

District Four Forecast

TNA, District Four CE Committee Report May, 2006

Chair, Ellen L. Palmer provides the following information regarding the CE Committee for the month of May, 2006.

Published in *Pulse Magazine*

1. March issue: **"Bird Flu"** by Palmer, Gilliland, and Coyle.
2. April issue: **"From Cancer Center to Community: Nurses Bridge the Care for Chemotherapy Patients"** by Virginia R. Sicola, RN, APN, AOCN, PhD, Oncology Coordinator, Amarillo VA Health Care System, Amarillo, Texas
3. May issue: **"The Successful Nurse Preceptor"** by Tony Paterniti, PhD, RN, Nurse Educator, Methodist Health System

A third *Pulse* supplement will contain:

- 1) **"The Role of Cultural Competency in Promoting a Diabetes Self-Management Program for Hispanic Patients"** which is a two hour CE, by Graciela Salinas, RN, BSN, Diabetic Educator, Methodist Health System

The site to check out the three District Four animated CE's is www.dallasnews.com/classified/jobcenter

"West Nile Virus" is free of charge and **"Nursing Care of the Oldest Old"** and **"Advanced IV Therapy"** cost \$35. SER Imaging is working on the technology to operate quicker.

The next articles committed are: for the June issue a one hour CE **"Understanding Hepatitis C"** (repeating the first CE in *Pulse Magazine*) by Marilee Smeltezer

1-2 hour **"Forensic Nursing"** by Nancy Roper Willson

1 hour **"Sleep Apnea in the Hospitalized Patient"** by Mary Ann Yantis

A three part series (one hour each) by Mary Gilliland: **"Decision-Making in Ethical Dilemmas"**, **"Nursing: An Ethical Enterprise"**, **"Elder Abuse and Neglect"** **"So What is Malaria?"** by Ellen L. Palmer (to be used in late summer)

In the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2005 the CE's to date in *Pulse Magazine* have been worked 1,408 times. The District will receive \$6,480.

The District continues to solicit articles from members and non-members and is especially searching for Pediatric topics. Please forward questions and requests to Pat Pollock (d4tna@flash.net) and the request will be forwarded to the CE Committee. The CE Committee reviews the CE to meet the TNA/ANA CE Providership requirements.

Ellen L. Palmer presented the **"Bird Flu"** in a 36 slide power presentation to three group's health care providers in the Dominican Republic and into French for Haiti. She reports it was well received and that both countries are very concerned that the Avian Flu could come to the island of Hispania.

Message from the President...

The TNA, D4 Board of Directors would like to wish all the members a **"Happy Nurse's Week"**. Congratulations to our Great 100 Nurses for 2006. Hope to see everyone at the June 8th meeting at Presbyterian Hospital. Please RSVP to Pat Pollock as this is a dinner and our awards meeting.

Victoria England, RN

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June 8, 2006 General Membership Meeting

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CE Committee Report Update



Recap and Scenes from the March, 2006 Golf Tournament

Golf Tournament Chair, Ellen L. Palmer stated that the Annual Golf Tournament held in Canton, Texas was a huge success. There were fourteen teams which included four teams of nurses. Nineteen hole sponsors were obtained raising around \$6,500 for the TNA/TNF. These funds will also assist in the TNA Texas Ready Nurse program.



Pictorial scenes from the February workshop dealing with bioterrorism, patient safety, and forensics.

Co-Chairs Nancy Roper Willson and Anita J. Coyle report that the 2006 February conference held at Region 10 in Richardson, Texas was very well received. Attendance was 125 RNs, school nurses, and nursing students. The U.S. Air Force provided the continental breakfast and had an exhibit table. Evaluations rated the program as “excellent” and attendees really liked the Region 10 facility.

In Memorial

On January 2, 2006 TNA, District Four lost a long time member. Miranda Ann Toups passed away at her home in Dallas at the age of 58. Miranda was a true practitioner and gifted caretaker in life and in her chosen profession, nursing and hospice care. She combined both medicine and spirituality as she tended to those who knew her professionally and personally. She leaves behind a legacy of care, compassion, and tremendous humor. Miranda was born in Port Arthur, Texas. She attended Lamar University before transferring to UT Austin where she received a BS in Nursing. She was co-founder of the Center of Healing and a member of the board of the Holistic Nurses Association. She was also a Shin Jyustu Practitioner. Her most recent desire was to return full time to the area in which she was most gifted, hospice care. Miranda is survived by two children, Tanya Elizabeth and Rudy Michael. Donations can be made in Miranda's name to Mary Immaculate School Gym Fund, c/o Elaine Blaylock, or Community Hospice of Texas.

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Personal Impressions of the TNA House of Delegates from District Four Delegates

We asked our delegates for their thoughts on the past TNA House of Delegates that was held in Austin on April 22nd. Here are their respective comments.

April 2006 was my first TNA House of Delegates. Over 150 nurses from all over Texas, representing multiple areas of practice gathered to address the TNA focus and priorities for the coming year. A topic of special interest to me as a Nurse Educator is how do we as professionals document, in a meaningful way, our ongoing competency. Beyond a folder of CE certificates, that may or may not have anything to do with our area of practice, how do we show we are competent safe practitioners? Employers of nurses have assumed much of this responsibility in order to protect themselves from litigation and meet regulatory standards. But what is the individual responsibility of the professional nurse? Maintaining a Professional Portfolio is one method being studied by the TNA Task Force on Nurse Competency. This would require each individual to document their on going activities that support competence in their specialty area. This could impact our choice of what CE programs to attend, which new training we seek, our level of involvement in professional organizations, if we seek professional certification and how we keep records of our professional activities. An RN's competency is their commitment to the public, to the profession and to their nursing colleagues that the trust vested in our professional will not be violated. Watch for more on this issue as the Taskforce continues to study and bring forth recommendations. Thanks for sending me to represent District Four, it made me proud to be a nurse and especially proud of our TNA District.

Rosa Belgard

I have had the privilege of attending several House of Delegate sessions over the years, and each time I attend, I am amazed at the work of the GAC and the advocacy of the TNA for the nurses in Texas. I wish that all the nurses and students in Texas would realize that it is TNA that is the vanguard and voice for their issue as a profession. It was a privilege to represent the nurses of District Four at this year's House of Delegates. Also, it was good to network with the delegates!

Barbara Devitt

On April 22, 2006, the TNA House of Delegates convened in Austin at the Omni Austin Hotel Southpark. Besides myself, the following delegates attended and represented District Four: Victoria England, Jeanie Zelanko, Rosa Belgard, Barbara Devitt, and Janet Moll. As a new delegate for our district, this was an amazing adventure for me. Although I have been in nursing for nearly 28 years and have attended more professional venues than I care to count, this was perhaps the most fulfilling! The level of engagement and commitment by all members of the House is clearly evident. The work done by the members of the many task forces was exemplary - demonstrating nursing scholarship at it's finest. As you can surmise, many of the topics presented precipitated "healthy" debates. The two resolutions contributing to most of the discussion were Competency Validation Related to Re-licensure for RNs and Limit on Hours Nurses Work. Both resolutions passed with minor modifications. No doubt that these two declarations will be the focus of much work in the next year. The other three resolutions were passed without pause - Reinventing TNA, Commendation to Ready Texas Nurses, and TNA Centennial Recognition. It was truly an honor to represent District Four as a delegate. I know that I will be sharing my learning from the House back to both the workplace (Children's) and to academia (Texas Woman's University-Denton). I hope that my enthusiasm and increased knowledge about legislative processes will encourage others to participate in the many opportunities offered by TNA. What was the biggest 'ah-ha' from this journey - it does take a village to make a difference - in health care and in nursing. It is my intent and desire to continue to serve our district and state however possible. AND...to get others involved. We have lots of work to do!

Thanks District Four for this experience!

Dorothy Foglia

Even after all my years of membership in TNA (since 1973), I still find the HOD very informative and exciting! It is impressive to see how much time and effort TNA staff and members put into shaping nursing's future and protecting the public. Nurses who are members are able to effect nursing policy that can shape legislation that impacts the Nurse Practice Act, for example. I believe the work the association is doing in the area of competency is extremely important. The algorithm that the TNA committee designed to address safety, incidents and peer review is also good work. The thought that went into the resolution addressing the maximum number of hours a nurse can work per day or week is the first step to providing guidance in an important area. My wish is that every member could attend a HOD session some point in their career! It makes you proud to be a member!

Janet Moll

This is the third House of Delegates that I have attended. Let me start out by personally thanking each of you for putting your trust in me and the other delegates that represent District Four. In many ways, the House of Delegates is a motivational experience for me. Many of you have heard me say time and time again that in order to find out what TNA can do for you, you have to find out what you can do for TNA. The House of Delegates is a wonderful opportunity to see how TNA/ANA works in both Austin and on the national level to met the needs of nurses. I recently had someone give me a pin that said "What if there weren't any nurses?" If we fail to take on issues related to education, work place safety, and legislative issues; a pillar of our health care system will crumble before our eyes. By being actively involved in TNA, you, our membership work to have a voice in these issues and tell our legislative bodies that nurses, not other healthcare disciplines, know what is best for nursing. These were issues our delegates addressed in Austin. Thank you.

Jeanie Zelanko

TNA – District 4: GAC Update

This spring proved to be a very busy season for the GAC of District 4. The committee members were charged with interviewing candidates running for seats in the House of Representatives in Districts 63 and 106. In addition, we also delivered PAC checks to legislators receiving support from Texas RN/APN PAC. We conducted personal interviews with all five of the candidates running in the March Primary in District 63 seat to replace Mary Denny in the House of Representatives – Michael Savoie, Bill Lawrence, Ricky Grunden, Tan Parker, and Anne Lakusta. We endorsed Anne Lakusta for this seat. However, Mr. Parker defeated her. We also interviewed Katy Hubener, the Independent candidate for the House of Representatives from District 106. We also contacted Kirk England, her opponent in the District 106 race, but did not receive a response.

We listened to the candidates' positions regarding:

- The health care delivery system in Texas;
- Protecting the health care safety net – the CHIP and Medicaid programs;
- The nursing shortage;
- Advanced Practice Nursing / CRNA supervision;
- Creating cultures of safety for nurses; and,
- Regulation of Nurse Aides and their training.

In addition, we asked each of the candidates how nurses could act as resources for them if elected and what their sources of information regarding health care were. All candidates supported private enterprise methods for maintaining the CHIP and Medicaid programs. We provided education for all of the candidates regarding the inequity of faculty salaries in nursing and stressed the importance of addressing faculty salaries as a crucial step in solving the nursing shortage. All of the candidates supported nurses having control over their own practice, including eliminating barriers to APN practice, as well as the regulation and standardization of training for Nurse Aides.

A detailed summary of interviews regarding candidates' positions on these important issues was submitted to TNA. This summary is also available to TNA members upon request. Please contact June Marshall at june.marshall@childrens.com or Dorothy Foglia at dorothy.foglia@childrens.com.

At our upcoming GAC meeting (tentatively in June), we will review the April House of Delegates deliberations in preparation for the BNE Sunset Review during the 2006-2007 biennium.

Submitted by:

TNA – District 4 GAC Co-Chairs:

Dorothy Foglia, RN, MS, PhD(c)
June Marshall, RN, MS

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