

from the PRESIDENT



Ramziah Binti Ahmad
CNMF President

This edition of The Commonwealth Nurse highlights the 22nd CNMF Biennial Meeting which was held in London on Friday 11 March. The 22nd Biennial Meeting was attended by representatives from sixteen CNMF member countries, with delegates from Sri Lanka, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe unable to obtain visas to attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the hard work of the CNMF Executive Secretary, Ms Jill Iliffe, who has made an outstanding contribution to the CNMF since taking office in 2008 and to the development of nursing and midwifery across the Commonwealth. I would also like to thank CNMF Board members for their ongoing support to the CNMF in their regions. I acknowledge particularly Mrs Paula Hancock who has been CNMF Board member for the Europe Region and Ms Lee Thomas, Board member for the Pacific Region who have now completed their terms of office. And I would like to welcome Ms Annie Butler from Australia who has been elected CNMF Board member for the Pacific Region and Mr George Saliba from Malta who has been elected Board member for the Europe Region.



Farewell to Mrs Paul Hancock



Farewell to Mrs Angela Neuhaus

I would particularly like to acknowledge Mrs Angela Neuhaus who has been the CNMF Honorary Treasurer since 2008 and who will be retiring from this position at the end of this financial year. Mrs Neuhaus has been a diligent treasurer and an active member of the CNMF Board, organising CNMF activities, representing the CNMF in different forums and pursuing funding opportunities. Mrs Neuhaus will be sadly missed and I hope she continues to be involved in CNMF events and we hope to see her at the Biennial Meeting in 2018.

I would also like to congratulate Sierra Leone in bringing so many delegates to the meeting despite the crisis in their country with Ebola and the tragedy of loss of life of so many nurses, midwives and other health professionals.

I would like to welcome new members to the CNMF: the Rwanda Nurses and Midwives Union to full membership; the Nurses for Nurses Network to affiliate membership and CGFNS International to associate membership.

The CNMF is deeply indebted to the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) for their ongoing support. It would be very difficult for the CNMF to function effectively without that support and the provision of office space and other administrative support. Thank you to the RCN President, Ms Cecelia Anim, RCN Chief Executive Officer, Ms Janet Davies, and the RCN Council. I would like to congratulate the RCN on their 100th Anniversary and hosting a reception following the Biennial Meeting to celebrate. Delegates should be aware that the RCN is hosting the CNMF Board meeting and the CNMF Biennial meeting and has provided event management support for the 3rd Commonwealth Nurses Conference.

Members of CNMF participated in three policy debates at the Biennial Meeting and thank you to those members who led the debate. The policy issues discussed are outlined below and members decided to continue the policy discussion over the coming two years.

- Whether there are advantages for a professional nursing or midwifery association also being a trade union.
- Whether lower level cadres doing nursing work such as nursing assistants or health care assistants are nurses who should be part of the nursing family and be licensed by a nursing regulatory body.
- Whether career structures should be developed for nurses who wanted to remain in clinical practice.

It was a delight to welcome a former CNMF President to the Biennial Meeting to address delegates. Mrs Peggy Vidot, who is Principal Secretary, Seychelles Ministry of Health shared with delegates her journey as a nursing leader and the lessons she had learned along the way.

The keynote speaker for the Biennial was Ms Linda Lewis, Chief Executive of the American Nurse Credentialing Centre (ANCC) who were major sponsors for the 3rd Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference reception. Ms Lewis gave an inspiring address to delegates about her personal vision and her ongoing journey as a nurse in achieving that vision. The CNMF is grateful to the ANCC for their financial support for the conference and to Ms Lewis for accepting the invitation to be the keynote speaker at the Biennial Meeting and a plenary speaker at the Conference.