

BulleTEN

Volume 4 Issue 3

September 2006

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>

Robert Warner, associate professor and director of nursing at FMCC, received the 2006 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Our new elected officers and board

members: Christine Stegel-Vice President
Marcia Wojcik-Secretary
Board members-Anne Oboyski, Sue Roth,
Bob Warner, and Deborah Mowrey

Letter to the Editor:

From Gloria Noto;
Our latest Bulletin (April 2006) had many wonderful items, as do all the bulletins that are sent. Just one of them caught my eye in particular-that is the one about nursing pay. Just to let you know that per diem school nurses get around \$9.12 per hour and I am not sure what the full time staff get. I only mention this because I just am beginning to sub and my first day of learning to sub started with catheterizing a 7 year old girl with an abdominal stoma who also had CP. The second was dealing with a 6 year old and doing a fingerstick and then figuring out his insulin for the morning per his doctor's instructions using the carbs model and then checking with his father if this was an acceptable dose of insulin for him. The rest of the day was multiple playground bumps and bruises and tummy aches, etc. I am only sharing this because most people think school nurses just apply bandaids. They have told me I have one more school to orient in and that school has more difficult children than the first. I must tell you that DESPITE their pay would never do anything else and I CAN SEE WHY. I am sure they would enjoy a pay raise but school systems are as they are. I have worked many years in a hospital but seeing the joys on these children's faces of someone loving and really caring for them is more than enough for me. It won't pay the bills but it is a heart- warming experience.

Congratulations to:

Thank you for reading and allowing me the chance to share another part of nursing.

Recent Continuing Education Courses are offered on the Internet by:

NYSNA for a nominal fee:

A Caring Approach to Behavioral Issues
Hepatitis A Vaccine
Five Students with Down's Syndrome: A Day in the life of a School Nurse
Public/Community Health Nursing Orientation.

NYSNA can now bill your employer for the CE courses you take. Details at the NYSNA CE website.)

ANA for a nominal fee:

New CE: Integrating Generational Perspectives in Nursing: learn to create an environment of mutual respect and teamwork with colleagues from different generations.

Updated CE: Children's Health:
Environmental Health: Schools
Children's Health: Environmental Health in Healthcare Setting
Children's Health: Environmental Health: Home and Communities

- The Johnson & Johnson Company's "Campaign for Nursing Future" has introduced an interactive educational tool for nurse managers called "Virtual Nurse Manager". It is a CD-ROM that offers training in real-life management situations. For more information go to www.discovernursing.com. It is currently being distributed to facilities nationwide so look for it at your facility.

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Attention: Save The Date

NYSNA Convention 2006

October 5-8, 2006 in New York City, NY at the Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, 811 7th Avenue at 53rd Street, NYC: see www.nysna.org for registration information.

On **November 3, 2006**, the Nursing Research Alliance of the Capital District Region is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Research Conference "**Nursing Research:**

Cultivating a Culture of Evidence Based Practice". Time: 12:00 noon to 5:00pm
Place: NYSNA Convention Center, Latham, NY

On **October 30, 2006**, Mohawk Valley Nurses Association-District 10 is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference on "**Obesity Through the Lifespan**" at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown, NY (Brochure enclosed.)
The ANA in their May/June 2006 issue reported an estimated 9 million children and adolescents are considered overweight. They can also experience an increased incidence of hypertension, diabetes and elevated cholesterol.

Legislative Activity:

- Governor signed a bill that will require public employers with >20 employees to take action to prevent workplace violence. This measure will take effect in October 2006. The law requires that these employers evaluate the workplace for conditions that could put employees at risk of violence and develop a written workplace violence prevention program. It also allows employees to report unsafe conditions to the Dept. of Labor.
- NYSNA continues to lobby to for a law that would prevent employers from forcing nurses to work overtime.
- NYSNA has an alliance with OSHA and the NYS Dept. of Labor's onsite Consultation Program to prevent injuries and illnesses in the workplace. The alliance promotes a dialogue on workplace safety and health and addresses education, communication, and outreach.
- An amended "Rad Tech" bill passed the Legislature. The amendments include: ensuring a physician be immediately available in case of an emergency and requires the patient be evaluated for medical fitness the day of the procedure by a physician, PA, or RN. The "Title Protection" bill passed. This bill protects the use of

the title "nurse" to a license RN or LPN.

Nurses House:

Nurses House has been assisting nurses in need since 1922. Over the past several years, we have actively been trying to get the word out about Nurses House. This has proven to be a double-edged sword...More publicity means more requests for money from nurses who truly need the service.

Donations of money can be sent to:

Nurses House, Inc

VMD Center of Nursing

2113 Western Avenue, Suite 2

Guilderland, New York 12084

Nurses Helping Nurses...A National Fund for Nurses in Need

Another way to raise funds for Nurses

House is each time you search the Internet you can earn a penny for Nurses House by going through "good search" for your search engine (instead of google for example). It's powered by Yahoo! so if you already use Yahoo! it's just the same!

An easy way to do this would be just to set "good search" as your homepage - so every time you open the internet you are all set to go. But, you don't have to... it's just an idea so we don't forget! Otherwise, every time you go to do a search, just go to goodsearch.com and enter Nurses House as your charity, and then search away!

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New NYSNA Dues Proposal:

A proposal to revise the NYSNA membership dues has been proposed and will be voted on in January 2007. An explanation will be provided at the NYSNA Convention in October. The proposal will create a flat fee (\$350) for members who are not represented by collective bargaining. For members who are represented by a NYSNA local bargaining dues will be 1.6% of base salary including any differentials, but *not* including overtime. The salary would be capped at \$75,000. Members with special circumstances would pay reduced fees. The current dues system has been in effect since 1992, is costly to administer, and is unfair to many NYSNA members. It is anticipated that the new dues structure would result in a

14% increase in NYSNA operating revenue, or about \$4 million. The increased funds would be used to cover increased operating expenses, replenish cash reserves, and to expand NYSNA's efforts on behalf of all nurses to develop non-dues revenue resources. (Report, April 2006, pg. 5) This proposal has been put on hold. In the June issue of Report there is new dues rates effective July 1, 2006. 49% of dues revenue goes to the Economic & General Welfare Program; 20% goes for general expenses.

DID YOU KNOW:

The Public Health and Education Law was updated on August 2, 2005 to allow RNs to execute non-patient specific standing orders for HIV testing. Other instances where nurses are able to execute non-patient specific standing orders are immunizations, anaphylactic treatment medications, and tuberculin tests. To review a Best Practice Memorandum issued by the NYS Department of Health and the NYS Education Department visit the NYS Board for Nursing website and search under HIV testing.

Nurse Response still needs emergency nurse volunteers. NurseResponse has two purposes to identify nurses who are willing to respond immediately to a public health emergency and to recruit nurses who are willing to serve in specific roles.

An application and a HPN account application can be at the NYSNA website. Click NusreResponse.

Newsletter Highlights:

NYSNA REPORT
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- NYSNA and the Foundation for NYS Nurses are partnering to promote nursing research. NYSNA will concentrate on research to support its nursing members, while the Foundation will promote research for the entire state nursing community. (April 2006, pg 3)
- The **evidence** is in: Nursing is one of the jobs most frequently suffering from musculoskeletal disorder injuries. A survey of 509 hospital nurses found that 56% were living with chronic pain; one in four nurses reported lost work due to chronic

- pain or injury; 47% reported they have considered leaving patient care because of the physical demands of their job. Don't let this happen to you. Check out the ANA's Handle With Care program accessible through their website. (May 2006, pg.6)
- NYSNA, ANA, and Washington Nurses Association (WSNA) has filed a lawsuit against the US Dept. of Health & Human Services (HHS) for allowing JCAHO to assess whether staffing levels at hospitals meet the minimum RN staffing requirements to meet patient care needs. NYSNA & WSNA claim hospitals in both states have failed to hire and assign enough nurses to meet HHS standards for participation in the Medicare program. (June 2006, pg 2)
 - NYSNA joined another lawsuit against the NYS Dept of Health for sending a directive to adult care facilities requiring them to administer medications to residents who are incapable of managing their own medications. (June 2006, pg 5)

ANA The American Nurse:

- The Perinatal nursing certification exam is on track for retirement. This means that <120 nurses have sat for an exam for two consecutive years. This does not effect nurses who are currently certified in perinatal nursing. Key stakeholder groups are being contacted to increase awareness and interest in certification. (May/June 2006, p.12)
- ANA is launching a new periodical in October 2006, *American Nurse Today*, ANA partnered with HealthCom Media to develop the new journal. It will have ANA news, CE articles, clinical updates, and more. There will be a online version, also.
- The Institute for Healthcare Improvement's "100,000 Lives Campaign" launched in December 2004 has exceeded the number of lives it saved by preventing adverse events. As of June 14, the number of lives saved has been 122,300. This has been done by increasing

- the awareness of health care professionals in organizations and health care facilities implementing one or more evidenced-based strategies geared to achieving better patient outcomes. Is your organization part of this initiative? If you don't know then ask and offer to be involved! (July/August 2006, p.1)
- An ingredient of antibacterial soap, triclocarban, is going down the drain andgetting into farmland. Researchers at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found that 75% of triclocarban accumulates in city sludge, which is later used to fertilize crops. More studies are being done to see if it can migrate from sludge into foods. Triclocarban is toxic when ingested. Their research findings can be found in the journal, *Environmental Science & Technology*. (July/August 2006, p. 4)
 - To retain older nurses, hospitals will have to consider flexible work hours, increased benefits, newly created professional roles (such as mentor & safety officer), and an atmosphere of respect according to a research project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Factors that can contribute to older nurses' continuing work are health status, financial status, attitude toward retirement, and current job satisfaction. The full report can be found at www.rwjf.org/files/publications/other/wisdomatwork.pdf.

Nursing Humor:

NEVER TICK OFF A NURSE

A big shot attorney had to spend a couple of days in the hospital
 He was a royal pain to the nurses
 because he bossed them around just
 like he did his staff.
 None of the hospital staff wanted to
 have anything to do with him.
 The head nurse was the only one who
 could stand up to him, but finally even
 she had had enough. She came into his

room and announced, "I have to take your temperature.

After complaining for several minutes, he finally settled down, crossed his arms and opened his mouth. "No, I am sorry, the nurse stated, "but for this reading, I can't use an oral thermometer."

This started another round of complaining, but eventually he rolled over and bared his behind. After feeling the nurse insert the thermometer, he heard her announce, "I have to get something. Now you stay JUST LIKE THAT until I get back!"

She leaves the door to his room open on her way out. He curses under his breath as he hears people walking past his door, laughing. After a half hour, the man's doctor comes into his room. "What's going on here?" asked the doctor. Angrily, the man answers, "What's the matter, Doc? Haven't you ever seen someone having their temperature taken?"

After a pause, the doctor confesses, "Not with a carnation!"

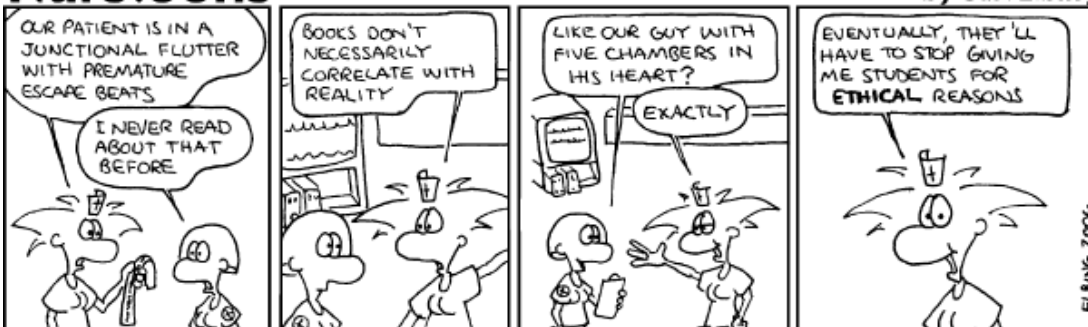
Nursing History: Civil War

Approximately two thousand women, North and South, served as volunteer nurses in military hospitals during the American Civil War. Seeking convention and direct involvement in the national struggle rather

than the domestic support roles to which social minimum career opportunity had traditionally confined the majority of their sex, they experienced at first hand the grim constants of war -- amputated limbs, mutilated bodies, disease and death -- and provided invaluable aid to the sick and wounded soldiers and medical authorities on either side. Of those so employed a relative few--such as Louisa May Alcott, Jane Stuart Woolsey, and Katharine Prescott Wormeley - recorded their experiences for posterity. Most, however, unfortunately left little record of their wartime service. They therefore remain in large measure historically anonymous, except for the terse appearance of their names on hospital muster rolls, and consequently the activities and influence of the woman nurse constitute one of the rare aspects of Civil War history that has not been extensively recorded. Dorothea Dix and Clara Barton were the leaders of a national effort to organize a nursing corps to care for the war's wounded and sick. Dix was already recognized for her work in improving the treatment received by the insane when she began to recruit women to serve as nurses in the Army Medical Bureau. Military traditionalists opposed her, but she prevailed, armed with an indomitable will and a singleness of purpose. One of the standards that Dix established for her nurses was that they be "plain looking" and middle-aged. "In those days it was considered indecorous for angels of mercy to appear otherwise than gray-haired and spectacled," explained one young lady rejected by Dix. Source: <http://www.civilwarhome.com/civilwarnurses.html> accessed 8/19/06.

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Nurstoons



www.nurstoon.com