

## Provincial News

### Summer to Fall 2015



#### *Message from the Provincial President Terri Woytkiw -*

Thank you to all those members who have responded in recent weeks to calls for participation in various working groups and projects, your participation, ideas and energy will help make AGNA a stronger organization. We have recently asked or interest in the Education Day planning committee, as well as members interested in working on Communication, Membership and LPN engagement. **Sixteen different individuals** stepped forward, we are grateful for your interest, and excited by this interest as well! The 2016 Education Day Planning Committee is well underway, and the other three groups will be arranging first meetings shortly. If you are interested in actively participating or would like more information about the planning work, please email me at [president@agna.ca](mailto:president@agna.ca).

In the late summer, AGNA members were invited to respond to a **survey** about how well we were achieving our objectives. We appreciate the time you took to respond. The results were shared directly by email recently. If you missed this communication, here a few highlights

- Sixty five members, or about one third, of our members responded, and provided **many** insightful comments, both observations and suggestions.
- While almost all identified as being from the Edmonton, Calgary and Red Deer Chapters, 27% identified as being from other urban areas, small towns or rural areas.
- Twenty percent of those responding were currently in a volunteer role with AGNA such as provincial or chapter executive.
- While 17% of respondents had been members less than one year, 11% had been members more than 15 years!
- Overall most members were satisfied with how AGNA is achieving its objective. We are strongest at promoting continuing learning opportunities, and have the most opportunity in promoting a healthy work life environment for gerontological nurses.

As we prepare to enter AGNA's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we have a good deal to celebrate, both looking back at our accomplishments, and forward to where we want to go, and grow as an organization. We are all members, in part because we value the role that nurses play in improving the wellbeing of older adults in Alberta and I look forward to the opportunities we will have this year to work together as an organization.

As I begin my term as AGNA president, I am honored to lead a group of nurses who are committed providing exemplary nursing care for this complex group of Albertans. As I look ahead to my term as president, I welcome your comments and thoughts on both our work and our organization. Feel free to email me at [president@agna.ca](mailto:president@agna.ca), I would love to hear from you!

Terri Woytkiw

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**AGNA is no longer maintaining a Canada Post mailing address.** After reviewing the very low volume and types of 'paper' mail received over the past two years and that the business of the

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organization is handled electronically, the Provincial Executive decided not to renew the mail box rental contract.

Jenny Nanninga, Provincial Secretary [secretary@agna.ca](mailto:secretary@agna.ca)

### 34th AGM and Conference

23 and 24 April 2015

#### 'Older Adults at Risk: Strategies for Support and Care'

All photos from the event courtesy of Gil Rueck (Edmonton)



Robin Cooper, CARNA rep.



Many of the services and education endeavours represented at the event.

*Far left:* Gail Couch, (Edmonton) McEwan University

*Immediate left:* Marnie from Call Care has been a long time supporter of AGNA and our annual event!

*Right:* Tammy Damberger (Edmonton) Antimicrobial Stewardship



#### **Taste of Central Alberta:**

Beck Farms  
Edgar Farms  
The Jungle Farm  
Innisfail Growers  
Pearson's Berry Farm  
Nixon Honey  
Big Bend Market  
Markerville Berry & Vegetable

Much thanks to the Red Deer Chapter and Charlene Thomas for organizing!

The theme of 'Older Adults at Risk: Strategies for Support and Care', set the pace for the 34<sup>th</sup> annual event. There were over 90 participants along with the presenters and representatives from partners in care displays making this a wonderful success! The event began Thursday evening with a lively presentation on fostering happiness in a technological age, and continued Friday with presentations on

homelessness and older adults, elder abuse, aging with a developmental disability, hoarding and older nurses at risk in the workplace. Event feedback on the conference was excellent, with positive comments regarding the variety, and quality of the content and the passion and engagement of the presenters, along with the new venue. The 2015 planning committee worked diligently to make this event a success, and we are pleased that the conference was so well received.

*Draw prize donors (not complete):*

- Epicure spices from Stephanie Kehler
- South Hill Design Locket from Marilee Nakano
- Pampered Chef from Jennifer Wesolowski
- Samsung mini tablet from (NCK consulting) Nathan Lawrence
- Young Living Essential oil (second chance facial and a raindrop massage) from Katrina Green
- Mixes-R-U from Diana Neubauer
- Young living essential oil from Charlene Lawrence



*Above Right:* Charlene Lawrence (Red Deer) and Michelle Copeland (Calgary)



*Left:* Amazing technical assistance by Brian Ward, AGNA Webmaster



*Right:* Greetings at the registration desk from Patti Shandro and Jennifer Boone (Edmonton)







Above: Diane Paley (Calgary) accepting the role as Provincial Treasurer



Above Left: Terri Woytkiw accepting the role of Provincial President from Lynne Moulton (now Past-President)



Middle and right: Annual General Meeting



Dr. Suzette Bremault-Phillips 'Finding Balance: Fostering Happiness in a Technological Age'



Dr. Martin LaBrie 'Homelessness and the Elderly'



Leslie Pisani 'Elder Abuse'



Doneka Simmons 'Hoarding'



Shannon Jacobi 'Older Nurses at Risk in the Workplace'



Coast Team Joanne Legasse and Tanya Wasielewski 'Aging with Developmental Disabilities'



Robin Cooper, CARNA liason gave welcome remarks



### **AGNA at CLPNA April 2015 Conference!**

AGNA had a presence at the spring *Getting Real: Paths to Authentic Care* conference with high traffic from over 300 delegates to our booth throughout the event. We were strategically located across from the Fredrick-McGregor Education Foundation booth and next to a refreshment station!



CLPNA Delegate bags



**President Elect for CGNA** – at the May 2015 Annual General Meeting held in Prince Edward Island, Mollie Cole (Calgary) was elected to the role of President-Elect (June 2015 to May 2017).

Congratulations Mollie!





**Chapter News:** *The Edmonton Chapter* said a thank you to our long serving outgoing Chapter Executive at our annual June wind-up on June 18, 2015. Thanks go to Tammy Damberger, Aimee Bourgoïn, Karen Kuprys and Val Steele for all their work on behalf of the chapter. We were fortunate to have Tanya Brkin Doran continue with her role on the Social-Education committee.

Incoming Chapter Executive - Kathleen Hunter, Chairperson; Sherry Dalke, Treasurer; Duaa Mohamed, Secretary and Tanya Brkin Doran, Melissa Crozier, Edythe Andison, Jason Woytas and Gil Rueck for the Social-Education committee.



Kathleen Hunter sharing thanks with Tammy Damberger on behalf of the outgoing chapter executive



The new executive met September 8<sup>th</sup> to plan for the 2015-16 chapter meetings. On November 3<sup>rd</sup> there was an informative and social evening at Covenant Care Centre de Santé Saint Thomas. A casual pizza dinner was followed by a guest speaker, Rosalie Freund Heritage, Education Coordinator UofA School of Public Health Injury Prevention Centre. Rosalie spoke on 'Finding Balance: A One Stop Shop of Fall Prevention Information'. She presented the 'Finding Balance' website and the upcoming year's falls prevention campaign. A very suitable topic as November is fall prevention month.

Future Chapter meetings:

- 18 January – the *Annual Joint Dinner and Networking* meeting with Alberta Association on Gerontology will be at the UofA Faculty Club. The Minister of Health or her representative will be the guest speaker.
- 14 March – *Popcorn and a Movie* – planning for a documentary and discussion event
- 15 June – *Annual Chapter Windup* will have a panel or café style 'Get to know your researcher' event along with dinner.

Watch for event details on the Edmonton Chapter tab of the website!

Kathleen Hunter, [Edmonton-Chair@agna.ca](mailto:Edmonton-Chair@agna.ca)

### **C.N.A. 2015 Town hall Federal Election Events – 8 October in Edmonton**

CARNA requested a representative from AGNA for the town hall panel discussion hosted by Canadian Nurses Association. This was the final event of the cross Canada tour. The others were held in Vancouver (Oct 7), Moncton (Sep 1), and Mississauga (May 30). The following is an excerpt from the C.N.A. website – '*On October 8, CNA president-elect Barbara Shellian moderated the final Health Is Where the Home Is town hall in the Alberta riding of Edmonton Strathcona. A sizeable crowd, numbering over 165 residents, came out to hear federal candidates and expert panelists discuss their concerns on health issues.*' <https://cna-aiic.ca/events/townhall>

### **Save the Date!**

AGNA 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Conference Day – Friday 22 April 2016 in Red Deer. Stay tuned for details!

