

REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT 36TH AMERICAN HOLISTIC NURSES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

JUNE 1-5, 2016

BONITA SPRINGS, FLORIDA

AHNA was gracious enough to sponsor registration for a representative from CHNA. As the CHNA President was unable to attend due to prior commitments I was fortunate enough to go.

Approximately 480 Holistic RNs attended this conference and annual meeting. AHNA membership is around 5000. Preconference sessions were available two days before the start of the conference on a variety of topics: <http://www.ahna.org/Conference/Workshops-and-Schedule>

At a wonderful opening ceremony on Weds. night, June 1, the four directions were acknowledged and brought in. The AHNA President Carole Ann Drick, welcomed the attendees and introduced me as the CHNA representative. I was asked to bring greetings the following morning before the plenary session. In my little speech I talked about Canada and CHNA and shared our well wishes for the conference. I joked about how flat the prairies are and how you can “watch your dog run away for days”. Such an old joke but the audience erupted in laughter anyhow.

The plenary session was given by Cassandra Vieten, Pres. and CEO. of the Institute of Noetic Sciences in California (IONS), founded by the former astronaut, the late Edgar Mitchell. IONS offers transformational learning and undertakes leading edge amazing consciousness research. I recommend checking out their website www.noetic.org

I attended the following sessions:

- Healing Through Gentleness – How Disorienting! – A Practical Introduction to Craniosacral Therapy (full day preconference)
- The Human Endocannabinoid System: Medical Cannabis and the Holistic Nurse (½ day preconference)-(My comment-this is the healing herb of the future.)
- Research papers concurrent
- When self-care just becomes another thing on the To-Do List: Are we missing something?
- Quantum Theory: Exploration of the Interconnectness of All Things
- Pilgrimage - A Journey of Self-Care
- Interconnection of Current Health Care Delivery with an Ancient Philosophy of Ayurveda
- Blending Nurse Coaching and Jean Gebser’s Integral Model Facilitates Client Success (especially practical application and excellent!)

AHNA was most thankful for the gift of jewellery (gorgeous!) that we provided for their fundraiser (2 necklace/pendants and a bracelet of Canadian gems-Labradorite and Ammolite) (Appended). I noticed one happy recipient in the elevator who had “won” the set of Labradorite pendant and bracelet.

Networking:

Throughout the conference many attendees came to introduce themselves which gave me an opportunity to chat about CHNA and holistic nursing in Canada and to hear of their well-established holistic practices and settings throughout the US. In addition, Carole Ann, the AHNA Board members and staff were most gracious and welcoming.

On Thursday June 2nd, I attended the International Nurse Luncheon hosted by Pres. Carole Ann Drick. International reps, included 4 from Japan, 2 from China, one from Jamaica and myself. Language barriers made conversation difficult but I did connect with one RN now living New Jersey who had the opportunity to engage in a Vision Quest with an Elder from a Sask First Nations community. The synchronous encounter shows once again that it is indeed a small world we live in.

I connected several times throughout the conference and at the awards banquet with AHNA President Carole Ann, Pres. Elect Lourdes Lorenz and AHNA Board members <http://www.ahna.org/About-Us/Board-of-Directors> and staff about how we can work together and explored opportunities for working more closely with AHNA and possible chapter status. AHNA has been exploring for some time this same desire to be an international organization. The RN group from Japan and Jamaica wish to partner in some way as well. Although they did not attend, an association in Barbados has decided not to become a Barbados chapter as originally planned, but to be part of an international ‘chapter’ in some form. The Board will be discussing this further. Because the key people were extremely busy during this time I was unable to dive more deeply into this, however many seeds were planted.

I also posted on my Facebook page some pics of the international luncheon, speakers and poster sessions and also sent them to Linda Turner for Gerry to post of the CHNA FB page.

Recommendations:

Discussion of next steps in this regard at CHNA board level and to plan a teleconference with Pres. Carol Ann/AHNA Board to discuss this further.

In conclusion, I thank CHNA for sponsoring me for this event and allowing me to represent our organization. I must say that being with these most loving, welcoming and educated nurses was like a coming home to my tribe.

AHNA billed the conference with this and I certainly agree:

“AHNA conferences bring together many talented nurses & professionals who are committed to sharing their expertise, experiences, and love of holistic healthcare. Here you will be surrounded by

loving, nurturing souls who understand why you care so much. Don't miss this great opportunity to gain stronger leadership skills, and increase your desire and knowledge of holistic nursing!"

It went beyond meeting my expectations and I would highly recommend that next year we find a way for more of us to attend. It is in Palm Springs, California.

I am also happy to discuss the conference and my dialogue with the AHNA Board members in more detail with you and our members.

Linda Muzio, RN

CHNA Board member Saskatchewan

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Dear Linda,

I want to thank you for your generous donation to our annual Silent Auction, it was greatly appreciated. All of the 2016 Silent Auction proceeds will benefit our Charlotte McGuire Scholarship, which provides funding for nurses in pursuit of completing their holistic journey.

Because of people like you, we are able to make this scholarship available and we appreciate your support. Thank you for being an important member of our community. We wish you continued growth and prosperity in the months and years to come.

For your own records, the value of your contribution was \$110.00 and FIN is #74-2164825

Best,

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