ARN MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ARN Member Highlights Rehabilitation Nursing in a Unique Way for Student Nurses

When the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) holds its annual convention in the spring each year, approximately 3,000 student nurses gather to learn more about different nursing specialties. In previous years, ARN representatives have discussed the role of rehabilitation nursing in the management of chronic illness.

For the 2011 meeting, NSNA was seeking sessions that would help them address one of their organizational resolutions: to explore the “effects of human-animal interaction on chronic disease.” They reached out to ARN for education related to that resolution.

Enter ARN member Andrea Dube, RN CRRN. You may remember Andrea from her presentation about service animals at the 2009 ARN Annual Educational Conference in Albuquerque, NM, or her canine pals “in training” that she brings to each conference. Andrea generously agreed to represent ARN at the 2011 NSNA Annual Convention, where she presented the session “Milkbones® Are the Best Medicine: How Animals Benefit Health.”

Andrea’s presentation highlighted the role of the rehabilitation nurse in assisting individuals with disability or chronic illness in attaining and maintaining maximum function. It was very popular among the attendees who were very interested in hearing more about rehabilitation nursing and how animals can benefit health.

After the session, Andrea said, “I think it is important to represent ARN at [NSNA] to continue to provide the students with education about what rehabilitation nurses do and what a great specialty it is. Students do not get exposure to rehabilitation in their clinicals and are not really familiar with what we do.”

Thanks, Andrea, for representing ARN and rehabilitation nursing in such an interesting and inspiring way. We want to hear from other ARN members about some interesting “twists” that could help highlight rehabilitation nursing to others who may not be familiar with the important work that you do. Send your thoughts to ARN at info@rehabnurse.org.