

D.D.N.A. Network

Official Newsletter of the DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES NURSES ASSOCIATION
1720 Willow Creek Circle, Suite 515, Eugene, OR 97402 • (800) 888-6733 • Fax (503) 485-7372

Volume 1, No.3

Fall 1993

D.D.N.A. '93 To Celebrate Specialty

Registrations For 1st Annual Conference Top Expectations

"You Are Not Alone - D.D. Nursing Is A Real Specialty" is the theme of D.D.N.A. '93, the first annual educational conference and general membership meeting of the Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association. The Hotel Viking in beautiful and historic Newport, Rhode Island, is hosting the meeting from October 22-25, 1993.

This meeting establishes an international educational forum for nurses serving individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as celebrating the unique expertise and dedication of the specialty. The Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association was established just a year ago, but has already grown to include members from across North America.

Keynote speaker will be Wendy Nehring, PhD, RN, President of the Nursing Division of the American Association of Mental Retardation.

Dr. Nehring will trace the history of developmental disabilities nursing, look at current educational opportunities, and examine future trends. Other featured speakers include: Dr. John DeToledo from George Washington University; Mary Kay Moore, MA, RN, of Atlanta, Georgia; Dave Hingsberger, MEd, Quebec, Canada; and Michael Smull from the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

Along with the general sessions, fifteen workshop options are offered, presenting "cutting-edge" information from nurses practicing directly in the specialty. Many social events are planned, including a celebration reception featuring music, food, and surprises. A special update and work session on certification will be scheduled for all interested D.D.N.A. members.

For registration information, call the D.D.N.A. office at (800) 888-6733.

President's Message

Dear D.D.N.A. Members,

Our first anniversary as a specialty nursing organization is almost upon us and in this past year we have accomplished much. Most of our efforts have focused on the development of the organization. We have concentrated our efforts on the start-up components of any new association such as membership growth, policies and protocols, and legal issues. We have also worked hard at planning a conference to coincide with our first anniversary.

This conference will be a true celebration - our membership has steadily grown to over 600 members in 44 states, D.C., and Canada, and most of the presenters at D.D.N.A. '93 are members. This just confirms our belief that each new member brings with them a wealth of information that just makes us stronger and stronger.

We are already planning our next conference to be held in the Spring in Orlando, Florida. The Spring will become our new annual conference time slot in order to minimize conflicts with other conferences in the Fall.

Our next major goal is certification. We still need your questions, so keep them coming. Even one question is a real contribution.

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you personally at our conference/celebration this month.

See you in Newport,

*Sharon Oxx, RN
President, D.D.N.A*

Certification Development On Track

Questions are still being accepted for consideration for the D.D.N.A. certification examination. Certification in the specialty of Developmental Disabilities Nursing is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 1994 at the second annual conference in Orlando, Florida.

D.D.N.A. Board of Directors and Certification Committee members have been contacting members to gather questions in an effort to cover the specialty as thoroughly as possible. Many members have hesitated to submit questions because they felt they did not have the expertise to do so. Board members stress that this certification is to be representative of

the practicing nurse and questions need to be developed by those nurses actually serving individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

To have a comprehensive examination focused on practice issues, it is important that questions come from practicing nurses. While researchers could be contracted to write test items, D.D.N.A. is dedicated to providing representation of the "hands-on" nurse.

Guidelines for submitting questions and suggestions are available by contacting the D.D.N.A. office, board members, or the certification committee.

Can You Help?

"Can You Help?" is a new feature in D.D.N.A. Network that includes special requests from members. Please submit items to the D.D.N.A. office.

Doris Hiscock, RN, would like to network with nurses who work with adults with mental disabilities. She is interested in possible relocation to the western states and would like to discuss job possibilities as well as gather more information on working in the field. She can be reached at Box 68, Killarney, Manitoba, Canada R0K 1G0.

Norma Johnson, RN, requests networking and information from nurses who assess mental and developmental progress of premature babies. She also needs information on cerebral palsy in the preschool age group. Contact her at 5609 North Lenore, Arcadia, CA 91006.

D.D.N.A. '94 Announced

The Grosvenor Resort at Walt Disney World Village in Orlando, Florida will host the second annual conference of the Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association. Switching to a Spring pattern, the dates for this meeting will be April 30 - May 2, 1994.

The Grosvenor Resort is an official hotel of Walt Disney World and is located on 13 landscaped acres in the "village". As an official hotel, there is free shuttle service to all Disney attractions and direct access to shopping.

A call for presentations has been issued for the conference and forms can be obtained through the D.D.N.A. office. Practicing nurses are encouraged to submit applications for presentation. In addition, sponsors are needed to help defray conference expenses.

Now is the time to start making travel plans and arranging time off for D.D.N.A. '94. For more details, call the D.D.N.A. office.

Member Input Needed

Newsletter Being Expanded & Re-Designed

This edition of *D.D.N.A. Network* will be the last in this format. Due to the rapid growth of the association and the need for more information, the newsletter will expand to be larger and more comprehensive.

This new format will include several new departments such as the one above, "Can You Help?" D.D.N.A. officials are looking for articles, opinions, and columns from members to help develop the different departments. Letters to the organization will be printed, and any new ideas will be appreciated.

To submit items, contact the D.D.N.A. office at (800) 888-6733.