

# **The Western Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association *Newsletter***

January 2008

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Here it is the year after the 115<sup>th</sup> Alumni Reunion.

### **115<sup>th</sup> REUNION**

The reunion festivities began Friday, April 27, 2007, on the boat, Keystone Belle with 100 participants. On Saturday, April 26, The Western Pennsylvania Hospital Foundation sponsored a Breakfast and hosted over 88 alumni. The luncheon was a rousing success with 278 participants. Sara McCalla Kerestes, Class of 1971, gave the Invocation. The oldest Alumnus was from the class of 1934: Emma Jane Robbins Gibson. The class of 1962 started the alumni off to sing the alma mater.

### **GRADUATION**

Much is going on at West Penn! The *115<sup>th</sup> graduation of the School of Nursing, Class of 2007*, took place on June 29, 2007. The guest speaker was Robert Grease. Alumni Association members, faculty and students joined together to recite the nurses' prayer by "candle light". The Alumni Association was pleased to sponsor a reception for the graduates and guests immediately afterward.

### **CLASS OF 2008**

In August, the *Class of 2008* was welcomed. The classes are becoming more traditional (right out of high school). But we must not forget the second-career students who are keeping the enrollment numbers elevated, more than they have been in a while.

### **MAGNET RECOGNITION**

The Nursing Division at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital applied for Magnet Recognition in 2005 from the credentialing organization of the American Nurses Association, the ANCC. The Magnet Recognition Program recognizes excellence in nursing services and the continued encouragement and support of staff nurses. The ANCC has recognized health care organizations all over the world. Of the 6,000 organizations in the U.S., only about 4% have achieved Magnet Recognition. The Western Pennsylvania Hospital achieved Magnet Recognition in December 2006.

### **ALUMNI OFFICERS**

The officers for 2008 and 2009 are:

President: Patricia L. Black, RN

Secretary: Elizabeth Bachtel, RN

Treasurer: Nancy Brown, RN

Cindy Fair will be added as a Board member.  
Virginia

### **SCHOLARSHIP FOR ADVANCING EDUCATION**

In the September meeting, alumni members decided to offer a \$500.00 scholarship to an alumnus who is active in the Association for two years. The scholarship may be renewed for a second year if the alumnus remains active throughout the next year. This decision is an attempt to increase the attendance at the quarterly alumni meetings. New graduates please think about this announcement!!!

### **ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Alumni Association continues to support the ***Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund*** in the memory of our special nurses. This is also a great way for you to recognize friends, classmates, mentors and colleagues. Hopefully, you will continue to make donation(s) to the fund.

To make a donation, print out the Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund Contribution Form from our Web site. Complete the form and send with your check made out to **The Western Pennsylvania Hospital Foundation** (*not* to the Alumni Association) to the **Foundation** (address on the form). Thanks!

### **MEETING DATES**

The ***meeting schedule for 2008*** is as follows:

- Tuesday, March 4, 2008
- Tuesday, June 3, 2008
- Tuesday, September 9, 2008 and
- Tuesday, December 2, 2008 (location to be determined)

All meetings (except December) are in the School of Nursing Alumni Room (319), from 5 to 6 p.m.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

The Alumni Association has been notified of the following deaths:

Mary Ann Bloom Eisentrout	1952	Mary D Kalback	1946
Fern V Hawk	1936	Kay Simmons Policor	1961
Dorothy E. Chadwick	1934	Ryta Roams	1945
Mirian Grimes Kritcher	1955	Marian Connor Canning	
Kenneth King	1964	Mary Lou Sinclair	1950
Martha Budgers Hamschen	1945	Elizabeth Ruefle Geishler	1947
Joanna S. Sleighter Kalmanek	1951	Mary Ann McMinn	1991
Dolores Burke Miller	1951	Janet Ann Shade Starr	
Janis R Alexander	1958		

### **AND LASTLY**

It is dues time once again. Please print out the Alumni Association Dues Form from our Web site and send it with your check to:

Alumni Association  
The Western Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing  
4900 Friendship Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Good bye for now fellow alums . . . .

Sincerely,  
Patti Black, RN, President