



## *An Evening with Congressional Nursing Champions*

### *AACN's Capitol Hill Reception March 16, 2009*

AACN's advocacy efforts are an instrumental part of the organization's ability to address the current shortage of nurses, nurse faculty, and nurse researchers. Member deans and directors work diligently to create strong relationships with their Senators and Representatives to educate them on the concerns facing the nursing profession. In order to honor and thank federal legislators, their staff, and AACN members for their commitment, AACN's Government Affairs Committee (GAC) hosted a reception at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on March 16, 2009. The event began directly after AACN's Hill Day and was a tremendous success with five members of Congress as well as many Congressional staff in attendance.

Representative Steven LaTourette (R-OH), co-chair of the House Nursing Caucus, offered the opening remarks at the reception. Representative LaTourette, a long-time supporter of nursing and AACN's advocacy efforts, welcomed the deans and directors. He shared with the group his current work to address the nursing shortage.



*Representative LaTourette (R-OH) addresses the AACN attendees.*



*Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ) shares a laugh with New Jersey Deans (from left) Susan Salmond, Phyllis Hansell, Julie Bliss, and Minerva Guttman.*



*Representative Holt (D-NJ) with AACN members and staff (from left) Susan Salmond, Joanne Robinson, Phyllis Hansell, AACN President Fay Raines, Julie Bliss, Minerva Guttman, AACN CEO and Executive Director Polly Bednash and AACN Government Affairs Director Suzanne Begeny.*

The reception was an opportunity for AACN deans and directors to enjoy the company of their colleagues and discuss issues impacting their states.

Most importantly, the event drew wide attendance from Congressional staff and members of Congress. AACN members took the opportunity to strategize on ways to address the critical issues facing their schools of nursing.



*North Carolina nursing deans Lorna Harris and Phyllis Morgan enjoy the reception.*



*Representative Ralph Hall (R-TX) discusses nursing issues.*



*AACN President Fay Raines, AACN CEO and Executive Director Polly Bednash as well as Texas nursing deans Betty Adams and Jo Kahler pose with Representative Ralph Hall (R-TX) and a member of his staff.*



*AACN President and AACN's CEO and Executive Director with Representatives Frank LoBiondo (R-CA) and Lois Capps (D-CA), co-authors of the House "Dear Colleague" letter requesting increased funding for Title VIII. From left: Fay Raines, Rep. LoBiondo (R-NJ), Rep. Capps (D-CA), and Polly Bednash.*



*Representative LoBiondo(R-NJ) greets Barbara Williams, Arkansas nursing chair.*



*Representative Lois Capps (D-CA) and Drs. Raines, Bednash, and Begeny reflect on nursing issues.*

The event also offered members of Congress a chance to discuss timely nursing issues with AACN members, experts on nursing education and research. Below is Nancy DeBasio, GAC Chair introducing Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ), a longtime nursing advocate.



*Deans Harriet Feldman and Richardean Benjamin enjoy the reception.*



*GAC member Greer Glazer and Diego Sanchez from the staff of Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) chat during the Capitol Hill reception.*



*Members of Congress, AACN members, and Congressional staff enjoy the opportunity to network.*