



Plant a Seed



Newsletter for members of the American Cannabis Nurses Association
Incorporated in 2010

June 2019

President's Message

Carey S. Clark
PhD, RN, AHN-BC, RYT

Summer is upon us and there are many great things happening at ACNA!

In this newsletter, you will discover the ongoing work of the ACNA. As we proceed, we always consider the mission of the ACNA, which is to advance excellence in cannabis nursing practice through advocacy, collaboration, education, research, and policy development. Focusing on the mission is a significant aspect of how decisions are made in both the day-to-day functioning and in determining our future endeavors.

We have the most enthusiastic member volunteers, and for that, we are grateful! With the help of our local ACNA members, the ACNA tabled at following 2019 remarkable conferences:

- American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Annual Assembly
- American Nurses Association Pathways to Excellence
- Patients Out of Time National Clinical Conference
- Oncology Nursing Society National Congress
- American Holistic Nurses Association National Conference

Visibility at nursing conferences increases awareness of cannabis nursing by providing an opportunity to educate hundreds of nurses about the medicinal cannabis care needs of the populations they serve. This type of outreach also brings new members by supporting their educational journey in cannabis care. The ACNA proudly provided information, "swag", and a helpful handout from the National Council of States Board of Nursing with links to the *Journal of Nursing Regulation* article that identifies six essential components of medicinal cannabis care that nurses must know. Our hope is that participants will and share this information with



their colleagues and administrators to increase awareness of our obligations to support patients on the medicinal cannabis journey.

In addition to our conference website, we are thrilled to announce the development of our webinar CE series. Our members can look forward to some excellent cannabis care learning opportunities and indeed come together as a like-minded community of committed, caring cannabis nurses! The connections you make at conferences will be invaluable, so please see the Conference Committee report for more information about the ACNA's first cannabis care conference in December!

Members have long asked for ways to support ACNA and demonstrate their membership pride. Thanks to the Membership Committee, ACNA swag is now available for purchase! Items include jewelry, clothing, tote bags, mugs, water bottles, and more! Shop ACNA ([HERE](#)).

If you haven't already done so, consider joining our Facebook forums where there are always lively discussions amongst our members!

Wishing you a joy-filled, peaceful, healthy, and productive summer!

Carey S. Clark, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, RYT
President, American Cannabis Nurses Association

Member Spotlight

While many cannabis nurses have trouble navigating the ethical and legal components of cannabis care once state programs are enacted, we must remember that some states continue to deny even *medicinal* cannabis to their residents. Idaho, highly conservative, is one such example. Most cannabis nurses begin their work after state programs are implemented without clear direction for patients utilizing this type of treatment. That is what makes Kamron Keep and Meghan Romero, two ACNA members from Idaho, remarkably distinct.

“I’ve found the ACNA provides a strong, unified community in a sea of industry noise and misinformation.” - K. Keep

Kamron Keep initially shared the same stance as her home state. Through 18 years of oncology nursing and a passion for holistic and integrative modalities, her views began to change. Intrigued by the endocannabinoid system and cannabidiol, Kamron began taking every opportunity to learn more. As her hunger for knowledge grew, she shared her findings through educating and presenting information in her community, hospitals, groups, and at conferences. She also trained with industry leaders, including our own President-Elect, Eloise Theisen.



Meghan Romero’s story is a bit different. Interested in cannabis at an early age, Romero incorporated cannabis in every college project possible. Initially, she began nursing in Albuquerque, New Mexico but moved to Idaho in 2006. Her nursing experience was deeply seated in critical care and cardiac procedures, which ultimately left her morally injured. Physically and emotionally crippled, Romero was diagnosed with PTSD and advised to take extremely high doses of antidepressants and anti-anxiety medications. Romero ultimately found solace through upregulating her own endocannabinoid system and practicing yoga. While maintaining an active advocacy role, it is vital to Meghan that she educate patients and healthcare professionals in her community. She is currently working with a group of individuals to write a medical cannabis bill for consideration by Idaho State representatives.



“This community of nurses will be the future of healthcare.”

-M. Romero

Meghan and Kamron joined forces and are planning local education and advocacy opportunities. Both Meghan and Kamron find ACNA membership to be empowering and supportive. Ultimately, they found their tribe!

Committee Chair Updates

Conference Committee – Carey Clark, Chair

Greetings from the conference committee! We have been working hard to bring you a great list of speakers for our Kellen-ACNA conference, and we appreciate all of our volunteers who had input into developing the theme, outcomes,

and the program, or reached out to speakers. The conference is being held December 4-6, 2019 in New Orleans, at the Astor Crowne Plaza. The theme of the conference is: "Cannabis Care, Science, and Nursing: Planting the Seed."

Why New Orleans? New Orleans is an exciting town with great music, great food, and a rich history to explore in your free time. It is also centrally located between the east and west coasts, and it provides us with an opportunity to bring more cannabis knowledge to a geographical location where this has been lacking. New Orleans has decriminalized cannabis possession, but the state has been challenged for a number of years with getting its medical cannabis program up and running. Why December? It should be moderate weather (it may even feel warm to some of us from cooler climates), and we strived to find a month when our conference wouldn't interfere with other nursing conferences, as we serve a diverse population of nursing specialties.

Two of the speakers we are excited about are Lynda Balneaves and Kathleen Russell. Lynda Balneaves, Ph.D., RN is the President of the Society for Integrative Oncology, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, and the Inaugural Director of the Centre of Integrative Medicine at the University of Toronto.

Credentialing Committee – Llewellyn Smith, Chair

ACNA continues to work with ANA/ANCC on the review process for recognition of cannabis nursing as a specialty practice. Recently, the credentialing committee submitted the ACNA Scope and Standards of Cannabis Nursing Practice draft ([HERE](#)) to ANA/ANCC for an initial informal review. The credentialing committee is now making plans to address the feedback provided and improve the Scope and Standards to clarify and define the specialty of cannabis nursing competencies as supported by evidence-based practice. If you are interested in serving on the credentialing committee, we are seeking volunteers who have experience as nursing educators and are competent drafting curriculum. If you meet this criterion, please contact Llewellyn Smith, Treasurer to inquire about participating on the credentialing committee. (llewellyn@cannabisnurse.org). ACNA needs you for this very important activity!

Research & Education Committee – Denise



Dr. Balneaves will be sharing some of the lessons Canada learned when legalized adult use became a reality and how this has impacted their *medical* cannabis programs and patients. She will also help us close the conference by sharing some of her research, so you will want to plan to stay through all of our CE offerings.

Kathleen Russell, J.D., RN, is the Associate Director of the National Council of States Boards of Nursing. She will be contrasting federal scheduling legislation with state's rights, and she will discuss state nurse practice acts and the National Council of States Boards of Nursing 2018 Report (published in the *Journal of Nursing Regulation*) that identified six essential areas of cannabis care, skills, and knowledge that all nurses must have.

The event website will be published soon so stay tuned for a conference registration link to your ACNA email!

We can't wait to see you in NOLA!
Dr. Carey S. Clark, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, RYT
President
Conference Committee Chair



Llewellyn Dawn Smith, MSN RN
Treasurer
American Cannabis Nurses Association
llewellyn@cannabisnurse.org
lxdrummo@gmail.com
757-334-6941.

Foster, Chair

ACNA members benefited from two free webinars in February and April of this year. In February, ACNA member Frankie Soska, RN, provided a very informative overview of, "Cannabis Nursing in Florida's Medical Marijuana Program." Frankie reviewed what it is like during patient encounters in the medical cannabis setting and even included a Mock Patient Interview that portrayed what a typical cannabis patient encounter might look like. Then in April, ACNA member Stephanie Maruca, RN, also gave us some very practical applications of cannabis nursing in her valuable webinar, "Cannabis Nursing Experiences in the Dispensary." Both these webinars were well-attended by ACNA members and remain free and available to all ACNA members. To access these free webinar recordings, visit the ACNA website, and be sure to sign in with your membership information. Then navigate to Members > Webinar Recordings. There, you will find these two very informative webinars along with other recorded webinars from 2018.

An important activity of the Research and Education committee for the past several months has been the development of CE Webinars for members. ACNA is proud to announce its 2019-2020 CE Webinar series, which begins Tuesday, June 25, 6:30PM to 7:30PM EST. The first CE Webinar is, "The Endocannabinoid System for Nurses," which will provide an in-depth overview of the ECS and include the latest scientific knowledge about this system. Additional CE Webinars are scheduled throughout the remainder of this year and into the new year. These include
Pharmacology of Cannabis
Therapeutics - Tuesday, August 27, 2019, 6:30PM-7:30PM EST
Introduction to Cannabis Nursing - Tuesday, October 29, 2019, 6:30PM-7:30PM EST
The Nursing Process and Cannabis Nursing - Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 6:30PM-7:30PM EST
Legal and Political Aspects of Cannabis Nursing - Tuesday, March 31, 2020, 6:30PM-7:30PM EST

All CE Webinars will be recorded and available for later viewing on the ACNA website. CE Webinars are open to all ACNA members as well as non-members, including the recorded versions. Registration for the first CE Webinar

Social Media & Communications Committee – Denise Foster, Chair

Our ACNA social media has been picking up speed, and both our public and private Facebook forums are very active; we have almost 400 members participating in our private ACNA Members forum. There are plans in the works to add more ACNA social media platforms, including LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram. Our Regional Facebook forums are also picking up speed as well. All ACNA Regional pages are now closed forums so that ACNA members can engage in networking in



has begun, so register for the event through the ACNA website by navigating to Events > The Endocannabinoid System for Nurses Webinar (LIVE).

ACNA will be offering 1 Contact Hour for each CE Webinar, and active ACNA members can attend the LIVE Webinar and view the recorded Webinar FOR FREE as an additional membership benefit. Non-ACNA members are asked to pay a small fee for the event, including the Webinar recording. Non-ACNA members will be charged \$35 to attend the LIVE CE Webinar as well as for viewing the recorded Webinar.

Each CE Webinar offers the opportunity to receive a Certificate of Completion for 1 Contact Hour to both ACNA members and non-members.

ACNA will continue to offer members high-quality, informative free webinars throughout the rest of the year. Stay tuned as these webinars are rolled out for our members to engage, network, and learn from each other and experts in the field of cannabis nursing. Help us spread the word that ACNA is a good place to learn about cannabis nursing as we build our educational series and offer excellent opportunities to learn about the most recent findings in the field of cannabis science.

Dr. Denise Foster, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE
Director & Secretary, American Cannabis Nurses Association
Chair, Research & Education Committee
Chair, Social Media & Communications Committee

The Communications Committee has also been very busy developing an overall ACNA Communications Plan. This will help guide us as we prepare to roll out our social media platforms, newsletters, press releases, position statements, and other formal ACNA communications. We continue to grow as an organization, and a communications plan will help ensure that our mission and our messages are shared appropriately and effectively to our target audiences. With the help of our active committee volunteers, ACNA has already developed communications plans for newsletters, Instagram, and TV-radio-

their own regions without having to worry that they are visible to non-members or employers. Each ACNA Regional Facebook forum is now moderated as well, so be sure to visit your Regional page to see what cannabis nursing activities and networking opportunities are available to you in your state or region. Our Social Media Committee volunteers are wonderful in providing all this support for our active forums - thank you for all your hard work, committee volunteers!

The Facebook Social Media Community Guidelines have also been enacted in our ACNA Members forum. All ACNA members who participate in this forum agree to abide by these standards, which were developed and approved by the Social Media Committee. These guidelines help to protect the interests of ACNA as a non-profit organization, and forum members should take a few minutes to review these standards. If you have a question about the appropriateness of a post, please contact the ACNA Members forum administrators, who are listed in the Announcement that is pinned to the top of the forum. It is exciting to see the networking and sharing of ideas and education in our forum, and every week, we welcome new forum members to our growing ACNA family. If you haven't joined us yet, you can find us [HERE](#).

Membership Committee - Eloise Theisen, Chair

Membership is growing fast. We have 65 new member sign-ups in the last 30 days. We now have over 1200 members in 48 states! The committee will be rolling out our 2019 ambassador program, teaching sheets and our strategic plan in the next few months. This week we released our CafePress store with ACNA merchandise and can be found [HERE](#).

Thanks
Eloise Theisen, MSN, AGPCNP-BC
Board Certified Adult-Geriatric Nurse
Practitioner
President-Elect American Cannabis Nurses
Association ([ACNA](#))

print. Each plan considers primary and secondary target audiences, resources, message, and our mission. Over the next several months, we will continue to build our communications policies as ACNA joins other nursing organizations to become the voice and vision for excellence in professional cannabis nursing. Each Communications Committee volunteer is very much appreciated as we grow in numbers and presence in the nursing world. A big thank you to each committee volunteer, and a special big thank you to ACNA members Chip Boehm and Rachel Parmelee for taking on the newsletter communication plan development, which received committee approval at our last scheduled meeting. ACNA is rapidly increasing in membership, and communication to both members and non-members is a vital piece of our organization. More information about our work will be shared as we implement our social media platforms and approved communications policies.

Dr. Denise Foster, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE
Regional Director & Secretary, American
Cannabis Nurses Association
Chair, Research & Education Committee
Chair, Social Media & Communications
Committee



ACNA Organization Logo versus ACNA Member Logo

Several members are wondering how they can use ACNA's organization logo for use in their events. Under our Code of Conduct, all active ACNA members agree that the ACNA organization logo, materials, property, and programs developed for the organization are the proprietary property of the organization and are not to be used in situations external to the organization without prior approval from the Board of Directors.



Does this mean you cannot use ACNA's organization logo? No. What it does mean is that in order to use the organization logo, you must request permission from ACNA's Board of Directors. We are currently revising this information in our ACNA Members webpage and will make an announcement when this is completed. The revision will provide you with information on how to request permission to use ACNA's organization logo if you wish to include it in your events or social media.

Restrictions on the use of ACNA's organization logo do not prohibit you from using ACNA's Member logo. If you visit ACNA's website and go to Members area, you will find a link to ACNA Member Logo download. There, you will be prompted to agree to the rules for use of the member logo. Once you agree to these rules, you will be permitted to use the annually updated ACNA Member logo for your events or social media. No permission from ACNA's Board of Directors is required for use of your member logo - it is one of your membership benefits. To find the ACNA Member Logo download information, please visit this link: <https://cannabisnurses.org/Member-Logo-Policy>

ACNA's policies governing the rules of our trademark are there to protect the organization and ultimately, its members. Please contact one of the Board of Directors members if you have any questions or concerns regarding either the ACNA organization logo or the member logo.

Upcoming Events and Meet-Ups

June 25, 6:30 - 7:30 PM EST: The Endocannabinoid System for Nurses Webinar. Dr. Denise Foster and Dr. Alexandra Christodoulou will be presenting a CE webinar. This course presents an overview of the human endocannabinoid system (ECS), with specific focus on the anatomy and physiology of the ECS and endocannabinoids. A review of selected conditions in which the ECS has been shown to influence health and disease is presented.

August 23 - 26, Louisville, KY: Nursing Organizations Alliance, Nursing Alliance Leadership Academy. ACNA will be present at the Nursing Organizations Alliance, Nursing Alliance Leadership Academy.

Happenings

Here is a small sample of what our members have been up to. If you have been active in cannabis nursing and would like to share your news with other ACNA members, please email rpcannacommittee@gmail.com with details of your cannabis nursing activities so we can share your news in upcoming newsletters!

Jamie Rollins, RN, BSN, CYT - "How to become a Cannabis Nurse"
June 1, 2019 - New York

Frank Sosa, RN - "The Smokin' Agenda for Okaloosa"
June 7, 2019 - Florida

Stephanie DeCoeur Maruca, RN, CCM - "Symposium on Aging - Cannabis Panel"
June 21, 2019 - Florida

Stephanie DeCoeur Maruca, RN, CCM - "Safe Use of Medical Cannabis for Seniors"
June 28, 2019 - Florida

Sponsor Recognition

Thank you to our Sponsors!



American Cannabis Nurses Association

Ph: 720-881-6047 | Fax: 720-881-6101

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