President’s Farewell Letter March 2014

To my AANN peers and colleagues—

Serving as your president for the past year has been a great honor and privilege. AANN is stronger as an organization due to our members’ service in leadership roles, on committees, as presenters at the AANN Annual Educational Meeting, and as local chapter members. We are neuro strong!

The 2014 annual meeting theme, “Practice with Purpose and Passion,” came from my belief that our members’ practices of neuroscience nursing are delivered with intense excellence and fueled by a passion we all feel for our unique populations and work settings. AANN members have made contributions within their practice setting, as part of AANN committees or task forces, and as representatives to other organizations seeking our unique expertise.

I am inspired by the stories from AANN members that have been shared with me. The patient or client was always at the heart of the story, but it was the nurse’s deliberate, dedicated practice that shined bright.

I would like to acknowledge our members serving on the AANN Board of Directors and committees. They have achieved numerous accomplishments:

- Our AANN board members are critical and creative thinkers and have demonstrated a willingness to explore new avenues and aspire to high goals. One such goal is our strategic goal of increasing our AANN membership to 6,000 members strong. This goal can only be achieved by connecting with every AANN member and asking them to bring one new member to AANN this year. Together we can reach our goal!

- AANN members serving on the ABNN Board of Trustees worked to bring the Stroke Certified Registered Nurse (SCRN) exam to our members. AANN members developed the resources to support the development of the exam and impact neuro nursing practice. Study resources include a study guide; the AANN Core Curriculum for Neuroscience Nursing, fifth edition; self-assessment exam; Guide to the Care of the Hospitalized Patient with Ischemic Stroke, 2nd Edition; and a webinar.

- Using a bequest left to AANN by our cofounder, Agnes Marshall Walker, AANN and ABNN collaborated to establish a new foundation for our members that will provide access to funds in support of education, research, and clinical practice. Visit the Agnes Marshall Walker Foundation website at amwf.org.

- AANN membership now includes an e-membership to the American Nurses Association (ANA).

- AANN members have extended our neuroscience nursing influence by serving as liaisons to numerous organizations
  - Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association—(Michelle Grigaitis lectured at their clinical practice forum)
  - American Association of Neurology
    - Epilepsy Quality Measure Development Work Group—(Mona Stecker)
Multiple Sclerosis Quality Measure Development—(Patricia Pagnotta)
- Council of State Neurosurgical Societies—(Linda Littlejohns)
- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Nursing Roundtable—(Nancy Villanueva)
- Patient-Centered Research into Outcomes Stroke Patients Prefer and Effectiveness Research (PCORI PROSPER)—(Linda Littlejohns)
- Brain Attack Coalition—(Barbara Mancini)
- ANA and Organizational Affiliate—(Mary Kay Bader, Megan Keiser, and Joan Kram)
- American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA)—(Sarah Livesay, Daiwai Olson, and Clareanne Mathieson)

AANN committees have contributed significantly to the organization and our members:
- The Awards Committee led by Rose Girardeau, honored nurses and a chapter at the AANN Annual Educational Meeting in Anaheim, CA.
- The Educational Provider Committee, led by Chris Stewart Amidei, worked diligently to enable AANN to continue to provide continuing education (CE) credits to members attending educational programs by successfully renewing our CE provider status with the American Nurses Credentialing Center.
- The Education Products Committee, led by Therese West, is developing podcasts and other products that help our members master new neuroscience content or practice.
- The Education Approver Committee led by Leslie Goddard reviewed and approved the largest number of CE applications to date.
- The Advocacy Committee, led by Pat Lane, created a toolkit for members, responded to requests for endorsement, and connected us to the Nursing Community which helps unify the voice of the nursing profession on Capitol Hill.
- AANN Chapters, led by liaison Missy Moreda, have grown in number this year. The Rocky Mountain Chapter received the Chapter of the Year Award for its incredible work.
- The Finance Committee, led by Michelle Van Demark, provided development and oversight of AANN financial activities. AANN increased our finances over $100,000 and increased our months in reserve to 4.3.
- The Nominating Committee, led by Barbara Mancini, recruited incredible nurse leader candidates for service to the AANN Board of Directors.
- The Institute of Medicine (IOM) Task Force, led by Cindy Sullivan, conducted a survey of the membership on the four key messages and has drafted a list of potential projects and products to help support the integration of the IOM white paper into the AANN strategic plan.
- The Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) committee, led by Patricia Blissett, created and revised several CPGs. Look for the Adult and Pediatric Brain Tumor CPGs as well as an updated Acute Ischemic Stroke CPG coming out later this year.
o Special focus groups (SFG), led by Teri Gabay, were very busy this year. The Listservs have been active with members sharing knowledge and tools to improve practice.

o The Journal of Neuroscience Nursing (JNN), led by Editor Susan Carroll, has grown and produced outstanding articles over the past year.

o The World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses (WFNN) provided an incredible educational experience in Gifu, Japan, in September where neuroscience nurses from 24 countries gathered to share knowledge. AANN’s own Christi DeLemos is now the president of WFNN and member Cindy Bautista is WFNN’s AANN representative.

o AANN and AHA/ASA collaborated on a number of stroke initiatives including the International Stroke Conference (ISC), State of the Art Nurse’s Meeting (Sarah Livesay serves as liaison to the committee) and participation on key stroke nursing committees (Clareanne Mathieson and Daiwai Olson).

o The Annual Planning and Poster committees, led by Joni Herrington and Melody Davidson, launched a new tool for abstracts and built an amazing educational program for the AANN Annual Meeting that took place in Anaheim, CA, March 8–11, 2014. The meeting was a huge success with more than 700 AANN members attending the event. Attendees enjoyed the beautiful 80+ degree weather in southern California.

I would like to personally thank the AANN Board of Directors for their inspiring work and contributions. Thank you to Linda Littlejohns, Megan Keiser, Michelle Van Demark, Jan Hinkle, Michele Grigaitis, Twyila Lay, Mona Stecker, Lindsey Siewert, and Millie Hepburn.

Our AANN support staff in Chicago at the Association Management Center (AMC) have served and supported our organization to achieve our goals. Joan Kram (executive director for AANN) and Jeff Engle (AMC principal) have worked collaboratively with me and the board in our work for the organization. The AANN/AMC staff members are talented and work diligently with our volunteer members. I would like to give a special thank you to Leah Zamora, Allison Begezda, Kelly Podkowa, Patience McCarty, Vanessa Mobley, Julie Nemmer, Jennifer Wahl, and Mary Paulson.

As I reflect over the numerous accomplishments this past year and look to our future, I would ask each of you to connect yourself to AANN by volunteering for a committee, presenting at the next annual meeting, serving on the editorial board, publishing an article in JNN, or recruiting a new member to AANN. And welcome Megan Keiser as your new AANN President!

Finally, connect yourself by linking the AANN themes of the past, present, and future years.

Listen, Learn, Lead
Practice with Passion and Purpose
Enlighten, Engage, Empower

All the best,
Mary Kay Bader, MSN RN CCNS CCRN CNRN SCRN