President’s Message • Spring 2009
Moving Right Along!

Tulips and daffodils brightened the gray Chicago city as the AAHN Board met this past May 2, 2009, to consider the business of AAHN. Once again we felt the excitement and energy we’ve come to know when we gather. You’d be pleased to know the diligence and the intelligence with which the AAHN Board Members address the issues of the organization. A major portion of the meeting was spent discussing how best to serve you while meeting the challenges of the economic times in which we live.

I recently heard Alan Beattie discussing his new book False Economy: A Surprising Economic History of the World, in which he explored the difficulty of juxtaposing the disciplines of history and economics. He described historians as “splitters” who tend to examine, in Toynbee’s words, “one damned thing after another,” and economists as “lumpers” who seek to extract universal rules from data the world provides—yielding reliable and testable predictions. While I expect Beattie may have been exaggerating to make a point, it occurred to me how necessary it is to have both “splitters” and “lumpers” involved in any kind of work that is thoughtful and effective. At AAHN we are fortunate to be so-blessed.

We currently have 446 members whose dues support primarily the operating costs and the awards portions of the budget. Donations from members are helping establish the grants portion of our budget, and we are currently developing an endowment policy to build our assets for the future. We have named Tess O’Neill, the Strategic Plan Committee Member on the Board, to a newly created Director for Member Development position. As part of that initiative, we want to hear from you. Tell us what you love about AAHN and what you don’t. If you have suggestions for what/how we could do something better, we want to hear your ideas. Feel free to contact either Tess: tmoneill@bellsouth.net or me: Rinker@lynchburg.edu. Both praises and prods are welcome!

This spring edition of our Bulletin will bring you news of the 26th Annual Conference, to be held in St Paul, Minnesota, September 24-27. The keynote speaker will be Steven Berlin Johnson, author of The Ghost Map, a book about the cholera epidemic in London in 1854. Unfortunately, the recent swine flu brings a current urgency to the experience of past epidemics. Why not ask a friend to join AAHN and accompany you to this conference? Those who come are hooked, and that is one epidemic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
we'd like to see spread! At this conference we will celebrate AAHN's 30th birthday under the leadership of our AAHN historian and local arrangements co-chair Laurie Glass. Be there!

If you receive the email messages, you know by now that a former AAHN President, and our first Executive Secretary, Rosemary McCarthy, has suffered a stroke and is now residing at Sacred Heart Home, 5805 Queen's Chapel Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782. We are grateful to her friend Doris Lee, who has kept us informed of Rosemary's situation, and continue to hold her and her family in our thoughts and prayers. It is thanks to the courage and foresight of people like Rosemary that we enjoy today's AAHN.

All of us share a love of history and particularly the history of nursing. Open and ongoing communication is the key to our success at AAHN. I look forward to an ongoing dialogue with you, our members.

Sylvia Rinker
President
SAVE THE DATES AND GET YOUR PASSPORTS

27TH AAHN Annual Research Conference

September 14-18, 2010—London, England

AAHN, in collaboration with our international members, and the Kingston University, St. George’s University of London, and University of Manchester, Dublin, will co-sponsor the Conference to be held at the Royal Holloway Conference Center, which is only a 20 minute train ride from Heathrow airport and a 30 minute train ride to the center of London, where Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, and the Florence Nightingale Museum are located!

For information about lodging, visit this site: http://www.rhul.ac.uk

For information about the Florence Nightingale Museum, visit this site: http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk/index.php

As we look forward to the AAHN’s 2009 conference in Minneapolis, it is not too early to think about the 2010 conference in London. Great Britain does require a current American passport for entry into the country, and you also need it to get back into the U.S. If you need a passport, think about beginning the process now. With the recent changes in the U.S. policy for passports the time for processing new requests and renewals remains longer than pre-2001 standards. Since passports are good for ten years, you can apply for one now. Whether you are getting a new passport or renewing one, you may want to begin the process by the end of 2009 in order to get it with time to spare. The U.S. State Department maintains a web site with information regarding the application process, including how to renew one by mail, and the documents necessary for a first time application: http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html. In addition, the State Department designates selected post offices, clerks of court, public libraries and other state, county, township, and municipal government offices to accept passport applications on its behalf. Hours and days for application vary from site to site. The following web site helps you find the nearest facility: http://iafdb.travel.state.gov/. Canadian citizens traveling to Great Britain are also required to present a current passport. See the following web site for detailed information for applying for or renewing a Canadian passport: http://www.ppt.gc.ca/

SAHMS Twelfth Annual Meeting

March 5-6, 2010, Louisville, KY — Call for Abstracts

The Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science (SAHMS) invites paper proposals for its twelfth annual meeting on March 5-6, 2010 in Louisville, KY, co-sponsored by the University of Louisville School of Medicine and the Innominate Society.

SAHMS welcomes papers on the history of medicine and science, broadly construed to encompass historical, literary, anthropological, philosophical and sociological approaches to health care and science including race, disabilities and gender studies. Participants may propose individual papers of panels of several papers on a particular theme. Proposals should be submitted no later than September 30, 2009. All attendees must register in advance of the meeting. Please send paper proposals to: Mary E. Gibson, PhD, RN at meg2e@virginia.edu.

For more information, please go to: http://www.SAHMS.net.
ICIRN: Interagency Council on Information Resources For Nursing: A History

Wanda C.K. Hiestand, EdD, RN

The Interagency Council on Information Resources for Nursing was established by Virginia Henderson in 1960. (Hereafter called the Council) It was her leadership that led to creation an index of nursing literature and launched a way to maintain an accessible information system for nurses in a rapidly changing world. Nursing’s body of professional literature began with Nightingale and continues to grow. As early as 1904 a survey of nursing libraries revealed that only 56 of the 136 existing schools had a room dedicated to a library for nurses (DuBois). The profession monitored the development of libraries, supported efforts for their improvement and published relevant books and articles. In 1936 the NLN published The Library Handbook for Schools of Nursing, incorporating ten years of committee work on the improvement of libraries. The National Library of Medicine was established in 1942 and the American Journal of Nursing (AJN) in 1948 established their Sophie F. Palmer Memorial Library in honor of AJN’s first editor and hired a professional librarian to organize and catalog their ever-growing book collection. By 1961 nursing libraries had developed to the point that the adequacy of the library became one of the criteria for accreditation (DuBois).

Attendees at ICIRN meeting April 1987. Virginia Henderson is seated in the center front. Standing L to R behind her are Wanda Hiestand, Jacqueline Picciano, Shirley Fondiller, and Virginia Saba.

Editor’s Note

AAHN members are invited to submit short articles for possible inclusion in future issues of the Bulletin. The articles in this issue highlighting the works of the ICIRN and the Fort Collins driving tour of historical nursing sites are two examples. Has something interesting happened in “your neck of the woods”? Do you know of a nurse who has an interesting story to tell? Have you put together a display of historical materials related to nursing for a local institution or event? Other ideas are also welcomed. Please send articles to me at: ba.reedy@comcast.net. I can help with your ideas as well. While publication is not guaranteed, every effort will be made to include as many as possible. The deadline for the Fall 2009 issue is October 1, 2009.

News from Academe

University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing, Philadelphia, PA

Julie Fairman – 2009 Dean’s Award for Exemplary Teaching

Dr. Fairman redesigned a mandatory, introductory course for all first-year doctoral students and created what one faculty member said was now “arguably the lynchpin in the transformative process… [known] as the Penn PhD Experience.”

Cynthia Connolly – Summer Research Fellowship

Summer research fellowship grant from the Trustee’s Council of Penn Women for her project titled From Mrs. Winslow’s soothing syrup to Triaminic Infant and Little Colds: Marketing Pharmaceutical Agents to Mothers and Children, 1750-2008.

Patricia D’Antonio – 2009 Legacy Award

The Penn Nursing Alumni Society presents this award to alumni who have contributed to preserving and interpreting the history of nursing at Penn.

Barbra Wall – Award and Grant

Award: 2008-2009 Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS)/American Nurses Foundation (ANF) Scholar for her work on nursing in disasters.


University of Virginia, School of Nursing, Charlottesville, VA

The Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry dedicated the Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Conference room in February 2009. Dr. Bjoring, a long-time member of AAHN donated $100,000 to the CNHI for assistance with the outfitting of the new offices.

*AAHN members are encouraged to submit news about their achievements in academia. Please e-mail to the Bulletin editor, Beth Ann Reedy, at ba.reedy@comcast.net. Thank you.
It was our recognition of the importance of history that led us to undertake this project to preserve the history of nurses and health care here in northern Colorado. The project was born out of a passion to understand our predecessors and to honor their good works. After considerable research into health care and nursing in our area a guided tour was put together to share the information with other interested nurses.

The project began approximately five years ago by delving into the minutes of our local District Nurses Association, DNA 9, going back to 1935. They were fascinating and we talked about how to share them. Our enthusiasm grew and we began to research the charter members. The current members of DNA 9 gave us the financial support to preserve the pages of the minutes and enthusiastic support for the idea of a book. The book, Nursing Pioneers in Northern Colorado: the Early Years of District Association 9 is in binder form. The story continues to unfold, and pages have been added since September, 2004.

The historical driving tour of Ft Collins, Colorado was conducted on a Saturday morning in late September. A group of eleven stopped at 10 sites related to early healthcare in our city. The group went into Dr. Peter McHugh’s 1899 home – now a fly and tackle shop. The old marble fireplace, the ornate stairway banister, and the etched pocket doors made it easy to imagine how grand the old house must have been. We drove by the homes of early nurses and told each of their stories. For example, Emma Powers RN, a widow with three young boys, graduated from the Colorado Training School in Denver in 1901. She was one of the first to be licensed as a nurse in Colorado, and opened a five bed maternity hospital in 1916 in Ft Collins. We walked around the first Ft Collins Hospital, now an apartment building, sharing photos and newspaper articles from the 1920’s. The last stop was Grandview Cemetery where we first visited the grave of W.W. Westfall, the “hospital steward” for the early Fort in 1864. There are also many notable RNs buried in this historic cemetery. We paid tribute to each by telling their story.

A five page handout complete with wonderful old photos accompanied the tour. This pilot project sought to express the history of nursing by relating the experiences of early nurses in the [Northern Colorado] area and to determine if such a tour would enhance interest in nursing history. The answer to this question on the feedback forms from the first tour was a resounding “Yes!”
The Board met in Chicago May 1–2, 2009. Sylvia Rinker, President of AAHN, presided. After she presented her main goals, increasing connections between members and the continued growth of the Association, David Stumph presented a financial update. The current finances are stable and the Board accepted the 2009 budget. Committee Reports followed and major points are listed below.

Awards Committee: Rima Apple, Chair
The Dock Award Committee will be asked to develop a list of quantifiable criteria to aid in the evaluation of submissions.

Publications Committee: Brigid Lusk, Chair
Suggestions are requested to improve the AAHN web site. David Stumph noted that RC IT staff might be able to help. Lusk also reviewed advertising rates for the Bulletin.

Strategic Planning: Carla Schissel, Chair
The committee is continuing work on member development. The issue of using environmentally sound practices in the Association’s activities was discussed.

By-Laws and Policies: Carol Daisy, Chair
The following changes to the By-Laws and Policies were recommended by the committee:
Change Article VI, Section 5C to read, “Officers and directors may serve two consecutive elected two-year terms in the same office”, deleting the words, “with the exception of the president who may only serve one term”.
Change Article IV Section C to read, “Dues shall be set by the Board of Directors,” Deleting the words, “by the members at the Annual Meeting provided that notice is given to all members 60 days prior to vote”.
The committee also made minor editing revisions reflecting the change in Association management such as changing the term “Executive Secretary” to “Executive Director”.

The Board accepted the recommendations of the By-Laws and Policies Committee. These changes will be voted on at the 2009 Annual Membership meeting.

Annual Conferences
Planning for the 2009 conference is proceeding well. Oral History will be the pre-conference topic. The arrangements for the London Conference are continuing and the 2011 Conference will be held in Fort Worth, Texas in conjunction with Texas Christian University. Negotiations for the 2012 are in progress.

Strategic Planning
Six goals were identified and discussed.
• Marketing
• Communication
• Fundraising
• International connections
• Expanded educational opportunities
• Membership engagement.
The Board of Directors will meet next at the annual conference in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Carla Schissel, 1st Vice President, Chair Strategic Planning showing examples of trash from past conferences that we should be recycling.
The inaugural Randolph conference was held March 20-21, 2009 in Charlottesville, Virginia. Agnes Dillon Randolph, the great-granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson, was an 1898 graduate of Old Dominion Hospital Training School in Richmond. She was a driving force behind the passage of Virginia’s first nurse licensure law and after years of working with tuberculosis patients as a caregiver and political advocate, she was instrumental in collecting monies to endow a Chair of Nursing at the University of Virginia. In 1994 the first Randolph Award was presented to Joan Lynaugh for distinguished contributions by a scholar of nursing history.

The conference was held at the Claude Moore Nursing Education Building, the newest addition to the School of Nursing. After a welcome from Arlene Keeling, Director of the CNHI and from Dorrie Fontaine, Dean of the School of Nursing, Joan Lynaugh delivered the key note address, “In and Out of Favor: Scholarship and Nursing’s History.” After a break, the plenary session highlighted nursing historical scholarship about public health nursing in Manitoba, the early twentieth century radicalism of Emma Goldman, nurses’ innovations during World War I, and public health nursing in Manitoba, Canada between 1904 and 1922. An evening reception and dinner in the Rotunda of the University of Virginia followed the first day’s scholarship. Sandy Lewenson presided over a live auction for the benefit of the graduate students’ travel fund. Even Dean Fontaine was an active bidder, winning several artifacts. The meal was terrific and the camaraderie was wonderful.

The second day of the conference highlighted a series of concurrent sessions. A wide variety of international nursing historical topics was explored by presenters from England, Canada, Ireland, Germany, and the United States. Conference attendees also had the opportunity to view and discuss a series of poster presentations at the complementary breakfast on Saturday.

The first Randolph conference was a stunning success. Although much smaller than the AAHN annual conference, it added to the opportunities for nurses, nurse historians, and others to present, discuss, and celebrate the important contributions of nurses from around the world. Barbara Brodie, associate director of the CNHI, thanked the University of Virginia School of Nursing and Beta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International for supporting the conference. Barbara indicated that this conference will be held again in five years.
Henderson dates the origin of the Council from the work of the National Committee on Nursing Service founded after World War II and chaired by Marion Sheahan. As the members discussed specific research they thought was needed, it became clear that studies were duplicated and often lost. They realized that lack of control over the literature in nursing would mean wastefully repeating studies unless a way could be found to record what had been done. A small grant of less that $30,000 was secured from the USPHS to produce a clarification of nursing research, to identify what had been done and where reports could be found and read. The group was charged with creating a blueprint for nursing research identifying the areas that had been covered and those that had not and to make some recommendations for the future. Leo Simmons, then in the Department of Sociology at Yale University, was named Director. The project was administered by him and Virginia Henderson was appointed to his staff in 1954. Other staff included Ray Abrams and a female sociology student. Henderson’s salary was paid by Yale University School of Nursing. Their report, published in 1964 by Appleton-Century-Croft, was titled *A Survey and Assessment of Nursing Research*. While an attempt was made to include the body of nursing literature in an index, this was not then possible. However, Henderson and her colleagues began a system of file cards that were a significant source of information to students at Yale. When Simmons moved to Teachers College, Columbia University, as Director of the Institute of Nursing Research, Yale’s Dean Florence Wald recognized the significance of the index file and suggested it be made generally available to nursing students. The USPHS provided grant money to edit and organize these files in 1959. Henderson directed the project. Her staff consisted of a librarian and a secretary (Noel). Henderson’s work became known as the Yale Nursing Studies Index and included over 5000 studies in its card file. During this period a freestanding advisory Council made up of nurses involved in publishing nursing information was convened. Representatives included organizations such as the American Nurses Association (ANA), National League for Nursing (NLN), the American Journal of Nursing (AJN), the American Nurses’ Foundation (ANF) and Hortense Hilbert who was interested in publishing abstracts as opposed to indexes. It was clear to the group that it was not libraries that created the problem; rather it was the lack of intellectual control of literature and library tools. Thus began the Interagency Council on Library Tools for Nursing (now named Interagency Council on Information Resources for Nursing, ICIRN). Librarians involved in developing library tools were invited to join the Council. Because of the nature of their work, librarians have often outnumbered nurses. There has been a conscious and consistent effort to include representatives from all branches of nursing in order to get their input into what kind of information nurses need to have (Noel).

At about the same time the Glendale Sanitarium and Hospital in California published *The Index to Nursing*, later renamed *Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature*, indexing 13 publications from 1956 through 1960. In 1966 with Lucille Notter as editor, several nursing organizations, including the National League for Nursing, the American Nurses Association and the American Journal of Nursing sponsored publication of the *International Nursing Index*. By 1996 over 350 publications were indexed in this publication using the NLM’s classification system (DuBois). The classification system first recommended by the Yale group was revised to follow the Index Medicus because it

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**AAHN Elections**

The ballot for the 2009 election has been sent out to all AAHN members who are eligible to vote. Be sure to cast your votes for the members who will help to shape the future of AAHN! If you have not received either an email ballot or a paper ballot, be sure to email AAHN@aahn.org, or telephone 303-422-2685, and we will provide one for you. Hurry, your votes must be in **before midnight on July 15, 2009** to be counted!
would be more “user friendly.”

The Council had no financial base for many years, depending on members paying their own expenses in any way possible. In general, agency members felt a strong commitment. For many years the nursing organizations sent a representative, sponsored programs and contributed free booth space at conventions. The National Library of Medicine provided computer demonstrations. The publications of the ICIRN together with applications for help from individual schools of nursing provided helpful advice in developing nursing libraries.

After years of informal structure, the Council created a formal structure, developed a measure of financial stability through its dues requests, and obtained incorporation. All of this has made it possible to apply for research funds. Currently ongoing research originally funded by American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Nursing Informatics Working Group is focused on surveying the information needs of nurses. Research conducted by Pravikoff, Pierce and Tanner (2005) documents that many nurses lack knowledge of how to search databases and evaluate information for use in clinical practice. Consultation is available to librarians and nurses nation-wide.

Every second year the Council publishes and puts on-line its premier publication, Essential Nursing Resources, a comprehensive list of both print and non-print resource information considered essential to accessing information on all aspects of the nursing profession. Publication began in 1967 as a research tool for nurses and continues to be an important resource for nurses and librarians. The goal of ICIRN has not changed: “to establish an effective system of information resources in nursing to advance the profession through the promotion and use of its literature.”

On a personal note it has been my privilege to represent AAHN on this Council since 1981 and to contribute nursing history resources in this listing. I have met Virginia Henderson and was inspired by her last interest. I was even more inspired by the dedicated librarians and nurses who have shaped ICIRN and kept it strong for the benefit of all of us. Please visit our web site for more details about ICIRN. http://www.icirn.org

Sources

ICIRN. http://www.icirn.org

Noel, Nancy (August 1983) Interview with Virginia Henderson.


Editor’s Note
Dr. Hiestand has been the Archivist for AAHN and represented AAHN on ICIRN since 1981. She has tendered her resignation as Archivist and the organization is seeking a replacement. Please consider continuing Wanda’s important work — contact Sylvia Rinker for more information.

Call for Papers
2010 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM)

The AAHM invites submissions in any area of medical history for its 3rd annual meeting, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, April 29 through May 2, 2010. The Association welcomes submissions on the history of health and healing; history of medical ideas, practices, and institutions; and histories of illness, disease, and public health. Submissions from all eras and regions of the world are welcome. In addition to single paper proposals, the Program Committee accepts abstracts for sessions and for luncheon workshops. Please alert the Program Committee Chair if you are planning a session proposal. Individual papers for these submissions will be judged on their own merits. Presentations are limited to 20 minutes. Individuals wishing to present a paper must attend the meeting.

The AAHM uses an online abstract submissions system. We encourage all applicants to use this convenient software. A link for submissions and other information will be posted to the website at http://histmed.org. If you are unable to submit proposals online, send eight copies of a one page abstract (350 words maximum) to the Program Committee Chair, Keith Wailoo, [kwailoo@rci.rutgers.edu, Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research at Rutgers University, 30 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ, 08901, (732) 932-8419].

Abstracts must be received by 15 September 2009. E-mail or faxed proposals cannot be accepted.
Florence S. Wald, RN, MSN, FAAN: 1917–2008

Florence Wald, the visionary leader of the American hospice movement, died November 8, 2008 at age 91. Prior to 1974 there were no hospice programs in the United States. Today, approximately 900,000 patients benefit from hospice care in their homes, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and free standing hospice facilities. Appointed Dean of the Yale University School of Nursing in 1958, she was introduced to hospice by Dame Cicely Saunders, the British physician who organized the world’s first hospice in London. In 1966 Mrs. Wald left her position at Yale to focus on setting up hospice in America. She traveled to London to learn about hospice under Saunders and returned to Connecticut where she and some colleagues opened the first American hospice program in 1974. This in-home program was joined by a free standing hospice home in 1980. Mrs. Wald’s latest project was the introduction of hospice care into the prison system. Once again begun in Connecticut, inmate volunteers are trained to comfort and care for dying prisoners.

Mrs. Wald was born in the Bronx in 1917. Her nursing career was spurred by her childhood experiences in the hospital for recurring respiratory problems. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1938 and received her master’s degree from Yale in 1941. Among her many honors were the Founder’s Award of the American Hospice Association and induction into the National Women’s Hall of Fame. She was also named a Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing and received an honorary doctorate from Yale University.

**The information reported above was summarized from an obituary written by Dennis Hevesi, published in the New York Times, November 14, 2008.**

AAHN is going Green

At the May, 2009 Board of Directors meeting, 1st Vice President, Carla Schissel brought to the Board’s attention the large amount of material that is generated at the annual conference each year that can be recycled. As a result, Board members are asking for your input for ideas on how AAHN can reduce its negative impact on our environment, and to inspire individuals to take small actions, which cumulatively can significantly increase the sustainability of our local and global resources. Send your tips and suggestions to: Carla Schissel (scootermae1942@yahoo.com).
I Want to Join AAHN!
Membership Application and Renewal
You may join online at http://www.aahn.org, or use the form below: aahn@resourcenter.com
Please indicate your category and number of years to determine the amount of your dues payment. All membership dues include the Nursing History Review, the AAHN Bulletin and member rates for the annual conference.

Regular Member – Individuals interested in the purposes and work of the association. Membership includes full voting privileges, all newsletters and notices, right to hold office and/or serve on committees and inclusion in searchable online Membership Directory.

Student Member – Full-time students with an interest in the purposes and work of the association. Membership includes, all newsletters and notices, and inclusion in searchable online Membership Directory

Retired Members – Individuals who have been members of the Association and have retired from professional employment. Membership includes, all newsletters and notices, and inclusion in online searchable Membership Directory

Supporting Member – Individuals interested in the purposes and work of the association. Membership includes, full voting privileges, all newsletters and notices, right to hold office and/or serve on committees and inclusion in searchable online Membership Directory.

Agency Member – Agencies, organizations, or corporations, with an interest in the purposes and work of the association. Membership includes all newsletters and notices and inclusion in online searchable Membership Directory.

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Credit Card Payments may be faxed to AAHN at 303-422-8894.

MAIL application to: AAHN 10200 West 44th Avenue Suite 304 Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
Where in the World?
Lavinia Lloyd Dock died in 1956. Where is her gravesite?*

a. A cemetery across from the Henry Street Settlement House in New York City
b. A memorial park in Jacksonville, FL
c. In a mausoleum in Atlantic City, NJ
d. A park in Harrisburg, PA

* Answer available at www.aahn.org
headstone photo by: Dr. Mary Ann Burnam.