

District Four Forecast

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A Message from the President, Colleen Hines

I do not know about you all, but I am in awe of all the history making events with nursing implications that are occurring almost on a daily basis, it seems!

I agree with our ANA President when she says, "There is no other time in the profession's recent history that unity and the strength of membership numbers are as needed in order to successfully address the multiple issues that nurses face."

Therefore, with those thoughts in mind, I want to give you a brief update about some of the more notable events that have been occurring here in D-4.

At our 9/4/08 Membership and Board meetings at Children's Medical Center, I shared about an initial collaborative meeting between D-4, D-3, and NTONE. It was agreed that all three had goals that were synergistic and that ongoing collaboration at the district level would be beneficial to these groups, to nursing, and to the DFW health care community. A first effort in collaborating on a community project or on bridge building, if you will, was for D-4, D-3, and NTONE to work together with VNA in Dallas to help them meet a need that they identified for the community. That activity occurred on 11/19/08 when June Marshall and I joined the D-3 president and members and the NTONE representative and worked with VNA for an evening of gift wrapping for the Meals on Wheels clients.

Our usual annual meeting with D-3 occurred on 11/20/08 in Arlington. Clair Jordan presented to "the largest audience ever" on "The State of the Profession-2008". The room was packed, and we also had satellite sites for the first time. She talked about a coalition report entitled, "Aligning Our Efforts to Transform America's Health Care Goals". The full report is available at : <http://nursingworld.org/DocumentVault/News/Announcements/NPP-Report.aspx>. She also said that

major issues for us are staffing rules and adequate #s of nurses to provide safe care. Better and different education for nurses is also key.

I recently learned that we have two D-4 members who will be on the next state ballot for officers. They are Stephanie Woods for President, and Kathryn Pecenka-Johnson for North Region Director. Both are employed at Children's Medical Center. We wanted more of our membership to know them so we invited them to come and be introduced at our 12/11/08 dinner meeting at Presbyterian. In instances such as this, the state contacts the President/Board for an endorsement.

On 12/2/08 a planning meeting for The Great 100 Nurses was held at Medical City with representatives of D-4 and D-3, and NTONE present. Beth Mancini and Sam Ruffing joined us by telephone conference calls. The focus was to learn but also to work on planning in order to make the April 2009 event a success as well as beginning changes and improvements that will make 2010 and the future even better. Blinding of nominees, determining the process for selection committee participants, and determining who will lead the selection committee were discussed and decided. The Selection Committee will meet on 1/30/09 at Medical City. The Core Committee will continue ongoing meetings and planning Great 100.

An additional special Board meeting was held on 10/23/08 in order to meet with Ellen L. Palmer to learn more from her and to discuss the needs of the CE Committee. Jeanie Zelanko and Jackie Brock have agreed to Co-Chair this year. Rosa Belgard had already agreed to review our Provider-ship. There was discussion that a Board members should Chair the CE Committee.

Since schedules and timing have not allowed us to have our usual seminar in February, the Board agreed to accept the invitation of D-3 to join them again in a joint meeting. That meeting will be on 2/19/09 and also will include satellite links—more details about this will be coming. The speaker will be the Director of Nursing Practice at TNA. Her topic will be on Safe Staffing, etc.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I want to again express my appreciation and gratitude to our Board and to Pat for all their assistance, support, and work this year.

Colleen Hines, MS, RN, CDE, CCES, CT

Colleen Hines, President

Jose Alejandro, Vice President

Vicki Joswiak, Secretary-Treasurer

Directors

Jacqueline Brock

Rosa Belgard

Barbara Devitt

Celeste Johnson

June Marshall

Frances Phillips

Nancy Roper Willson

Governmental Affairs Committee Update

Victoria England – Chair TNA GAC

TNA Governmental Affairs Committee at the State level has been meeting throughout 2008 and working on TNA's Legislative agenda for the 2009 Legislative Session. The Committee's next meeting is Jan 16-17, 2009 in Austin. At that time TNA GAC meets with representatives from the Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition (NLAC). This group is comprised of presidents and/or Governmental Affairs Committee members representing each specialty nursing organization that is part of NLAC.

TNA is working with the Texas Hospital Association (THA) on initiating a bill which will be filed to address nurse staffing and its supporting programs. Senator Nelson and Representative Howard authored this legislation designed to enhance the hospital practice environment for nurses in Texas. This legislation reflects the commitment of both associations in creating a satisfying practice environment for nurses and the belief that creating a practice environment that attracts and retains nurses is an important component in addressing Texas' shortage of registered nurses.

You can read more about the **Nursing Practice Environment Legislative Package 2009** in the Fall 2008 issue of "Texas Nursing" or visiting the website at www.texasnurses.org

The District 4 GAC also supported legislators with RN/APN PAC donations. Checks were delivered to, Representatives Myra Crownover, Dan Branch, Helen Giddings, and Angie Chen Button and Senator Florence Shapiro.

All TNA District 4 Nurses are encouraged to participate in **Nurse Day at the Capitol 2009**. *Capitol-ize* on an opportunity to meet personally with legislators and their staff members to advocate for issues that affect Nurses and the citizens of Texas. Let your voice be heard by joining hundreds of other nurses and nursing students in Austin for **Nurse Day at the Capitol – March 2-3, 2009!**

Dolores (Dee) Alford – In the Spotlight

Texas Nurses Association, District Four member, Dee Alford, was honored by the Journal of Gerontological Nursing with a “Spotlight” in the October, 2008 issue of the journal. [McDougall, Graham, Jr. (2008). Dolores M. Alford, PhD, RN, Entrepreneur and scholar. Journal of Gerontological Nursing, 34 (10), 8-10].

In 1983, Dee wrote an article in JOGN entitled, “Perogatives and Priorities in Gerontology”. (Alford, D. M. Perogatives and priorities in gerontology. Journal of Gerontological Nursing, 9 (10), 545-547, 553). Now years, later, her predictions have mostly come to pass. The JOGN wanted to recognize Dee’s vision with a Spotlight article.

Dee is the Legal Issues Section Editor for JOGN. She is the author of one textbook, chapters in four books and more than 125 articles in numerous journals, magazines, and newspapers.

NURSE AUTHORS NEEDED

Do you have a clinical or professional nursing topic you would like to share with other nurses? Are you a senior undergraduate student or a graduate student who has a term paper or project that you believe is worthy of publication? Are you a RN striving for promotion or tenure in which being published is an item for consideration? Then, here is an opportunity for you to share your knowledge and perspectives. TNA, D-4 is providing one-hour continuing education programs each month. We are going to offer the one-hour CE programs on the TNA, D-4 web site. This is a peer reviewed article. We invite you to submit a 3,000 word manuscript to the TNA, D-4 CE Committee for consideration for publication. Author guidelines can be found on the District’s web site: www.tnad4.org. Even if you believe you are not a writer or have never written for publication before, but you do have a manuscript or would like to write one have no fear. The TNA, D-4 CE Committee can provide you with an experienced, well=published mentor to guide you in preparing your manuscript for publication. (This service is free). Do e-mail Pat Pollock, Administrative Director, TNA, D-4 at d4tna@flash.net if you are interested in providing this crucial professional service.

TNA, D-4 CE Committee

PLEASE NOTE REGARDING THE TNA, D-4 BYLAW CHANGE:

Please note that the District recently voted a bylaw change dealing with the way we, as a District, elect our president. The president-elect position was created in order for mentorship and guidance to occur. The president would serve one year as president-elect, two years as president, and one year as past president/director for continuity in leadership as other officers and board members transition on and off the board of directors. The transitional planning has consistently worked for other TNA Districts and has also been beneficial to other local, state, and national professional organizations.

WANTED....YOU!!

District Four elections are just around the corner! Don't be shy! If you are interested in being considered or would like to recommend anyone for nominations to the following District Offices listed below, please contact the **Nominating Committee Chair, Ellen L. Palmer by email at: ellenpalmer@tx.rr.com or email the D-4 offices at d4tna@flash.net . All terms begin on July 1, 2009. All offices are for two years except the Nominating Committee which serves for one year.**

CRITERIA FOR NOMINEES FROM DISTRICT FOUR POLICIES:

The office of **President:**

- A. Shall be a member of District Four, TNA and ANA.
- B. Shall have served as a member of the D-4 Board of Directors.
- C. Demonstrated knowledge of purpose and objectives of TNA and ANA.
- D. Served as an active member in D-4 Committees/Conference Groups.

The office of **Secretary-Treasurer:**

- A. Shall be a member of District Four, TNA and ANA.
- B. Shall have served as an active member in D-4 Committees/Conference Groups.
- C. Demonstrated knowledge of purpose and objectives of TNA and ANA.
- D. Shall be a member of District Four, TNA and ANA.
- E. Shall serve as an active member in D-4 Committees/Conference Groups.
- F. Demonstrated knowledge of purpose and objectives of TNA and ANA.

The office of **Board Member:**

- A. Shall be a member of District Four, TNA and ANA.
- B. Shall have served as an active member in D-4 Committees/Conference Groups.
- C. Demonstrated knowledge of purpose and objectives of TNA and ANA.

The office of **Nominating Committee:**

- A. Active member of District Four, TNA and ANA.
- B. Demonstrated knowledge of purpose and objectives of TNA and ANA.

The office of **Delegate to the TNA House of Delegates:**

- A. Active member of District Four, TNA and ANA.
- B. Demonstrated knowledge of purpose and objectives of TNA and ANA.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
ELLEN L. PALMER, CHAIR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE

On January 1, 2009, the Nominating Committee will be activated to prepare a slate of candidates for the May, 2009, District Four election. The deadline for those who are both qualified and willing to serve if elected is **March 1st**. Nominees must complete curriculum vita summary and permission forms available through D-4 headquarters. The D-4 Bylaws specify minimum criteria for all positions. For more information and assistance in placing your nomination (s), please email Pat Pollock at the TNA, D-4 office, d4tna@flash.net

A brief description of each open position, including length of term, responsibilities, and estimated time commitment appears below. As you consider whether to nominate yourself or others, remember that promoting the vitality of the nursing profession through active service in D-4, TNA helps your patients, your colleagues, and yourself. And it's fun!

PRESIDENT: Presides at D-4 monthly meetings, serves as Chair of the Board of Directors (in 2010, with the approval of the 2008 TNA, D-4 Bylaw amendment, the President will serve one year as President-Elect, two years as President, and one year as Past President/Director); ex-officio member of all committees (except the Nominating Committee); Chair of D-4 Delegates to the TNA House of Delegates; serves on Dallas Area Consortium of Nursing Specialty Organizations; serves on the Steering Committee of Dallas-Fort Worth Great 100 Nurses; countersigns checks drawn by the Secretary-Treasurer. **(15 hours/month)**.

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Keeps minutes of all proceedings of D-4 and Board meetings, preserves documents, notifies officers, directors, and committee members of their election or appointment; notifies members of meeting dates; reports at meetings; arranges for general and TNA correspondence. Shall sign checks as authorized by District Four Board of Directors policy, keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements, Chair the Finance Committee, be familiar with District Four procedures relating to receipt and deposit of funds, and present a complete written report of the finances of District Four to the Board of Directors and to the President upon request. **(3-4 hours/month)**

DIRECTORS (3): The D-4 officers and 7 directors constitute the Board of Directors (BOD). It has power and authority over the affairs and business of D-4 in between meetings of the membership. It meets 10 times/year to set priorities, policies, and a master plan. Directors serve as liaison members of D-4 committees and significant special interest groups; the BOD acts as custodian of District property and funds; it handles information; serves as collective "spokesperson"; and it reports regularly to the Membership. **(2-5 hours/month)**. Currently the BOD meetings follow each membership meeting and one planning meeting at the start of the activity year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The elected Officers and Directors constitute the Board of Directors of TNA, District Four. The Board of Directors is made up of the District officers plus seven (7) directors. The Board carries the legal liability for the conduct of the business of the District, for any statement issued under the auspices of the District, and for adherence to regulations for maintaining tax exempt status. Adherence to the Bylaws of TNA and ANA is overseen by the Board. Hence, any decision that requires District funds, time, or position statement must be considered and accepted by the Board prior to finalizing the decision and making any publications.

The typical agenda for the monthly Board meetings include: standing committee reports; TNA and ANA updates and requests for action; District concerns; financial report; and other business directed to the Board. Annual items for consideration are included on the Master Calendar.

Philosophy

An agency with good external methods, yet lacking in the full spirit of cooperation and dedication to a purpose, will fail; but an agency with a flourishing spirit of cooperation and active pursuit of a common purpose will overcome defects in organization and method. Board of Directors needs business-like methods and good group process – all these and spirit too.” (Sorenson, Roy The Art of Board Membership, New York: Association Press, 1950, p. 136).

Functions

“To consider, debate, and decide an issue is the primary function of a Board”. (Self Inventory concerning Administrative practice for the Board of Directors and the staff of the American Nurses Association. Updated 1970).

1. To conduct the business of the association between district meetings.
2. To provide means of administering the district programs.
3. To suggest to the district ways and means of furthering the program of the association.
4. To represent the thinking of the district to TNA and to local allied groups.

Duties

1. To perform the duties mandated to it by the members of the association.
2. To act as custodian of the property, securities, and records of the association.
3. Set a schedule of board meetings that will enable the board to carry out its functions.
4. Approve a budget that will enable the district to function in carrying out a program which the members authorize.
5. Employ an administrative officer to perform such duties as the Board may prescribe to support the District, Board, officers, and committees conducting the business of the District.
6. Appoint competent members to all standing committees and special committees.
7. Review all committee reports carefully and determine ways to carry out their appropriate recommendations.
8. Review the total program of the district periodically and make recommendations and suggestions to the district on how the program might be strengthened and broadened.
9. Reply to all communications from TNA that asks for special information or suggestions.
10. Develop ways and means of keeping all district members informed of district activities. This may be done through a newsletter, email, website, or other communications.
11. Develop ways and means of working with the community on matters concerning nursing.

NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS FOR 2008-2009 NOW BEING ACCEPTED.....

Nominations are now being accepted for awards for 2008-2009. Each year at the Annual Awards Dinner and Installation of Officers we honor the recipients of the following awards: Listed below are the criteria to be followed in the selection.

Consumer of the Year

1. Candidate should be significantly known in the area for his/her overall contributions to the health field with preferably specific effects on nursing.
2. Candidate should be a non-health provider.
3. Candidate should have influenced health care in one or more of the following ways: A. Contributed to the overall improvement of health care.
B. Contributed to better working relations of health care workers.
C. Provided leadership to groups of consumers with respect to health care.

TNA, District Four Member of the Year

1. Candidate must be a member of Texas Nurses Association and active in local District 4 activities.
2. Candidate demonstrates leadership within District 4.
3. Candidate demonstrates high quality nursing practice.
4. Candidate enhances the profession of nursing within the community.

Nurse of the Year

1. Candidate must be a licensed professional nurse, a member of TNA who is directly involved in nursing through teaching, administration and/or clinical practice.
2. Candidate has had a demonstrable effect on raising the quality of nursing care through scholarly pursuits, research, writing, education and/or practice.
3. The candidate demonstrates ability to apply the ANA Standards of Nursing Practice and/or facilitation of their implementation by others.
4. Evidence exists of candidate involvement in continuing education as participant, organizer or sponsor.
5. Evidence exists of candidate's distinguished contribution to the profession of nursing at the local, state or national level.

Health Care Professional of the Year

1. Candidate must be directly involved in his/her field of service through teaching, administration, research or by providing service in the health care field.
2. Candidate has had demonstrable effect on improving the quality of health care provided to health care consumers through such activities as research, writing, education or direct provisions of health care.
3. Evidence exists of candidate's contribution to the betterment and support of the nursing profession.
4. Non-nurse.

Dolores M. Alford Lifetime Achievement Award

1. Candidate must be a member of TNA and active in D-4 activities.
2. Candidate must demonstrate excellence across the lifespan.

Please send nominations for the above awards to the District 4 office along with vita and other supporting documents by **May 26, 2009.**