

BULLETEN

Volume 7 Issue 4

November 2009

Mohawk Valley Nurses Association

District #10

Board of Directors:

President: Christine Stegel
cstegel@verizon.net

Vice President: Diane Gray

Secretary: Marcia Wojcik
Mwojcik1@verizon.net

Treasurer: Robert Warner

Board Members:

Sue Roth-McCormick

Lynne Illsey

Theresa Jewitt

Sharon Ferro

Anne Oboyski

Karen Johnson

Andrea Holtzer

Sharon Obie

Julie Passero

Editor of BulleTEN:

Christine Stegel

cstegel@verizon.net

Letters to the Editor accepted and encouraged

District 10 Website:

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

You may be the only one
person in the world, but you
may also be the world to one
person.

IT IS TIME TO RENEW
YOUR DISTRICT 10
MEMBERSHIP FOR 2010
Renewal application
enclosed

President's Message:

I am like many nurses in District 10 because I don't always attend the NYSNA convention. Since the event was so close this year, I did attend the NYSNA convention in Saratoga Springs. I am always inspired and enthused by the energy in the room when over 350 nurses are in the same room. The voting body meetings were lively and I was proud to be in the company of newly elected ANA delegate members: Bob & Sherry Warner and Judy Kelly. Ann Oboyski was also elected as a ANA delegate. Bob Warner was also elected to the NYSNA Elections committee. The educational programs I attended the convention: Different Generations, Different Expectations, Applying Your Emotional Intelligence, and Protecting Patients through Legislative Advocacy were informative. If you have never attended a NYSNA convention, it is worth the experience. Next year's convention is October 21 & 22nd at Mohegan Sun Resort in Connecticut. I am hoping to attend, maybe you will also.

Continuing Education:

E-LEARN: NYSNA's learning website:

www.elearnonline.net.

There are no new updated courses

Discounted course offerings are:

- Influenza: impact , prevention, and control
- NYS Mandated Infection Control training
- SIDS, sleep, Suffocation: the facts

ANA CE offerings:

In *American Nurse Today*.

-Acute care of patients with severe traumatic brain injuries (Sept/Oct)

“Nurturing the Culture of Patient Safety Through Nursing Science”

November 5, 2009 9:00am – 3:00pm at the Foundation of the NYS Nurses offices at

2113 Western Ave, Guilderland, NY

Sponsored by the Capital District Nursing Research Alliance & Foundation of NYS Nurses. Contact d.champion@hvcc.edu for registration information.

“Cancer Pain Management & Palliative Care Across the Continuum”

November 7, 2009 9:00am – 1:00pm at Glens Falls Hospital

Sponsored by The CR Wood Cancer Center at Glens Falls Hospital.

Contact svirgil@glensfallshosp.org or call 926-6640 for registration information.

Legislative Activity:

NYS websites that provide current information about legislative bills before the Senate and Assembly and where they are in the legislative process can be found on the following websites:

NYS Board of Elections:

www.elections.state.ny.us

NYS Assembly: www.assembly.state.ny.us

NYS Senate: www.senate.state.ny.us

NYS Home state: www.ny.gov

The NYS Senate passed the Nursing Care Quality Protection Act in July of this year. The NYS Assembly had passed in earlier in 2009. This bill requires healthcare facilities to disclose information about nurse staffing to state regulators and the public. The legislation requires each hospital to report the numbers of RNs and LPNs providing direct care and the ratio of patients to nurses; the number of unlicensed personnel providing direct care; the incidence of adverse patient events such as medication errors and injuries; and the method the hospital uses for determining and adjusting staffing levels. (Source:

<http://www.nysna.org/news/press/071709.htm> accessed 10/19/09) Studies have shown that a lower percentage of RNs to patient ratio improves patient outcomes and lowers adverse events in hospitals.

NYSNA continues to advocate for health care reform and has created a healthcare reform toolkit that nurses can use to speak to the issues. NYSNA supports creation of a single payer health care benefit-although this seems unlikely in the current health care reform debate currently being discussed in Congress.

*****Mandatory flu vaccination required for all healthcare workers.*** The New York State Nurses Association supports immunization as an effective way to reduce the risk of contracting the flu, but we also support the rights of registered professional nurses to choose whether or not they wish to be vaccinated.

Three AMCH nurses brought a lawsuit against Health Commissioner Daines to stop the mandatory flu vaccination of nurses. A temporary restraining order was declared to stop the enforcement of the regulation for mandatory vaccination for the seasonal flu and the swine flu. A hearing has been scheduled for October 30 in the State Supreme Court.

Nurses House: A National Fund for Nurses in Need. Nurses House will be having their 2009 Dolphin Award reception & Fundraiser on Thursday, November 5, 2009 from 6:00-8:00pm at the Harbor Lights Restaurant in New York City. Maimonides Medical Center and Nurse staff will be honored for their contributions to Nurses House. Tickets are \$100. If you are able to attend or want to make a donation towards Nurses House please contact Nancy at 456-7858 or mail@nurseshouse.org

*****District 10 will hold a raffle at the November dinner meeting with all proceeds going to Nurses House***

Nursing History:

The American Nurses Association (ANA) held its first meeting in 1897 as the Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada and was renamed the ANA in 1911.

Bellevue Hospital, founded 1736, is to oldest public hospital in the United States. Bellevue was the site of the first nursing school in the United States in 1873.

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) was formed in 1899 with England, the United States, and Germany as charter members.

Nursing Humor:

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

Birthdays are good for you: the more you have, the longer you live

Ever notice that people who are later are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them.

FROM AARP:

1. Q: Where can men over the age of 60 find younger, sexy women who are interested in them?

A: Try a bookstore-----under fiction.

2. Q: What can a man do while his wife is going through menopause?

A: Keep busy. If you're handy with tools, you can finish the basement. When you are done you will have a place to live.

Evidence-based Nursing:

A literature review was completed as well as opinions of RNs and nursing assistants were solicited. The researchers concluded there was a gap between why falls occur in the acute hospital setting and prevention strategies.

The researchers concluded that two conditions must exist if falls are to be prevented:

1. An accurate nursing care plan based on fall risk assessment must be developed and accessible to all health care team members, family, and significant others.

2. The team members must use the care plan combined with clinical knowledge, skills, and hospital resources so the plan can be used by all "stakeholders".

The nursing assessment must be based on a valid and reliable fall risk assessment tool and the diagnostic reasoning of the RN. (Source: NYNurse, Sept. 2009, pg. 11.)

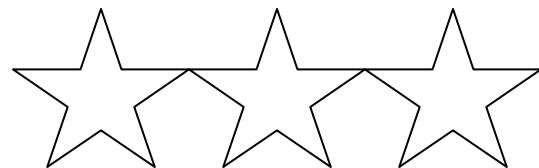
Other Information of Interest:

There is now a way for RNs, LPNs, and nursing students to have access to some of NYSNA's services and be informed of nursing issue alerts by NYSNA. They can become **NYSNA affiliates for \$52 per year**. RNs and LPNs must work in New York State and students must be enrolled in a New York State nursing education program. Individual Affiliates (RNs or LPNs) will receive:

- A one-year subscription to New York Nurse.
- Nursing Practice Alerts and Legislative Alerts via e-mail.
- Choice of two online continuing education courses at the NYSNA member rate (does not include courses mandated by the state).
- 10% off the nonmember registration fee for the annual Convention or conference

For \$15 per year, Student Affiliates will receive:

- A one-year subscription to New York Nurse.
- 10% off the student registration fee at the annual Convention or conference.
- Access to the NYSNA Library, the largest nursing library in the state, including assistance from professional library staff.



Highlights from NYSNA New York Nurse

ANA's The American Nurse:

(Sept/Oct issue)

- The ANA released new Scope and Standards of Practice Forensic Nursing that identifies and defines the expectations for the role and practice for the forensic nurse.
- There are six new articles in the Online Journal in Nursing (OJIN) September 30 issue that highlights issues related to health literacy and strategies for healthcare providers.
- ANA has launched a new health care reform website: www.rnaction.org/healthcare to provide current information related to the health reform legislation and the latest updates. The website also has a health care reform toolkit available that provides ways to advocate with your legislators.
- On September 1, the American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC) initiated a new Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Core certification. The core examination tests competencies expected for the role of the CNS across the lifespan regardless of specialty.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OCTOBER 2009 DISTRICT 10 BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

Membership committee:

- Membership runs from January – December.
- New Members who join in the last quarter of the year (October-December) will automatically be members for the following year.
- A one year membership will be given to the two nursing student awardees in May.

The issue that there is an additional Board member this year (13 members instead of 12) was discussed.

The Board welcomes any District 10 member to attend Board meetings.

A motion was made, passed, and carried to amend the Article VII Composition and Duties of Board of Directors; Section 1 of the Bylaws to read "There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of the four officers and a *minimum* of eight directors-at-large"..... (The wording of a minimum is new.) This amendment to the Bylaws will be voted on at our Annual meeting in May 2010.

- A Thanksgiving basket will be raffled at the November meeting with the proceeds going to Nurses House. The Board allotted a maximum of \$30 be used for the basket. The funds will come out of our Treasury.