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Massachusetts Nurse Leaders Announce Name Change, New Affiliation and 2012 Executive Board

The former Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives (MONE) has changed its name to the **Organization of Nurse Leaders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island (ONL)**. This change more accurately reflects the many diverse positions in which nurses serve as leaders, and formalizes the merger of the Massachusetts and Rhode Island nurse leader groups, which have been collaborating for several years.

“Our new name highlights nurses’ vital role as healthcare administrative leaders within hospitals, academic institutions, clinics, home- and long-term care settings, as well as clinical nurse leaders who advance the nursing profession by improving patient safety and quality of care,” explained Sharon Gale, ONL chief executive officer. “The change also more accurately reflects the inclusion of nurses at every leadership level. We want more RNs to join ONL and become actively involved in the organization.”

“The Massachusetts and Rhode Island chapters have had a long and successful working relationship and our name change now makes that affiliation official,” added Kevin Whitney, ONL president. “In addition to our new logo, we are also in the process of redesigning our website to better serve our membership with nurse-focused information that will be helpful to those involved in healthcare reform efforts in our state and nationally.”

In addition to approving the group’s name change and formal affiliation, ONL’s membership approved the following new executive board at the group’s annual meeting:

President: **Kevin B. Whitney**, RN, MA, NEA-BC. Associate chief nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital and a member of MONE since 2002, Whitney served as president-elect last year and succeeds Elaine Bridge, chief nursing officer at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

President-Elect: **Kathy Schuler**, MS, RN, CNA. Since May 2006, Schuler has been vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at Winchester Hospital. She previously served as Winchester’s director of emergency services and as vice president for patient care services at Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport and at Boston Regional Medical Center in Stoneham.

Secretary and By-Laws Chair: **Lisa Colombo**, DNP, MHA, RN. The chief nursing officer at HealthAlliance Hospital in Leominster since 2009, Colombo also has held leadership positions in nursing and patient care at Milton Hospital, New England Baptist Hospital, and Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, among others.

The new executive board will serve through June 2012.

As the voice of nurse leaders in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, ONL is committed to the advancement of professional nursing, promoting the delivery of quality patient care, and influencing the development of sound health policy. Affiliated with the American Organization of Nurse Executives, ONL also has a long-standing partnership with the Massachusetts Hospital Association. For more information visit us at massone.org or at our new web site coming soon oonl.org.