

Northern L'Attitudes

Newsletter of the Alaska Emergency Nurses Association

Volume I, Issue 1

Spring/Summer 2006

President's Message

It seems that spring is finally winning with Mother Nature. The snow is melting slowly and making for a nice breakup. There was very little slush, which is one thing I don't miss. The pussy willows are budding and the rivers are mostly open. It always amazes me how low the Kenai River gets in the winter and then how much it fills up during the summer.

Along with spring come issues that we, as nurses, need to think about. The blowing dirt that was used to sand the slick roads is now a respiratory concern. I did notice that most of the parking lots around town and the streets have been swept already. I saw my first motor home pulling a car already which means many others are close behind.

These visitors have the potential to cause crashes because they are looking at our beautiful scenery and trying to figure out the best place to pull over for fishing. Our mindset needs to think trauma. With fishing comes fish hooks and sinkers ending up in body parts that aren't meant to have hooks and sinkers. The fishermen are already pulling their boats around and will

soon be launching to go after the record salmon or halibut.

Along with that is the risk of hypothermia and boating related injuries. The moose will be out foraging for food and will have their babies close by and let's not forget about the bears.

The latest concern for Alaska is the Avian Influenza A (bird flu) virus. Authorities are concerned that it may follow the migratory route of birds of which Alaska is a part. I encourage all of you to stay informed about this so you will be prepared if it should appear in Alaska.

What about floating ice riding? I certainly hope that guy doing that in Turnagain Arm last month learned how dangerous that can be.

I hope all of you have a wonderful and safe summer!

-Lois Johnson, RN, CEN

P.S. Be sure to check out our new website at:

www.AlaskaENA.org

It is awesome...

Leadership Conference

The Leadership Conference was held in Austin, Texas, this year. We had nice weather, in the 40's, although it was cold by Texas standards. There was green grass and flowers and no worries about ice and snow! The conference was very good. Once again, there was a record attendance at the State Leader's meeting, 188 attendees, and also at the main conference, 1200 attendees. ENA's membership is also at a record number, almost 29,000.

The State Leader's Conference was a one-day event that included sessions on Corporation Management, State Council and Chapter Management, Hiring a CPA firm, Strategies to Boost your membership through Recruitment and Retention, Using Parliamentary Procedure to manage meetings, and roundtable discussions with the different National board members and officers. They all had good information and hopefully we will be able to incorporate some of it into our council. Each state had a breakfast session with their state liaison. Alaska's liaison is Jim Richmann from New Jersey.

There were some wonderful speakers at the Leadership conference. Fred Lee gave us some new ways to look at patient satisfaction

scores. Other speakers offered ideas on literacy, giving presentations, triage, safety, benchmarking, and patient flow through the ED.

All the candidates who are running for national ENA office for 2007 were there for a Candidate's Forum. Lois Johnson has a CD of the forum, if anyone would like to listen to it. There are some very good candidates this year and all of you need to vote. In past elections, only 10% of the membership voted. Alaska needs to make that number increase. So, when you get the nominee information from ENA, please take a few minutes to vote. It doesn't take long to do it on-line.

ENA Resource Specialist Program

ENA has instituted an ENA Resource Specialist Program. It is a way of getting more members involved in work groups without a long term commitment. There are many categories that need expert members. If you are interested, please contact Member Services at enainfo@ena.org or 800-243-8362.

Board Liaison

Jim Richmann, Alaska's ENA board liaison, came to Alaska for the Voices in Unity nursing conference. He presented two lectures and then partook of the

rest of the conference. Several of the AK ENA board members met with him and discussed ideas and concerns about National ENA. He attended Nurse's Night Out with the rest of the nurses and seemed to have a great time. He was hoping to be able to get some sightseeing done before he had to fly out. We certainly enjoyed having him come to meet with us and see our beautiful state.

GENE Program

ENA has now made the GENE (Geriatric Emergency Nurse Education) program available as a webcast which will be done in four 2-hour segments starting at 3:00 pm Eastern time, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, and 5/17. Eventually it will be online. Please go to the ENA website for more information.

Call for Nominations

It's that time of year again when we need to recruit members to be part of our leadership team. This year we need to elect a new Secretary/Treasurer and new Board Members. Please take some time to consider serving the organization and your fellow members as either an officer of the organization or as a Board Member. The time requirements are minimal and the rewards can be priceless.

General Assembly

This year the Emergency Nurses Association is holding its annual Conference in San Antonio Texas from September 13-16, 2006. The General Assembly is held on first two days.

This is the ENA's annual business meeting where delegates representing ENA's State Councils review business reports, as well as debate and vote on proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions on health care policy and emergency nursing practice issues. Please consider participating in this important event if you are attending this year.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a Delegate Self-Nomination form to be submitted by June 30, 2006.

General Assembly Delegate Selection

The lottery mechanism of selection is used to determine the General Assembly delegation. Delegates shall be selected according to the following:

1. Current active ENA membership (one point)
2. CEN (2 points) or commitment to take the exam within one year (one point)
3. Served in an elected or appointed position at a state or

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national level within the past 3 years (one point)

4. Lecturer (other than that which is required to perform nursing role such as patient discharge instructions) such as First Aid, CPR, TNCC, ENPC, etc (one point per class)

5. Projects (legislative involvement, public education, fund raising) (one point)

6. Research in Emergency Nursing (one point per topic)

7. Publishing on topics related to emergency care (one point per article)

A minimum of 4 points is required to be eligible for the lottery. All applications will be verified and entered into the lottery. The lottery drawing will be held on a date published in the newsletter by the Officers of the State Council. Notification instructions will be outlined within the newsletter. Alternate delegates will be drawn after the delegates are drawn. If for any reason a delegate is unable to fulfill the duties of a delegate, the alternate delegate will be a delegate. The original delegate shall forfeit their reimbursement and the alternate delegate will be reimbursed

Alaska ENA history project

Emergency Nursing in Alaska has had a long and proud history. The Alaska ENA Board would like to preserve this history for future Alaskan ED nurses. If you have information regarding Alaska ENA's "formative years," pictures of Emergency Departments, emergency nurses, etc. please send them to Jeanne Molitor. She is piecing the Alaska ENA history together. Thanks to all who have added one little tidbit after another to help make it come together. It is up to us oldies but goodies to pass on the legacy..... Jeanne

Important Dates

Alaska Nursing Licensure Renewal :
November 30, 2006

2006 Alaska ENA Leadership

President

Lois Johnson
161 Trumpeter Ave
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-262-2578
loisrn74@ak.net

President Elect

Shelly Deering
PO Box 22891
Juneau, AK 99802
907-790-2947
deerings@ak.net

Treasurer

Jennifer Lynn
PO Box 2382
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-262-2830
jill@cpqh.org

Secretary (interim)

Michelle Arnold
3313 W. 79th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99502
907-272-0459
victorj1@gci.net

Board Members

Carrie Doyle
PO Box 771522
Eagle River, AK 99577
907-694-8708
cdoyle@gci.net

Millie Tuccillo
PO Box 2120
Petersburg, AK 99833
907-772-3975
milliern@gci.net

Jeanette Pugh(interim)
PO Box 3635
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-260-4699
jpugh@cpqh.org

Karen Lenihan
PO Box 32782
Juneau, AK 99803
907-586-1922
karentlenihan@aol.com