



E-NEWS

April 2014

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Call for Leadership

For over 25 years, the Georgia Perinatal Association (GPA) has been actively involved in the promotion of improved perinatal health in Georgia. The GPA is a unique cross-disciplinary group of professionals composed of medical doctors, nurses, social workers, and affiliated professionals dedicated to improving perinatal health in our state.

The GPA Board of Directors represents the general membership and provides leadership, vision, and planning for the association. The Board is comprised of volunteers who are passionate about improving the health of Georgia's mothers and families. Rotating Board members serve 2 year terms and contribute to the overall functioning of the association.

The Board of GPA is seeking qualified candidates to serve on our volunteer governing Board for the 2015-2017 term. In particular, we are looking for people who are:

- Passionate about the health of mothers and babies
- Eager to learn and collaborate with others
- Reliable, Respected, Visionary
- Energetic, Innovative, Creative
- Community leaders willing to engage their peers in GPA's mission
- Primary care and public health professionals as well as leaders in health associations, business or health promotion activities
- Able to commit time to GPA Board meetings and projects
- Motivated and experienced in problem solving
- Connected with similar organizations or groups
- Advocates for mothers, babies, and families



If you are interested in being considered for our Board, please contact our Executive Office at 404-299-7700 or email Erica Abello at erica@ilh-consulting.com.

Good News for Georgia

On April 16, 2014 Governor Deal signed off on Senate Bill 273 which requires and supports the Department of Public Health to establish the Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) in Georgia.

Maternal mortality is unacceptably high in Georgia. Georgia consistently exceeds the national maternal mortality rate. It is estimated that about half of these deaths are preventable but we need to get a better idea of what is happening to Georgia mothers. To understand more about this initiative and your role in reporting, click [here](#).

Diane Youmans, RNC, MSN
GPA President

Is Georgia Prepared for a Nursing Tsunami?

A tsunami is defined as a series of water waves caused by the displacement of a large volume of a body of water, generally an ocean or a large lake.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the United States is expected to experience a huge wave of nurses exiting the work force in the very near future. Around 55% of the current RN workforce is 50 or older and more than 1 million nurses will reach retirement age in the next 10-15 years. Georgia faces a nursing shortage of nearly 50,000 RNs by 2020, according to the University System of Georgia's Center for Health Workforce Planning & Analysis.

Many nursing schools are turning away potential nursing candidates due to insufficient faculty. No doubt schools of nursing are also experiencing an aging out phenomena. With unfilled faculty positions, projected retirements, and fewer nurses desiring faculty appointments, this is a scary prospect.

However, it is not all doom and gloom. Many processes are in place to help nursing candidates find vacant seats. Reimbursement for advanced education is easier to find, making it a great time to go back for a doctoral degree. Recent data suggests that the number of young nurses entering the workforce has increased, but formal succession planning is necessary to bridge the gap between the two largest sectors of the nursing workforce - young nurses (23-26) and nurses rapidly approaching retirement (50 and older). We have a great opportunity to nurture those younger nurses and help bridge that gap.

But as one of those nurses approaching retirement, one thing really bothers me. Who is going to take care of me when I need a nurse? Thank goodness I have lots of friends who are nurses!

If you want to read more about the nursing shortage, click [here](#).

Diane Youmans, RNC, MSN
GPA President

Book Your Room Now!

28th Annual GPA Conference

September 24-26, 2014

Hotel accommodations are available at the [King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort](#) for a group rate starting at \$120/night for a Standard Room or \$150/night for an Ocean Front Room.

The group rate will be offered until Monday, August 11 or until the room block is sold out.



So, don't wait! Make your reservation now to guarantee your room type and rate. To make your reservation please call 877-724-3170 and mention the "Georgia Perinatal Association" or e-mail your reservation to reservations@kingandprince.com.

Know Someone Interested in Joining GPA?

Invite your colleagues to join GPA and be a part of this important multi-disciplinary organization of healthcare professionals promoting improved pregnancy and infant outcomes through education and collaboration. Membership dues are only \$50!

Have them complete the membership form and return it to the Executive Office along with their dues payment.

[Print Membership Application](#)

Send to:

GPA Executive Office
2711 Irvin Way, Suite 111
Decatur, GA 30030

CONTACT US

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