

# Northern L'attitudes of the Alaska ENA

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## **President's Message** **by** **Lois Johnson**

As I was driving to Anchorage recently, I made several observations; some good and some not so good. I love the scenery and always look forward to seeing the beautiful Kenai River as it winds through Cooper Landing. It is the most wonderful color of green, a color that I haven't seen reproduced anywhere else. I always have to check out the number of fishermen at the Russian River/Kenai River confluence. Then there are the flowers in bloom; the magenta fireweed, the chocolate lilies, the blue lupine, and the yellow ones that I don't know. Also, have you noticed all the different shades of green?

Beyond all this beauty are the other observations I made. There was lots of traffic and some of the drivers were passing on solid yellow lines and into on-coming traffic. There were several narrow misses. I just hoped I was far

enough back that I would be able to stop in time to avoid becoming part of an accident. In spite of the laws, people still don't always wear their seatbelts. I observed motorcycles and, I am happy to report, almost all of them were wearing a helmet and face shield. However, I did observe a 4-wheeler being driven by a girl who was probably 10 or so and she had another child, probably about 4 or 5, sitting in front of her. Neither of them had helmets on.

All this makes me wonder, are we not getting the safety message out? Or do people just not care about themselves or others? I know Safe Kids does a great job of teaching safety and the ENCARE injury prevention program teaches safety. I would encourage each and every one of you to continue doing as much safety teaching as you can and get the message out to the people of our beautiful state. In the meantime, our bumper sticker—"Pass me now, See me later"—seems appropriate.

## **VOTE**

The ballot for the 2006 officers is enclosed with this letter. Please take the time to vote and support your peers who are candidates.

### **PROMOTING SAFETY**

Kenai Peninsula SAFE KIDS in Homer and Central Peninsula held safety events on April 30<sup>th</sup> in celebration with National SAFE KIDS Week. Children and parents received important safety information while kids were able to have fun with interactive stations. Central Peninsula area focused on drowning prevention and water safety. Kenai River Sportfishing Association sponsorship made it possible for the second year to provide personal flotation devices at the cost of \$10 for kids who participated in all the safety stations.

Child Passenger Safety remains a major focus for SAFE KIDS on the Kenai Peninsula. With grant funding from Alaska Highway Safety Office SAFE KIDS has reached more families.

Technicians have checked over 300 car seats with 170 child safety seats being distributed. On going Child Passenger safety awareness and 32hr. NHTSA training has made it possible to have certified technicians at CPGH, CES, Kenai Fire Department, Kenai Police Department, Kenai Public Health Department, WIC Office, Nikiski Fire Department, Homer SAFE KIDS, and Seward.

Bike and pedestrian safety are summer safety focus also. Homer SAFE KIDS did their community bike rodeo at their safe kids event and Central Peninsula area held bike rodeo's at schools and Girls and Boys Club.

### **CONGRADULATIONS the Nashville delegates**

Karen Lenihan (Juneau), Jennifer Lynn (Sterling), & Debbie Whitethorn (Girdwood) were selected for delegates to attend the ENA conference in Nashville. They will be responsible for representing Alaska, attending national meetings & bringing back information. Millie Tuccillo (Petersburg) was selected as an alternate.

### **NASHVILLE**

To support the ENA Foundation an Alaskan Basket has been donated for their fundraiser. An Alaskan theme was chosen and Alaskan items were donated by members. Also the Alaska ENA will be selling bumper stickers, socks and having a raffle to raise money at Nashville.

### **SUPPORT YOUR ALASKA ENA**

To raise money to support Alaska ENA items are sold at conferences, thru out the state, and raffles are held. The money raised is used to support the President and President elect in attending the national ENA conferences, sending delegates to the conferences, the Alaska

newsletter and supporting education for Alaska nurses. If you would like to assist with this we have bumper stickers (sale price \$3) that you can request to sell at your hospital or in your community. You can request these bumper stickers from Lois Johnson.

### **TNCC or ENPC Classes**

The Alaska ENA has received \$2000 from ENA National specifically for TNCC or ENPC classes. If you would like support for a TNCC or ENPC class in your facility please contact Jan Ihrig for TNCC or Deb Whitethorn for ENPC. They can assist you with possible funding and instructors.

### **DID YOU KNOW???** **National info**

#### **ED NURSE MANAGERS**

ENA has conducted the emergency department benchmark study since

1995. The information from ED Managers is critical for identifying, understanding, and responding to the rapid changes in emergency health care, staffing, overcrowding, and patient safety. If your facility hasn't done the survey please take the time to do so. The survey can be accessed at [www.ena.org](http://www.ena.org) with the deadline being November 1.

National is looking for a few good speakers. If you are interested in speaking at the 2006 conferences,

presenting posters or working on any of the workgroups go to the ENA website and check it out.

The resolutions for General Assembly are in the June Connections and are also available online at [ena.org](http://ena.org).

ENA is working on revising the TNCC course. The work group is looking for hard copies or digital photographs or slides of trauma images. Do not send originals. Include a permission release form, a description of the image, and your name and credentials. Contact Joy Triche at [Jtriche@ena.org](mailto:Jtriche@ena.org) for more information.

**Leadership Challenge** The leadership conference will be held in Austin, Texas February 23-26, 2006.

### **VOICES IN UNITY CONFERENCE**

The conference will be held March 30, 31-April 1, 2006. National speakers Shelley Cohen will be speaking on leadership and Bill Marras will be speaking on body mechanics. There will be great local speakers on bariatrics, palliative care, forensics and more. By October the website ([www.aknurse.org](http://www.aknurse.org)) will have on-line registration available. It pays to plan early. Use that dividend to attend this great conference.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDERS**

Emergency Nurses Week  
Oct. 9-15  
Emergency Nurses Day

Oct. 12

## **AK ENA WEBSITE**

Jeanne continues to work on the ENA website with web consultant Rena Balzer. The prototype was available to ENA board members who made several good suggestions.

[www.AlaskaENA.org](http://www.AlaskaENA.org)

## **MEMBER RECOGNITION**

Jeanne Molitor was selected for the Melissa Ann Peters Memorial Award at the EMS Symposium last November. It is in recognition of her dedication and service in trauma data collection and nurse trauma care education in rural AK.

April Sapp graduated with her FNP from UAA in May. She is a former AK ENA board member and current ENA member.

Best wishes to Sharon Merchant who has moved to New Mexico. A big thank you for her support and involvement in the Alaska ENA during her time here.

## **OFFICER BIO'S**

Michelle Arnold has been a nurse for over 30 years. Initially she started her nursing career working in ICU. Over 20 years ago she transitioned to ED nursing. From not seeing any patients ever get well (they would transfer to the floor as they improved) to the instant gratification of the ED was just the change she needed. She has worked in

EDs from Florida to Alaska as staff nurse to manager.

She has been active in the Alaska ENA for many years. Michelle has served in a variety of positions from treasurer to president to board member.

She currently works in the Quality department at Providence Hospital while she is finishing her MBA. She lives in Anchorage with her husband and 2 daughters (18 and 11). Her oldest daughter lives in Atlanta with her family that includes Michelle's 2 (wonderful) granddaughters.

## **2005 AK ENA STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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