MI NURSES Association

Awards Banquet and Ceremony

Friday
October 11, 2019

Boyne Mountain Resort
Boyne Falls, MI
MNA Awards Banquet and Ceremony

Welcome
Jamie Brown, RN
MNA President
Mistress of Ceremonies

Dinner

Recognition of Michigan Nurses Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Recognition of Advocacy Academy Graduates

Recognition of MNA Board of Directors Terms of Service

Presentation of MNA Nurse Hero Award

Presentation of Outstanding Contribution to MNA Award

Presentation of Labor Leader of the Year Award

Presentation of Cheryl L. Johnson, RN Labor Legacy Award

Presentation of Political Nurse Activist Award
Michigan Nurses Foundation Scholarship Recipients

The mission of the Michigan Nurses Foundation is to promote a healthy, educated, and professional nurse workforce through the advancement of nursing research, support for nursing education, and assistance for the recovering nurse. Through the Michigan Nurses Foundation, founded in the year 2000, opportunities are provided for those who wish to establish a legacy today for tomorrow’s nurses.

Jaycie Clinton  
**University of Michigan-Flint**

Kaitlin McGarry  
**Michigan State University**

Theodore Parker  
**Andrews University**

Jacob VanHorssen  
**Calvin University**

Evelyn Grace Peraino Memorial

The Evelyn Grace Foundation bequeathed funds to the Michigan Nurses Foundation Scholarship Fund in 2019.

Evelyn passed away at 3.5 months old in 2018. This scholarship is in honor of all the nurses that cared for her, the love and support consistently given to her and her family, and their genuine concern and passion for pediatric patient care.

Evelyn’s legacy will live on by helping nurses currently working in a pediatric setting to further their education with an advanced degree. To assist in reaching this goal of continuing education, a $2,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to nurses currently employed in a pediatric setting looking to further their education at a college or university in the State of Michigan.

Lauren Baker-Rehm – **Wayne State University**

Leipold Scholarship Recipient

Megan Kidder – **Lansing Community College**

**Margaret Louise Miller Leipold, RN Scholarship**

Established in 2011 by her daughters, the Margaret Louise Miller Leipold, RN scholarship honors their mother, a nurse who influenced and mentored young nurses. The scholarship is awarded to a second-year Michigan community college nursing student in need of financial assistance.
Recognition of MNA Advocacy Academy Graduates

This year marks the third year of MNA’s Advocacy Academy, a six-month professional development program for members from across the state. Graduates built their knowledge and skills in legislative advocacy so they can have a voice on public policy issues such as safe staffing, workplace violence, and community health.

Nurses need to understand how state and federal laws are made in order to influence the process. When RNs speak up, they can shape public policies that affect our profession, patients, practice, and communities.

Over the past six months, Advocacy Academy participants worked diligently: attending webinars, participating in conference calls, lobbying their legislators in support of the Safe Patient Care Act, and educating lawmakers on nursing issues.

MNA is proud to recognize these graduates of the 2019 Advocacy Academy class:

**Savannah Andrews, RN**
*University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council*

**Nicole Barrios, RN**
*University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council*

**Michelle Brooks, RN**
*Borgess Medical Center*

**Jamie Brown, RN**
*Borgess Medical Center*

**Ray Collins, RN**
*University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council*

**Melissa Gibney, RN**
*University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council*

**Angela Goodson, RN**
*Associate Member*

**Montanna Hokenson, RN**
*University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council*

**Amber Irrer, RN**
*Associate Member*

**Kathy Kline, RN**
*University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council*

**Blair March, RN**
*University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council*

**Janet Medina, RN**
*Professional Employee Council of Sparrow Hospital*

**Tina Ray, RN**
*Professional Employee Council of Sparrow Hospital*

**Michael Riviera, RN**
*University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council*

**Aalona Robinson, RN**
*Associate Member*

**Nicole Vasher, RN**
*Associate Member*

**Justin Walukonis, RN**
*University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council*

**Nancy Weissman, RN**
*University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council*

**Martha Zettelmaier, RN**
*University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council*
Recognition of MNA Board of Directors Terms of Service

Scott Balko, RN – Two Terms
MGH RN Staff Nurse Council

Kathy Hillman, RN – One Term
Borgess Staff Nurse Council

Suzette Hantz, RN – One Term
MGH RN Staff Nurse Council

Katie Scott, RN – One Term
University of Michigan Professional Nurse Council
Nurse Hero Award

Trisha Goodridge, RN
POSTHUMOUS AWARD

When Trisha Goodridge, a nurse at the University of Michigan Hospital for over 20 years, was diagnosed with Stage 3C Ovarian Cancer in 2015, she decided to take her story on the road. Literally. After five surgeries and 50 rounds of chemotherapy, Trisha found a 1964 Ford Galaxie 500 XL and painted it teal (the representing color of ovarian cancer). She put together a group of fellow travelers and in June 2018, they left Michigan to travel to California on Route 66. “Lola” and her travelers would use the trip to spread awareness about ovarian cancer signs and symptoms. By the time the road trip concluded in July 2018, over 1,200 information cards from the Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MIOCA) had been passed out in Native American reservations, primarily Spanish-speaking communities, big cities, small towns and rural areas.
After Trisha returned to Michigan, she continued to advocate for knowing the early signs of ovarian cancer by helping promote the annual Wheels and Teal ovarian cancer fundraiser in Rochester Hills on Detroit TV stations. She participated in a podcast for the Michigan Medicine Rogel Cancer Center, describing her diagnosis, “Lola” and the Route 66 adventure. She was the guest speaker at MIOCA’s year-end dinner and Next Gen Ovary Fun Night. She was an unstoppable force for using her story to help save others. “If I had known the signs and symptoms beforehand, I guarantee I would not have delayed seeking the appropriate testing and treatment. If ovarian cancer can sneak up on me, it can sneak up on anyone,” Trisha said.

Trisha passed away on July 27, 2019, having warned thousands of women about the symptoms of ovarian cancer. Like “Lola”, Trisha said she was “Ford tough” and indeed she was, right through to the end.

For her resolve, dedication and strength, Trisha is posthumously receiving the MNA Nurse Hero award.

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Know the Signs of Ovarian Cancer
• Bloating
• Pelvic or abdominal pain
• Difficulty eating or feeling full quickly
• Urinary symptoms (urgency or frequency)

For more information, go to MIOCA.org.
Outstanding Contribution to MNA Award

Jessica Lannon, BA, RN, C-FEM
PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE COUNCIL OF SPARROW HOSPITAL (PECSH)

An active member of MNA, Jessica sits on numerous councils and committees: among them, the Council on Workplace Health and Safety and Bylaws Committee, where she has served as Vice Chair for the last two years. She also represents the Professional Employee Council of Sparrow Hospital (PECSH) on nearly every committee at Sparrow Hospital and at the weekly Labor Councils held in Lansing. Jessica is the current PECSH Grievance Chair and is training two new officers to help. She has been instrumental in rebuilding relationships and trust with both membership and employer alike that were damaged over the past year. Jessica earns the respect of all she encounters.
“Jessica is selfless. It’s never about her. It’s always about the members and how things affect the membership as a whole at the local level and what kind of impact that can have at the state level. Her empathy is boundless and her compassion is authentic. She’s always looking for ways to effect change in a positive way for our members and the communities we serve. We are beyond better for having her in our midst. I know I’m a better person and a better advocate because of her leadership.”

Katie Pontifex, BS, BSN, RN, MSRN
The contentious negotiations, informational picket, press conferences and eventual two-day strike that took place at the UP Health Care System Marquette Hospital in 2017 required months of determination and unflagging dedication by the nurse leaders. Stephanie DePetro, a member of the bargaining committee, took on new roles for the union that she had never done before. A grievance steward, she became an energetic and passionate spokeswoman, sharing the issues with the local media and challenging the members to stand firm. Since that time, she has stepped into the role of president of the RN Staff Council of Marquette General Hospital and continues to motivate the union nurses to stand for safe patient care and the union. On the eve of the move from the old hospital to the new building this year, Stephanie wrote this to the nurses:
“Today I was searching to find the right words to say, on the eve of one of the biggest changes in our career. Although we are leaving our history behind, one thing still remains — our solidarity. The physical location of where we take care of our patients is changing in a few short hours, but the love and compassion we all share for our profession and our patients will remain as strong as ever. Just remember it's not the building that makes a family, it's the people. We all have strong emotional ties to our old home, we fought for the safety of our patients by walking the block – twice. Thank you all for what you do for our patients and our community each and every day. I know that same dedication will move down the street right along with us.”

In solidarity
Stephanie DePetro

“Stephanie has stepped up to get things done. She has great ideas and makes things happen. She looks out for all members and is not afraid to confront management. She puts 100% plus out there.”

Suzette Hantz, RN
In January 2018, Katie took a group of novice bargaining team members to the table and under her leadership they negotiated one of the most impressive contracts in UMPNC history. During the negotiating period, Katie led the nurses to an informational picket involving thousands of nurses and community leaders. She held the line for the contract, almost to the point of striking, until management agreed to the nurses’ demands for better staffing and other improvements.

“Katie has been the UMPNC Chair for the last eight years. She pours her heart and soul into her work. Katie always puts 150% into her role as UMPNC Chair. She is a fierce advocate for those she represents.”

DONNA CARNAHAN, RN
Katie is not shy about the nurses she represents. If there’s a staffing shortage at 1:00 am on a Saturday, she’ll call the managers. She cares personally for her members and offers guidance no matter what time of the day or night. She is politically active, knocking on doors to get those candidates that support labor and nursing issues elected and takes the time to explain the role that nurses play in politics to other nurses. She advocates for MNA and has served on many leadership boards, including the Economic and General Welfare Cabinet, the Board of Directors, the Bylaws Committee, the Diversity Committee and the Council on Public Policy. She also takes time to be a part of her Ann Arbor community, working weekly at the local food bank and helping spearhead charitable drives. The winner of the Cheryl L. Johnson, RN, Labor Legacy Award must be a fiery and passionate nurse, dedicated to making a significant difference in and out of her workplace. Katie matches this description in every way.
In 2018, Katie heard the call for nurses to be politically active, took the bull by the horns and ran for the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. She now is a Commissioner and represents District 9. Katie continues to educate MNA members as a member of the Council on Legislation and Public Policy. She is a member of the MNA Board of Directors, currently serving as Vice President. Katie helps raise money for the MNA PAC and is fearless when issuing the challenge to other nurses to donate. She is an exceptional spokesperson for the Safe Patient Care legislation and uses her

“Katie is doing something that not too many others do. She is representing nursing in the political arena. It takes a special person to do this and Katie is definitely that person.”

DONNA CARNAHAN, RN
experiences as a CVC ICU nurse at U-M to help legislators understand the nursing perspective on key legislation. Katie is a passionate advocate and example for other nurses to emulate as they run for office.
Like the centerpieces?

You can take one home for a $20 donation to the PAC or the Michigan Nurses Foundation. See MNA staff at the door after the ceremony to purchase your posies.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday & Wednesday, May 5-6, 2020
Lansing, MI

Spring Leadership ACTION Conference

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