

BULLETIN

Volume 5 Issue 1

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Mohawk Valley Nurse's Association
District #10

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Letters to the Editor accepted and
encouraged

District 10 Website:

<http://www.nysna.org/districts/districts.htm>

Florence Nightingale said:

*"The progressive world is necessarily
divided into two classes:*

- *Those Who take the best of what there is and enjoy it*
- *Those who wish for something better and try to create it. "*

President's Message:

Happy New Year to all of you! It is hard to believe another year is beginning. It's a time for reenergizing ourselves for the future.

This year we have already gained a new state governor and the hospital industry is being faced with the Berger Commissions recommendations to close some area hospitals and nursing homes. I believe a lot will occur this year in an attempt to prevent some of these closures. I'm hopeful that an equitable compromise can be reached.

I hope this year will bring a renewed change in the membership of District #10. We have been fortunate that two dedicated individuals Andrea Holtzer and Anne Oboyski are co-managing our membership committee. I thank them so much and hope we see some added growth again in the district. I encourage any of you to bring a friend and enjoy an evening of great conversation followed by a brief program. We try very hard to have our programs completed by 8- 8:30 pm. I find the evening to be a lot of fun, as we all are to busy at work to actually take time to talk. I encourage you to think about this.

The planning committee is hard at work already planning this next year's continuing education event for October. We are attempting to bring in a nationally known speaker and have a variety of break-out sessions that may meet your individual needs. If anyone would like to be involved in this event please contact Chris Stegel.

I look forward to seeing you all this spring!

Sherry Warner, MS, RN, President

District News:

**It is time to nominate a nurse for the
"Ellen Burns Award"**

**The Award is given annually to a nurse who
has exhibited:**

1. *A Vision of Nursing:*
Consistently explores new perspective for meeting nursing challenges of the future by: - articulating this vision into his/her own area of practice and assisting colleagues, new graduates, and students through support and role modeling, to embrace the vision.
2. *A Change Agent*
Promotes a positive image of nursing to the community. Students, and colleagues through:
 - role-modeling and empowerment of self and others
 - providing professional and/or community education, and
 - continuously striving toward professional growth
3. *Commitment*
Exhibits commitment to excellence in nursing through:
 - assisting students and colleagues to meet personal and professional goals
 - assisting the community to meet health needs and expectations
 - participating in professional organizations

Please send nomination letters to: Sherry Warner, 19 Pearl Street, Gloversville, NY 12078 by March 31, 2006

Our own Board member, Sharon Ferro (instructor at Ellis Hospital, School of Nursing), was the consultant for the Home Made Theater production of WIT. WIT is a story of an English professor who is facing a life-threatening illness and the medical professionals that are become a part of her world. *The play has been used as a teaching tool for doctors, nurses, and caregivers-in-training.* Play performances will on **February 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, & 24th at 8:15pm** and February 18 & 25 at **2:00pm** at the **Spa Little Theater, Saratoga State Park.**

Tickets are \$22 and \$19.

<<<<<< Save the Date >>>>>>

The 3rd Evidenced-Based Nursing Practice Conference is scheduled for October 20, 2007 at Fulton/Montgomery Community College. More details to follow.

Continuing Education:

NYSNA has moved their continuing education programs to a new website called **E-LEARN:**
www.elearnonline.net.

Courses that are free or at reduced cost are Public Health/Community Nursing Orientation; Smallpox: We're Still Vulnerable; and Think, Care, Act: the Role of the Nurse in Organ and Tissue Donation. New courses that are offered are: Potassium Disorders and Channelopathies; Copyright: Who Owns What; and several CE offerings have been updated.

ANA CE offerings: "Protecting yourself From Malpractice Claims" is in the February issue of "American Nurse Today", the new nursing magazine for the ANA. Other new CE courses that are on the ANA website are:

- New Practice Guidelines for Managing Heart Failure
- Workplace Violence: the Nurse Victim
- Impact of Disaster on Nurse Responders
- Legal Aspects of Delegation
- High Alert Drugs: Strategies for Safe IV Infusions
- The Early Adolescent Visit
- Adolescent Smoking
- Legal Basics for Professional Nursing: Nurse practice Acts

Legislative Activity:

The following are NYSNA's four top legislative priorities for 2007. They are listed with their bill numbers if they've been re-introduced:

- Staffing Ratios in Acute Care Facilities
- Banning Mandatory Overtime (S125)
- Advancement of the Nursing Profession (S294)
- Preventing Workplace Violence

Lobby Day is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, 2007. The theme this year is "NY Nurses: Putting Patients First".

The Commission on Healthcare Facilities in the 21st Century (the Berger Commission) was released on November 28, 2006. The legislature in June 2005 passed a law that created the Commission to make an independent review and recommendations on the best way to organize the healthcare infrastructure to meet the community and patients needs and provide quality, safe, and efficient care across New York State.

The recommendations take effect on January 1, 2007 unless the Governor or the Legislature rejects the entire report. The report decreases total hospital inpatient beds by 7% and nursing home beds by 2.6%. The report does have implications for

hospitals in Schenectady. It recommends the closure of Bellevue Hospital and the merging of Ellis Hospital with St. Clare's Hospital. The Commission recommends expanding primary care & home and community based services as well as develop a plan to provide universal and affordable health insurance for all New Yorkers.

Governor Spitzer and the Legislature have not rejected the Commissions report, so its recommendations are to be implemented. The report in its entirety can be downloaded and read at

<http://www.nyhealthcarecommission.org/>.

NYSNA opposes the Commissions recommendations. (See article in December 2006 issue of Report.)

Nurses House: A National Fund for Nurses in Need

Nurses House is a nurse-managed, non-profit organization dedicated to helping registered nurses in need. Our history begins in 1922, when Nurses House began to offer nurses a place to rest and recuperate at a Long Island, NY beachfront mansion, donated by Emily Bourne. As times and needs changed, the property was eventually sold and Nurses House became a national service program. A volunteer board of directors and executive director directs nurses House. Our mission is to provide short-term financial assistance to nurses in need as a result of illness, injury, or disability. The nurses we serve, known as guests, are a very diverse group, ranging in age from 20 to 80. Diagnoses also vary from cancer and depression, to spinal fusion and multiple sclerosis. While some Nurses House guests face short-term illness or injury, others are permanently disabled. Many nurses need funds to help pay for such basics as food, a car payment, or health insurance. Some face imminent eviction. To access stories and more information go to the Nurses House website: <http://www.nurseshouse.org/>. Nurses House helped nearly 300 nurses in the past three years, with grants totaling more almost \$300,000. To find out how you can support nurses in need click on *Contribute* on the website. Your contribution will go directly to a nurse in need. The information for this entry was obtained directly from the website.

Evidence-based Practice Corner:

Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) has launched a national campaign to save 5 million lives by reducing incidents of medical harm in US hospitals. The Campaign is called "**The 5 Million Lives Campaign**". Over the next 24-month period that began in December 2006, IHI will ask hospitals to rapidly improve their care to protect patients from medical harm. "The 5 Million Lives Campaign" seeks to build upon the improvement efforts already achieved during the 100,000 Lives Campaign. The interventions targeted for improvement in this Campaign are:

- Prevent Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) infection
- Reduce harm from high alert medications
- Reduce surgical complications
- Prevent pressure ulcers
- Deliver reliable, evidenced-based care for congestive heart failure to reduce hospital readmissions
- Get boards on boards targeted at hospital Board of Directors to improve their effectiveness in improving patient care.

The six strategies from the 100,000 Lives campaign are:

- Deploy Rapid Response Teams at first sign of patient decline
- Deliver reliable, evidenced-based care for acute myocardial infarction to prevent death
- Prevent adverse drug events by medication reconciliation
- Prevent central line infections
- Prevent surgical line infections
- Prevent ventilator-associated pneumonia

The ANA has fully endorsed the Campaign. *An Effecting Positive Change in Patient Safety Toolkit* has been developed to assist nurses in getting their hospitals involved with the Campaign. The Toolkit is available on the ANA website by accessing the 5 Million Lives Campaign link. There is also a place to share success stories and a questionnaire to let ANA know what your hospital is doing if you are already involved.

A study of 27 nursing units at 14 hospitals that implemented regular nursing rounds at 1 hour intervals during the day & evening; and two hours during the night found a

decrease of patient use in call lights. Significant improvement in patient satisfaction and a reduction in patient falls occurred. Nurses commented that they were more satisfied with the additional time spent with patients and uninterrupted time they had for charting and patient education. The article that explains the study fully can be found in AJN September 2006 issue, p. 58-70. (Source: Report, Oct/Nov issue, p.14.)

Nursing History:

Did you know that Margaret Sanger was a nurse in the for the underprivileged in New York's Lower East Side, Sanger began to realize the dramatic effects of unplanned pregnancies in these destitute conditions. She left her nursing work in order to promote the use of birth control and give women everywhere the ability to make their own reproductive decisions. She is well known for starting the Planned Parenthood Federation in 1942, which still stands today to educate women about their reproductive health and choices for family planning.

Nursing Humor:

Some reasons to smile:

1. Don't argue with an idiot, people watching may not be able to tell the difference.
2. When I was young we used to go "skinny dipping", now I just "chunky dunk"!
3. Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life we could simply press "CTRL, ALT, DELETE" and start all over? Amen!
4. Brain cells come and brain cells go; but FAT cells live forever
5. I saw a woman wearing a sweatshirt with "Guess" on it; so I said "Implants?" She hit me.
6. Marriage changes passion; suddenly your in bed with a relative.

Other Information of Interest:

Nurse Education Loan Repayment Program
The Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has just posted the 2007 application for the **Nurse Education Loan Repayment Program**. This ANA-supported program pays back up to 85% of outstanding student loans for approved RNs who agree to work full-time in a facility deemed to have a critical shortage of nurses (nursing homes, disproportionate share hospitals, community health centers, rural health clinics and others). **In order to be**

considered for this program, applications must be received by *March 9, 2007.*

The application and background materials can be found here:

<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing/loanrepay.htm>

A research team from the University of Toronto and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Ontario Canada studied 46, 993 patients admitted to hospitals with heart attacks, stroke, pneumonia, and blood poisoning. They discovered that deaths within 30 days of admission varied considerably between the 75 hospitals. 19 variables were examined to gauge their effect on 30-day death rates. Nurse related findings included:

- A 10% increase in the proportion of RNs employed was associated with 6 fewer deaths per 1000 discharged (dc) patients.
- The death rate also went down by 9 per 1000 dc patients when BSN prepared nurses went up by 10%.
- A 10% increase in adequate staffing and resources (as reported by nurses) was associated with 17 fewer deaths per 1000 discharged patients.
- The routine use of care-maps or protocols lower the 30-day death rates.
- A 10% increase in care-maps inn hospitals was associated with 10 fewer deaths per 1000 patients

The study contributes to the evidence that structures and processes in hospital nursing care have an impact on patient mortality and survival. More research is needed in this area. (Source:

www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=60785, January 15, 2007. accessed on 2/6/2007.)

Highlights from NYSNA Report & ANA's The American Nurse

Today:

NYSNA Report: The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled in a Kentucky Case that "permanent charge nurses" are considered supervisors and are no longer eligible for representation by a collective bargaining agent (union representation). The Supreme Court has requested the NLRB to reconsider its position related to whether a nurse is acting as a supervisor when they direct others or assign tasks to others. ANA

and its affiliate the United American Nurses (UAN) has provided a legal brief to the Supreme Court describing the nature of nursing practice and how it relates to labor law. The NLRB's decision is still pending. (Oct/Nov issue, pg 1.)

The Annual Report of the State Board of Nursing was reviewed. Highlights are:

- There are 247,412 persons licensed and registered to practice nursing in NYS.
- 11,000 new licenses were issued in 2005 (almost 50% were from out-of-state); 6000 newly licensed RNs were educated in NYS nursing programs, all reported an increase in number of graduations.
- Lack of nursing faculty is a major bottleneck in the recruitment pipeline.
- NYS has almost 13,000 nurse practitioners practicing in 16 specialties.
- Nurses have the highest caseload of disciplinary and moral character charges among all the licensed professions. With negligence and incompetence the most common charge; conviction of a crime is second; and substance abuse is third.

Regulatory changes related to nursing

- Provision eliminated that allowed nurse practitioners certified in one specialty to obtain certification in another specialty through continuing education and on-the-job-training.
- Permits RNs to execute a non-patient-specific orders and protocols in administering HIV tests.
- Four new immunizations were added to those who can be provided through non-patient-

specific orders. They are Acellular Pertussis, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), Rotavirus vaccine, & HPV vaccine for children.

- RNs who visit children's home as part of their regular duties to report signs of an unlawful methamphetamine laboratory.

Photo IDs are now available for \$20 through the State Education Department and will be offered with licensure registration certifications. (Oct/Nov issue, pg 12-13.)

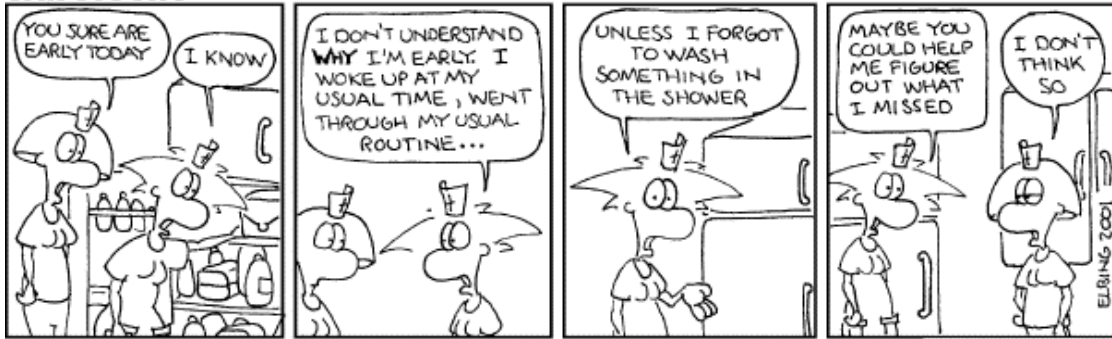
The American Nurse: There is a new guide for eldercare service providers and trainers called "Transformational Eldercare from the Inside Out: Strength-Based Strategies for Caring". The book comes with a facilitator's guide on CD-ROM to guide an instructor for training purposes. (Nov/Dec 2006, p. 10)

There are two new Nursing Scopes & Standards of Practice from ANA that can be purchased from nursebooks.org. They are "Genetics/Genomics Nursing & HIV/AIDS Nursing". (Nov/Dec 2006, p. 10)

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) is taking a new approach toward developing credentialing exams. One exam will be offered for nurses at the specialty level regardless of nursing preparation. The approach will affect the Cardiac/Vascular Nurse, Gerontological Nurse, Med-Surg. Nurse, Pediatric, and Psych & Mental Health Nurse. New Specialty exams are being introduced in January 2007 beginning with the Med-Surg. Exam. The exams will now be computer based which will allow for the testing to occur year round. Another change is now all ANCC-certified nurses will receive the credential RN-BC (Registered Nurse-Board Certified). All current credentialed nurses may begin using the new credentials. For more information, its website is www.nursecredentialing.org. (Nov/Dec 2006, p. 14)

Nurstoons

by Carl Elbing



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