA has spent time and energy reflecting both on our past. Past President Lynne Moulton is working on a project to record and share our history. As well we are looking ahead to how to meet the needs of varied group of members, and identify some strategies that will position our organization to remain strong and achieve our goals. Updates from two working groups are included in this Newsletter. I would like to thank the members of those groups who have given generously of their time and wisdom to look ahead, and Lynne for helping us value our history!

Two provincial executive positions are open for nomination at this year's AGM and I would encourage all members to consider if you or a colleague would enjoy the challenge of an executive position. The Secretary and President Elect roles are open this year, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have, please email me at president@agna.ca. These positions are also essential to AGNAs stability and future so please consider if you or someone you know would be suited to these roles. Nationally CGNA has been working on ideas to move forward with its own strategic plan which addresses many of the same themes that are relevant to AGNA at a provincial level,

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming AGM and Education Day

Regards
Terri Woytkiw
AGNA President
President@agna.ca

AGM Notification

The AGNA Annual General Meeting will be held Friday April 22 2016 at the Radisson Hotel in Red Deer prior to the Annual Conference. The meeting will commence at 0800. All AGNA members are encouraged to attend.

35th AGM and Conference April 22 2016 'Older Adults at Risk: Strategies for Support and Care'

The conference planning committee has been hard at work preparing for an informative and celebratory day. There will be an informal gathering in the lounge Thursday April 21 for those arriving that evening followed by our Annual General Meeting and Education Day on Friday April 22. The theme of this year's conference is Advocating and Caring for the Dementia Client . Our presenters are Larry Quintilio speaking on his wife's experience with early onset dementia, and Donna Durand discussing our role as advocates. The afternoon will be an interactive workshop "Finding Own Our Voice" led by Brian Webb. Registration is now open on our website at www.agna.ca

Special thanks to our sponsors CARNA, CLPNA and CGNA! We will be welcoming an number of exhibitors amd We are very pleased to be sharing Poster presentations from several Alberta Nursing researchers

In the afternoon we will have a chance to celebrate 35 years as specialty practice group, a legacy of commitment to excellence in gerontological nursing practice.

Celebrating our History

Our past president, Lynne Moulton, has been working on a history project showcasing the past 35 years of AGNA activities, projects, chapter events and education days. This promises to be an informative and nostalgic "walk down memory lane" for all to see at this year's annual education day. Thank you Lynne for helping us all to value our past.

Chapter News

Edmonton Chapter

Edmonton Chapter has held two Executive Meetings with the next one planned for May 10.

The Edmonton Chapter of AGNA and AAG held their annual joint dinner meeting on January 18, 2016 at the University of Alberta Faculty Club. The guest speaker was Dr. Carl Amrhein, Deputy Minister of

Health (Alberta Health). Dr. Amrhein spoke on future directions for the health of seniors in Alberta, and spent some time after taking questions from the floor. This was a sold out event.

Our next meeting is Monday March 14, 2016. We will be having a pizza dinner, and watching the documentary film "*Freedom of Sexual Expression: Dementia & Resident Rights in Long-Term Care Facilities*", followed by a discussion. Details are posted on the AGNA website, Edmonton Chapter.

The June Wind-up is planned for June 15, 2016. We will have a dinner/BBQ and a "Get to know your researcher" world café.

Submitted by Chapter Chair, Kathleen Hunter

Fort McMurray Chapter

At a recent meeting attended by four members, Lola Thorne gave a presentation on Physician Assisted Dying as policies are being discussed at Alberta Health Services. Jackie Campbell supplemented this presentation with overview of what Physician Assisted Dying looks like in Oregon U.S. and the Scandinavian countries where legislation has been in place for some time. Homecare staff are now having questions from the community about Physician Assisted Dying and how that affects them.

Jackie also shared discussion at a community event at Athabasca House about new Senior Advocacy Group starting in Fort McMurray with focus on Caregiver Education. Lola will follow up to see if this is an avenue for our Chapter to collaborate with this new group. Four members will be attending AGNA Conference in Red Deer in April 22,2016 The next meeting is planned for June.

Submitted by Chapter Chair Mary Stevenson

Follow up to September Strategic Planning Day

Brian Ward, AGNA Webmaster and organizational consultant and facilitated the day for us. Through the use of some entertaining and thought provoking exercises, Brian had us focusing our attention on our past, present and future. We reviewed the results of the member survey that was sent out in the late summer, and talked about how to best meet the needs of our varied membership, identify strategies that will position our organization to remain strong and to help us achieve our goals. Two working groups formed as a result of that day. One group has met to consider how to better engage with the potential LPN membership. Key questions have been formulated, and contact has been made with CLPNA for information and input. The second group will consider communication issues, and has met once to discuss how best to connect with members. Subsequent to the retreat, a third group formed in response to members concerns about overall membership issues, and has met 3 times to consider topics like retention of senior members, encouraging membership of students and new graduates, connecting with CARNA members who have identified an interest in Gerontological Nursing, and connecting with educational institutions and instructors.

A sincere thank you to all the general members who have stepped forward to participate in these working groups, as well as the Conference Planning Committee. It's the energy of our members that fuels our organization!

Seeking Executive Members

AGNA's AGM will be held April 22, 2016 at 0800 at the Red Deer Radisson. This year two Executive positions are open for nomination, Secretary and President Elect. Both these roles offer an opportunity to play a leadership role in strengthening gerontological nursing practice in Alberta. If you or a fellow member may be interested in one of these roles, please consider finding out. Position descriptions and nomination forms are available at www.agna.ca under Events/ 35th Annual Conference and AGM or from secretary@agna.ca. Please contact a member of the Nominations Committee (Jenny Nanninga at secretary@agna.ca, Terri Woytkiw at president@agna.ca or Kathleen Hunter at Edmonton-Chair@agna.ca

Registration Renewal

A reminder to everyone that annual membership renewal is now open via our national affiliate the Canadian Gerontological Nurses Association. If you have not "opted in" for automatic renewal previously, please go to <http://www.agna.ca/renew-your-membership/> and follow the steps to renew your membership.

Upcoming events

Watch your step May 16 and 17, 2016 Coast Plaza Hotel, Calgary, Alberta

Two expert keynote speakers including renowned fall prevention specialist Dr. Dawn Skelton from the U.K., more than 20 concurrent sessions from expert presenters as far away as South Africa and New Zealand, two dozen original poster presentations, a Western-style pancake breakfast (plaid shirts and cowboy boots encouraged), door prizes and fantastic exhibitors!

<http://www.watchyourstepcanada.com>

Grey Matters 2016 Conference September 20-21, 2016 Grande Prairie, Alberta

The Grey Matters Conference is a two-day event that offers provincial service providers opportunities to network, gain knowledge and increase awareness of issues, supports and services for seniors.

<http://greymatters2016.com/>

