

SLNA Newslines

Edition 002

June 2011

Professionalism, Unity & Service



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the second edition of the Sierra Leone Nurses Association bimonthly newsletter. This is a very exciting year as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Association. Over the past year, we have also been supported by National and International Organisations to build the capacity of SLNA, and help us provide better services to our members. As we celebrate, we remember to congratulate all nurses holding up the candle and continuously working to deliver quality healthcare to patients. As an Association, we will continue supporting Nursing Professionals to improve their standards of service and highlighting their good works.

Sister Madonna Hill

IN THIS ISSUE

- **SLNA's New Secretariat**1
- **International Nursing Day Conference**.....2
- **New Membership Scheme**3
- **Qualified SECHN's Volunteer**3
- **Upcoming Events**4
- **Nurse of the Month: Musu Kula Conteh** ...4
- **Get Involved!**4

SIERRA LEONE NURSES ASSOCIATION NEWSLINE IS A PUBLICATION SUPPORTED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO INFORM NURSES, MIDWIVES AND HEALTH WORKERS ABOUT THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NURSING PROFESSION.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE NEW SLNA SECRETARIAT?



Front of SLNA Secretariat Office at Fort Street, Freetown

In June 2010, SLNA opened up its first secretariat building, with the help of funding from UNFPA. This is an exciting time for the Sierra Leone Nurses Association, as we celebrate our 50 years Anniversary and move towards professionalism and better accountability. With the support of Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), Sylvester Sharkah, Office Administrative Assistant was recruited in September 2010 and manages the office with the help of the SLNA Volunteer Foday Hadi Conteh. From June 2010 – June 2011, VSO also placed VSO volunteer Banke Adetayo with SLNA to work closely with the Executive Council to build the capacity of the Association.

The Secretariat is now open and all members are encouraged to visit when they are in Freetown. The office provides membership forms, reports, minutes from the general meetings and information on benefits. The secretariat is located on **16c Fort Street in Freetown**. Opening hours are from 9am – 4pm every weekday. ■

Join SLNA today and get reduced calls to Airtel users. Call to find out more

SLNA CELEBRATES THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY CONFERENCE AT CITY HALL, BO

This year's international Nurses Day Conference, held at Bo from Thursday 12th – Sunday 15th May, was a success and was asserted to have been enjoyed by all participants in attendance. The Conference began with an Official Opening Ceremony which was attended by notable figures, including the Paramount Chief Prince Boima, the Mayor of Bo City Council and the Resident Minister of Bo. Introductions and statements were provided by Leaders in the health profession, including Matron Mabel Carew, the Chief Nursing Officer, the Bo District Medical Officer and the Matron of Bo Government Hospital. The event also included statements given by representatives from Civil Society Organisations and National and International donor organisations.

The Opening Ceremony was followed by the Scientific Symposium, where 6 presentations were given to mark this year's theme of, 'Nurses Closing the Gap: Increasing Access and Equity.' The presentations, given by leading nurses explored the burdens and barriers to access and equity and discussed methods of measuring and enhancing access and equity in the workplace. The presentations were followed by discussions, to which recommendations emerged from the participant's group work; these will be used as a platform for discussions between SLNA and the MoHS.



Nurses at the Conference at Bo City Hall



From right; SLNA President, Chief Nursing Officer and Nurses Board Registrar



The National Executive Council of SLNA during the AGM

In the Afternoon of Friday 13th, Participants took a break to attend Muslim Prayers at the Fenton Road Central Mosque. After prayers, the AGM was held at the City Hall, where the Executive Council provided members of the Association reports on the social and financial activities of the Association. The body is reminded that the National Election for Executive members will be taking place at the next AGM in May 2012.

On Saturday 14th, SLNA was joined by The Organisation of Sierra Leonean Health Professionals Abroad (TOSHPA), who launched the Health Fair for the Monitoring of Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar. Patients and civilians were called to come to Bo Government Hospital for a free health check-up and consultation.

In the evening of the 14th, the Bo Nurses Football team – host team – went up against the Away team comprising of various other districts. After an eventful ninety minutes, both teams emerged with one goal each, the game ended in a draw. SLNA commends all members of the teams for their dedication and efforts while playing, even during heavy showers. The outcome of the match was celebrated at the Annual Reunion Dinner and Dance at the Vicannie Night Club.

On Sunday 15th, a Christian Service was conducted at the Immaculate Heart Cathedral, after which Nurses from all cadres marched from the Cathedral to the Bo City Hall. This marked the end of the conference and Nurses were transported back to their districts of Residence. ■



Trained Nurses and Nurses in training March after the church service at the Immaculate Heart Cathedral



Elizabeth Conteh, Chairperson of International organisation TOSHPA, monitors a patient B/P.



Nurses in their 50th Anniversary Cotton Outfits

NEWLY QUALIFIED SECHN's VOLUNTEER AS HOSPITALS LOBBY THE LOCAL COUNCILS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THEIR SUBSISTENCE

Fatmata Vamba, Alphina Sesay and Sabina Pieh are State Enrolled Community Health Nurses working at Makeni Government Hospital. They are examples of many newly qualified nurses giving their time to work as un-paid volunteers in hospitals all over Sierra Leone. When asked, all three nurses, who have been qualified for over 6 months, commented that they were happy to work and care for patients as they wait to be recruited and placed by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

These Volunteer nurses are working with little or no money or subsistence allowances, but are still showing up to work every day, doing their best to deliver quality care to patients. The Head of department at the Northern Polytechnic Nursing School, Sister Evelyn Bangura has highlighted this problem at the hospitals and has commented that the nurses at the government hospital and its management team in Makeni are lobbying the Town Council to give more incentives to the volunteers.

The Sierra Leone Nurses Association commend the efforts of the newly qualified nurses and continue to ask for the patience and hard-work of the volunteers as SLNA looks into how to support them further. ■

THE NEW MEMBERSHIP SCHEME WILL GIVE NURSES THE CHANCE TO BECOME ACTIVE MEMBERS OF SLNA

The New Membership Scheme has been designed by the National Executive Council, to provide better services for members of SLNA. The membership scheme offers better benefits and incentives for members and a redefined Membership Policy, to remind members of the rules of the organisation and to inform them of exactly what you can get from being a member of the Association. The scheme has also worked to improve transparency and accountability from the NEC, through better reporting.

An active component of the scheme is the recruitment process, whereby all members need to re-sign up to SLNA in order to receive the new and improved benefits. These benefits include the Airtel Closed User Group that will allow members to call others in the same group for only 3 units per minute. All you need to do is to sign up either at the SLNA Secretariat at Fort Street, or call **078818839/ 077588222** to find out how you can complete an application form.

Each member will receive a new membership pack. ■

JOIN US
and receive full benefits

- + Advice & Support
- + Volunteer Training
- + Basic IT Training

SUPPORT S.L.N.A

+ JOIN OUR airtel CUG AND CALL OTHER NURSES FOR 3 UNITS/MINUTE



NURSE OF THE MONTH

Every Month SLNA will look around the country to find and recognise an exceptional Nurse who is delivering quality health service at their place of work and has served to raise the public profile of Nurses.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2011

Jul

Tue 26th General Meeting, Faculty of Nursing, Lightfoot Boston Street

Aug

Tue 30th General Meeting, Princess Christian Maternity Hospital

Sept

Tue 27th General Meeting, Faculty of Nursing, Lightfoot Boston Street

MUSU KULA CONTEH

Designation: State Registered Nurse

Hospital: Ola During Children's Hospital

'Musu is one of the most dedicated nurses in the world. She is very hard-working, a good leader, and is extremely motivated by her patients.' This was a testament given by one of the resident doctors at Ola During Children's Hospital, when asked why Musu deserved to be recognised as a good Nurse.

After working at the Children's Hospital for over a year, Musu currently assists the Matron in her office. She was in-charge of the ICU and will be returning there this month. When asked about her motivations, Musu said, 'I love my job, I like paediatric nursing and love caring for children.'

Musu often has busy days, normally starting her shift at 8.30am, where her immediate actions when she arrives is to greet her patients and read over the night reports to understand the issues around the cases, before she prepares the duty rosters for her nurses. Musu then spends the rest of her shift caring for the children, doing ward rounds with the doctors, reporting and co-ordinating the distribution of medication to patients.

When Musu was asked what advice she would give to other nurses, she said, 'To love their job and to empathetic for others, because nursing is all about love and caring.' ■

Musu Conteh is one example of nurses in Sierra Leone who are hardworking and maintaining the caring and patient image of nursing. If you or your hospital/health centre would like to nominate a nurse for the next newsletter, text the name of the nurse and why they should be chosen to **078818839/077588222**

GET INVOLVED

REPRESENTATIVES: SLNA would like representatives from all hospitals and health units in Sierra Leone. If you would like to represent your hospital, contact Foday Conteh at the SLNA Secretariat on 077588222.

ADVERTISE: If you would like to Advertise in the next edition of this newsletter, contact Sylvester on 077588222

JOIN OUR TEAM If you are interested in writing an article for SLNA Newsline, or want to share a story, picture or event with us, please call 078818839 or email us on slna_03@yahoo.co.uk

SLNA PARTNER IMAGES

