



Ohio State Council

# *The BUCKEYE BEAT*

A NEWSLETTER of the  
OHIO STATE COUNCIL OF THE EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION (OSCENA)  
October 2009



## LETTER FROM THE OHIO ENA PRESIDENT

Greetings, fellow Ohio ENA members! For many of us, this time of year is crammed full of school-related activities, sporting events, fast-approaching holidays and professional commitments. I would like to share some such commitments that I am privileged to be a part of these past few weeks.

The National ENA General Assembly and Annual Conference were held in Baltimore earlier this month, and what great learning opportunities they were! We had 22 ENA members from ENA Chapters across Ohio who volunteered to attend the General Assembly as delegates to represent the approximately 1300 ENA members in our state. I continue to be inspired by the expertise, dedication and professionalism of Ohio's delegates! All 50 U.S. states were represented by over 750 delegates in total at the General Assembly. During the opening ceremony, our own Benny Melynkovich from the Eastern Ohio Chapter sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem as the American flag was presented by members of the U.S. armed services. The following 1 ½ day-long General Assembly session brought passionate and informative debate as we worked to revise the National ENA Bylaws and policies, such as the policy on officer candidates' eligibility. Other discussions focused on patient care gaps such as the one that resulted in a resolution to address pediatric procedural pain management. If you have never gone to a General Assembly and been a part of change on a national level, standing shoulder to shoulder with brilliant colleagues, debating protocol that advocates for patients and emergency nurses everywhere, it is an experience that I highly recommend!


A second professional commitment in the past month brought me to my local ENA Chapter meeting. After the business meeting and brief presentations from vendors who sponsored a meal, colleagues from various local hospitals formally shared unusual patient cases in an educational session. In some instances, patients survive against incredible odds. In other instances, despite the best possible care, a patient succumbs, leaving behind loved ones whose lives are forever changed. In all these cases, an emergency department nurse is at the forefront of resuscitation efforts, the emergency care and diagnoses. She/he is often the liaison with families. Patients and families benefit from the keen sense and skills of the emergency nurses in our community every day.

Another event that I was invited to attend was the Greater Cincinnati Chapter's annual Nurses Day Program. Kudos to Marilyn Singleton and the Greater Cincinnati Chapter for putting on such a fun event for nurses in the Cincinnati area! Thank you for having me speak to your members about ENA in Ohio and for welcoming me that day.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention how busy most emergency nurses are these days with the flood of H1N1 cases into emergency departments. Emergency nurses are at the forefront of getting---and in some cases giving---H1N1 vaccine. We are key factors in infection control as we don and have our patients don masks. We are lead caregivers as we make triage decisions and help our departments address the surge of patients with flu-like symptoms. We are role models for the general public about how to respond in this pandemic. I urge all of you to be patient advocates once more by getting the H1N1 vaccine if you are eligible.

Have a safe and healthy season. Drop me a line if you would like to talk about any issues relative to emergency nursing in our state. And to see photos and hear more about the recent ENA General Assembly, see the article on the following pages of this newsletter!

Sincerely---



Nancie Bechtel, RN, BSN, MPH, CEN, EMTB  
Ohio ENA President 2009-2010  
(Orient, Ohio)

## ELECTION RESULTS

*Nancie Bechtel*

Ohio ENA Elections were done via an on-line process this year. Vacant positions included the President-Elect (to serve as President in 2011-2012) and two Members-at-large. All Ohio ENA members were given the opportunity to vote. The ballot was coordinated through *Survey Monkey.com*. Ohio ENA members were sent an e-mail in early October directing them to the ballot. Members had up to three weeks to vote. Sixty-one people logged into Survey Monkey and voted. Newly elected Officers for Ohio ENA for the 2010 year are **Beverly Clensey** (Central Ohio Chapter), President-Elect; **Ben Melynkovich** (Eastern Ohio Chapter), Member-at-large; and Debbie Deedrick (Heart of Ohio Chapter), Member-at-large. CONGRATULATIONS to these new Ohio ENA Officers!

For more information on Ohio ENA voting processes and/or candidate eligibility, see Ohio ENA's related policies and procedures found on [www.ohioena.org](http://www.ohioena.org).

## OHIO ENA MEMBER CREATES RURAL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) FOR NATIONAL ENA

*Mary Martin, RN (Shelby, Ohio)*

My name is Mary Martin and I am the nurse manager of the Emergency Department of MedCentral Health System/Shelby Hospital, located in Richland County. Shelby Hospital is a small, community hospital which gained Critical Access Hospital designation in 2003.

Critical Access hospitals are small hospitals which receive cost-based reimbursement from Medicare for services they provide to their patients. They are located in areas which would be medically

underserved if the hospital was not there to provide care to the community. Part of the agreement is that we cannot have more than 25 in-patients at one time.

However, it's not all about the money. One of the most important things we achieve by existing is the ability to maintain health care services to our communities. Small rural and critical access hospitals serve as the front-line for many patients who may eventually need the services and referral to a larger facility for further care. Without our interventions, vital care could be delayed and outcomes negatively impacted.

I recognized a need for some sort of communication between smaller hospitals when I attended the national ENA convention in the past. Sitting in on various discussions, I realized that although the topics being brought up were pertinent, I had trouble making them fit into my frame of reference. I was able to speak with other nurses from hospitals even smaller than ours, who expressed the same sentiment. I came home from last year's meeting, convinced that small hospitals need a voice, too...and the rest...is history.

ENA national headquarters has been very supportive of the initiative to form a SIG for small rural and critical access hospitals. The motion to form was approved at the June directors' meeting, and we now have a venue to interact with each other and share concerns and solutions to problems that are unique to our practice.

I will be serving as the facilitator for the SIG that will occur during the 2010 Annual Conference in San Antonio. You can join the listserv through the ENA website so that we can share ideas, problem solve, and support each other as we navigate the changes we all see facing us in the future.

Our goal, no matter how many beds are in our ED, or where we choose to practice is the same, and that's delivering the excellent care that our patients deserve.

## **UPDATE FROM THE OSCENA TRAUMA (TNCC)/PEDIATRIC (ENPC) COMMITTEE**

*Janelle Glasgow, RNC, CPEN (Pleasantville, OH)*

ENA recently updated the Sixth Edition of TNCC to include a Refresher Course. Included in the update are TNCC Refresher Course slides, a pre-test, a new course application form, a Refresher Course syllabus, and a new Course Director Mentoring packet. All students taking a TNCC Refresher course are required to take the pre-test prior to coming to class, and time has been allocated for review of the pre-test in the TNCC Refresher course syllabus provided. TNCC Provider students may be sent the pre-test at the discretion of the course director.

The new course application takes the place of the current one, and all future applications must be completed on this new form. All course directors should have received a CD with the new slides and forms by September 1, 2009. If you have not yet received your new CD, contact ENA Course Operations at 1-800-900-9659 x 4120 or by email at [courseops@ena.org](mailto:courseops@ena.org)

The ENA website has also undergone a change in recent weeks. A new feature for TNCC and ENPC instructors is the Course Reports area. Instructors are now able to easily access a list of all instructors in their state, as well as scheduled courses. To view these lists, log-in to the ENA website and click on "Courses and Education." From here, you'll be directed to a new page. On the right side of the screen click on "Quick Links," followed by clicking on "Course Reports." This directs you to a new page, where you will click on "Run Reports." Two options open; one for current instructors and one for current courses. TNCC Instructors will only be able to access TNCC information; ENPC Instructors will only be able to access ENPC information. The state of Ohio currently has 203 TNCC Instructors, including 19 Faculty, and 40 ENPC Instructors, including 7 Faculty. This report of Instructors lists name, contact

information, Instructor/ENA number, expiration date of Instructor status, and dates of last Provider or Instructor course taught. If you note any errors, contact ENA Course Operations. For other questions about TNCC &/or ENPC in Ohio, contact the ENA's Ohio State Council TNCC/ENPC Committee Co-Chairpersons, Janelle Glasgow or Deb Zang at [jglasgow@goodhealthcolumbus.org](mailto:jglasgow@goodhealthcolumbus.org) or [deber73@aol.com](mailto:deber73@aol.com) respectively.

## **INJURY PREVENTION ACTIVITIES BY OHIO STATE COUNCIL ENA MEMBERS**

*Gordon Gillespie, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, CEN, CCRN, CPEN (Fairfield, Ohio)*

The link, [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=zqBDzIOka5VdsMs\\_2fRvwp3w\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=zqBDzIOka5VdsMs_2fRvwp3w_3d_3d), has not been used for reporting any data on injury prevention activities in Ohio since the collector was opened earlier this year. Reasons for lack of reporting are not known; likely reasons are ENA members not knowing the need to report their activities or a lack of time/buy-in to report.

Activities reported to ENA for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter included a non-ENA injury prevention program presented weekly for six weeks, six outreach activities, and one media contact/exposure. Due to the date that the data were reported, the activities will be reflected onto the next ENA's quarterly summative report.

In addition, ENA members at the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing in collaboration with ENA members at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Trauma Services conducted an injury prevention study this summer at an amusement park in Cincinnati. The study aimed to increase the use of age-appropriate restraint devices by motor vehicle occupants.

### **EIC Quarterly Networking Call**

The EIC's for each state teleconferenced on 08/12/2009 to discuss emergency injury prevention. Major topics discussed during the 08/12/2009 teleconference for the ENA's state EICs were the structure of the Injury Prevention Advisory Council, results of the ED violence cross sectional survey conducted 1-2 years ago, the current ED workplace injuries survey, safe handoff of care reports, and the STOP Injuries Program.

Anne Manton (past ENA President) discussed a research study she is participating with to screen ED patients for suicide risk. The study was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health for \$3 million. A webinar training opportunity on 10/28/2009 for the training will be forthcoming (see *Connection* for details).

### **Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership (OIPP)**

The OIPP met August 28<sup>th</sup> for their quarterly meeting. The OIPP has four active work groups: Poisoning Action Group (PAG), Child Injury Action Group, Fall Prevention Action Group, and Data Action Group. The PAG reported that there were 192 attendees at their summer conference and will now have regional meetings followed by a public forum. In addition, there is a move towards a drug take program in Ohio where the public, families, and healthcare providers can safely dispose of medications/illicit drugs rather than flushing them into the public sewage system. A key component of the program is "no questions asked" as to how the individual came into possession of the drug/substance.

A lengthy discussion was had on the focus for the next year strategically. Suggestions included focusing on pediatric injury prevention, an injury topic vs. a population focus, and pedestrians vs. motor vehicles. The final determination was to survey the OIPP members for their preference.

Kris Washington from the Ohio Department of Mental Health presented on the receipt of a 4-year grant from the CDC to study violent deaths and prevention in Ohio. She also discussed use of the QPR model

for suicide assessment: question, persuade, and refer. The QPR model was also discussed by Anne Manton during the ENA EIC call.

## **NOTES FROM THE OSCENA OHIO MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS LIAISON**

*Deb Zang, RN, BSN, CEN, SANE (Pickerington, Ohio)*

### MRC September 2009 Meeting Synopsis

- MRC has been working with Red Cross to work out problems with the special needs shelters. MRC encourages workers to work under their scope of practice. There is a national document that describes scope of practice on National MRC website at [www.medicalreservecorps.gov/HomePage](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/HomePage).
  - Some county units have been working with school nurses in the education of hand-washing. Others are working with University of Toledo to get a dorm by dorm flu vaccination.
  - Some county MRCs are also working with student nurses to increase the number of people able to vaccinate. Student nurses and retired nurses are considered Level 4 workers.
  - ODH is working with developing flu cards in English and Spanish that will be able to be distributed.
  - needs to be current for active members. Old MRC 101 is about 6 years old. Educational updates for MRC volunteers need to be completed by the MRC volunteer and submitted to the county MRC coordinator every 3 years. The National MRC does not have a good system that keeps track of current education and rests on the county MRC to check. Class work and exercises count towards the education requirement to be considered as an active MRC volunteer.
  - MRC is also still working on warrant checks, but will probably be used when there is an incident.
- For more information about MRC work, contact Deb Zang at [deber73@aol.com](mailto:deber73@aol.com) or the Ohio Medical Reserve Corps at [http://www.serveohio.org/OhioCitizenCorps\\_MRC.aspx](http://www.serveohio.org/OhioCitizenCorps_MRC.aspx).

## **SAVE THE DATE: NURSES DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE IS FEBRUARY 24, 2010**

*Nicole McGarity, RN, BSN, CEN (Columbus, Ohio), OSCENA Government Affairs Liaison*

On February 24, 2010, join various nursing groups from across the state as they come together to unlock the doors of Ohio politics! *Nurses Day at the Statehouse* is an excellent way for nurses to get a glimpse into how our legislators make decisions about health care issues and issues that affect our patients and how we practice. This event allows nurses to meet with legislatures from around the state and make our voice heard.

The Ohio State Council of the ENA (OSCENA) has again signed on to be a co-sponsor for this annual event. Please plan on joining us on this day as it is an enlightening and exciting opportunity for nurses to come together and make an impact on policy and law.

Registration opens November 1<sup>st</sup>. You can register at the ONA website [www.ohnurses.org](http://www.ohnurses.org). ENA members will receive the reduced registration fee of \$50.00 which includes lunch with your legislatures. The fee for non-members is \$80.00.

Traditionally, each co-sponsoring nursing organization chooses an issue to present during the panel discussion in the morning of Nurses Day at the Statehouse. OSCENA has chosen the issue of workplace violence to discuss this year. This comes on the heels of the recent ENA study, *Violence Against Nurses in U.S. Emergency Departments (EDs)*, which found that more than half of emergency nurses surveyed report experiencing physical violence on the job. One in four emergency nurses has been physically assaulted more than 20 times in the past three years. One in three emergency nurses in the study reports that he/she had considered leaving his/her ED or emergency nursing altogether because of violence. The ENA study reinforces an issue that most ED nurses are all too familiar with.

OSCENA will be working with ONA and other organizations to push for legislation that will address the issue of violence against nurses. **Please join us February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to bring attention and focus to the issue of workplace violence and its affect on nurses!**

## NOTES FROM THE STATE TRAUMA COMMITTEE LIAISON

*Nancie Bechtel, RN (Orient, Ohio)*

Recent work of the State Trauma Committee includes two new draft policies that address the requirement by law for hospitals to report select data to the Ohio Trauma Registry (OTR). The OTR is managed by the Division of EMS under ODPS. The first draft policy seeks to describe what constitutes compliance and non-compliance in terms of a hospital's trauma data submission to the OTR. The second draft policy describes the actions that ODPS personnel will take in response to hospitals that are non-compliant in submitting data to the OTR. Both draft policies are under review by the State Trauma Committee and once approved, will be forwarded to the State EMS Board for ratification. Once the State EMS Board approves them, the new policies take effect immediately.

The State of Ohio's Trauma Committee meets in "odd-number" months of the year on the second Wednesday at 10 a.m. Meetings are held at the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) at 1970 West Broad St. in Columbus (Ohio) and are open to the public. For more information about the State Trauma Committee, see [http://ems.ohio.gov/Meetings\\_site.asp](http://ems.ohio.gov/Meetings_site.asp).

## NOTES FROM THE STATE EMS BOARD LIAISON

*Vickie Graymire, RN, MS, CNS (Columbus, Ohio)*

As of October 1, 2009

- **Trauma System Plan:** The Trauma System Plan workgroup has been working for several months on turning the results of the trauma system assessment into a plan to correct the system's documented shortcomings. The workgroup presented the Committee with a draft layout of the plan. It will be divided into 8 sections, covering areas such as prehospital care, injury prevention and evaluation. Experts and stakeholders in each area will be brought into the process to ensure that the plan covers all bases.
- **Ohio Trauma Registry:** A July 30 article in the Columbus Dispatch reported a problem with two regional registries not submitting data to the Ohio Trauma Registry in 2007 and 2008. The lapse in reporting was not originally discovered when the data was submitted: nearly 60% of these records were originally rejected by the OTR database due to illogical and/or missing data. The ODPS/ Division of EMS' Office of Research & Analysis is working with a consultant hired by the delinquent regions to fix the problem. The most optimistic estimate of recovering the majority of the data is the by the end of October (2009), but it will most likely be a couple of months before this happens. Procedures have been put in place by ODPS/Division of EMS with input from the State Trauma Committee to ensure that this does not happen again. All researchers who received OTR data from the time period of the lapse were notified by the Office of Research & Analysis.
- **Pre-Hospital Training for H1N1** - Dr. Carol Cunningham, the State EMS Medical Director, has developed a pre-hospital training program for EMS providers to learn about the administration of H1N1 vaccines. The EMS would only provide this service if a state of emergency is declared by the governor. This training program is available on-line at <http://ems.ohio.gov/>.
- **Meeting Dates** - The State EMS Board meetings are every other month, with sub-committee meetings the day before. This represents a change in the meeting schedule due to funding restrictions.
- **Provisional Designation for Ohio's Trauma Centers** - Provisional trauma center DRAFT documents are being developed in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Health. These will be released to the public once approved by the State EMS Board.

For more information about the State EMS Board, see <http://ems.ohio.gov/>.

## SIGHTS AND SOUNDS FROM THE 2009 NATIONAL ENA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*Nancie Bechtel (Orient, Ohio)*

Hello to all! This is the third General Assembly that I have had the privilege to attend as a delegate from Ohio ENA. There were some Ohio delegates this year who have attended many more times than me, and there were others attending as delegates for the first-time. All of Ohio's delegates contributed from an individual perspective and knowledge base, and as a result the General Assembly process is better for it. I would like to recognize and thank the following delegates who represented Ohio ENA this year: **Francie Bondy** (Seagate Chapter), **Jeannie Burnie** (Grater Cincinnati Chapter), **Nick Chmielewski** (Central Ohio Chapter), **Beverly Clensey** (Central Ohio Chapter), **Craig Dayton** (Lakeshore Chapter), **Marie Garrison** (Greater Cincinnati Chapter), **Megan Gieske** (Greater Cincinnati Chapter), **Gordon Gillespie** (Greater Cincinnati Chapter), **Janelle Glasgow** (Central Ohio Chapter), **Christina Heist** (Greater Cincinnati Chapter), **Jeffrey Heist** (Greater Cincinnati Chapter), **Cynthia Hohman** (Flag City Chapter), **Carol Klekota** (Greater Cleveland Chapter), **Nicole McGarrity** (Central Ohio Chapter), **Ben Melynkovich** (Eastern Ohio Chapter), **Sarah Moore** (Central Ohio Chapter), **Marilyn Napier** (Flag City Chapter), **Carolyn Schooley** (Greater Akron Chapter), **Deborah Schwytzer** (Greater Cincinnati Chapter), **Marilyn Singleton** (Greater Cincinnati Chapter), and **Deb Zang** (Central Ohio Chapter).

Applications to serve as an Ohio delegate to the ENA General Assembly are accepted on an annual basis by the Ohio State Council of the ENA (OSCENA). Remuneration is given to delegates as the annual Budget allows. (This year, delegates could receive up to \$900 reimbursed for travel, room and board with proof of receipt). Delegate applications are typically due to OSCENA by June 1 in the year of the respective General Assembly. For more information on how to apply to be a delegate for Ohio ENA, see the OSCENA policy and procedure titled *Delegate Application for National ENA Annual Meeting* on the Ohio ENA website at [www.ohioena.org](http://www.ohioena.org).

Some things that I learned at the General Assembly this year are:

- Ohio ENA's delegates are dedicated and reliable despite mishaps with "planes, trains and automobiles."
- Ohio is a force when it comes to changes in National Bylaws and Resolutions! Ohio was a co-sponsor of a Bylaws resolution that addressed an appropriate number of delegates to future General Assemblies. The Bylaws revisions passed.
- National ENA representatives gave me feedback that they see Ohio's delegates as savvy.
- To speak at the microphone, be prepared, and realize that one type-written, double-spaced page takes about two minutes to read. 😊
- We all look good in the color "salmon!" 😊
- Baltimore is a fabulous city for seafood!
- I am looking forward to next year!

Some pictures that I can share with you are below. If you have others that you would like to send, feel free and I will post them at a later date!



**Ben Melynkovich**, pictured here (left) with George O'Neil (Massachusetts), a fellow member of the National ENA Resolutions Committee, helped to guide the delegation through a new General Assembly process. Ben, long active on the National ENA level and one of four members of the prestigious Blue Ribbon Commission II, sung an incredibly moving rendition of the National Anthem that drew sustained applause from almost 1,000 emergency nurses in attendance. (Picture courtesy of Gail Lenehan at the National ENA.)



**Janelle Glasgow** (far left) and other seated members of Ohio's delegation to the 2009 General Assembly. The Ohio delegation wore salmon-colored shirts with the ENA insignia and was easily visible to ENA officials and other delegates. Several other states wear color-coordinated clothing, but no one else chose salmon!



*Nancie Bechtel, third in line, walks with other State ENA Presidents in the General Assembly Opening Ceremony.*



*Ohio delegates **Nick Chmielewski**, **Sarah Moore**, **Cynthia Hohman** and **Gordon Gillespie** enjoy a little levity at General Assembly, courtesy of new noses from **Bill Briggs** (Massachusetts), National ENA's current President.*



***Nancie Bechtel** giving testimony that was written by the Ohio delegation in support of the Bylaws resolution that Ohio ENA was a co-sponsor of*



*Nick Chmielewski also giving testimony*



*Nancie Bechtel and Carleen Kincaid (Massachusetts State Council) pose for a photo after the Bylaws resolutions passed. Carleen was the original author of the proposal to set a new limit on the number of delegates at the Annual Meeting. The Ohio ENA was a co-sponsor.*



*Ohio ENA members at the Annual Symposium after a good meal with a fishy friend are (left to right) **Dee Schroth** (Flag City Chapter), **Cynthia Hohman**, **Janelle Glasgow**, **Nancie Bechtel**, **Francie Bondy**, **Marie Garrison**, and **Carol Klekota***

Also, I want to mention that **Gordon Gillespie**, RN, PhD, CEN, CCRN, was inducted into the prestigious **ENA Academy of Emergency Nursing** one evening during the educational symposium. A picture is pending and I hope to be able to publish it next time! Congrats, Dr. Gillespie!