

**South Carolina Board of Nursing  
July 2005 Insert into the SC Nurse Newsletter**

**BOARD MISSION**

The mission of the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina is the protection of public health, safety, and welfare by assuring safe and competent practice of nursing.

This mission is accomplished by assuring safe initial practice as well as continuing competency in the practice of nursing and by promoting nursing excellence in the areas of education and practice. The Board licenses qualified individuals as licensed practical nurses, registered nurses or advanced practice registered nurses. Complaints against nurses are investigated and disciplinary action taken when necessary. Schools of nursing are surveyed and approved to ensure quality education for future nurses.

**RENEWAL TIME IS COMING!**

Many nurses will be expecting to receive their renewal application in October 2005. The Board initiated biennial renewal in 2004. Those that renewed in 2004 and those who have received a license since that time have licenses that expire at midnight on April 30, 2006. Renewal notices will be mailed in February 2006.

**THINK ONLINE.**

It is sooner than you think. We, like many state agencies in South Carolina and across the nation, are trying to reduce the cost of doing business. This also equates to cost savings in an effort to maintain one of the nation's lowest nursing licensure fees. This year, you will ONLY receive a reminder to renew online. Please keep your license and personal identification number (PIN) in a safe place, as you will be using this PIN each time you renew. Paper applications will be available only upon written request. You must mail a request for a paper renewal application in a self addressed, stamped envelope to Renewal Application Request, Board of Nursing, Post Office Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211. Applications will be mailed within 5-7 business days of receipt of the written request.

There are more advantages to online renewal than just being able to renew while checking your email. The main advantage is convenience. The process takes just a few minutes of your time over the Internet as opposed to the time filing out the application, getting a stamp, and then mailing the application to us. The second advantage is the speed of processing. Your license is renewed as soon as your credit card clears and a printed license is mailed to you within five days as opposed to 7-10 days through the mail. Within minutes of the printing of your renewed license, you or your employer may verify your new expiration date on the Licensee Lookup feature on our web site. Be sure to print out the confirmation page for your licensure file with copies of your continued competency documentation for this renewal period.

Don't feel comfortable giving out your credit card information over the Internet? Our website uses state of the art security technology. This is the similar technology used by major online retailers and is very safe as is proven by the increases in online sales over the past few years.

Employers are encouraged to allow their employees to renew online within the facilities. While we recognize that computers are not in all homes, most people access through work, friends, and family as well as in all local public libraries in South Carolina. We encourage you

to take advantage of this wonderful timesaving opportunity just as many other states have already done or are not in the process of doing.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON CONTINUED COMPETENCY:**

**Q:** *Are Continuing Education hours now mandated by the Board of Nursing?*

**A:** No, the Board of Nursing does not mandate continuing education hours (30 contact hours in 2 year renewal). It is one of the four options for continued competency now offered by the Board and the licensed nurse needs only to select one of these options.

**Q:** *What is a national nursing provider of continuing education?*

**A:** ANCC (American Nurses Credentialing Center), National League for Nursing (NLN), any national specialty organizations such as Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWOHN) or Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) and other similar organizations. A list of accepted providers can be found under Continued Competency Criteria on our website.

**Q:** *Can I count taking one course in school as a nursing program under option (c) of Section 40-33-40?*

**A:** No, the key word in this option is "completion" and you have to complete all the coursework for the program before it can count toward your continued competency requirement. Now it is worth checking into to see if a specific course can be converted into contact hours. Check with the academic institution providing the course.

**Q:** *Can APRNS use their national certification in their specialty as proof of certification (option #b of Section 40-33-40)?*

**A:** Absolutely, since to be an APRN in SC you have to have a Masters and be nationally certified in your specialty.

**Q:** *Does a nurse have to sign my employer verification form?*

**A:** We know nurses have non-nursing employers and that is fine as long as the employer is able to verify nursing competency.

**Q:** *Where do I get the Board approved employer verification form?*

**A:** It is on our website at [www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/) and on the home page on the left hand side on the menu click "applications". The employer verification form is on the second page.

**Q:** *Do I have to send in all my paperwork with my renewal?*

**A:** No, do not send any continued competency paperwork with your renewal. You just mark one of the four options. Shortly after renewal, we will be randomly auditing 10% of the nurses in South Carolina. If your name is selected, then you will receive a letter asking you to send the documentation in to verify competency. By law, you will have five days to provide the documents. A licensee shall maintain all documented evidence of compliance for at least four years.

### **VICTORY FOR SCHOOL NURSING**

On June 1, 2005, Governor Sanford signed House Bill #3499, which addresses childhood obesity and the need for physical education. The bill also includes funding for licensed nurses in public elementary schools. Article two of the bill reads, "*Section 59-10-210. Beginning with the 2007-08 school year, the General Assembly, annually in the General Appropriations Act, shall appropriate funds to the Department of Education to provide licensed nurses for elementary public schools. The State Department of Education shall make these funds available through a grant program and shall distribute the funds to the local school districts on a per school basis.*" This is a victory for school nursing and our students. To view the entire bill, please go to [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess116\\_2005-2006/bills/3499.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess116_2005-2006/bills/3499.htm).

## **BOARD VACANCIES**

The Nurse Practice Act signed by Governor Sanford on May 11, 2004 established an additional lay member for the Board. There is one lay member vacancy on the Board of Nursing at this time. Lay members represent the public at large as a consumer of nursing services and may not be licensed or employed as a health care provider. No board member may serve as an officer of a professional health related state association. If you are or know someone who is interested in this position, please submit a letter of request, along with resume to Boards & Commissions, Governor's Office, Post Office Box 11829, Columbia, SC 29211.

## **HAVE YOU MOVED?**

Section 40-33-38 (C) of the Nurse Practice Act requires that all licensees notify the Board *in writing* within 15 days of an address change. So that you do not miss important information such as your renewal, please be sure to notify the Board whenever you change address. You may use the form included at the top of your license mailer or submit a letter including your name (as shown on your license), license number, former address and new address as well as your new telephone number. You may also change your address on-line utilizing the address change form found on our website: [www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/).

## **RETURNED CHECKS**

When submitting any fees to the Board of Nursing by check, please be certain there are sufficient funds in your account to cover your check and that the check has cleared before closing an account. Section 40-1-50(G) of the S.C. Code of Laws states that a license may be suspended if a fee payment is made by a check that is subsequently returned by the financial institution unpaid and is not made good within 10 days of official notification. Unpaid checks constitute a non-payment of license fees. Notifications are sent to the address of record on the licensee's file. When a check is returned, replacement funds plus the returned check fee allowed by law must be submitted in the form of a cashier's check or money order. The Board will not accept another check to replace the returned check and cannot provide any further licensure services until the check is made good. Notice of the suspension is sent to the licensee's employer(s) if the check is not made good within 10 days of official notification.

## **S.C. BOARD OF NURSING BOARD MEMBERS**

Sylvia A. Whiting, RN, PhD, CS, Congressional District 1 –*President*

Suzanne K. White, RN, MN, FAAN, FCCM, CNAA, Congressional District 4 –*Vice-President*

Brenda Y. Martin, RNC, MN, CNAA, Congressional District 5 –*Secretary*

Carrie Houser James, RN, MSN, Congressional District 6

Mattie Smalls Jenkins, LPN, Region I, Congressional District 1  
Rose Kearney-Nunnery, RN, PhD, Congressional District 2  
C. Lynn Lewis, RN, EdD, MHS, Congressional District 3  
Debra J. Newton, LPN, Region II, Congressional District 4  
James P. Rogers, Esquire, Public Member  
Vacant – Second Public Member [*See Section 40-33-10(A) of the Nurse Practice Act*]

**S.C. BOARD OF NURSING CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Main Telephone Line (803) 896-4550  
Fax Line (803) 896-4525  
Website [www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/)

**LPN / RN / APRN Licensure**

Telephone (803) 896-4550  
Email [Nurseboard@llr.sc.gov](mailto:Nurseboard@llr.sc.gov)  
David Christian, III, Program Coordinator  
Annette Disher, Program Coordinator  
Edwina Garrett, Examinations  
Pamela Holmes, Data Coordinator  
Theresa Richardson, Reinstatements / Changes  
Brandi Risher, Endorsements  
Michael Roland, Advanced Practice  
Kathryn Spires, Verifications / Changes

**Advanced Practice / Nursing Practice**

Maggie Johnson, Program Nurse Consultant [johnsonm@llr.sc.gov](mailto:johnsonm@llr.sc.gov) (803) 896-4522  
Advanced Practice Licensure (803) 896-4522

**Education/Refresher Courses**

Nancy Murphy, Nurse Consultant [murphyn@llr.sc.gov](mailto:murphyn@llr.sc.gov) (803) 896-4529  
Judy Moore, Administrative Specialist [moorej@llr.sc.gov](mailto:moorej@llr.sc.gov) (803) 896-4743

**Compliance/Disciplinary**

Telephone (803) 896-4470

**Administration**

Pam Dunkin, Office Manager [dunkinp@llr.sc.gov](mailto:dunkinp@llr.sc.gov) (803) 896-6949  
Tammy Haynes, Receptionist [haynest@llr.sc.gov](mailto:haynest@llr.sc.gov) (803) 896-4550  
Dottie Buchanan, Administrative Assistant [dbuchana@llr.sc.gov](mailto:dbuchana@llr.sc.gov) (803) 896-4533  
Martha Bursinger, Administrator [bursingerm@llr.sc.gov](mailto:bursingerm@llr.sc.gov) (803) 896-4550

**OFFICE ADDRESS**

The Board of Nursing is located at Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Suite 202, Columbia, SC 29210. Directions to our office can be found on our Web site. Our mailing address is Post Office Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211-2367.

## **HOURS OF OPERATION**

Normal business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday, except for holidays designated by the State.

## **DESIGNATED STATE HOLIDAYS FOR 2005**

July 4, 2005	Independence Day-
Sep 5, 2005	Labor Day
Nov 11, 2005	Veteran's Day
Nov 24-25, 2005	Thanksgiving
Dec 26-27, 2005	Christmas

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2005**

Jul 15, 2005	Advanced Practice Committee
<b>Jul 28-29, 2005</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Aug 18, 2005	Nursing Practice and Standards Committee
Aug 30, 2005	Advisory Committee on Nursing
Sep 16, 2005	Advanced Practice Committee
<b>Sept 29-30, 2005</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Oct 18, 2005	Advisory Committee on Nursing
Oct 20, 2005	Nursing Practice and Standards Committee
<b>Nov 17-18, 2005</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Nov 18, 2005	Advanced Practice Committee
Dec 8, 2005	Nursing Practice and Standards Committee
Dec 13, 2005	Advisory Committee on Nursing

## **VISIT US ON OUR WEB SITE: [www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/)**

The Board of Nursing Web site contains the New Nurse Practice Act, Regulations, Compact Information, Advisory Opinions, Licensee Lookup, Disciplinary Actions, and other information.