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Editor's Note - Lenora Smith, MSN, FNP-BC



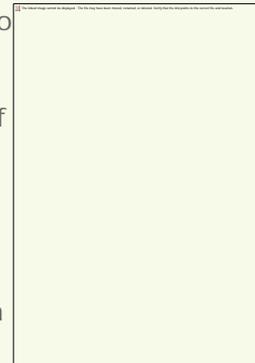
Four years ago, the newsletter was in need of an editor. I volunteered for this 'adventure,' and I want to personally thank the board for affording me this wonderful opportunity! Southern Connections is published 3-4 times per year, to update the membership on the latest happenings within the organization. It has become an excellent communication tool for the membership.

While editing the newsletter has been a learning process, I have enjoyed becoming involved in this great organization and establishing professional relationships that I will foster in the years to come. I have learned so much from Dr. Anne Stiles, Chair of the Communications Committee, and all of the committee members that have helped make the newsletter what it is today (Dr. Alison Monpetit, Joy Bailey, and Cheri Shireman) and the RC staff, most importantly, Delfie Castro.

Sadly, though, this will be my last newsletter; I am turning the keyboard over to someone next month at the annual meeting in New Orleans. I hope you will join me in welcoming the newsletter editor and wishing him or her well with the venture and a huge THANK YOU to all of you for your participation in SNRS.

President's Pen - Marti Rice, PhD, RN

In some ways, it is hard to believe that two years have passed and my Presidency of SNRS is winding down. It has been an amazing adventure and I am very proud of the organization and am very grateful for the support of a strong Board during my term. With their guidance and the support of the membership, the organization has made some significant strides to be more fiscally sound and with the implementation of policies and procedures to allow



development to the next level.

During the past year, thanks to the dues increase, membership support of the annual meeting, and a very positive return from the annual meeting, we have been able to "repay" the \$40,000 that was withdrawn from the reserve funds to address operating budget needs in 2009 and 2010. In addition, the Board voted to increase the SNRS grants by \$1000 each during the 2012 fiscal year, thus, addressing our core mission of supporting research in the society region.

During the past year, we have also made strides to update and/or revise supporting documents of the organization. Secretary Liz Reifsnider has continued work on the Policies and Procedures manual in order that it can be approved at our Board meeting prior to the annual meeting. Director Donna Neff has worked with the RIGs to develop policies and procedures specific to the RIGs. Together with the Board, Secretary Liz Reifsnider has also made proposed changes to the Bylaws which will be sent to the membership for vote at the annual meeting. President-Elect Tricia Crane has been leading the Board in strategic planning to set our goals for the next few years. This work will continue at the Board meeting prior to the annual meeting. The strategic plan will be discussed at the Reference Hearing/Town Hall meeting during the Annual Meeting. As part of this strategic planning, Director of Development Nan Smith-Blair, has ramped up efforts in development and securing donations for the research grants.

In addition to the policies and procedures manual, the organization has adopted a new logo and the Website has been revised to reflect the new logo and to make the site easier to navigate. Director of Communication, Anne Stiles, has led the efforts for these changes. The logo was voted on by the Membership and presents a new face for the organization that will serve us as we move forward.

The Student Network continues to offer a vehicle for student involvement and for informing the Board about student needs. Based on those needs, a post-conference for students is planned for the Annual meeting in February. Vice-President Anne Turner-Henson and the Program Committee have planned a strong annual meeting for New Orleans with a record number of presentations and posters and other activities. She, the committee, and the management company are to be commended for the many hours they have expended on behalf of the organization to make this a very positive annual meeting.

In closing, I would like to thank the membership for their support of me during a personally difficult year and for your

support of the Board and the organization during my tenure as President. Our region is better for your efforts!

Treasurer's Report - Demetrius J. Porche, DNS, PhD, APRN, FAANP, FAAN

As of November 2011, the total assets of \$376,987 are up from the prior year total of \$286,024, primarily due to attendee registration and the increase in registration fees for the 2011 Annual Conference. SNRS net income year-to-date (YTD) is \$59,963 as compared to \$11,973 last year at this time. Again, attributable to the Annual Conference.

In November, income of \$2,128 was received for dues, bringing the YTD total to \$78,477. This is 71 percent of the budgeted amount of \$111,130. The SNRS total direct expenses YTD are currently \$216,810, plus general expenses of \$115,408, bringing total expenses YTD to \$332,219. This reflects 94 percent of the proposed total expenses of \$353,565. All expenses for this year's annual conference have been paid. A change has been made to our accounting reporting system that provides more detailed capture of income and expenses.

Annual Conference - Anne Turner-Henson, DSN, RN, FAAN

26th SNRS Annual Conference
February 22-25, 2012
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
New Orleans, LA

The SNRS Board of Directors, Program Committee and the LSUHSC School of Nursing Local Planning Committee are pleased to present the program for the **SNRS 26th Annual Conference, Nurse Scientists as Crucial Partners to Health Delivery**. We look forward to welcoming you to beautiful New Orleans, LA, with its richly mottled old buildings, its sly, sophisticated - sometimes almost disreputable - air, and its Hispanic-Gallic traditions, has more the flavor of an old European capital than an American city. To assist in planning your visit, check out the New Orleans Conventions & Visitor's site at <http://www.neworleanscvb.com>.

SNRS 2012 in New Orleans -- Pre-Conferences & Post-Conferences

Are you getting ready for SNRS 2012, it will be in New Orleans this time. A great place and fun city. The Program Committee has planned an exemplary program. New this year (mainly due to Mardi Gras) - the student conference will be held on Saturday (1 - 4 PM) at the end of the meeting. Make plans to attend. It's a great bargain at only \$50 for each conference. That means, students can attend pre-conferences. We have three excellent pre-conferences.

From Bench to Curbside: Developing Academic Community Partnerships

Sponsored by the Minority Health Research Interest Group (RIG), this workshop will introduce methods and strategies to develop academic-community partnerships in preparation for successful research with minority groups. The preconference will incorporate concepts developed by the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), College of Nursing, Center for Community Health Partnerships. Topics that will be discussed include how to assess compatibility and suitability of the partners for conducting a research project together, availability of the partner's time and resources, capacity and competencies of each member of the partnership, and management of day to day operations.

Health Services Research in Nursing

Sponsored by the Health Services Research Interest Group (RIG), this workshop will examine the origins of health services research in general and health services research in nursing. Popular theoretical frameworks used in health services research will be discussed, along with examining secondary data sources. Workshop presenters will also discuss how to turn existing data sources into an analytical dataset, as well as discussing analytical issues.

Writing for Publication

Are you mystified by publication process? Have you suffered from writer's block? Have you engaged in gamesmanship to try to achieve publication? Have you experienced conflict with colleagues about co-authorship? Have you dealt with rejection of your manuscripts? These issues-and more-will be covered in the publishing workshop on Wednesday, February 22. Have you registered?

Anne Turner-Henson
VP, SNRS

SNRS State Liaisons - Deborah J. Jones PhD, MS, RN - Membership Chair

The goals of the SNRS State Liaison program are to encourage membership, improve communication between the Board and the membership, increase involvement of the membership in SNRS activities and provide grass-root input from the membership to the Board. Each state has a State Liaison appointed by the Board who manages membership of that state. Contact information for your State Liaison can be found on the [SNRS website](#).

Theresa Gunter Lawson - South Carolina

Dr. Gunter is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Lander University. She received her PhD from the Medical University of South Carolina and her research interests include high risk sexual behaviors in college students. She lives near Greenville, SC with her husband Jeff and daughter Elizabeth.

Lovoria B. Williams, PhD, APRN-BC - Georgia

Dr. Williams is an Assistant Professor at the College of Nursing, Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU). Her research interests are community-based participatory interventions, diabetes prevention, and weight maintenance. She is currently Co-I on an NIH-funded diabetes prevention intervention conducted in African-American churches. Additionally, she maintains an active practice as an APRN, and teaches in the graduate/doctorate nursing programs at GHSU.

Karen Rose, PhD, RN - Virginia

Karen M. Rose, PhD, RN, is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at the University of Virginia School of Nursing. She was awarded her PhD from the University of Virginia, where she was both a predoctoral scholar and a post-doctoral fellow through the John A. Hartford program, "Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity". Dr. Roses' program of research is focused on improving the quality of life for family caregivers of persons with dementia and in improving sleep, mood, and stress in persons with dementia.

Mona Wicks, PhD, RN - Tennessee

Mona Wicks PhD RN FAAN is Professor and Associate Dean for Research at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (Memphis) in the College of Nursing. She has served on the Awards Committee and as a grant and manuscript reviewer, and has moderated scientific sessions as a member of SNRS. She serves on the Health Disparities and Equity Promotion NIH Study Section and as manuscript reviewer for several nursing and interdisciplinary journals. Dr. Wicks also serves on the American Academy of Nursing Cultural Competence Expert Panel. Her research areas include African American caregivers' health and health disparities.

Doctoral Student Corner

"Join in the doctoral student discussions taking place in SNRS. Login to [Linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com) and network with other doctoral students who are experiencing the same anxiety, stress, anticipation etc. as you! Become part of this group who will support you in your endeavors!"

