Virgin Island State Nurses Association

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 WRAP UP OF NURSES WEEK/MONTH

Utilizing the theme *You make a Difference,* the VISNA Board of Directors focused on implementing this theme for nurses in the territory. The Gubernatorial Proclamation was actually published this year and read on the local radio stations. Billboards on both island districts displayed appreciative images. The District leadership distributed tokens of appreciation locally. On Nurses Day, May 6, nurses in the St. Thomas/St. John district joined with the nursing staff of the Schneider Regional Medical Center to hold a Healing of the Hands service. Keynoter was Dr. Celia Nurse from the UVI School of Nursing faculty (message under Announcements on website). On the St. Croix district a Candlelight and Healing of the Hands Service was held with the nursing staff at the Juan F Luis hospital. Keynoter was Rev. Dr. Jermaine Mulley of the St. Luke’s AME church (program under Announcement on website).

A quarterly VISNA NEWS newsletter was revived and distributed on the website and by postal mail.

The Education standing committee sponsored a webinar on May 29 bringing Nurses month to a close. Key speakers were VISNA President Evet Rivera and Territorial CBU Chairperson Melisia Hanley. Their power point slides are under Announcement on the website.

Although it was not celebrated, each week of May had a focus and it is listed to encourage the reader to engage the concepts.

. week 1. Self care

. week 2. Recognition

. week 3. Professional Development

. week 4. Community Engagement

 Nationally, the American Nurses Association (ANA) will have its annual governance meeting - Membership Assembly – June 18 virtually. The elected representatives are Evet Rivera and Charlene White Hewitt.

Given the racial tensions which are erupting nationally, ANA became part of a collaboration for the Interception of Social Justice and Healthcare. Nurses in the territory may not see this as of major concern locally but should seek to understand and support other state nurses association that do.

Two important pieces of legislation are on tap to impact nursing practice:

1. Pronouncement of anticipated death in hospice and certified home health agencies; this passed and went to the Governor for signature.
2. The Virgin Islands becoming a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact; this was returned to the Health, Hospitals and Human Services committee for revision. The Director of The National Council of State Boards, James Puente, conducted a webinar on the aspects of Compact Licensure. His slides are on the website for continued review as there was not a significant number of nurses attending the virtual presentation.

VISNA’s biennial convention happens in October of this year on St. Croix. Details will be broadcast in the upcoming weeks. Election of Officers and Directors will take place also. Information on the nominating process is on the website; consent forms will be circulated. Please note that ONLY persons paying professional dues are eligible to run for office and also to vote. Professional dues are $8.52 STT/STJ District and $9.37 STX District.

You are encouraged to access and practice all venues for staying emotionally, physically and spiritually HEALTHY. If you have not gotten any of the covid19 vaccines, there is a wealth of information from our Department of Health and the ANA website nursingworld.org

 AN ENGAGED AND INFORMED REST OF THE YEAR OF THE NURSE 2021!!