



# ACNL in Action:

## *Nurse Leaders Making a Difference!*

Association of California Nurse Leaders

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### **The Polls are Open: Vote in ACNL's Board of Directors Election**

Make your voice heard by voting in ACNL's election for President-Elect and positions on the Board of Directors. A link for electronic voting was sent to you earlier this week. If you haven't received it, contact the ACNL office at 916-779-6949. As a reminder, associate members and friends of nursing members are not eligible to vote in the election.

### **ACNL Unveils New Website ([www.acnl.org](http://www.acnl.org))**

ACNL launched a new website in July featuring increased functionality, balanced by ease of use. We have organized our new website to provide information, resources and best practices to help you increase your effectiveness and strengthen your voice as a nurse leader.

ACNL's new website is a work in progress. In the weeks and months to come we will be adding more features and information. Please let us know what you think about the new site. Are there features and resources you'd like to see available? What is working and what are the opportunities for improvement? As always, ACNL is dedicated to offering maximum benefits and services for our members.

If you have any questions or comments about the new website, contact the ACNL office at 916-779-6949 or [info@acnl.org](mailto:info@acnl.org).

### **BRN – Joint Committee Calls for BreEZe Audit**

After three failed attempts to update its antiquated programs and databases, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) launched BreEZe, a comprehensive IT system designed to integrate licensing and enforcement activity for all boards and bureaus and improve the DCA's service to the public. BreEZe is web-enabled, allowing licensees to complete and submit applications, renewals, and remit fees using the Internet. The public can file complaints, access complaint status, and check licensee information.

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Implementation of the BreEZe system has been extremely problematic. Nurse leaders, employers and students have shared their frustrations and concerns with the system both privately and publicly. Assemblywoman Kristen Olsen (R-Modesto) convened a special hearing in her district earlier this year to hear constituents' concerns with BreEZe. In June, she called for an audit of the BreEZe system. In her letter to the Joint Audit Committee, Assemblywoman Olsen described several problems related to the implementation and functionality of the system. Her concerns were presented to the Joint Audit Committee in early July. ACNL's CEO Patricia McFarland provided testimony supporting the need for an audit and offered assistance from California's nursing leadership community to ensure the completeness of the audit.

The Joint Audit Committee not only unanimously voted to audit BreEZe, but also approved priority status for the audit. Assigning priority status means the audit will begin immediately with the final report back to the Committee in early 2015.

Over the past nine months, ACNL has been working closely with the BRN to resolve issues related to BreEZe. We will continue to work with staff at the BRN to ensure issues related to the system continue to be addressed in a timely manner.

### **BRN - APRN Regulations**

The BRN Practice Committee is currently reviewing Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, Article 8, Sections 1480-1484 pertaining to nurse practitioners. The Committee met on August 7 in Costa Mesa to continue their review of the Nurse Practitioner regulations.

### **ACNL Board Votes to Oppose Propositions 45 and 46**

The ACNL Board has joined a broad coalition of health care associations in opposing Propositions 45 and 46 on the November 2014 ballot.

**Proposition 45** would grant California's Insurance Commissioner the authority to regulate health plan and insurance company premium rates. This initiative will impact provider reimbursement and limit access to care. To learn more, visit [www.stophighercosts.com](http://www.stophighercosts.com).

**Proposition 46** would quadruple the non-economic damages cap on California's Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act. The measure also forces providers and pharmacists to utilize a massive statewide database filled with Californians' personal medical prescription information. Opponents contend that Proposition 46 is a mandate government will find impossible to implement and will require a database that provides no increased security standards to protect personal prescription information from hackers. Learn more at: [www.stophighercosts.com](http://www.stophighercosts.com)

Over the next few weeks, the campaigns opposing Propositions 45 and 46 will be offering media training programs. ACNL members are invited and encouraged to participate in the campaign and training sessions. These media classes are designed to help healthcare leaders discuss the nuances of the initiatives. This is our opportunity to lend our voices to the discussion.

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## **Bylaws Committee – New Membership Category**

A special Member Services Subcommittee met in June and provided the Board with criteria for an emerging nurse leader membership category. The Board accepted the recommendations for this new membership classification and referred the proposed language to the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee is currently working on language related to this new membership level. The Committee has also been asked to create language related to the retired member category. This language will then be put before the membership for a vote.

## **Philanthropic Proposal Approved**

Over the next few months, members of the Board and Philanthropic Committee will be working with Gary Leo and Diana Peterson-More, philanthropic consultants. In June the Board accepted their proposal to work with ACNL to develop a strategic philanthropic plan. Their proposal includes engaging input from the membership as this process moves forward. If you are interested in being considered for one of the focus groups related to ACNL's philanthropic growth, please contact the ACNL office at 916-779-6949.

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Annual Program** – ACNL's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, ***Discover the Magic of Nurse Leadership***, will be at the Disneyland Hotel and Resort, February 1-4, 2015. The Annual Program Committee is already working to make this an outstanding experience for all. Speakers include Joe Tye, author of the *Florence Prescription*, health care futurist Dr. Ian Morrison, life coach Bhava Ram, and, back by popular demand, motivational speaker and humorist Judy Carter. More information about the 2015 Conference can be found on the ACNL website at [www.acnl.org](http://www.acnl.org).

**Webinars:** A special thank you to the Quality and Patient Safety Committee for hosting the June 24 webinar, ***Unleashing the Power of Lean***. Pam Wells, CNO and VP, Sharp Memorial Hospital; Brandi Cassingham, Director, Saddleback Memorial Medical Center; and Carole Colln, Manager, Miller Children's Hospital, presented best practices utilizing Lean. The Lean webinar is one of several featuring innovations and best practices from ACNL Annual Conference poster sessions and is provided free of charge for ACNL members.

A recording this and other webinars are available to members through the ACNL website. The next webinar sponsored by the Quality and Patient Safety Committee will be in the fall.

**CNSA Convention:** The California Nursing Students' Association 2014 Convention, ***To Infinity and Beyond: Limitless Opportunities in Nursing***, will be October 17-19, in Pomona. Support tomorrow's nurse leaders by supporting CNSA. To learn more about sponsor and exhibitor opportunities, contact ACNL at 916-779-6949.