

# VISNA News



The official publication of the Virgin Islands State Nurses Association

Summer/Fall 2015

## DISTRICTS NEWS

### CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2015 graduates of the ASN and BSN programs.



VISNA is working with the leadership of the University of the Virgin Islands to upgrade the ASN program to a BSN program in keeping with the BSN thrust for entry into professional nursing practice as has been urged by ANA.

*“The most delightful surprise in life is to suddenly recognize your own worth.”*

*Dr. Maxwell Maltz, SG*

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### From My Viewpoint



**Verna Christian-Garcia**

*There is strength in numbers”...And nurses are the largest group of professionals in the Territory. Nurses are the sleeping giants of healthcare.*

Advocacy is the responsibility of all of us each day of the year. We need to support changes as to health care and its delivery system in both acute and public health areas. We must promote our profession’s foundational values of compassionate, safe, quality, affordable care to all.

Let us awaken the sleeping giants and let our collective, united grassroots voices be heard around the Virgin Islands.

We have the power to positively affect change.

The decision for us to engage in political campaigns and dialogue will determine the future of healthcare policy for years to come.

*“If you do not like people generally, there is one simple way of cultivating the characteristic: just look for good traits. You’ll be sure to find them.”*

*-Dale Carnegie*

Expression of sincerest appreciation is given to Verna who was the sole Editor of the VISNA Newsletter for years. Her last Viewpoint and some of her excerpts are being reprinted as we launch the first digital online edition of VISNA News.

### VISNA DUES!!!

All new members who opt to pay VISNA dues via payroll deduction must complete and sign the Payroll Deduction Form. This information is forwarded to ANA for enrollment of ANA benefits.

Forms are available from

Evet Rivera at 340-772-7347 (STX)

Shirley Ledee at 340-776-8311x3050 (STT)

Dues Effective January 1, 2014  
District 01 \$14.37 per pay period  
District 02 \$13.52 per pay period.  
This includes \$5.00 CBU service fee

#### ANA Direct Annually

	District 01	District 02
ANA	\$148	\$148
State	\$48	\$48
Dist.	\$80	\$40
Total	\$276	\$236

ANA does not collect CBU fees; a separate check must be written

## **From the Desk of the Executive Director**

After many attempts I am pleased to launch this first digital edition of VISNA News. As noted above I extend on your behalf best wishes and thanks to outgoing Editor Verna Christian-Garcia.

It is hard to believe that the time for elections is almost upon us and I want to take this opportunity to thank the current Officers and Directors for their efforts in making the association's goals member oriented.

As the sole employee of the Board of Directors, it is my responsibility to liaise with the National Association (ANA), and execute the administrative, fiduciary and overall operations of the association. This position affords unparalleled opportunity for leadership development and professional education by my attendance and participation in the ANA sponsored annual Executive Enterprise Seminar which provides skills in association management, leadership development and goal setting for C/SNA Executive Directors; the network support and camaraderie is priceless. Membership in the Association of Certified Association Executives is encouraged.

As you will read in this edition President Charlene Jones was successful in getting ANA VicePresident Cindy Balkstra to be our guest for the Nurses Week recognition luncheon. On both districts nurses week was celebrated with the hospitals activities and the collaboration was found to be meaningful.

The District Presidents deserve accolades for maintaining the viability of their districts as membership apathy continues as a challenge . As a constituent of the national professional association, VISNA members increased their access to the online educational offerings and social linkages. Nurses in leadership positions were able to attend the ANA leadership Institutes. My short term goal is to facilitate this staff development access as our hospitals in the territory continue under accreditation strategy. VISNA continues to work for you.

Joyce T. Heyliger, MPH, MSN, RN  
Executive Director

*"Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can."*

## **Board of Directors**

### **Officers**

Charlene Jones, RN, BS, PA President

Evet Rivera, RN Vice President

Jahtara Vigilante, RN Secretary

Charlene Hewitt, RN, BSN Treasurer

### **Directors**

E. Merle Kimball, RN, BSN, CMC

Jacqueline Alexander, RN

Deletta Ebbesen, RN

**Executive Director** Joyce T. Heyliger, RN, MSN, MPH

**Immediate Past President** Verna Christian-Garcia, BSN, RN



## **Board Briefs**

The Board of Directors met in January and May, 2015 and the following actions were taken:

- continued updating of Board operational policies
- received membership updates from the Executive Director
- preparation for individual and Board evaluation
- considered ANA's request for a single membership entry fee and new graduates reduced rates
- received reports from delegates to the Caribbean Nurses Organization conference
- received a status review of its collective bargaining agreement
- approved the Treasurer's report

## *The Nightingale Tribute*

### A Tribute to Departed Colleagues

At the Membership Assembly on July 23-25, 2015 in Washington, DC, the following

Departed members were entered into the National Memorial Book.

*Albertha Hewitt*

*Ina Matthias*

*Laris Evans*

*Elizabeth Stagger*

On the Saturday morning of June 23, 2005, a meeting of the 2005 House of Delegates sanctioned *The Nightingale Tribute* as a way of honoring nurses at the end of their life's journey. With the consent of the house, ANA adopted this tribute as its official ceremony for honoring nurses who are no longer with us. Nurses present at the house were asked to step forward to the microphone and prepare at the appointed time to say the nurse's name and the name of the CMA in which the nurses held membership.

ANA has thus instituted this "Nurses in Memoriam" book which is displayed at

ANA Headquarters 8515 Georgia Avenue-Suite400,

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

At every ANA Membership Assembly (formerly, House of Delegates) there will be a white rose and white candle placed before the dais. It is the custom, approved by the 2005 house, that anytime the house is in session, the white candle will be lit and will remain lit until the house adjourns.

During the 2005 house, Barbara Blakeney, ANA House of Delegates chair, invited Janice Jones, president of the Kansas State Nurses Association, and Duane Jaeger of the Kansas State Nurses Association, to the lower dais to assist with the ceremony. Janice is the architect of the tribute and Duane is the architect of the poem which is included in the tribute.



**Virgin Islands  
State Nurses Association**

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Intentionally left blank for you to fill in your short and long term goals for your professional association, list your contribution towards accomplishment of these goals and then share with your District President.

***Attention VISNA Members!***

*If you are not receiving updates, news releases and relevant information from ANA, please send your personal email address along with your name and ANA member number to:*

**[visnaus@icloud.com](mailto:visnaus@icloud.com)**

## Upcoming Events

*Virgin Islands State Nurses Association  
Biennial Meeting*

October 9 – 11, 2015



Election of Officers and Directors  
Nominating Committee  
Delegates to ANA Membership  
Assembly  
and Caribbean Nurses Organization  
Conference

For the 2015-2017 Biennium

Ask not what VISNA is doing for me but what  
can I do to enhance VISNA's mission



*“From what we get we can make a living,*

*From what we give we can make a life.”*

*-Arthur R. Ashe*