

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

MISSION OF THE BOARD

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.

FORMER EMPLOYEE NAMED ADMINISTRATOR FOR STATE BOARD OF NURSING

S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) Director Adrienne Youmans has named former Board of Nursing employee Joan Bainer as the new administrator of that office.

The position became vacant when Martha Bursinger retired in September.

As administrator, Bainer will oversee the operation of the Board, whose purpose it is to assure the safe and effective practice of nursing in South Carolina. The Board currently has 62,026 individuals licensed as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and advanced practice registered nurses. The Board also investigates complaints against licensees and takes disciplinary action when necessary.

Bainer says her return to the Board of Nursing to serve as administrator under the umbrella of Labor Licensing and Regulation will be an absolute professional privilege.

“Many of the staff have remained in place, and their expertise will continue to guide the newer staff to include myself,” she said. “I am also looking forward to renewing some previous contacts and establishing new ones in order to facilitate the Board of Nursing’s continued success.”

In 1970, Bainer earned a diploma from Englewood Hospital School of Nursing in Englewood, N.J. and a bachelor of science in nursing in 1987 and a master’s degree in nursing administration in 1990 from the University of South Carolina.

Before joining LLR again, Bainer worked as a nurse manager in mental health and was recently promoted to Acting Program Nurse. Bainer has also practiced in management and supervisory positions in the areas of medical surgical, long-term care, emergency care, oncology, surgery, and was a faculty member in a school of nursing. She worked for LLR’s Board of Nursing from 1994 to 2000 as a consultant for the practice of RNs and LPNs and was responsible for responding to practice questions, legislative issues, regulation of Advanced Practitioners, LPN examinations and acted as liaison to the Board of Medical Examiners.

Bainer is a Board Certified Nurse Administrator by the American Nurses Credentialing Center and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, S.C. Nurses Association and American Nurses Association.

“We are fortunate to have someone of Joan’s caliber and experience to lead the Board of Nursing,” Youmans said. “With her prior experience working for the Board, she’ll be able to hit the ground running.”

RENEWAL TIME IS ALMOST OVER!

Current South Carolina nursing licenses that have not yet been renewed will expire at midnight on Sunday, April 30, 2006. After April 1, 2006, our Web site (www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/) will list the nurses who have not renewed. If you did not receive your renewal notice, you may go to renewals.llronline.com to receive your ID and password to renew online. Employers are encouraged to allow their employees time to renew online on computers within their facilities. While we recognize that computers are not in all homes, most people have access through work, friends or family as well as in all local public libraries in South Carolina. Computers in our office have been reserved for the last two weeks of April for nurses who do not have access to a computer. Licenses are mailed within five business days or less after your card has been authorized. We encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful, timesaving opportunity.

While there are four continued competency options available in the Nurse Practice Act, not all options may be available in a particular employment setting. Information on these competencies can be found at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/index.asp?file=Competency%20Req.htm on our Web site. Prior to choosing an option, it may be wise to check with your employer to see if the employer will honor all the options. Each of these options must have been completed between February 1, 2004, and April 30, 2006, and *prior* to renewing your nursing license. For the next renewal, we will be looking at competencies completed between May 1, 2006, and April 30, 2008.

- 1) completion of 30 contact hours from a continuing education provider recognized by the Board. At the November 2005 Board meeting, a decision was made to accept completion of courses with a NUR prefix as long as a minimum grade of C is attained in an undergraduate course and a grade of B is attained in a graduate course. (Note: one semester hour is equal to 15 contact hours); **OR**
- 2) maintenance of certification or re-certification by a national certifying body recognized by the Board; **OR**
- 3) completion of an academic program of study in nursing or a related field recognized by the Board; **OR:**
- 4) verification of competency and the number of hours practiced as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the Board, which can be found on our Web site at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/forms/Competence%20Form.pdf. Please verify with your

employer that they will sign this form before choosing it as your demonstration of continued competency.

You are not required to send documentation to the Board at this time. Shortly after renewal season has ended, the Board will conduct a random audit. Nurses chosen for auditing will be sent a certified letter requesting submission of continued competency documentation within five business days of the request pursuant to Section 40-33-40(C).

NEW SERVICE TO LICENSURE APPLICANTS

After April 1, 2006, the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) will offer a new service to applicants applying for licensure. Applicants for nurse licensure by examination and endorsement can check the status of their application on-line any time day or night. There will be a link on our Web site when the service becomes available. The site will display the items received and those outstanding in an applicant's file. Our Licensee Look Up system has been available for several years and is updated within minutes of the license being issued by our office. We hope you will utilize both of these services and find them helpful in receiving important information in a timely and easily accessible manner.

NCLEX ITEM WRITING AND REVIEW PANEL

The Board would like to thank the following nurses who represented South Carolina in the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) item development program for the first quarter of fiscal year.

- Dawn Chylko: Member, 11/2005 PN Item Writing Panel
- Cheryl Scavarda: Member, 12/2005 RN Item Review Panel
- Kathleen Zambo: Alternate, 10/2005 RN Item Review Panel
- Susan Browning: Alternate, 11/2005 RN Item Writing Panel
- Susan Browning: Candidate, 10/2005 RN Item Writing Panel

BOARD VACANCIES

The Nurse Practice Act, signed by Governor Sanford on May 11, 2004, established an additional lay member for the Board. There are currently two lay member vacancies on the Board of Nursing. 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 know someone who is interested in these lay positions, please submit letters 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 or other important licensure information, please be sure to notify the Board immediately whenever you change addresses. Please 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 and email address. You may also change your address on-line utilizing the address change form found on our Web site: www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/.

Failure to timely notify the Board of changes in address is also considered grounds for discipline, as provided for in Section 40-33-110 (A)(26).

It is important for nurses who have elected to serve in the event of a disaster to provide the Board with updates on all of their contact information, such as telephone numbers and email addresses, not just their mailing address. Current telephone numbers and email addresses will assist us in contacting nurses in the event of a disaster. If our information is not current, a nurse may miss an opportunity to assist in a disaster situation.

RETURNED CHECKS

When submitting any fees to the Board of Nursing, please be certain there are sufficient funds in your account to cover your check and that the check has cleared before closing any account. Section 40-1-50(G) of the S.C. Code of Laws states that a license shall 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. This suspension is exempt from the Administrative Procedures Act. 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 cannot provide any further licensure services until the returned 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.

BOARD MEMBERS

Suzanne Kanipe White, RN, MN, FAAN, FCCM, FAHA, CNAA, Congressional District 4 –
President

Brenda Yates Martin, RNC, MN, CNAA, Congressional District 5 – *Vice -President*

C. Lynn Lewis, RN, EdD, MHS, Congressional District 3 - *Secretary*

Debra J. Doria, LPN, Region II, Congressional District 4

Carrie Houser James, RN, MSN, CNA-BC, CCE, Congressional District 6

Mattie Smalls Jenkins, LPN, Region I, Congressional District 1

Rose Kearney-Nunnery, RN, PhD, Congressional District 2

Sylvia A. Whiting, PhD, APRN-BC, Congressional District 1

Vacancies – Two Public Members [*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
Email	Nurseboard@llr.sc.gov
Web site	www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/

LPN / RN / APRN Licensure

Telephone	(803) 896-4550
Fax Line	(803) 896-4525
Email	Nurseboard@llr.sc.gov

David Christian, III, Program Coordinator

Annette M. Disher, Program Coordinator

Edwina Garrett, Examinations

May 5, 2006	Advanced Practice Committee
May 19, 2006	Board of Nursing (Changed at 01/06 Board Meeting)
June 15, 2006	Nursing Practice & Standards Committee
June 20, 2006	Advisory Committee on Nursing
July 27 – 28, 2006	Board of Nursing
August 4, 2006	Advanced Practice Committee
August 17, 2006	Nursing Practice & Standards Committee
August 29, 2006	Advisory Committee on Nursing
September 28 – 29, 2006	Board of Nursing
October 17, 2006	Advisory Committee on Nursing
October 19, 2006	Nursing Practice & Standards Committee
November 3, 2006	Advanced Practice Committee
November 16 – 17, 2006	Board of Nursing
December 14, 2006	Nursing Practice & Standards Committee
December 19, 2006	Advisory Committee on Nursing

VISIT US ON OUR WEB SITE: www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/

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