Licensure Renewal Time is Here!
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.

The Palmetto Nurse is published quarterly by the South Carolina Board of Nursing. Each issue is distributed to every actively licensed LPN, RN, APRN, as well as to nurse employers and nurse educators. Nurses, students, and professionals from healthcare organizations turn to this publication for updates on clinical practices, information on government affairs initiatives, to discover what best practices are being implemented, and for insight into how healthcare providers are facing today’s challenges.

ADVERTISING
Reach a highly targeted market of licensed nurses at all levels of practice, nursing students, as well as healthcare employers, educators, and regulators. Present your message in a well-read, professional publication tailor made directly to those involved in healthcare.
Gain name recognition in the primary care community.

Advertisements contained herein are not necessarily endorsed by the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation - Board of Nursing. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject advertisements for the Palmetto Nurse.

Editor/Administrator
Joan K. Bainer, RN, MN, CNA BC
Assistant to the Editor/Administrator
Dottie Buchanan

President
Virginia Robertson

Steve McPherson at 501.221.9986 smcpherson@pcipublishing.com
www.thinkaboutitnursing.com

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From the Desk of the

ADMINISTRATOR

By: Joan K. Bainer, RN, MN, CNA BC, Board Administrator

This year, 2008, items of interest will be noted with every publication related to the licensed practical nurse (LPN), the registered nurse (RN), and the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Items will include information such as Advisory Opinion updates, notations from the Board meetings to include recommendations of the various committees and any other information that will affect your practice.

An index of Advisory Opinions will be available for your convenience on our Web site. The Chart on Lines, Tubes and Devices now has the official logo on it for you to use as you develop your policies and procedures for the RN and LPN.

The need for new committee members are always advertised in the Palmetto Nurse for the Practice and Standards Committee, Advanced Practice Committee and Advisory Committee for Nursing.

We have a new slate of officers for the Board of Nursing who continue to support the mission of the Board.

And lastly, renew your nursing license early, save your audit information for a minimum of 4 years and continue to be proud of your nursing practice.
ADVANCED PRACTICE COMMITTEE (APC)

The Advanced Practice Committee (APC) assists the Board of Nursing with issues such as, but not limited to, advanced nursing practice, practice requirements, and scope of practice. The APC meets quarterly in February, May, August, and November of each year. There are currently positions open for Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in the Medical/Surgical area and Family Nurse Practitioner representatives on the APC.

All APC members must be currently licensed in South Carolina, not under a current disciplinary order, certified and practicing in the area they represent. APC members are appointed for an initial term of two years with a possibility of reappointment by the Board for three years to provide for staggering of terms. Information from all interested parties is submitted to the Board for review and appointment or reappointment. Members’ perspectives and participation are valued and necessary for continuity, so regular committee meeting attendance is very important.

If you or someone you know is interested in serving as CNS-Medical/Surgical or Family Nurse Practitioner representative on the Advanced Practice Committee, please submit a letter along with curriculum vitae to Joan K. Bainer, Administrator, LLR-Board of Nursing, P O Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NURSING (ACON)

The Advisory Committee on Nursing (ACON) assists the Board of Nursing with long range planning for nursing and facilitates collaboration between education and practice.

Members’ perspectives and participation are valued and necessary for continuity, so regular committee meeting attendance is very important.
The ACON meets in February, April, June, August, October and December each year. There are currently positions available on ACON for urban hospital nursing service administration and for advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) representatives.

All members must be currently licensed in South Carolina, practicing in the area they represent and not be under a current disciplinary order. Members are appointed by the Board for an initial term of two years with a possibility of reappointment for three years to provide for staggering of terms. All nominations as well as requests for reappointment are submitted to the Board for review. Members’ perspectives and participation are valued and necessary for continuity, so regular committee meeting attendance is very important. If you or someone you know is interested in serving as the urban hospital service administration representative or as the advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) representative on the Advisory Committee on Nursing, please contact Dottie Buchanan at dbuchana@llr.sc.gov or 803-896-4533 to obtain a nomination form.

NURSING PRACTICE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Nursing Practice and Standards Committee (NPSC) assists the Board of Nursing on issues affecting nursing practice in our state. The NPSC is charged with developing and revising advisory opinions and position statements. The NPSC meets in February, April, June, August, October and December each year. There are currently positions available on NPSC for Acute Care and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse representatives.

All NPSC members must be currently licensed in South Carolina, practicing in the area they represent and not be under a current disciplinary order. Members’ perspectives and participation are valued and necessary for continuity. If you or someone you know is interested in serving as Acute Care or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse representative on the Nursing Practice and Standards Committee, please submit a letter and curriculum vitae to Joan K. Bainer, Administrator, LLR-Board of Nursing, P O Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211.
LICENSE RENEWAL
TIME IS HERE!

By now, all currently licensed nurses should have received a courtesy renewal notice from the State Board of Nursing providing information on the online renewal process. Included in the notice is your User ID and password to access the online renewal site at https://renewals.llronline.com/ or by clicking Renew Your License Online on the Board’s Web site (www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing). All nurses are encouraged to use the online renewal process, as it provides employers with immediate verification of licensure.

Renewal notices are sent as a courtesy. It is each licensee’s responsibility to see that his or her license is renewed in a timely manner. If you have not received your notice, you may renew using the same User ID and password as you did for the last renewal. If you do not remember your User ID and password, you may receive the information by e-mail after answering a few questions. We still receive many questions each day regarding the competency requirements that went into effect in 2004. Most of these questions can be answered by the Competency Requirement for Licensure under Licensure on our Web site. The Nurse Practice Act can be found under Laws/Policies on our Web site.

Prior to choosing an option for renewal, it is wise to verify that the option is available to you, such as confirming that your employer will sign your competency verification form. Further explanation of these options shown below can be found in the Competency Requirement Criteria under Licensure on our Web site.

All nurses are encouraged to use the online renewal process, as it provides employers with immediate verification of licensure.

One of the following competency options must be completed between May 1, 2006, and April 30, 2008, and prior to renewing your nursing license in 2008.

1) Completion of 30 contact hours from a continuing education provider recognized by the Board. The list of recognized providers can be found on the Competency Requirement Criteria. At the November 2005 Board meeting, a decision was made to accept completion of academic courses with a NUR prefix for this option 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 recertification by a national certifying body recognized by the Board. A list of these recognized certifying bodies can be found on page three of the Competency Requirement Criteria; OR

3) Other options include:
   a) Completion of 30 contact hours from a continuing education provider approved by the Board.
   b) Maintenance of certification or recertification by a national certifying body not recognized by the Board.
   c) Other methods of documenting continued competence for licensure renewal.
There are currently three vacancies on the Board of Nursing. Members serve terms of four years and until their successors are appointed and qualify. Board members must be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. When appointing members to the Board of Nursing, the Governor will give consideration to include a diverse representation of principal areas of nursing including, but not limited to, hospital, acute care, advanced practice, community health, and nursing education. Registered nurse and licensed practical nurse members must be licensed in South Carolina, must be employed in nursing, must have at least three years of practice in their respective professions immediately preceding their appointment, and shall reside in the district they represent.

The first vacancy on the Board is for the Registered Nurse (RN) representative from Congressional District 4. The second vacancy is for the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) representative for Region I. Region I includes Congressional Districts 1, 2, and 3. There is also a vacancy for a Lay Member. 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.

An individual, group, or association may nominate qualified persons and submit them to the Governor for consideration. Vacancies must be filled for the unexpired portion of a term by appointment of the Governor. If you are interested or someone you know is interested in one of these positions on the Board of Nursing, they should submit a letter of request, along with a resume or curriculum vitae to Boards and Commissions, Governor’s Office, Post Office Box 11829, Columbia, SC 29211. If you are not sure of your congressional district, go to [http://www.scvotes.org/check_your_voter_registration](http://www.scvotes.org/check_your_voter_registration).
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - RENEWAL AND CONTINUED COMPETENCY

Q: What do I do if I have not received my renewal notice?
A: Notices are now sent out in January of even years. Please keep in mind that renewal notices are sent as a courtesy. You may renew your license online between February 1st and April 30th of even years. It is each licensee’s duty by law to notify the Board of a change of address within 15 days of the change. It is each licensee’s responsibility to assure their nursing license is renewed in a timely manner.

Q: Are Continuing Education hours now mandated for renewal by the Board of Nursing?
A: The Board of Nursing does not mandate continuing education hours (30 contact hours in two year renewal period). It is your choice which of the four continued competency options you choose for your renewal. The licensed nurse needs to select only one of the options.

Q: Is the class I took from XYZ Continuing Education Company approved by the Board for the renewal competency requirement?
A: The Board of Nursing does not approve individual courses. The Board accepts completion of 30 contact hours of continuing education from providers recognized by the Board as demonstration of competency for renewal. The list of Board recognized providers can be found on the Competency Requirement Criteria under Licensure on the Board’s Web site (www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/). We recommend that you print out the Competency Requirement Criteria as a reference while you choose continuing education requirements for renewal.

Q: I don’t have access to a computer to renew my nursing license. What do I do?
A: In addition to family and friends, most employers allow their employees to utilize their computers to renew their licenses. Also, by state law, every library in our state has at least one computer available. There is also a computer available in our building for licensure renewals.

Q: How many practice hours are required by the Board of Nursing for renewal?
A: There are no set number of hours a nurse must practice to document continued competency for renewal. However, a nurse must practice enough hours for their employer to verify their competency. Verification of competency and hours practiced as evidenced by employer certification on a form approved by the Board is just one of four options for documenting continued competency. While there are four options available in the Nurse Practice Act, not all options may be available in a particular employment setting. Prior to choosing the hours practiced option, it is wise to check with your employer to see if the employer will sign your form.

Q: My employer will not sign my employer certification form for renewal. What do I do now?
A: Employers are not required by law to sign the employer certifica-
A: After renewing your license online, you may print confirmation that you have renewed your license as well as a receipt of payment. To receive similar confirmation by regular mail, you would need to pay more than $4.00 in postage for certified mail with return receipt requested. Online renewal is a much quicker process for our nurses and assists our

Q: Where do I get the Board approved employer verification form? 
A: It is on our Web site at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/ under Applications/Forms. Nurses need to be sure that their employer can, by their policies, complete and sign the form required by the Board to document practice hours. If your employer will not sign the required form, you must choose one of the other three options.

Q: Can I pay for my nursing license renewal with an American Express credit card or electronic check? 
A: Currently, our online system will only accept MasterCard or Visa payments. If your debit card has the MasterCard or Visa logo on it, you may also use that for your renewal.

Q: How safe is it to renew my nursing license online? 
A: Data security is very important to the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. Our agency utilizes state-of-the-art security systems to protect our nurses’ and other professional/occupational licensees’ information.

Q: My employer says that I must renew my nursing license before the end of March, but my license does not expire until April 30th. Can they require me to renew early?
A: Your license does not expire until April 30th, however, many employers ask that their nurses renew earlier. Employers may ask for earlier renewal to accommodate scheduling. Your employer may require verification of your renewal either by requesting a copy of your renewed license from you or by viewing Licensee Lookup before scheduling you to work.

Continued on next page
employers with licensure verification. We will mail your license within five business days or less after your card has cleared the bank. The Licensee Lookup will reflect your renewal within 48 hours of your license being renewed and your new license issued.

Q: Why did the Board raise my nurse licensure renewal fee to $64?
A: The renewal fee is still $32. The Board of Nursing began biennial renewal in 2004, so you are paying for two years at one time. Although expenses continue to rise and there have been budget cuts over the past several years, the Board has not raised its licensure fees in more than 10 years.

Q: Are the renewal requirements different for LPNs and RNs?
A: No. Both licensed practical nurses and registered nurses have the same four options for demonstrating continued competency.

Q: Can I change my name on my nursing license when I renew online?
A: It is suggested that prior to renewing your license, you submit a copy of the required legal document(s) (marriage certificate, divorce degree, court order, etc.) to the Board with a $3.00 payment to update our files. Indicate whether you will use your middle name or maiden name for your middle initial (i.e. Jane Ann Doe – Jane Ann Smith? or Jane Doe Smith?). You may verify that your name change request has been processed on our Web site under Licensee Lookup. If you renew after your name has been changed and verified on Licensee Lookup, your renewed license will be issued in your new name.

Q: How many of the competency requirement options must I complete to renew my license?
A: You need only complete one of the competency requirements. You may complete more than one due to employer requirements, certifications, etc. Many nurses who are certified will qualify under that option but will also qualify under the continuing education option and maybe the employer verification option. If you fall into this category, choose only one of the options and be sure to maintain the required documentation for that option for possible audit.

Q: Can I count taking a course in school as a nursing program under option(c) of Section 40-33-40 - completion of an academic program of study in nursing or a related field recognized by the Board?
A: No. The key word for this option is “completion.” You must have completed all the coursework for the program before it can count toward that competency requirement option. This option will be especially practical for licensed practical nurses seeking their degree for registered nurse or registered nurses seeking to obtain a higher degree such as their baccalaureate, masters or doctorate. However, if the course you are referring to is a nursing course you have completed, you may want to see if it will count as continuing education. At the November 2005 Board meeting, a decision was made to accept completion of academic courses with a NUR prefix for the continuing education option 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).

Q: Do I have to send in all my paperwork with my renewal?
A: No. Shortly after renewal begins in February 2008, we will be randomly auditing nurses in South Carolina. If your name is selected, 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 must maintain all documented evidence of compliance for at least four years.

Q: What happens if I do not renew my nursing license by April 30th?
A: All nursing licenses expire at midnight on April 30th. If you do not renew your license by midnight on April 30th, any nursing practice after that time will be considered unlicensed practice and will be subject to disciplinary action and civil penalty. As you are planning your renewal, please allow time for your credit card to process and for the renewed license to be updated on Licensee Lookup indicating an expiration date of April 30, 2010 for this renewal. It generally takes 48 hours for Licensee Lookup to be updated.
Bits from the Board

Do you want to hear a snapshot presentation of the latest Bits from the Board in your facility at no charge?

An individualized program especially geared to your practice setting, your staff needs and at your convenience is just a phone call away. You can invest one hour or more, whatever you decide.

All facilities, businesses and practice settings are encouraged to request a program that you can design to meet your needs. We request that you have a minimum of 10 attendees. The program will include a short update on legislation, recent board decisions, competency and the Recovering Professional Program, etc. The requestor can add any topic or any focus for the agenda that would be especially helpful to you. Your programs and related discussions will not generate disciplinary action as the intent is to focus on education and quality improvement in nursing practice.

The sole purpose of this program is to “bring a face from the Board of Nursing” to you and your staff. Staying abreast of nursing practice is your responsibility.

For an individualized program email Joan Bainer at email at bainerj@llr.sc.gov or call 803-896-4537 to schedule a day and time.
Legal Aspects of Nursing Workshop

In Spring 2005, the Board of Nursing asked its staff to provide a Legal Aspects of Nursing Workshop periodically to assist nurses required to complete the workshop to comply with a disciplinary order or to complete the workshop for reinstatement of their license. The workshop is offered free of charge as a courtesy to our nurses. The workshop is also used in the Practitioner Remediation and Enhancement Partnership (PREP) program and by employers as an educational tool. The three hour workshop is offered monthly in the Board offices. No continuing education credits are granted for this course.

If the dates below do not meet your schedule, you can find a list of the other Legal Aspects of Nursing Workshops approved by the Board on the Competency Requirement Criteria located under Licensure on our Web site- www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/.

The registration form for the workshop can be found on our Web site under Applications/Forms. The form includes directions to our offices. The completed form can be mailed to Legal Aspects Workshop, LLR – Board of Nursing, P O Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211 or faxed to Legal Aspects Workshop at 803-896-4525. If you have questions on registering for the Legal Aspects of Nursing Workshop, contact Dottie M. Buchanan, Assistant to the Administrator, at 803-896-4533.

Legal Aspects - 2008
January 17, 2008
February 13, 2008
March 12, 2008
April 09, 2008
May 07, 2008
June 18, 2008
July 09, 2008
August 13, 2008
September 10, 2008
October 08, 2008
November 05, 2008
December 03, 2008
Disciplinary Actions

Disciplinary actions taken by the South Carolina Board of Nursing are reported to the NURSYS national nursing database, which is maintained by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and is the verification system utilized by the Board. Disciplinary actions are also reported to the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB), which is maintained by the federal government. Public disciplinary actions may be viewed on our Web site under Disciplinary Actions.

Below is a list of the final orders posted on the Web site during December 2007.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>License Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheila Elizabeth B. Blanton</td>
<td>LPN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tina R. P. Brown, RN</td>
<td>RN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katie Jean Bunch, RN</td>
<td>RN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debra Carter, RN</td>
<td>RN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa M. Cassara, RN</td>
<td>RN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holly J. Cox, LPN</td>
<td>LPN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa G. Droze, RN</td>
<td>RN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah K. Edwards, RN</td>
<td>RN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth A. Gregory, RN</td>
<td>RN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tena G. Hairston, LPN</td>
<td>LPN</td>
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<td>Debra S. Henry, LPN</td>
<td>LPN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miriam P. Hurt, RN</td>
<td>RN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron B. Hyman, RN</td>
<td>RN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Johnston, RN</td>
<td>RN</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Marcia D. Kelsey, RN
Andreanna Lindley, RN
Kathleen Keith, RN
Tammy McAbee, RN
Eugenia Meeks, LPN
Kelly Moore, LPN
Florence Igwacho Ngwe, RN
Ramona L. Rollins, RN
Wendy M. Sanders, LPN
Kimberly D. Shaw, RN
Patricia Suzanne Smith, APRN
Curtis S. Spann, RN
Sylvia O. Trapp, LPN
Sara Tumblin, LPN

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Section 40-33-38 (C) of the S.C. Nurse Practice Act requires that all licensees notify the Board in writing within 15 days of an address change. So that you do not incur disciplinary action or miss important time sensitive information such as your renewal notice and audit or other important licensure information, please be sure to notify the Board immediately whenever you change addresses.

You may change your address on-line utilizing the address change form under Online Services found on our Web site: www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/ <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/>.
2008 BOARD OF NURSING OFFICERS

At their November 29, 2007, meeting, pursuant to Section 40-33-10(G) of the Nurse Practice Act, the Board of Nursing elected:

Brenda Yates Martin, RNC, MN, CNAA as President
  Ms. Martin represents Congressional District Five

C. Lynn Lewis, RN, EdD, MHS as Vice President
  Dr. Lewis represents Congressional District Three

Trey Pennington, MBA, MS as Secretary
  Mr. Pennington serves as a Lay Member.
When was the last time you went on the Board’s Web site? We recommend that all nurses visit our Web site (www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/) at least monthly for up-to-date information. When a new advisory opinion is issued or a current advisory opinion revised, it is updated on our Web site within two weeks of approval by the Board. The Competency Requirement, Competency Requirement Criteria, Licensure, Advisory Opinions, Position Statements, and the Nurse Practice Act are just a few of the valuable tools and information you will find on the Web site.

Competency Requirement, Competency Requirement Criteria is located under Licensure. The Advisory Opinions, Position Statements, and the Nurse Practice Act are located under Laws/Policies.

We hope that you will find this information useful in your nursing practice.
ATTENTION CHECK WRITERS!!!

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION – BOARD OF NURSEING GLADLY ACCEPTS YOUR CHECKS.

WHEN YOU PROVIDE A CHECK AS PAYMENT, YOU AUTHORIZE US TO USE INFORMATION FROM THE CHECK TO MAKE A ONE-TIME ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER FROM YOUR ACCOUNT, OR TO PROCESS THE PAYMENT AS A CHECK TRANSACTION.

YOU AUTHORIZE US TO COLLECT A FEE THROUGH ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER FROM YOUR ACCOUNT IF YOUR PAYMENT IS RETURNED UNPAID.
Faith Based, Congregational & Parish Nursing
A Growing Area of Nursing Practice

Congregational Nursing is also known as Parish Nursing or Faith Based Nursing, which incorporates health and nursing practices. Congregational Nursing practice is not limited to a church setting or a synagogue. The practice leads nurses to visiting clients in their home or hospital and supporting their families during illness and death.

Additionally, Congregational Nursing focuses heavily on educating clients regarding their medication, illness, health prevention, and health promotion. A nurse contacts the client’s physician if a medical need is indicated. Congregational Nurses do not practice from protocols, as they are reserved for Advanced Practitioners performing delegated medical acts.

If you are a Faith Based, Congregational, or Parish Nurse, be sure to select the Faith Based, Congregational, Parish Nursing practice option on your nurse licensure renewal even if you are hospital based.

Nurses who elect to work in the Congregational Nursing area are to be applauded, which this concept grows more popular every year. You may also want to contact your local Congregational Nurse Support group, which provides a great networking opportunity.