The Importance of Nursing Advocacy: 
An Interview with MNORN President Mary Tanner

By Mary Vitullo

The Minnesota Organization of Registered Nurses (MNORN) takes pride in being an advocate for the nursing profession. MNORN believes in supporting the development of the profession through political activism and mentoring. There is no better example of this mission than President Mary Tanner. I had the chance to sit down with President Tanner to discuss her passion for advocacy and career path.

“I am not one to sit idle, I love to be involved to see progress being made, and I truly believe that as members of the nursing profession, each one of us has a responsibility to contribute” explained Tanner. The Michigan native moved to Duluth, Minnesota to attend St. Scholastica for a degree in nursing. Since then she has remained in Minnesota and has served in numerous leadership capacities.

Tanner has served as a delegate for state and national conventions, president of the Duluth local chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, and is chair of a regional health system Institutional Review Board to name a few. When asked about her reasoning for her dedication to involvement Tanner said “We all have different talents to share. And because of the public’s trust and respect for us, we need to publicly use these skills to inform the public of our professional role, protect their health benefits, and promote a positive health system throughout the world. Legislative efforts are critical these days, so we need more people to get involved directly or to contact their legislators and share their perspectives.”

She served on the ANA Steering Committee responsible for the 2015 revision of the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements. Tanner passionately explained her dedication to social justice as “one of the key elements of the profession.” Social justice and ethics are involved in the career of every nurse, but many nurses do not serve in positions where their voices can be heard to make a difference.

Serving as chair of an Institutional Review Board, Tanner is able to give a voice to the profession on these issues by using the nursing lens to influence research and complex ethical scenarios.

Her advocacy did not stop there. Tanner has also spent time as an educator with a goal of mentoring students to believe in social justice for all and to become
leaders of the profession. Tanner explains “While working as a nurse educator, I was very passionate about issues related to global health and social justice, so I incorporated that content whenever I could, taught specific courses, and also invested a great deal of time in service-learning experiences with students to various parts of the world, including Mexico, Belize, and Germany.” Tanner elaborated, “One of my biggest rewards as an educator is seeing students as they expand their knowledge and expertise, later meeting them in their own nursing career as they further their education, work in very sophisticated positions, and become nursing leaders.”

Furthermore, Tanner also encourages nurses to share their talents to become change agents of the profession. “I would like to see more nurses involved in community organizations and health-related groups” Tanner explained. Nurses truly have the power to make a difference in the profession if only we unite our voice and stand for causes we believe in.

Tanner truly embodies the definition of an advocate, through using her voice to be an innovator for nursing. She has helped our profession reach new heights. She is a role model for all nurses and motivates us to want to be involved. “Nursing is a rewarding career,” says Tanner, “we know we are facing a shortage as the population ages and healthcare needs increase. We need to encourage more people to enter the profession by telling them how rewarding it truly is.”

SAVE the DATE for the next MNORN Member Meeting!

**May 8th at the Carondelet Center in St Paul**

6:00 - 8:45 pm

**Program: Dialogue Forum Topics for the 2018 ANA Membership Assembly**
Open Now: Requests to observe the 2018 ANA Membership Assembly - Due by May 18

Requests to observe the 2018 Membership Assembly, for both ANA members and non-members, are now being accepted! Requests must be submitted by Friday, May 18, 2018 at 4:00pm.

To submit a request, click on the link: Membership Assembly Observer Request Form. NOTE: The following information will be needed to submit a request:
• Full name
• ANA membership number (if applicable)
• Affiliation (e.g., C/SNA, IMD, other organization)
• Phone number
• Mailing address
• E-mail address

Connected Health/Telehealth Professional Issues Panel

This panel will convene for approximately 6-8 months in order to review and update ANA’s twelve Core Principles on Telehealth.

ANA will use “Connected Health” as the global term to reflect the broad lens necessary to update the Core Principles on Telehealth. “Connected Health” has been described as “the umbrella term arrived at to lessen the confusion over definitions of telemedicine, telehealth, and mHealth” (Iglehart, 20 J.K., 2014).

Congratulations to the MNORN members on the advisory committee for this panel:
• Debra Cox
• Celeste Knoff
• Angela Oien
• Brandi Sillerud
What We’re Watching at the Minnesota State Capitol:

• A bill to support the Nursing Peer Support Network (http://npsnetwork-mn.org). This legislation would allow nurses to make a voluntary $10 donation to NPSN when they complete their form for re-licensure on the MN Board of Nursing website. Rep. Rep Cindy Pugh (R) 33B is the House chief author; co-authors include Reps Jeff Howe (R) 13A, Karen Clark (D) 62A and Erin Murphy (DFL) 64A. Senator Chris Eaton (DFL) 40 is chief author in the Senate. MNORN is supporting this bill.

• Elder Abuse. Reports issued include:
  • Office of the Legislative Auditor report
    • Office of Health Facility Complaints Program Evaluation
  • Governor’s Consumer Workgroup report
    • Addressing Elder Abuse in Minnesota Long-Term Care Settings.

• Opioid Bills - of particular interest is HF1440 (Baker)/SF730 (Rosen) – Opiate stewardship program established, report required, and money appropriated. The penny-a-pill tax is expected to raise about $20 million a year for services including addiction treatment, overdose prevention and the state's existing prescription drug monitoring program.

• Gun Violence Reduction Bills, including Rep. Lee’s bill (HF 3020) which would direct the Minnesota Commissioner of Health to establish a pilot program aimed at reducing the trauma caused by gun violence, using a $100,000 appropriation from the state. The pilot program would be directed to look at the root causes of gun violence – be it community violence, domestic abuse, or suicide. Additionally, two initiatives authored by Rep. Pinto include HF 1669, which would require criminal background checks for all gun sales, and HF 1605 which would allow law enforcement and family members to keep guns out of the hands of those who have court-issued protective orders and are a significant danger to others or themselves.

We are also, tracking the work of these two committees:
  • Select Committee on Health Care Consumer Access and Affordability
  • Home Care Workforce Shortage Working Group
Thank you to all who responded to the MNORN survey asking for suggestions for topics for the 2018 ANA Membership Assembly Dialogue Forum Discussions.  
Click here for report of the survey results

Based on your input, the MNORN Board submitted the following topics to the ANA Board for their consideration:

**Health Care Reform at the State Level: leveraging relationships and learnings from ANA and the C/SNAs to inform meaningful reform in every state**

**Description:**
As efforts towards meaningful healthcare reform at the federal level have stalled, state-based reform is underway. New models of care are emerging at state and local levels that nurses will need to evaluate and influence. If these models are successful, dissemination of these successes would be important for other states’ awareness for replication. ANA’s foresight leadership and anticipatory planning regarding future trends and consequences will be key to professional nursing’s involvement in innovative reform efforts and analysis of successes and failures.

**Proposal for Action on the Effects of Climate Change on Health**

**Description:**
The conclusions of the scientific community on the topic of climate change are incontrovertible and fully accepted by all disciplines that are based in knowledge development. Climate change is affecting, and has the potential for profound impacts on, human health outcomes (Anderko, 2017). Since the adoption of a resolution on global climate change by the House of Delegates ten years ago (ANA, 2008), the surety, the knowledge, and the effects of climate change have advanced. Yet, attention to this issue by nursing and other health care sciences has been minimal. As an influential and trusted profession, clinical and academic nurse scholars are empowered to draw attention to and accelerate progress in addressing climate change-related health concerns (Kurth, 2017).

At their Board meeting on March 8th, the ANA Board made their selections for the Dialogue Forum topics:

I. ANA-PAC Presidential Endorsement Process
II. Secondary exposure with opioid overdose
III. ANA Position in Aid in Dying

MNORN’s proposal for action on the effects of Climate Change on Health will be a topic for a facilitated lunch discussion.
MNORN Participated in the Initial Meeting of the Minnesota Nursing Community Policy Forum

The initial meeting of the Minnesota Nursing Community Policy Forum was held at the Bentson Innovation Center at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing on February 15th, 2018. 14 nursing organizations attended.

Goals of the meeting included:

• Leverage the power of nurses across all areas of nursing (Home Health, LTC, Acute Care, APRN etc) to support public policies which improve the health of Minnesotans.
• Build the capacity of the nursing community for grassroots organizing to support the goal of improving the health of Minnesotans. (communication, activating membership)
• Agreement from the group to meet twice a year going forward (pre and post legislative session)

Access the full report of the Policy Forum here

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American Academy of Nursing

Delivered a Letter to Congress Calling for Bipartisan National Commission on Mass Shootings

On February 27th, The American Academy of Nursing delivered a letter to Congressional leadership urging them to launch a bipartisan National Commission on Mass Shootings. The letter has been cosigned by more than 90 organizations, including MNORN.

On February 16, following the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida, the Academy released a statement recommending that Congress launch this Commission within 30 days, and specifying that it should be charged with identifying strategies that address seven specific challenges.

Academy President Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FAAN, Executive Vice President/COO, Children’s Mercy Kansas City said, “The 96 organizations that have cosigned our letter share a commitment to keep children, parents, families, teachers, responders, and administrators safe. Enough is enough. We need common sense gun laws, and we need Congress to step up and lead.”
“The Academy’s charge to establish a bipartisan National Commission on Mass Shootings is to develop comprehensive strategies that improve and strengthen policy concerning background checks, gun purchase restrictions, a ban on assault weapons, and health care professionals' ability to fully fulfill their role in preventing firearm injuries,” urged Academy President-Elect Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean, NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing.

February 28, 2018

Angie Craig for Congress
P.O. Box 22116
Eagan, MN 55122

The American Nurses Association (ANA) and its Political Action Committee (ANA-PAC) is pleased to offer an endorsement of your candidacy for the United States House of Representatives for the second congressional district in the state of Minnesota.

Each election cycle, ANA-PAC endorses candidates who have demonstrated strong support for nursing and health care issues and will best serve the interests of nurses and their patients.

ANA-PAC works to ensure that nursing’s perspective is considered in policy decisions made on Capitol Hill. Endorsement decisions are based on several criteria including, but not limited to, candidate interviews, communication with ANA’s constituent and states nurses associations, campaign information, and the candidate’s voting record on ANA’s priority issues.

Thank you for your continued support of nursing and issues impacting health care in this country. We look forward to working in conjunction with your campaign staff on your election efforts. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 301-628-5251 or matthew.fitting@ana.org.

Sincerely,

Matthew Fitting
Advocacy and Engagement Specialist
American Indian Health and Nursing
Editor: Margaret P. Moss Ph/d, JD, RN, FAAN

The first book to examine the profound disparities in American Indian health, and how they can be remedied, through a nursing lens

The average life expectancy of a male born on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota today is somewhere in the mid-40s, the lowest life expectancy of all peoples not only in the United States but the entire Western Hemisphere. Written by and for nurses, this is the first text to focus exclusively on American Indian health and nursing. In fact, it is likely the only nursing book to even mention American Indian health as a distinct entity. The text addresses the profound disparities in policy, health care law, and health outcomes that affect American Indians, and describes how these disparities, woven into the cultural, environmental, historical, and geopolitical fabric of American Indian society, are responsible for the marked lack of well-being among American Indians.

American Indian nurse authors, natives of nine unique American Indian cultures, address the four domains of health, physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional, within each region to underscore the many stunning inequalities of opportunity for health and well-being within the American Indian culture compared with Anglo culture. In an era of cultural competency, these expert nurse authors bring awareness of what is perhaps the least understood minority population in the United States. The text covers the history of American Indians with a focus on the drastic changes that occurred following European contact. Included are excerpts from relevant journal articles, historical reports, interviews with tribal health officials, and case studies. The book addresses the roots of American Indian nursing, including coverage of indigenous knowledge and traditional approaches to health and healing. It examines current issues surrounding American Indian nursing, nursing education, and health care within 10 distinct American Indian cultural populations, including a crucial discussion of the health care needs of American Indians living in urban areas.

KEY FEATURES:
• Focuses exclusively on American Indian health and nursing, the first book to do so
• Written by American Indian nurses
• Covers four domains of health: physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional
• Highlights nine specific cultural areas spanning Indian Country, each with its own unique history and context, with urban spaces as a final area

For more information and to order
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate just hit 50% capacity for the exciting exciting day-long conference

Code Blue for Patient Earth: Responding to the urgent threat of climate change to One Health

Friday, April 20, 2018
Science Museum of Minnesota

$10 for students!

Register at: www.fresh-energy.org/codeblue

The event is April 20, 2018, and it will be held at the Science Museum of Minnesota. The event is $50 general admission and only $10 for students (and it includes a tasty vegetarian lunch!)

If you haven’t registered yet, now’s the time to do it, as we expect the remaining slots to fill quickly! See this link for the registration and agenda.
The Faith Community Nurse Network of the Greater Twin Cities (FCNN)
2018 Continuing Nursing Education

Continuing Education Symposium (3 Contact Hours)

“Deaf, Hearing Loss, and New Technologies”
Wednesday, April 18, 2018 | 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, Brooklyn Center

Join us for an interactive presentation by Mary Bauer, Deaf/Hard of Hearing Specialist. We will learn about identifying signs of hearing loss, affordable assistive technologies, and communication strategies to use with those you serve.

Learn more:
www.fcnntc.org/education/continuing-education-symposiums/

Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course (35.3 Contact Hours)

While this course is a pre-requisite for RNs who want to enter faith community nursing practice, it provides all RNs with skills needed to integrate spiritual care into their nursing practice.

Monday – Friday April 9-13, 2018 | 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
FCNN Office, 475 Cleveland Ave N, Suite 205, St. Paul

Learn more:
www.fcnntc.org/education/foundations-course/

Nightingala: A Celebration of Faith Community Nurses

Join us for a memorable evening of delicious food, live music, an online auction, and friends. Nightingala celebrates all faith community nurses and our Network’s fourteen years of work on their behalf.

Thursday May 10, 2018
The Metropolitan Ballroom & Clubroom in Golden Valley
www.fcnntc.org/nightingala
Please join us on Friday, April 6 for the annual School of Nursing Research Day

Faculty, students, and community partners will lead concurrent oral and poster presentation sessions that showcase findings from innovative research and evidence-based projects. ANCC contact hours will be awarded for this activity and are pending. Online registration will open in mid-March ♦ http://z.umn.edu/researchday

Friday, April 6, 2018 ♦ 8:00 am to 3:30 pm
McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota
200 Oak Street SE, Minneapolis, MN

Registration is now open - Register Here