

President's Message:

During the past year, I have heard a great deal of discussion about the nursing shortage and the continued rightsizing of many hospitals across Ohio. We have seen many articles in our local papers about how it is affecting patient care, nursing safety on the job and most importantly nursing morale. As a faculty member at a college of nursing, I am also seeing how this publicity is affecting the number of new nurses coming into our profession and continued practice of many "seasoned" professionals.

I know I do not have the answers to any of these situations but I would like to share the words of one of my nursing students who recently graduated from our nursing program who may shed some a twinkle of light to think about. A recent senior nursing student was given the opportunity to do her last clinical rotation in the emergency department at one of our local hospitals. I will admit that this student was hand picked for this experience because she was a very good student but she was also picked because she was verbalizing her dislike for nursing practice and felt that she could make much more of a difference in another field. Her preceptor in the Emergency Department was a nurse with only 2 years of emergency experience but a 5 year professional. After this experience, my student shared with me the following two observations. First she said, "I never understood how much nursing was synonymous with caring. You might work for 12 hours without a break, see some people coming in and die, and see some people come in who are there when you leave, but every one of them the nurse 'cares' about. You make some of them feel better physically, some of them we just got clothing and food for, and some of them we helped emotionally, but everyone of them the nurse helps as an important member of a team. Every day I went home tired, frustrated about some of the things that I saw but it was a good tired and frustration because I know that nursing does make a difference in people's lives even in the small things that we think we do." Secondly, she was amazed at how well the nurses worked together and help one another. She commented that "they even cared about each other!"

Now most of the credit for this "revelation" has to go to her

preceptor. She spent time showing this student that no matter how many nurses are working, how many patients we see in our 12 hour shift, how many patients are "circling in the driveway", or who the patient is, we are there for them and they are our focus. She also pointed out the fact that nurses need to share the burden of nursing. She emphasized how her own preceptor when she was newly hired to the emergency department remains her mentor.

There are two things that I hope this account will encourage you to think about. First, we need to nurture our young, new professionals. Share your experience and perspectives on nursing but share them in a positive way. Encourage, excite, and enhance their perception of what nursing is and what they can become. And secondly, nurture the experienced nurse who transfers or comes to your area. Become their mentor not their nemesis. These are the people who will carry on our legacy of excellence in emergency care.

Have a safe and healthy summer. I hope to see some of you in Orlando for the National Meeting.

Keep up the emergency caring,

■ Debbie Schwytzer, RN, MSN, CEN, President

Ohio State Council Board Meeting June 2, 2001

Debbie opened the meeting with introductions.

Quorum with 12 members present. Motion made and passed to accept minutes of January meeting. (There was no March meeting.)

Elections for National - We are able to do on web site and it is very simple. Contact ENA if you don't get a hand mailed ballot or on-line ballot by June 23. Must be received back at National before July 18. There are flyers sent out on a certain candidate, please ignore this, it was not sent with the candidate's knowledge. Please get your vote in.

Local Chapters - National is getting their records pretty well coordinated. Still a few chapters who don't have current president listed, and this holds up funding and getting accu-

rate information out.

Treasurer's report - Marie reviewed. National is current in reimbursement for 2000 and already sending this year's funds. Final balance is \$25,945.

Symposium funds, Marie reviewed some of the expenses. If there are any outstanding expenses or incomes, please contact Marie.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Greater Akron Area - Dee - No report

Greater Cincinnati - Debbie having a few TNCC courses in the area and had an Instructor Course and will be verifying those instructor candidates soon. Selling a cookbook with fairly successful sales. Now having 4 meetings a year. Planning Emergency Nurses Day (END) dinner and program.

Seagate - No report

Central Ohio - Deb Zang, talk on elder trauma at last meeting. TNCC in June and July, ENPC in August. Next meeting August with the next speaker - a legal topic.

Lakeshore - Peg Kunsman - Meeting April 3 and an education offering on Pediatric Meningitis. Next meeting June 5 with topic of summer emergencies. Half-day seminar being planned for October 13 for END.

Cleveland - Dona Laing - Reported on TNCC and ENPC courses. Had a talk on EMTALA with good turnout. Cardiac studies was the topic at the next meeting and coming meeting is at Metro with Burn treatment as topic in June. Getting a visit from National ENA regarding visiting Cleveland for possible site of National Conference.

Greater Miami Valley - Connie Dishon - meeting this Wednesday at Miami Valley Hospital - Jim Petrio talk on Pediatrics.

Eastern Ohio - No Report, Have completed their charter

Southern Ohio - No Report

Heart of Ohio - good TNCC in January, July will go to 4 meetings per year. New staff in the area that will hopefully add new members.

LIAISON REPORTS

ACEP (American College of Emergency Physicians) - No Report.

EMS Board (Emergency Medical Services) - Kathy Haley - Meetings have been every other month, now may meet more frequently or longer, there are more agenda items to discuss. Use web site for more information. Kathy is on three (3) subcommittees (Education, EMS-C, and Trauma Committee).

Education and EMS-C (EMS for children) - Kathy reviewed what these committees are addressing. Any issues she wants us to address or that are out on the table and we

have input into, let her know.

Regional Physicians Advisory Board - reviewed issues and what it is and that Emergency Nurses are attending, showed us when the meetings are scheduled. (See p. 5.) EMS improvement issues and their involvement are the current issues. Shared various items with us.

Trauma Committee - meeting monthly - Kathy shared what the two subcommittees she sits on do. Prehospital (Trauma triage guidelines and destination criteria) and Hospital committee comprised of a collection of administrators addressing anticipated needs of the hospitals in the new trauma system. Being reviewed are the Prehospital triage guidelines for decisions by EMS squads on where they take patient. (Adult vs. pediatric hospital). Kathy reviewed what the Town Meetings are. They are a forum for discussion of having Trauma systems in the area and discussion and questions from public. She shared dates/locations with us. (See p. 5)

OAEMS - Deb Zang - No Report.

ONA (Ohio Nurses Association) - David Shields - per Kathy Sutton - She and David have attended a dinner meeting with their regional area, David is still meeting with them on an ongoing basis.

OSTNC (Ohio Society of Trauma Nurse Coordinators) - Nancie Bechtel - No Report.

Forensic Nurse Examiners - Deb Zang - Are working on a statewide manual and training development for which they received funds from the state and are working on state certification.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trauma Committee - Dee Hart - manuals have increased in price (Connie) - State Instructor's Course went well.

Education/Research - report from Kathy Sutton from David - making plans for next year, one-day conference on Saturday at a local Hospital. She discussed other plans that are in the works; any suggested speakers please let her know. Dona suggested having the conference at another site. Discussion. Committee will address. Should have the committee local to the site or at least several members. May implement in 2002.

Government Affairs - Deb Zang - picketing against mandatory OT at the State House - Deb was there and she discussed what happened. Patient Safety is also an issue Federal level for removing mandatory OT and developing items for nurse-retention. (See ENA CONNECTION)

Membership Development - Deb Zang - 895 members in OH, Delegates will be determined by June 14 membership. Deb reported numbers per Chapter. Delegates' application for National Conference - number of submissions is down. Deb reviewed the names.

Newsletter - Dee Hart - stated next newsletter deadline. Anyone wishing to submit an article please let Dee know. Reminder: Committee Chairs should submit items to Dee.

Nursing Practice - Kathy Sutton - has talked to ONA Nurse Practice leader regarding our need for cooperative issues. ONA is working on updating the General Practice Statement for RN and LPN. Issue re: scope of practice of RN in prehospital - still looking at "Held to highest degree of training" - be sure your job description outside of the hospital setting addresses this. Another issue re: getting consent on procedures in Emergency Dept. Redefining informed consent in ED and nurses witnessing a signature vs. informed consent and what items we should get consent for. Another part of this is what documentation needs to be done for informed refusal of procedures. Has been addressed in the individual hospitals and by their policies in the past and ONA will be looking at as a procedural issue. Watch for ONA bulletins for more information.

ENCARE - Deb Deedrick - has met with Mike and getting started on the procedures and getting grant monies again. Dona reported on Cleveland ENCARE and its involvement with SEARS driving school and presentations.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws - reviewing for final grammatical errors. Dee will finalize with this and submit for Debbie to use to complete our Inc. status. Debbie discussed.

Standard Operating Procedures - Dee Hart- still have draft only, only input from a few people. Drafts should be brought to August meeting or to Debbie before next meeting.

Web Site - Mike Glenn - No report

Bookkeeper - Marie Garrison - no meeting to date.

Will wait to engage full time bookkeeper to see who next treasurer is but will look to having books audited now.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations to EMS Board - Have active representative (Kathy Haley) - comes up for re-appointment in November, we need to submit names for suggestion for our representative. Should be dual membership with ONA. Letter due August. Anyone interested contact Debbie with CV by July 1st.

Delegates to National - Deb Zang - see above

National ENA General Assembly

September 12-13, 2001

National ENA Scientific Assembly

September 14-16, 2001

Orlando, Florida

Ohio State Council Newsletter

Submission Deadlines

August 27

November 19

Send items for publication to the editor.
(see return address)

Nominations for 2002 Officers - Immediate past president chair, need a couple of helpers for this so that we can announce nominations at the November meeting. Kathy Sutton and Marie Garrison volunteered.

ENF Silent Auction - Discussion - Dona volunteered to "shop" and motion we should participate in Silent Auction by mutual agreement of members present. Motion to do jewelry by Becca and seconded by Peg. Motion carried. Dona and Becca will purchase item and see that it gets to National Conference.

OSC representations to other State affiliated committees - we need to know who - Are you representing us? We would like to acknowledge your service. Also need to know your term of appointment so that we can determine if we need to appoint other people to replace you at end of your term. Contact Debbie Schwytzer at Deborah.Schwytzer@uc.edu.

Kathy Haley would like someone to be on the EMS-C subcommittee and asked again for a volunteer. Needs name in 30 days or less.

■ Dee Hart, RN, Secretary

Attention Chapter Presidents and Treasurers

August 1, 2001 Deadline!!! In order to balance our accounts we ask that any checks issued to you by OSC be deposited ASAP. Any checks outstanding for greater than 3 months will be canceled after August 1, 2001. Any checks from OSC dated prior to 1/1/00 have already been canceled.

The Forensic Corner

The last newsletter introduced all of you to the field of forensics. I explained briefly what fields we as nurses center on when caring for the forensic patient. In this newsletter I would like to expand on one area of forensic nursing and explain a little more in depth for you what it entails.

SANE - Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. This is probably the most often recognized area of forensic nursing, and the oldest. Sexual Assault exams are not one of our favorite parts of our job as an ED nurse, admit it. I know it was the most

dreaded words to hear when it was your night to be assigned in the GYN rooms; there is a sexual assault at triage. We all cringed; isn't it time for me to go on break? I am entirely too busy with this MI to do that long case... etc. With the introduction of the SANE into this picture, the story has changed, for the better.

What exactly is a SANE? (We sometimes refer to ourselves as INSANE!) Why are we taking on this horrific task, one that is pushed off to the least senior on staff whenever possible? SANE's are those who are willing to take that extra step to provide not only medical care, but also forensic care to this special population.

Often times our training is done on our own time. The training consists of 40 hrs. classroom curriculum, followed by 40-50 hrs. of community curriculum. The classroom curriculum includes education in forensic evidence collection, maintaining chain of custody, aspects of advocacy care, colposcopy, and photo documentation. The community education includes riding with law enforcement, following the legal process, health department visit, visit the local crime lab, and learning to do a pelvic exam. The goal of this curriculum is to educate the nurse as to the resources available to their survivors. There is also extensive training in the courtroom aspect. A large part of our job is to testify as to our documentation, photographs, and forensic collection.

Do not let the education involved scare you away from becoming a SANE. The gratification you feel when you have helped to put a perpetrator in prison is indescribable. I encourage all nurses to become forensically trained; it is becoming the standard of care.

I look forward to an open line of communication with you and becoming a resource for you in the area of Forensic Nursing. You can contact me via E-Mail at piercy@summa-health.org, or mail at Debbie Piercy-DOVE Program, 444 N. Main St., Akron, OH 44310, or by phone toll free at 1-877-742-DOVE(3683), and just leave a message and I will call you back. Looking forward to hearing from you!

■ Deborah Piercy, BSN, RN, CEN, SANE, DVNE

Ohio State Council (OSC) Meeting Dates for 2001

August 18

November 10

All meetings
held at ACEP office:

3510 Snouffer Road, Suite 100
Columbus, OH • (614) 792-6506

2001 Ohio State Council Officers

Debbie Schwytzer, President, Deborah.Schwytzer@uc.edu
5364 Thrasher Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45247

Mike Glenn - Immediate Past-President, Mt. Vernon

Kathy Haley, President-elect, Columbus

Dee Hart, Secretary, Suffield

Marie Garrison, Treasurer, Westchester

Members-at-Large: Deb Zang, Columbus and
Peg Kunsman, Rocky River

From the Nurse Practice Committee

The committee did not formally meet, but I did have an opportunity to speak with the ONA Nurse Practice staff member. Her name is Kathleen Morris, and she has an office at the ONA office in Columbus. Kathleen does get frequent questions regarding roles and responsibilities of the "unlicensed" staff that work with Emergency Nurses. The key for nursing is to follow the rules of delegation...

As a forever and ever, nursing will be keeping itself up to date, and therefore our Practice Statement will be looked at to make any appropriate adjustments.

Last year I talked with Kathleen about nurses who may be in conflict with job descriptions when practicing in some arenas (i.e nurses working in pre-hospital roles when there is not a defined nursing role). Kathleen reminded me that nurses are licensed to work under their rules and expectations, so make sure your job description recognizes that you are a nurse, and your role is written accordingly.

Do you know what your signature represents when you witness an "informed consent" a patient has signed? You are witnessing the person signing a form, regardless of what the form says... you are not responsible for the inclusiveness of the "informed" part of the consent. Make sure that your hospital's policies make that clear. The ONA is working on a formal statement for how the nurse should document that a patient has refused treatment... stay tuned.

Do you have questions about anything regarding nurse practice? If so, you can contact me at the following E-mail address: Kathysutton@aol.com.

■ Kathy Sutton

Meeting

The EMS Boards' Trauma Committee will be holding a series of Town Meetings regarding implementation of HB138 "Statewide Trauma System Legislation". The purpose of these meetings is to share with health and safety professionals around Ohio what is being developed and to get *your* input and comments.

Wednesday, June 20

Akron
*Akron Children's
Medical Center*

Tuesday, July 10

Cambridge
*Southeastern Ohio Regional
Medical Center*

Thursday, June 21

Middletown
*Middletown Regional Hospital
Tri-State Trauma Coalition*

Wednesday, July 11

Columbus
Central Ohio Trauma System

Tuesday, June 26

Mansfield
*MedCentral Rapid Response
2009 West Fourth Street*

Thursday, July 12

Jackson
Holzer Medical Center - Jackson

Wednesday, June 27

Toledo
Medical College of Ohio

Tuesday, July 17

Lima
Apollo Career Center

Afternoon 4-6 pm • Evening 7-9 pm

Sessions are identical; you need only attend one or the other but may attend both.

Welcome & Introductions
Summary of Trauma Committee Work
Open Forum, Questions & Answers*
Summary & Wrap Up

**This will encompass the majority of the 2-hour session*

Town Meetings are FREE

AND open to ANYONE

To help our planning RSVP to
Mike Glenn, RN (614) 728-6893
or mglenn@dps.state.oh.us

2001 Regional Physician Advisory Board Meetings

For further information regarding Regional Physician Advisory Board meetings, please contact Carol MacDowell, RPAB Coordinator at 800.233.0785, or e-mail at clmacdowell@dps.state.oh.us.

Region I

May 24, 2001, 9:00 a.m.: Clermont Mercy Hospital, Batavia, OH

Region II

April 13, 2001, 8:30 a.m.: Wright State University Student Union, Dayton, OH

June 8, 2001, 8:30 a.m.: Wright State University Student Union, Dayton, OH

August 10, 2001, 8:30 a.m.: Wright State University Student Union,
Dayton, OH

October 12, 2001, 8:30 a.m.: Wright State University Student Union,
Dayton, OH

Region III

April 5, 2001, 6:30 p.m.: Hardin Memorial Hospital, Kenton, OH

June 7, 2001, 6:30 p.m.: Twp. District Memorial Hospital, St. Mary's, OH

October 4, 2001, 6:30 p.m.: Van Wert Hospital, Van Wert, OH

December 6, 2001, 6:30 p.m.: Blanchard Valley Hospital, Findlay, OH

Region IV

April 25, 2001, 11:15 a.m.: Hospital Council, 3231 Central Park West
Drive, Toledo, OH

May 23, 2001, 11:15 a.m.: Hospital Council, 3231 Central Park West
Drive, Toledo, OH

Region V

April 12, 2001, 7:00 p.m.: Mt. Carmel West Hospital, Columbus, OH

July 12, 2001, 7:00 p.m.: Mt. Carmel West Hospital, Columbus, OH

October 11, 2001, 7:00 p.m.: Mt. Carmel West Hospital, Columbus, OH

Region VI

June 14, 2001, 3:00 p.m.: East Ohio Regional Hospital, Martins Ferry, OH

Region VII

April 24, 2001, 10:00 a.m.: Mansfield Hospital, Mansfield, OH

July 24, 2001, 10:00 a.m.: Wooster Community Hospital, Wooster, OH

November 27, 2001, 10:00 a.m.: Aultman Hospital, Canton, OH

Region VIII

April 26, 2001, 1:00 p.m.: Morley Health Center, Akron, OH

July 26, 2001, 1:00 p.m.: Morley Health Center, Akron, OH

October 25, 2001, 1:00 p.m.: Morley Health Center, Akron, OH

Region IX

April 24, 2001, 4:00 p.m.: South Pointe Hospital, Warrensville Hts., OH

August 28, 2001, 4:00 p.m.: South Pointe Hospital, Warrensville Hts., OH

December 11, 2001, 4:00 p.m.: South Pointe Hospital, Warrensville Hts., OH

Region X

April 18, 2001, 1:00 p.m.: St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown, OH

July 18, 2001, 1:00 p.m.: E. Liverpool Hospital, E. Liverpool, OH

October 17, 2001, 1:00 p.m.: Northside Hospital, Youngstown, OH

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June 2001 Membership Report

CHAPTER	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	CHANGE
AKRON	100	-8
CENTRAL OHIO	155	0
CLEVELAND	117	-10
EASTERN OHIO	44	-5
CINCINNATI	145	-16
GREATER MIAMI VALLEY	131	-9
HEART OF OHIO	30	0
LAKESHORE	45	-6
SEAGATE	109	-16
SOUTHERN OHIO	19	-1
	TOTAL	895
		-71
STUDENT NURSES	0	
