

Northern L'attitudes of the Alaska ENA

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President's Message by

Lois Johnson

Comforting Memories

My husband and I were out and about recently and stopped at a second-hand store to see what they had. The store was clean and the merchandise was arranged neatly. There were all sorts of used items but two items caught my eye. One was a rust-colored book; a spelling book. It instantly reminded me of my school days because it was the same book we had used. It contained cursive so it was probably a 4th or 5th grade book. The other thing that caught my eye was a small basket filled with metal curlers. You know the ones with all the little holes and the red rubber roller clamp? They reminded me of my grandma and how she used to let us curl her hair and how she used to curl our hair using these same types of curlers. It was comforting to me to see these items from my youth. I get the same warm feeling when I look over our state membership list and see familiar names. There are names there that I remembered from when I did the newsletter several years ago. It was like coming home, even though I didn't know most of those members. Over the years, I have met some of them and it just makes it more special to see their names still on the membership list. I am proud to be a member of ENA and to have served on our state council these

past several years. I am even more proud to be able to serve as the Alaska ENA council president. I promise to do the very best job I can. I hope to get the word out about ENA, especially about our state council, and to increase our membership.

ALASKA ENA WEBSITE

Jeanne Molitor (ENA Member) is working on an Alaska ENA website to help keep members informed of the important Alaska information and with links to the national website. If you have information that you would like to see, please let Jeanne know by January 30, 2005. jrjeanne@gci.net

ENA Leadership Challenge

The ENA Leadership Challenge is being held in Fort Lauderdale, FL March 9-13, 2005. It is a great opportunity to network with your colleagues and gain important information. If you have any questions about it, please feel free to contact any one of us or check out the schedule on the national ENA website.



DID YOU KNOW???

That currently you can receive Mosby's online Drug Consult free, but only until June 15th, 2004

That National has made a deal with Dell Computers to assist ENA Nurses to purchase computers.

There is a document-sharing forum to review or add documents regarding policy and procedures, scheduling, standards of care, and triage. Check it out at www.ena.org and see what your organization is doing for you.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Four delegates attended the General Assembly in San Diego to represent Alaska. The national by-laws were revised and voted on. The Scientific Assembly offered some really great classes plus all the camaraderie with the other attendees who experience the same issues that we have here in Alaska. The next national convention is in Nashville, TN, in September.

Voices in Unity Nurses Conference

In October, the Voices in Unity Alaska Nurses Conference was held in Anchorage. This is the fourth year that the conference has been supported by the ANA, Alaska ENA, Fairbanks AACN and the Alaska foundation. Combining the resources and talent of the four allows the planning committee to put together an incredible conference. This year, Latonia Wright talked about legal issues in nursing. Dr. BJ Coopes talked about pediatric issues and there was a broad representation of other topics as well.

The exhibitor hall was full with a variety of vendors.

There were not only impressive speakers but, this year, we had Nurses Night Out, sponsored by Hill-Rom. Great food, music, dancing, fun, games and a chocolate fountain! The next conference will be in 2006. Please mark your calendars.

The following ENA members were involved in the conference and deserve a

big hand: Millie Tuccillo was the Exhibitor Guru, Sharon Merchant was the Fun Queen (she had a tiara on to prove it) and Shelly Deering was the overall task manager. Millie and Shelly have been involved since the conception and are looking for some volunteers to take their places. It is an incredible, rewarding experience to be involved in. Please contact Millie and Shelly if you are interested.

Officer Bio's

President: Lois Johnson

Lois came to Alaska in 1986 and has worked at Central Peninsula General Hospital the entire time. She graduated from Casper College, Casper, Wyoming, in 1974 with an ADN. She has worked in med/surg, OB, limited ICU, and, mostly, emergency. She joined ENA in 1993 and has served as state council secretary, treasurer, and president-elect. She has been a delegate to General Assembly 6 times. She is a TNCC instructor and course director. She is married to a teacher, has 3 children and 3 grandchildren. She likes to read and sew, esp. quilts. She is currently taking on-line classes working toward her BSN.

Treasurer: Jennifer Lynn

In 1994, Jen graduated from Pratt Community College with her Associate's degree in nursing. She worked as a staff nurse at Edwards County Hospital, a small rural, hospital in Kinsley, Kansas, where a nurse "did it all". They experienced a natural disaster in 1995 when a tornado destroyed the hospital and that brought her to Bethel, Alaska, where Jim, her husband, was called to work. She and Jim packed up their 2 children and came to Bethel where she worked in the emergency department and Jim worked in the Lab. The duties were much different than in Kansas, but she caught on quickly to the Native ways and enjoyed the new culture. As they grew in Bethel, the children grew out of

Bethel. The opportunities that they were seeking were now available to them in Soldotna, so once again, they packed up and settled in Soldotna in 1999. Jen started as a staff nurse in the emergency department at Central Peninsula General Hospital, where she currently works. Jim is also employed at CPGH in the Lab. Jen has furthered her nursing experience with her CEN and continued renewal of ACLS and PALS. She is also current in TNCC and ENPC. This past year, Jen had the honor of being an Alaskan delegate to the 2004 National ENA convention and was elected ENA state treasurer. "I look forward to the future of ENA growth".

2005 AK ENA State Council Members

Lois Johnson, RN, CEN, President
161 Trumpeter Ave.
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-262-2578
email: calaska@gci.net

Shelly Deering, RN, Secretary
PO Box 22891
Juneau, AK 99802-2891
907-790-2947
email: deerings@ak.net

Jennifer Lynn, RN, CEN, Treasurer
PO Box 2382
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-262-2830
email: jill@cpgh.org

Sharon Merchant, RN, Immediate
Past President
PO Box 1802
Homer, AK 99603-1802
907-235-0507
email: smerchant@alaska.net
Michelle Arnold, RN, Board Member

3313 W. 79th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99502-4412
907-272-0459
email: victorj1@gci.net

Carrie Doyle, RN, Board Member
PO Box 771522
Eagle River, AK 99577-1522
907-694-8708
email: cdoyle@gci.net

Millie Tuccillo, RN, Board Member
PO Box 2120
Petersburg, AK, 99833-2120
907-772-3975
email: milliern@gci.net

Debbie Whitethorn, RN, Board
Member
PO Box 669
Girdwood, AK 99587-0669
907-783-2332
email: wchad@girdwood.net

In the next newsletter, we will be asking for nominations for officers for 2006. There will be 2 board member positions, secretary, and the president elect position. Please be thinking about possible candidates!!

*Northern Latitudes of the
Alaska ENA*

161 Trumpeter Ave.
Soldotna, AK 99669

Important Dates

ENA Leadership Challenge
March 9- 13, 2005
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

ENA National Convention
September 15- 17, 2005
Nashville, TN