



Plant a Seed



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

June 2018

2018 Conference Round Up

While the mission of the American Cannabis Nurses Association's is to, "advance excellence in cannabis nursing practice through advocacy, collaboration, education, research and policy development," our primary objectives for tabling at clinical conferences are education and outreach. Each conference is different and we work to keep the audience in mind. At the ANA conference this past April, ACNA Board Member Barbara Ochester noted that booth visitors were far less hesitant to come up to the table than in prior years. And, as expected, we received warm welcomes from oncology and holistic nurses.

Regardless of audience expertise, we hope to remind all conference attendees that ACNA is here and available to share the knowledge and tools they need to help their patients make informed decisions.

2018 has truly been a busy year for outreach and we have one more conference on the schedule, the Academy of Oncology Nurse and Patient Navigators in November. Admittedly, the ACNA's tabling commitments are decided by general agreement among executive committee members. For example, we feel we need to be at the ANA conference to remind more traditional nurses that cannabis therapeutics is real; we know oncology clinicians embrace cannabis; we know relationships with other cannabis clinicians are valuable... Going forward, the board hopes to assess measures of success against cost, to ensure that we are spending members' money and time wisely.

Of course, all of this work is made possible by the ACNA's first Gold-level Annual Corporate Partner, Mary's Medicinals. You can visit Mary's at marys-medicinals.com. Thank you so very much, Mary's!!!

Twelfth National Clinical Conference on Cannabis Therapeutics

From May 10-12, the Twelfth National Clinical Conference on Cannabis Therapeutics, presented by Patients Out of Time was held in Jersey City. This year's theme, *Cannabis: Relieves Pain and Treats Addiction*, drew a star-studded line-up of world-renowned cannabis experts, including Dr. Ethan Russo from California, Dr. David Meiri and Inbal Sikorin RN, both from Israel, Dr. Dustin Sulak from Maine, and Dr. Lynda Balneaves, RN from Canada.

ACNA Treasurer Llewellyn Dawn Smith and Board Members Dr. Denise Foster, Nancy Quigley, and Mae Fuimaono attended the conference and helped organize ACNA's table and meet up. Shout out to member Audrey Byrnes for helping at our table!

During the event, Olive's Branch (<http://www.olives-branch.com/>) sponsored an ACNA meet up at which twenty-two (!) nurses came to share their rewarding experiences and frustrating challenges of helping patients find relief with cannabis therapeutics.

Going forward, digital technology will be integral part of ACNA's national growth - but there is nothing like facetime and the Patients Out of Time conference is a wonderful way for ACNA to learn from and share with like-minded cannabis clinicians.

Oncology Nursing Society Annual Congress

Just a week later, from May 17th - 19th, ACNA tabled in the Exhibition Hall of the Oncology Nursing Society's Annual Congress in Washington DC. With over 4000 conference attendees, many in this audience are eager to learn more about medical cannabis. Board members Sarah Cohen and Mae Fuimaono-Poe along with local ACNA members Emalie Gibbons-Baker, Becca Engle, and Marie Belen Fortuno and our partners from The Medical Cannabis Institute (TMCI) Vicky Mossman and Laura



As has been the case in years past, many booth visitors were happy to see us and eager to collect the information we provided including literature about the ACNA, the ECS, and cannabis delivery routes. Many nurses commented that their patients often know more about cannabis than they do, or that their physicians are perplexed about what to do with cannabis. Almost all expressed frustration at their inability to accurately document patients' medical cannabis use in their employers' EMRs. Finally, only a handful of visitors asked for 'samples' - a measure of success, if there ever was one!

American Holistic Nurses Association

The AHNA National Conference 2018 was held in Niagara Falls, NY, with its largest attendance ever of around 738 nurses. Attending the conference for ACNA were President Dr. Carey Clark, Past President Eileen Konieczny, Director Mae Fuimaono-Poe, and our TMCI partner Vicky Mossman.

Our table was very busy - often requiring all four volunteers to greet the steady flow of visitors. This year we noticed an uptick in our table visits after the plenary talk (at which Carey, Eileen, and Mae presented) and Carey's two workshops. The plenary was presented to over 300 nurses who were introduced to the endocannabinoid system, the science behind holistic modalities and potentiating endocannabinoid system tone, and the cannabis nurse's role. Carey's workshops drew over 150 people who were presented with more evidence around medicinal cannabis use and its effectiveness with specific illness issues, as well as an expanded perspective of the holistic nurse's role in relation to supporting cannabis patients use of this herb.



Interestingly, this was an event where the nurses seemed to already be on board or ready to come on board with our TMCI curriculum and/or membership. Many nurses came by the table to state that they had changed their mind about medicinal cannabis upon receiving some of the science behind the ECS. While this is a small conference, it will be interesting to see how many nurses use the code to take the TMCI course and if there is an uptick in membership post conference. It is helpful for us to be visible at nursing conferences where we already have some allies, nurses are open-minded, and we can potentially grow our base.

This month at an ACNA live “Potluck,” Membership Director Llewellyn Dawn Smith announced the launch of our Ambassador Membership Drive. We know there is power in numbers and the membership drive is your opportunity to help us grow cannabis nursing!

By recruiting just two or more members you earn the opportunity to be recognized on our website as an ACNA Ambassador! And... the good news keeps on coming...for each nurse you recruit, your name will be entered into a lottery to win an awesome prize! The top-three recruiters will receive a Visa gift card of \$100, \$50 or \$25 and an autographed book by one of our ACNA Board of Directors.

To make things easier for you, we’ve drafted an email that you can customize and send to your colleagues and we’ve made some ACNA literature available for you to download. [Click here](#) to land at our Ambassador Membership Drive page. This program runs through September 4th, so don’t delay in sharing your love for ACNA!

Finally, special recognition goes to Membership Committee member, Arleen Crider from Ohio, for all of her hard work in developing the Ambassador program. Thanks, Arlene!

Do You Know Where Your Money Goes?

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, ACNA conducts business for the benefit of the public without answering to shareholders and without a profit motive. The funds collected by ACNA stay within the organization to pay for expenses and activities that support the mission of the organization, excellence in cannabis nursing. Not one of our board members or executive officers benefits financially from his or her position, and our activities are regulated more strictly than activities of other corporations.

According to Joann Fritz, author of [How Is a Nonprofit Different From a For-Profit Business? Getting Beyond the Myths](#), nonprofits typically have these elements:

- a mission that focuses on activities that benefit society and whose goal is not to generate profit
- public ownership where no person owns shares of the organization or interests in its property
- income that is never distributed to any owners but is recycled back into the nonprofit corporation’s public benefit, its mission and activities.

In contrast, a for-profit business seeks to generate income for its founders and employees. Profits, made by sales of products or services, measure the success of for-profit companies and those profits are shared with owners, employees, and shareholders.

Traditional nonprofit organizations share these four characteristics:

1. **Purpose:** Many people think that nonprofit means that the organization cannot make a profit. That is a myth. To survive, nonprofit organizations, just like businesses, must make sure that the organization’s revenues exceed its expenses. But, instead of seeking profit for profit’s sake, nonprofits pursue public benefit purposes recognized under federal and state law.
2. **Ownership:** A nonprofit organization belongs to no private person and no one person controls the organization. The assets of a nonprofit are irrevocably dedicated to the charitable, educational, literary, scientific, or religious purposes of the organization. The cash, equipment and other property of a nonprofit cannot be given to anyone or used for anyone’s private benefit without fair market compensation to the nonprofit organization. In fact, a nonprofit’s property is permanently dedicated to exempt purposes. When and if the organization dissolves, any remaining assets after debts and liabilities are satisfied, must go to another nonprofit organization—not to members of the former nonprofit or any other private individual.
3. **Control:** Control of a nonprofit lies with a governing board of directors and their responsibility to see that the organization fulfills its purpose. Board members do not act as individuals but must serve as a group. No one is guaranteed permanent tenure on the board, and the board can, if necessary, fire an executive or remove board members. In some states, such as California, there are rules governing the pay of directors of nonprofits. Most nonprofit boards of directors are not compensated, except for expenses such as travel to and from board meetings.
4. **Accountability:** Nonprofit organizations are accountable to the public and must file annual information returns with the federal and state governments. The federal form that nonprofits must submit is IRS Form 990. The nonprofit must report information regarding its finances, including the salaries of the five highest-paid non-officer employees.

We learn from the American Nurses Association that health care reform, accreditation of nursing schools, and funding for education are just a few of the subjects that non-profit professional nursing organizations should address every day. On the local, state, national, and international levels, nurses have a responsibility not only to their patients and their jobs but nursing as a community. We develop research and knowledge bases for our specialties, we monitor the quality of our education, and we support the work of our colleagues in countries all over the world.

ACNA cares deeply about nurses and nursing and continues to work diligently, with your help, to create

the standards by which we practice and build the structure, to stand as a subspecialty in professional nursing.

ACNA offers our members:

- Personal and professional development resources
- Networking opportunities
- Educational opportunities that can enhance your career
- Service and support from the national organization
- Opportunities to develop one's leadership skills
- Discounts on related products and services
- Regular organization conferences beginning in 2019
- Member publications

Please reach out if you are interested in getting more involved to grow cannabis nursing!

Eileen Koniczny RN
ACNA Past President

Happenings...

Here is a small sample of what our members have been up to. Please email us with details of your speaking engagements so we can share the good news.

- Secretary Sarah Cohen spoke to the Chicagoland Chapter of Hospice and Palliative Care Nurses on April 21st.
- President, Dr. Carey Clark, co-host a webinar sponsored by the Association of Oncology Social Work on Thursday, June 28th.
- Member Heather Shelton will be teaching a class called *Cannabis Nursing* at a conference titled, *The Healing Power of Cannabis: Medicinal Uses, Preparation and Organic Cultivation* in Montpelier, Vermont September 15-6, 2018.
- On July 11th from 8-9 pm, members Sherri Tutkus and Dale Buckman will host The GreenNurse Radio Show on the Cannabis Radio Network. [Click here](#) for the launch party.
- Past-President Eileen Koniczny's book, *Healing with CBD: How Cannabidiol Can Transform Your Health Without the High*, will be released on September 18, 2018. It is available for pre-order from [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#) and [local bookstores](#).

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