

Tennessee Nurse

The voice for professional nursing in Tennessee since 1905

Quarterly circulation approximately 90,000 to all RNs and Student Nurses in Tennessee.



Volume 77 • Number 2

The Official Publication of the Tennessee Nurses Foundation

Summer 2014



I Am TNA

Dr. Esther Christian Sellars, MSN, RN (District 10)

I AM TNA. The importance of this ownership goes back to the first nurse of color, Mary Eliza Mahoney (May 7, 1845 – January 4, 1926). She studied and worked as a professionally trained nurse in the United States, graduating in 1879, and in 1908 she co-founded the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN) with Adah B. Thoms that eventually merged with the American Nurses Association (ANA) in 1951. I am what I am today because of this strong leadership, and the recognition by one so significant, that association with others is more important than being separate and because of that realization; merging with ANA. As part of a whole, I am able to collectively make changes and address issues that are relevant to my profession. Memberships in the Tennessee Nurses Association (TNA) and the American Nurses Association (ANA) are what make us a whole; it is a collection of our voices.



Dr. Esther Christian Sellars

I received my BSN in 1989 from the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences, an MSN in 1997 from Arkansas State University, and completed my Ed.D. in 2003 from The University of Memphis. I can attest to the importance of the TNA advocating on my behalf. I have worked hard to make my personal dreams come true. I can count on the Tennessee Nurses Association's continued promotion of the profession of nursing, thereby, advancing the standards of nursing

I Am TNA continued on page 2

TNA and TASN Joint Conference
October 10-12, 2014
Embassy Suites SE – Murfreesboro
Murfreesboro, TN

See details on pages 5-7

Students, Nurses, Faculty Hold Nurses Day on Capitol Hill at TNA Legislative Summit



Over 1,000 attendees enjoyed the day at Nashville's War Memorial Auditorium and later, the Tennessee Legislature

The Tennessee Nurses Association held its annual *Legislative Summit* on April 2 at the War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville. More than 1,000 enthusiastic nursing students, registered nurses, and nursing faculty attended the event to experience firsthand the legislative process and to meet and greet members of the Legislature.

TNA's President, Billie Sills, MSN, RN, welcomed attendees as well as House Speaker Beth Harwell and the Tennessee Association of Student Nurses (TASN) President, Katherine Donovan. As Katherine gave

the Roll Call, students cheered on their schools very energetically. TASN's Vice President, Carla Rosser, discussed the resolution supporting safe staffing levels that TASN would be introducing at their national convention later in the month.

The keynote speaker Karen Daley, PhD, RN, FAAN, President of the American Nurses Association, spoke to the needs of nurses becoming proactive and the importance of being involved in what happens at the

TNA Legislative Summit continued on page 2

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TNA Legislative Summit continued from page 1

I Am TNA continued from page 1

Legislature; not only locally and statewide, but on a Federal level as well.

TNA's Executive Director, Sharon Adkins, MSN, RN and TNA's Manager of Government Affairs and Lobbyist, Wilhelmina Davis, gave a brief overview of the legislative process and the 2014 legislative update.

Senator Becky Massey; Representative Gloria Johnson; Representative Bob Ramsey and Dr. Carole Myers, PhD, RN, Chair of TNA's Government Affairs Committee rounded out TNA's Legislative Panel and addressed the issues most affecting the nursing practice this Legislative session. Attendees had a chance to ask questions and voice their concerns of each speaker; and throughout the day visited with the exhibitors.

Make plans now to attend next year's TNA Legislative Summit to be held April 8, 2015 at the War Memorial Auditorium.

Information is power! Membership in the Tennessee Nurses Association and the American Nurses Association will keep you up-to-date on Legislation affecting the nursing practice. **Join Today!**

Founded in 1905, TNA is the only full-service professional organization for the state's 80,000 plus registered nurses. The mission of TNA is to promote and protect the registered nurse and advance the practice of nursing in order to assure a healthier Tennessee.

practice and ensuring my practice in the state of Tennessee.

I became a member of TNA-District 1, while attending graduate school. A course assignment required the attendance and summary of a professional meeting. Daphne Beech, Jennifer Johnson (both FNPs), and I selected TNA District-1 (Memphis). There were two outcomes that came from this meeting; the first was we recognized the need of our involvement, (mainly because of the agenda), and the second fact was that we were the only three of color involved. The challenge of health care issues that impacted all nurses was discussed and nurses of color were not present for input. Although our educational obligations were not completed, we unanimously decided to become members. TNA is the cocoon that makes it possible for all nurses to have a voice, which assisted all nurses to evolve into the butterflies that we are today.

Upon completing my educational goals, I relocated to District 10 and began employment with the University of Tennessee at Martin, Department of Nursing. I also married Charles Sellars and became the mother of six beautiful blended daughters and I have had opportunities to serve the district in many local, state and regional endeavors.

TNA is still speaking, making decisions and advocating on my behalf. Changes, guidelines, standards, and practice are being shaped and I am a part of this great organization. The association is working hard to help the nursing profession to evolve into what we are today. I am thankful that my membership in TNA provides me with updates and keeps me current regarding legislation, guidelines, and changes that affect practice; to strengthen and empower nurses to continually do what we do best: to provide safe care for our patients and families in a safe environment. I have discovered that the power of an individual does increase input in the organizational decision-making process and this has led to major changes; and, there are numerous more nurses of color involved. **I invite you to Join TNA today!**

The Tennessee Nurse is the official publication of the Tennessee Nurses Foundation, 545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 405, Nashville, TN 37228-1296
 Phone: 615/254-0350 • Fax: 615/254-0303
 Email: tnf@tnaonline.org
 Published exclusively by the Tennessee Nurses Foundation and the Arthur L. Davis Publishing Agency, Inc.

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The official publication of the Tennessee Nurses Foundation shall be the Tennessee Nurse. The purpose of the publication shall be to support the mission of the Tennessee Nurses Foundation and Tennessee Nurses Association through the communication of nursing issues, continuing education and significant events of interest. The statements and opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the association, its staff, its Board of Directors, or editors of the Tennessee Nurse.

Article Submissions: The Tennessee Nurses Foundation encourages submissions of articles and photos for publication in the Tennessee Nurse. Any topic related to nursing will be considered for publication. Although authors are not required to be members of the Tennessee Nurses Association, when space is limited, preference will be given to TNA members. Articles and photos should be submitted by email to kdenton@tnaonline.org or mailed to Managing Editor, Tennessee Nurses Foundation, 545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 405, Nashville, TN 37228-1296. All articles should be typed in Word. Please include two to three sentences of information about the author at the end of the article and list all references. Preferred article length is 750-1,000 words. Photos are welcomed as hard copies or digital files at a high resolution of 300 DPI. The Tennessee Nurses Foundation assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged articles or photos. TNF is not responsible for unsolicited freelance manuscripts or photographs. Contact the Managing Editor for additional contribution information.

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From the President

“I Am a Nurse; I Am a Leader”

Frances W. “Billie” Sills, MSN, APN, CLNC, RN,
President, TN Nurses Association

“Nurses Leading the Way” was the theme for Nurses Week 2014. Nurses have been leading since Nightingale, our first nurse leader. Every day, you step forward, embracing new technologies, working to resolve emerging issues in the delivery of healthcare, and acknowledging the ever-changing roles and titles in the profession. You lead the way for the patients, colleagues, organizations and the healthcare industry as a whole. We find ourselves stepping out of our comfort zones into unfamiliar territory to be heard, to make a difference. Being a nurse demonstrates your skills as a leader. You may not have thought about it, but for just a minute do “think about it”. You provide care and make decisions regarding the care of a group of patients, manage a team of colleagues on a busy med/surg unit or ICU, or perhaps you are the Triage Nurse in a very busy ER. You’re that home health nurse that has to see 5-8 patients that day, or one of the staff in a busy out-patient surgery setting. Regardless of the setting you put some of the basic leadership skills to work as you go about your day.



Billie Sills

As a leader you need to be up to date on the changes occurring in healthcare: new policies, systems, processes, procedures, legislation and the list goes on and on. While many of the changes are occurring in the environment that we work in, there are many more that are occurring in the State General Assembly as well as the United States Congress. It is important that each nurse understands that there are many legislative issues that affect not only nursing practice, but how we can provide care to the populations that we serve.

In the last week of April, the General Assembly closed the doors and went home...signaling the beginning of campaigning for the primaries and the mid-term elections in November. It is important that each of us get to know the candidates running for office in November 2014, as the entire Tennessee House of Representatives is up for election as is 50% of the Senate. Not only do we as nurses need to be visible to the candidates, we must also support TNA's Tennessee Nurses Political Action Committee (TNPAC). Whether we like it or not, contributing to the campaigns of candidates gets us a seat at the table and a voice in the decision-making regarding healthcare delivery. We must be the voice advocating for the citizens of TN when it comes to healthcare decisions.

Last, but certainly not least...mark your calendars for the TNA and TASN Joint Conference on October 10-12, 2014 in Murfreesboro, TN. This will be an exciting meeting as we will be putting in place the new TNA organizational structure that was adopted by the House of Delegates last year. We will come together as a Membership Assembly which will be the governing and official body of the Tennessee Nurses Association. It replaces the House of Delegates and gives each member of the organization attending the meeting a vote. The Membership Assembly identifies and discusses issues of concern to the members and provides direction to the Board of Directors. Join us and become an integral part of Team TNA as we move forward working to ensure that every nurse will have the opportunity to practice to the full extent of his/her education and experience. **All nurses** are invited to attend TNA's conference, whether or not you are a member. Everyone will enjoy two great keynote speakers, outstanding CE breakout sessions, exhibits, a silent auction, food, fun and networking! However, TNA members receive a discount on the conference registration fee among many other benefits. Visit tnaonline.org for member benefit information, a secure online membership application, and the registration form for the conference. If you have questions regarding membership, contact Tracy Depp, TNA's Communications Administrator, at tdepp@tnaonline.org.

This is a golden time for nursing, a time for us to reach out and grab the “golden ring”...See you in Murfreesboro...

From the Executive Director

New Opportunities to Participate

Sharon A. Adkins, MSN, RN

As many of you know, last year the TNA House of Delegates voted in new and exciting changes for TNA. Not only will new Board of Director positions allow you to run for your “passion”...but they expand the opportunity for you to really make a difference as we move TNA forward. The other major and equally exciting change is that now, all TNA members who attend the annual Membership Assembly (formerly known as the House of Delegates) will have a voice and vote on all issues that come before the Assembly. No longer will “delegates” be elected...YOU will vote on legislative policy, YOU will vote on positions, YOU are the voice of TNA!



Sharon Adkins

I encourage ANY of you who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors to fill out the Call for Candidates form in this issue and send to the TNA office by **July 1, 2014**.

Roles and Responsibilities TNA Board of Directors

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF BOARD EXPECTATIONS

A member of the Board:

- Provides strong leadership for the association and sets a sound and accurate course for its future;
- Actively participates in setting policy and priorities consistent with association purpose;
- Participates in the development of short-range and long-range goals and objectives reflecting association statement of purpose for evaluation and measurement of TNA program effectiveness;
- Exercises decisive administrative and leadership ability in setting a course of action for the association;
- Executes legal and fiscal responsibilities for the association on behalf of the members; and
- Acts in good faith for the best interests of the association.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

President-Elect (one year term)

- Uses this term to become familiar with TNA operations and the role of the president
- Assumes the duties of the president at the discretion of the president.

Vice President

- Assumes the duties of the president in the president's absence.
- Assumes other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.

Treasurer

- Monitors the fiscal affairs of the association.
- Participates in budget preparation
- Makes regular reports to the Board of Directors and Membership Assembly

Director, Operations

- Has general oversight for the work of the following Committees: Bylaws, Operations, Nominating and Reference; and
- Assures that committees are accomplishing assigned responsibilities.

Director, Practice

- Establishes task forces to develop position statements/action plans to address identified practice issues;
- Keeps current on practice trends, scope of practice and environmental issues affecting Tennessee nurses and their patients; and
- Makes recommendations to Government Affairs.

Director, Government Affairs

- Establishes a committee to develop the legislative platform and health policy agenda for approval by the Membership Assembly;
- With the committee, monitors legislation and legislative priorities and recommends actions to be taken; and
- Has general oversight of the TNPAC committee

Director, Membership

- Monitors and evaluates membership trends data; and
- Establishes task forces to develop strategies for recruitment and retention of members.

Director, Education

- Participates in the planning of TNA CE activities through assessing education needs, topic/speaker selection and evaluation;
- Identifies other TNA members to participate in planning; and
- Is a liaison to the Continuing Education Review Committee.

Nominating Committee

- Develops the slate of candidates for elected offices.
- Implements the policies and procedures for nominations and elections.

TERM OF OFFICE

A member of the Board is:

- Elected by the Members for a term of two years and no more than 8 consecutive years.

Proviso: Five directors will be elected in 2014. Government Affairs, Operations and Practice for 3 years, then elected in odd years. Education and Membership elected for 2 years, then elected in even years.

QUALIFICATIONS

A member of the Board should:

- Hold current TNA membership;
- Not concurrently serve as an officer or director of another organization if such participation might result in a conflict of interest with TNA;
- Exhibit loyalty and allegiance to the association;
- Have basic knowledge of association positions, programs, activities, and issues;
- Be willing to commit time sufficient to fulfill Board duties;
- Have knowledge and skills of nursing and professional organizations to the Board of Directors role;
- Be able to represent TNA's president and Board of Directors as association spokesperson; and
- Be a positive role model and advocate for nursing and TNA.

TIME COMMITMENT

The following is an **estimate** of time spent in fulfilling Board duties:

- 1 day, five times a year for Board of Directors meetings and other committee meetings held in conjunction with the board meetings;
- 2-6 hours per month on committee/task force work (conference calls, etc.); and
- 1-2 hours per week (average) reading materials and board reports from TNA.

Go Ahead....throw your “Hat in the Ring” now.

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Welcome Bethany Andrews Rhoten as the New TNPAC Chair

As the new TNPAC chair, I would like to introduce myself to all Tennessee nurses. My name is Bethany Andrews Rhoten, and I, too, am a nurse! I am currently a postdoctoral fellow at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing where I do oncology survivorship research, but previously, I have worked as a staff nurse in medical/surgical departments as well as the intensive care unit. My love for patient centered care and enhancing the quality of life of cancer survivors led me to pursue and subsequently complete my PhD in Nursing Science in December of 2013.



Bethany Andrews Rhoten, PhD, MSN, RN, ACNP-BC Chair, Tennessee Nurses Political Action Committee (TNPAC)

One thing I love about nursing is that there are so many areas where nurses can be effective advocates for both our patients and our profession. I took the role of TNPAC chair because I felt that this was an area where I could be an effective advocate for nurses in Tennessee. So many decisions are made each year during the legislative session that impact our practice and the health of our patients. **I find that one of the most important things we can do is educate our legislators.** One of the best ways we can do that is by speaking collectively as a group through our TNPAC donations. Legislators pay attention to these donations to their campaigns. Having greater access to legislators through PAC donations is an important step in relationship-building and maintaining, particularly when legislation specifically impacting Tennessee nurses is introduced.

Today I challenge you to donate to TNPAC. No amount is too small. Your donation enables us to speak collectively and have a stronger voice at the Tennessee General Assembly.

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Call for Candidates 2014

In 2014, TNA will elect the following positions: **Treasurer, President Elect, Vice President and two members of the Nominating Committee, Director- Education, Director-Membership, Director-Operations, Director-Practice, and a Director-Government Affairs.** If you wish to run for office, please fill out this form and return it to the TNA office. **Forms must be received in the TNA office by July 1, 2014.** Fax to (615) 254-0303 or mail to 545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 405, Nashville, TN 37228-1296. Email: bmartin@tnaonline.org

Name _____ Credentials _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone _____

Email _____

Current Employer _____

Position _____

Candidate for _____

Briefly describe your qualifications and interest in serving.

By signing this form, if you are elected, you agree to:

1. Assist TNA in implementing the goals of the organization.
2. Actively support all resolutions approved at the Membership Assembly.
3. Attend meetings as required in the TNA Bylaws.
4. My membership in the Tennessee Nurses Association is current.

TNA Membership # _____ I am currently a member of TNA District # _____

_____ Signature

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2014 TNA & TASN Joint Conference

Save the Date!

2014 TNA & TASN Joint Conference

October 10 - 12, 2014
Embassy Suites SE –
Murfreesboro
Murfreesboro, TN

The Tennessee Nurses Association and the Tennessee Association of Student Nurses presents the *2014 TNA & TASN Joint Conference!* **If you are looking for educational sessions to ignite and sustain you in your nursing journey, this is it!**

Nurses are poised to be leaders in healthcare transformation. This year's conference will address issues from the boardroom to the bedside. Topics will range from a provocative healthcare financing presentation to new models of patient care. In addition, the joint conference offers a forum for networking allowing plenty of opportunities for you and your colleagues to meet for the first time, or catch up with those you've met along the way. Plus, the outstanding Poster Presentation session is a must see.

You will want to get settled in at Embassy Suites Friday afternoon, October 10. TNA activities begin Friday at 6 p.m. with TNA's Welcome Reception, exhibits and the TNF Silent Auction. TNA's registration desks will open at 3 p.m. for your convenience.

Membership Assembly

This year will be the inaugural TNA Membership Assembly. **All TNA members who attend** the Annual Conference **will be eligible to vote** on all issues, positions, resolutions and policies brought before the assembly. Don't miss this chance to let **YOUR** voice be heard!

TNF Silent Auction

The Tennessee Nurses Foundation will hold its ninth *TNF Silent Auction* and will offer a unique assortment of items for sale with proceeds going to **support nurses** through TNF's programs. Donations are being accepted through 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 11; the last day of the auction.

TNA Achievement Awards Gala

The *TNA Achievement Awards Gala* held on Saturday evening, October 11, offers an opportunity to honor nurses and other individuals by acknowledging their exceptional dedication, commitment and professionalism to the profession of nursing.

We ask all TNA members to consider nominating someone today. The deadline for nominations is August 22. Visit www.tnaonline.org for details. We have all crossed paths with outstanding nurses. Don't put off sending in your nomination.

Exhibits & Schools of Nursing Luncheon

The *Exhibits & Schools of Nursing Luncheon* held Saturday, October 11, allows all attendees to visit with the large variety of vendors who exhibit and learn more about new products and services. It also offers a great opportunity for graduates, from the many schools of nursing, to visit with alumni and gives student nurses and seasoned nurses the chance to network and get to know one another.

Joint Conference

The purpose of this joint conference is to promote mentoring opportunities between seasoned nurses and nursing students. We ask that you take some time out to get acquainted with the future of nursing while you are with us.

Joint Conference continued on page 6



TNA & TASN Joint Conference

October 10 - 12, 2014

Embassy Suites SE - Murfreesboro
1200 Conference Center Boulevard
Murfreesboro, TN 37129



Registration Form



Please Print

Name _____ Credentials _____

First Name for Badge _____ TNA Member I.D.# / RN License# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Nursing Area _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

I am a: TNA Member Non-Member Full-time Student Retiree New Member First Time Attendee

Please change my membership record to reflect the above information.

Checking here indicates TNA will not provide your contact data to sponsors, exhibitors or attendees of this event.

I require special accommodations to participate in this program. Please specify:

Vegetarian Meals Diabetic Meals Food Allergy Identify Allergy _____

Please complete the following information by entering a check mark beside activities you will attend.

Note: These activities are included in your registration fee unless otherwise indicated.

By completing this information TNA can ensure that we provide adequate counts for meal and break functions.

- Friday, October 10**
- Evening Reception _____
- Saturday, October 11**
- Luncheon with Exhibitors _____
- Awards Gala _____
- Sunday, October 12**
- Boxed Lunch _____

Need More Information? Contact TNA by phone 615-254-0350, by FAX 615-254-0303, by email tna@tnaonline.org, by visiting our website at www.tnaonline.org, or by mail 545 Mainstream Drive, Ste. 405, Nashville, TN 37228-1296.

2014 TNA & TASN Joint Conference



Joint Conference continued from page 5

Hotel Information – Embassy Suites – SE Murfreesboro

To make a room reservation at the Embassy Suites – SE Murfreesboro, you may visit <http://embassysuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/tennessee/embassy-suites-nashville-se-murfreesboro-MBTESES/index.html> or you may call 1-800-EMBASSY or 615-890-4464 and mention the conference name and the group code of NSS. The special room rate of \$139 per night plus tax will be available until the group block is filled and includes a full, made-to-order, breakfast and afternoon cocktail hour. The cut-off date for the discounted rate is Wednesday, September 17, 2014. The Embassy Suites – SE Murfreesboro offers complimentary guest parking.

Call For Resolutions

The Tennessee Nurses Association is issuing a formal Call for Resolutions for the 2014 TNA Membership Assembly to be held during the TNA & TASN Joint Conference on October 10-12, 2014 at the Embassy Suites SE Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Resolutions can be submitted by any TNA member. **If you wish to submit a Resolution, please submit it in writing to TNA no later than August 5, 2014.** If you should need assistance, please contact Barbara at the TNA office at bmartin@tnaonline.org.

2014 TNA & TASN Joint Conference Registration Fees										
NOTE: Only paid registrants, displaying an official TNA conference name badge will be allowed entrance to conference program events. <small>The Tennessee Nurses Association is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.</small>	Early Bird Registration (Must be postmarked by 8/19/14)			Regular Registration (Postmarked between the dates of 8/20/14 until 9/30/14)			On-Site Registration (On-Site Registrations will be accepted after 10/1/14)			Amount
	Member	Non-Member	TNA Member Full Time Student or Retiree	Member	Non-Member	TNA Member Full Time Student or Retiree	Member	Non-Member	TNA Member Full Time Student or Retiree	
Conference Registration Options - Friday, October 10 through Sunday, October 12, 2014										
Full Registration - Includes Friday's Welcome Event featuring exhibits, food, music, silent auction opening and networking opportunities, attendance to all educational activities, entrance to Saturday Awards Gala, Exhibit Hall, Saturday Luncheon, all Breaks and Membership Assembly	\$275	\$325	\$245	\$290	\$340	\$260	\$315	\$365	\$285	\$
Saturday Only - Includes educational activities for the day, entrance to Exhibit Hall, Luncheon, Awards Gala, and Breaks	\$220	\$255	\$200	\$240	\$275	\$220	\$260	\$295	\$240	\$
Sunday Only - Includes educational activities for the day, Breaks, Boxed Lunch, and Membership Assembly	\$75	\$95	\$55	\$95	\$115	\$75	\$115	\$135	\$95	\$
Guest Tickets (Additional Guests Only)	Guest Ticket Pricing						Quantity Ordered			
Saturday - Exhibits and Schools of Nursing Luncheon	\$30 each								\$	
Saturday - Awards Gala	\$45 each								\$	
Total Amount Due – Registration & Guest Tickets										\$
PAYMENT METHOD										
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Tennessee Nurses Association Members Only Request for Absentee Ballot

Please send an absentee ballot for the 2014 Tennessee Nurses Association election. **“Request for Absentee Ballot” must be received at TNA by September 10, 2014.** I understand that mailing this ballot to me in the manner and form approved discharges TNA's responsibility to me in the matter of absentee voting. Absentee ballots will be mailed September 12, 2014.

I further understand that requesting an absentee ballot removes my name from the list of eligible voters at the TNA Annual Conference. No “group requests” will be honored. Fill in this Request for Absentee Ballot form and return it by:

- Email to Barbara Martin at bmartin@tnaonline.org
- Fax to (615)254-0303
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Completed absentee ballots must be received at TNA headquarters by the close of business on October 6, 2014.

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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Wilhelmina Davis
Manager of Government Affairs

On Thursday, April 17, 2014, both House and Senate Speakers announced the closing of the 108th Tennessee General Assembly and adjourned the legislative session sine die. However, before the members scurried off to their respective districts, there were last minute and 11th hour work to be completed. Legislators work diligently to finish business in a timely manner as they maneuvered through the many pieces of legislation and this year's early adjournment can be credited to the reduced number of bills introduced.

Although Medicaid expansion was on the mind of many of our legislators and bills were introduced requesting the expansion, again this year we did not see any movement toward making it a reality. As a matter of fact, we witnessed attempts at the continuation of blocking Medicaid expansion with bills such as; SB804 / HB937, which prohibit the governor from making any decision or obligating the state in any way with regard to the expansion of optional enrollment in the medical assistance program, pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, unless authorized by joint resolution of the general assembly. This legislation passed and has been enacted as Public Chapter 0662 effective April 14, 2014.

We wish to thank Representative JoAnne Favors and Senator Mark Green for introducing and passing HB1556/SB1754, TNA sponsored legislation allowing the exemption of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses from subpoena to trial, thereby allowing for subpoena to deposition. The legislation has been enacted as Public Chapter 590.

TNA worked diligently this legislative session with sponsors and advocates on HB1583/SB1445, legislation introduced to allow the administration of insulin by trained volunteer school personnel. Although, the legislation called for the training to be performed by Registered Nurses, to alleviate some concerns with the bill, TNA offered amendatory language which was adopted and became part of the bill. The bill includes the following; the school nurse shall be under no duress to qualify any volunteer;

the school nurse may encourage the use of insulin pens to reduce the number of syringes in schools when available and appropriate; the school nurse may train as many school personnel as volunteer, but seek to ensure at least two volunteers are available. The bill further requires written authorization from the student's parent or guardian giving permission for the school nurse or trained volunteer to participate in the student's diabetes care. As permissive legislation, the bill allows a local board of education or the government board of a non-public school to permit volunteer school personnel to administer insulin. The bill also requires the Department of Health and the Department of Education to update the "Guidelines for use of Health Care Professionals and Health Care Procedures in a School Setting" for use by schools to train volunteers to administer insulin and glucagon. The bill passed and is now Public Chapter 614.

During the waning hours of the legislative floor session, another bill that kept TNA and other healthcare advocates on Capitol Hill was the debate and discussions around the revamping of consumer purchases of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. This legislation was part of the Administration's package of bills to help curb over the counter sales of certain allergy medications being used to manufacture and produce methamphetamine. The original bill had called for purchases to be prescription only. TNA, along with others in the provider community objected to the mandate of prescription only. After much discussion and thoughtful deliberation, the bill was amended to set certain limitation of purchased amounts to 5.76 grams in a period of thirty days or 28.8 grams in a one-year period. However, the limits will not apply if the patient has a prescription from their healthcare provider. The bill also states that persons under 18 years of age cannot make a purchase of medications containing either ephedrine or pseudoephedrine unless they have a valid prescription from a licensed healthcare provider. After much debate and the adoption of a compromised conference committee report, SB1751/HB1574 passed both houses.

As reported to the membership throughout this legislative session, the following bills were of interest to TNA and our membership.

SB548 / HB44 Helmet exemption for certain motorcycle operators. – Failed in Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee.

SB1142 / HB926 Utilization review of preauthorizations for health care services. – Revises various provisions of this bill. Removes the portion of the bill's definition of preauthorization. Removes provisions whereby if no independently developed evidence-based standards exist for a particular health care item, treatment, test, or imaging procedure, the utilization review agent may not deny coverage of it based solely on the grounds that it does not meet and evidence-based standard. Specifies that the clinical criteria of the bill be based on nationally recognized standards. Removes the provisions requiring the criteria to reflect community standards of care and be sufficiently flexible to allow deviations from norms when justified on a case by case basis. **Sent to Governor for signature.**

SB1391 / HB1295 Illegally taking a narcotic drug while pregnant. – Alters provisions regarding assaultive offenses to victims that are viable fetuses. Clarifies that a woman may be prosecuted for assault against her viable fetus for the illegal use of a narcotic drug under certain conditions. Creates an affirmative defense to such prosecution if the woman is actively enrolled in a recovery program before the child is born and completes other certain conditions. **Governor signed May 1, 2014.**

SB1482 / HB1508 Additional fine for certain assault convictions. – Failed in Senate Judiciary Committee after a 4 to 4 vote.

SB1502 / HB1494 Certain physician assistants to perform duties of a physician. – Under present law, in regards to the involuntary admission of an individual to an inpatient mental health facility, the commissioner may designate a person to take any action authorized or duty imposed on a physician if the person is a qualified mental health official, is licensed or certified to practice in the state if required for the profession, and completes a training program on emergency commitment criteria and procedures that is approved and provided by the department. This bill adds a "licensed physician's assistant with a master's degree and expertise in psychiatry as determined by training,

education or experience" to the persons the commissioner may so designate, if the person meets the other described requirements. The board will determine if the physician assistant has an expertise in psychiatry, based on the training, education or experience of the individual. **Enacted as Public Chapter 0688 effective April 15, 2014.**

SB1527 / HB1604 Sunset-extends the board of nursing. – Extends the board of nursing on June 30, 2018. **Enacted as Public Chapter 0602 effective April 4, 2014.**

SB1629 / HB1425 Online applications - various health-related professions. – Authorizes the use of online applications for all occupations regulated by the division of health related boards and for all occupations regulated by any board, commission, committee, agency or other governmental entity created in title 63, title 68, chapter 24 and title 68, chapter 140, part 3. Requires department annual health care facility and pharmacy survey inspection reports to be available to the public pursuant to the conditions of making medical records public. **Sent to the speakers for signatures.**

SB1630 / HB1426 Controlled substances database report - health care providers. – Includes in the list of persons who may receive patient-specific information from the controlled substance database a prescriber, healthcare practitioner or dispenser who may place a copy of a patient's report from that database in that patient's medical records. Provides that upon having been placed in the medical record, the report obtained from the database shall be subject to the same terms and conditions as other medical records under present law. Authorizes committee, board of pharmacy, or department of health personnel and any designee appointed by the committee engaged in analysis of controlled substance prescription information as a part of the duties of their employment to publish, or otherwise make available to prescribers and to the public, aggregate unidentifiable personal data contained in or derived from the database for the purpose of educational outreach. **Enacted as Public Chapter 0622 effective July 1, 2014.**

SB1663 / HB1512 Dispensing of controlled substances. – Requires any healthcare practitioner to notify such practitioner's licensing board within 10 days of starting or ending work at a pain management clinic. Provides for certain environments in which a medical practitioner may prescribe opioids or benzodiazepines. Requires practitioners that are no longer able to prescribe opioids or benzodiazepines to, within 10 days after the effective date of this act, ensure that the undispensed inventory of opioids and benzodiazepines purchased under the prescriber's drug enforcement administration number for dispensing is returned to a licensed third party reverse distributor or local law enforcement agency. Requires wholesalers to buy back any undispensed opioids or benzodiazepines that are in the manufacturer's original packaging, unopened, and in date, in accordance with the established policies of the wholesaler or the contractual terms between wholesaler and the practitioner concerning returns. Requires wholesalers to design and operate a system which tracks suspicious orders of controlled substances. Adds two additional exceptions to the prohibition against health care prescribers dispensing an opioid or benzodiazepine for: (1) The dispensing of an opioid or benzodiazepine by a physician practice, which provides health care services as part of a coordinated care model, that: (A) Dispenses opioids and benzodiazepines, as directed by the patient's prescription, in safety-sealed and unit-dosed prepackaged containers stamped with the manufacturer's national drug code (NDC) number; (B) Administers and records pill-counts for opioids or benzodiazepines in order to ensure patient compliance with the prescription; and (C) Dispenses non-controlled substances which amount to at least fifty-percent (50%) of the prescriptions filled annually from the practice; or (2) The dispensing of an opioid or benzodiazepine by a veterinarian in the course of the veterinarian's practice. **Sent to the Governor for signature.**

SB1768 / HB1656 Authorizes certification of registered nurse first assistants. – Authorizes the certification of registered nurse first assistants. Requires such profession to be a licensed registered nurse, to be certified in perioperative nursing, and to have completed an approved registered nurse first assistant education program. **Sent to the Governor for signature.**

Government Affairs continued on page 9

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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Government Affairs continued from page 8

SB1853 / HB2171 Nurse practitioners - change of supervising physician. – Changes current Consumer Right-to-Know statute. Requires advance practice nurses who hold a certificate of fitness and physician assistants to keep the name of the current supervising physician updated within the information maintained by the Department of Health (DOH). Requires DOH to allow a supervising physician to, at any time, review, accept, and update the existence of a supervisory relationship between the physician and any advance practice nurse who hold a certificate of fitness or a physician assistant. On or after January 1, 2015, DOH shall use the supervisory relationships in the controlled substance monitoring database (CSMD) to update provider profiles. **Sent to the Governor for signature.**

SB1992 / HB2139 Authorizes collaborative pharmacy practice. – Authorizes collaborative pharmacy practice agreements (CPPAs) and sets out the legal parameters for CPPAs involving pharmacists and health care practitioners with prescriptive authority. Prohibits a retail pharmacy from employing an individual with prescribing authority for the purpose of maintaining, establishing or entering into a collaborative practice agreement with a patient. Specifies that nothing shall prevent a pharmacy or pharmacist or group of pharmacists from employing or entering into a professional contract with a physician or licensed medical practitioner for the purpose of conducting quality assurance reviews of its pharmacists that are engaged in the practice of collaborative drug therapy. **Sent to Governor for signature.**

SB2000 / HB1939 Drug prescription requirements. – Defines “chronic non-malignant pain treatment” and redefines “pain management clinic” in statute and the type of services offered by a pain management clinic. Specifies that the urine drug screening conducted by providers in accordance with a written drug screening compliance plan are to be pursuant to the rules promulgated by the department of health. **Enacted as Public Chapter 0700 effective July 1, 2014.**

SB2019 / HB1837 Health Care Compact. – Failed in House Insurance & Banking Committee.

SB2029 / HB1807 Renewal of an ambulance service license. – Allows emergency medical personnel under medical direction to provide care that is not EMS, including non-emergency care or transportation by ambulance, and to treat patients on scene who do not require transport. Provides that nothing in this part shall be construed to allow a provider of emergency medical services to function as a “homecare organization.” **Enacted as Public Chapter 0715 effective July 1, 2014.**

SB2033 / HB1896 Tennessee Patient Safety Cosmetic Medical Procedures Act. – Requires any medical spa in this state to, in advertisements and signage located at any such practice site, provide the credentials or lack thereof of the respective medical director or supervising physician. Defines “medical spa” as any entity which offers or performs cosmetic medical services; provided, that the medical spa shall not include a practice owned by a physician. Defines “cosmetic medical services” as any service that uses a biologic or synthetic material, a chemical application, a mechanical device, or a displaced energy form of any kind that alters or damages, or is capable of altering or damaging living tissues to improve the patient’s appearance or achieve an enhanced aesthetic result. Requires medical spas to display the name of the medical director or supervising physician and other identifying information. **Sent to the speakers for signatures.**

SB2050 / HB1895 Telehealth insurance coverage. – Expands the definition of telehealth to include store and forward telemedicine services. Requires the provider to be a qualified site and that the patient be at a qualified site or at a school clinic equipped to engage in telemedicine. Makes telehealth providers subject to the same contractual requirements as other providers in the network. Clarifies that the insurer is not required to reimburse an amount that exceeds the amount paid for in-person services. Excludes certain insurance policies from the provisions of the bill. Deletes the requirement that the telehealth service be in the presence of another healthcare provider. **Enacted as Public Chapter 0675 effective January 1, 2015.**

SB2131 / HB2248 Prohibits LEA to mail information on Affordable Care Act. – Prohibits LEAs from including information on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in mailings to families of students concerning medical assistance, TennCare, or the

children’s health insurance program. **House passed, however, the bill was taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.**

SB2246 / HB2049 Limiting students’ exposure to harmful substances while at school. – Requires school districts and schools to encourage the use of less toxic products for all their projects and to encourage other measures that would limit students’ exposure to harmful substances while at school. Add room fresheners and aerosol sprays to the list of potentially harmful pollutants. **Enacted as Public Chapter 0703 effective April 15, 2014.**

SB2302 / HB1657 Prescribers dispensing non-narcotic schedule V controlled substances. – Authorizes licensed prescribers who work at a pain management clinic to dispense without charge a sample of a nonnarcotic schedule V controlled substance in an amount adequate to treat a patient for a maximum of 14 days. **Sent to Governor for signature.**

SB2377 / HB2123 Required suicide prevention training. – Taken off notice in House and Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

SB2427 / HB2303 Health Care Provider Stability Act. – Sen. Bo Watson / Rep. Jon Lundberg provides that a third party may not effect material change to a contract under which a health care provider is paid for providing items or services during either the first year of the contract or the initial term of the contract, whichever is longer. States that after the initial term or first year of the contract in which a health care provider is paid, the third-party payer may only effect a material change on the renewal date of the contract or the anniversary if the effective date of the contract, whichever is longer. **House sponsor requested bill to summer study.**

Now that the 108th legislative session has come to an end, it’s time to focus our attention on the upcoming elections. This year, all 99 members of the House and 17 Senators representing odd number districts will be on the ballot for election or re-election. TNA encourages the membership to visit with your local legislators and those new persons wanting to represent you on Capitol Hill. We encourage the membership, when the opportunity is available to invite candidates to your district meetings or other events you may have scheduled in the district. Keep in mind, candidates, as well as incumbent legislators; want to hear from nurses across the state. As a registered nurse in Tennessee, you are a part of the largest group of healthcare professionals in this state and politicians rely on you for support and knowledge of healthcare issues.

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Spotlight on Practice

Advanced Practice Provider Mentoring Pilot Project: Program Development and Evaluation

Roxelyn Baumgartner, MS, RN, ANP-BC
Ty Williams, DNP, RN, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC

Introduction

Fast-paced changes in health care demand that advanced practice providers (APPs), identified as nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, certified nurse midwives, clinical nurse specialists and physician assistants, establish themselves as leaders from day one. Graduate education addresses leadership responsibilities, but graduates often lack the necessary tools to actualize scholarship and leadership in addition to clinical practice. Similarly, institutions have historically concentrated professional development initiatives on the immediate orientation needs of new APPs. While important to ensure the immediate success of APPs, these programs do not focus on long-term professional development needs or peer networking. One strategy to meet these needs, mentoring, has been embraced across disciplines as a tool to guide professional growth and advance leadership skills.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC), which employs over 600 APPs, needed a mechanism to nurture and professionally challenge these providers. Guided by the Strong Model of Advanced Practice, a needs assessment survey was developed and administered which identified gaps in competencies across five domains of practice: direct patient care, education, research, leadership, and support of systems. Further, respondents indicated that

mentoring was a potentially effective strategy to bridge identified gaps. As a result, a one-year group APP mentoring pilot program and comprehensive evaluation plan were developed. The purpose of this article is to briefly describe the pilot's design, results and implications.

Background

During the summer of 2010, VUMC's advanced practice nursing orientation committee identified the need for nurturing APPs after orientation and throughout their work lives. This led to the formation of a mentoring subcommittee, consisting of six experienced advanced practice nurses (APNs) from across the medical center who were tasked with exploring APPs' professional development needs. After an extensive literature review, the subcommittee adopted the Strong Model of Advanced Practice (Fig. 1) as the conceptual framework for the needs assessment survey, highlighting the model's applicability to practice.

An existing needs assessment tool, designed by Doerksen (2009), was modified and expanded to obtain more comprehensive data about VUMC APPs. The survey solicited demographic data and domain-specific responses through a series of multiple choice, closed questions. Respondents evaluated their proficiency in advanced practice competencies (Fig. 2) and the usefulness of mentoring for each competency. Novice to expert status and mentoring usefulness were rated on five-point Likert scales.

After IRB approval, the electronic survey was distributed to 400 APPs; 42% (n = 167) responded. Figure 3 summarizes the needs assessment survey results. The majority of respondents rated themselves as advanced beginners in three of the Strong Model domains, research, leadership and support of systems. Respondents also indicated that a mentoring program would be useful to develop competency in each of the three domains.

Following data analysis, the subcommittee concluded that a mentoring pilot program would be an effective strategy to meet APPs' professional development needs. The needs assessment findings were presented to nursing leadership, who approved the development of the APP group mentoring pilot.

Program Design

Inspired by the needs assessment results, an ambitious one-year APP group mentoring program was launched. Original subcommittee members agreed to participate as mentors and began building the pilot infrastructure.

The pilot's primary objective was to highlight APPs' value, defined as positive contributions to the patient, profession, and institution. Additional objectives included: development of leadership skills; provision of networking opportunities; facilitation of each participant's production of a pilot related-project; and, incorporation of the Strong Model into practice.

Pilot participants represented the medical center's diversity and worked in the following areas: pediatric and adult critical, acute and ambulatory care; and pediatric anesthesia. The convenience sample included 10 mentees and nine mentors. Mentors were recruited from leadership recommendations and later self-selected into areas of content expertise. Mentees were solicited from leadership and peer recommendations and were divided into three small groups, designed to encourage networking. Mentors and mentees were asked to sign participation agreements committing to the pilot program and received participant handbooks that detailed program requirements and expectations. Next, approvals were obtained from direct supervisors to facilitate scheduling and ensure administrative support. To develop an evaluation strategy for the pilot, expert consultants were recruited from VUMC and Vanderbilt University School of Nursing.

Figure 4 illustrates the program design and timeline. Large-group orientation kicked-off the pilot in September 2011. The small group mentors lead three consecutive, three-month cycles of their assigned content area: leadership, research, or support of systems. For the pilot, the support of systems small group focused on financial implications of practice and was known as the finance group. The mentee small groups rotated through each of the three content areas. To encourage large group discussions of current topics and facilitate networking, journal clubs were conducted every fourth month. To evaluate the pilot program's effectiveness, pre and post-surveys, in addition to three content cycle surveys, were used. Demographic data was captured during the pre-survey to fully describe the sample; competency self-evaluations and program satisfaction were measured in all subsequent surveys. Mentor and mentee data were analyzed separately and in aggregate.

Results

Results from five surveys were analyzed. Ninety-five percent of participants (n=18) completed the pilot. All participants, except for one who relocated out of state,

Spotlight on Practice continued on page 11

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Spotlight on Practice

Spotlight on Practice continued from page 10

were still employed at the medical center at the end of the 18-month evaluation period. One hundred percent of participants agreed the group mentoring pilot provided valuable experiences and enhanced the understanding of the APP role. Participants also unanimously agreed the program was relevant, meaningful and should be continued.

The majority of participants (60%) reported the leadership module as the most valuable content area. Evaluation data reflected improvement in all competencies related to leadership and research. However, the finance-related item "growing a fiscally responsible practice" yielded unexpected results. After discussion with consultants, this deviation was determined to be related to a flaw in the question itself, rather than participant attitudes.

Projects

To demonstrate individual professional value, mentors and mentees were expected to develop at least one "product" by the end of the 18-month evaluation period. During pilot orientation project expectations were reviewed: pilot projects were expected to provide concrete examples of each APP's value; and, projects could take the form of a quality improvement project, financial initiative, professional presentation, authorship of publication, or professional involvement at the local, state, national or international levels. Small group meetings provided ongoing opportunities for project sharing, brainstorming, and problem solving. Projects were presented at the pilot's conclusion in a celebratory event where VUMC administrators, supervisors, and peers appreciated the work of the group. Figure 5 highlights selected participant projects.

Conclusions

The APP group mentoring pilot program represented an effort to build leaders by example, nurturing, and networking. Pilot results informed the development of a formal mentoring program at VUMC, the "Leadership Excellence in Advanced Practice (LEAP!) Mentoring Program," also based on the group mentoring model. Leadership development forms the foundation for the formalized curriculum, which includes continuing education credit and project development. In conclusion, the group mentoring pilot program provided a forum for APPs to address unmet needs, develop professional networks, enhance performance, achieve professional goals, and contribute to the mission of VUMC.

Reference:

Doerksen, K. (2010). What are the professional development and mentorship needs of advanced practice nurses? *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 26, 141-151. doi: 10.1016/j.profnurs.2009.04.005

Fig 1.

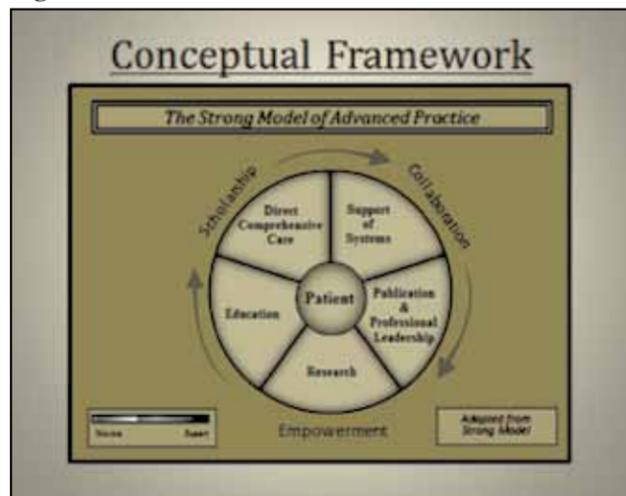


Fig.2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

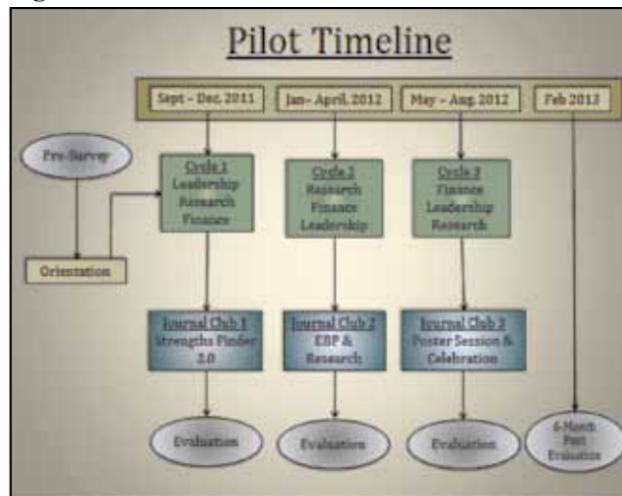
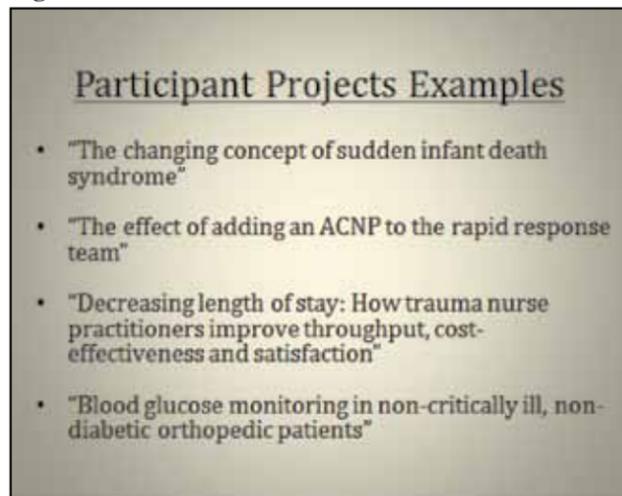


Fig. 5



Reminder: Advanced Practice Requirement

Temeka R. Tunstall, MSN, RN, FNP-BC
Nurse Consultant, State of Tennessee, Department of Health, Board of Nursing
Approved by Elizabeth Lund, MSN, RN
Executive Director, State of Tennessee, Department of Health, Board of Nursing

Tennessee Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) with a certificate of fitness are required, pursuant to Rules of the Tennessee Board of Nursing Chapter 1000-04-4 (4) (a) (b) (c) (5), to maintain a current notice and formulary on file with the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

(4) A nurse who has been issued a certificate of fitness shall file a notice with the Board of Nursing containing:

- The nurse's full name;
 - A copy of the formulary describing the categories of legend drugs to be prescribed and/or issued by the nurse; and
 - The name of the licensed physician having supervision, control and responsibility for prescriptive services rendered by the nurse.
- (5) Every nurse who has been issued a certificate of fitness shall be responsible for updating the information submitted pursuant to paragraph (4) within thirty (30) days of the change.

APNs should, at a minimum, annually verify accuracy of the posted practitioner profile which includes the notice and formulary. APNs found out of compliance with this rule are subject to Board of Nursing discipline including but not limited to civil penalties.

- To view your current profile, go to health.state.tn.us/Licensure/, enter license number and profession and click on the Practitioner Profile link.
- To add or change any notice and formulary required information including supervising physician, go to health.state.tn.us/boards/Nursing/PDFs/PH-3625.pdf, print the document, make changes, obtain signatures and mail original documents directly to:

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Building Strong Relationships

Carole R. Myers, PhD, RN
Chairman, TNA Government Affairs Committee



Carole Myers

By the time you read this article, our Tennessee citizen Legislators will have been back home in their legislative districts across Tennessee for weeks pursuing their occupations and engaging in family and community life. We hear so much about the legislators and their actions and votes the three to four months the Tennessee General Assembly is in session but relatively little other times of the year. We need to change this paradigm and take advantage of the opportunity to build strong, reciprocal relationships with our elected officials when they are home and part of the communities they represent.

A general conception is that our interactions should occur with legislators while the General Assembly is in-session and that our interactions primarily consist of admonishments to vote one way or another. This is actually contradictory to what constitutes a relationship. A relationship is a connection that is nurtured over time, based on common interests, mutually beneficial, and respectful.

All of the Tennessee Representatives and one-half of the Senators will be elected (or re-elected) in November 2014. This means that candidates will spend the summer campaigning in advance of the August primaries. Those who prevail in the primaries will campaign late summer and through the fall for the general election. While the candidates are in-district campaigning and engaging in everyday activities as we do--working, socializing, and participating in various activities with their kids, other family members, at church, and in various other organizations--we need to establish and nurture relationships. As nurses, we can use the summer and fall to introduce ourselves to candidates and discuss issues related to health and health care in Tennessee.

The last election for state legislators resulted in 8 new Senators and 23 new Representatives being elected to office. This represented major turnover...and many opportunities. This year 26 incumbent lawmakers, 20 Republicans and 6 Democrats, will face challengers in the August primaries. Eleven incumbents are retiring*. Ten of the eleven open seats will feature contested primaries. In the eleventh race, the newcomer candidate will become a state Representative without facing an opponent. Seven incumbent Senators and 26 Representatives have no opposition in the primary or general election.

Incumbent Senators serving on the Health and Judiciary Committees where bills are closely monitored and worked by TNA and nurses across the state in contested races include: Stacy Campfield (R-Knoxville, Judiciary), Brian Kelsey (R-Germantown, Chair of Judiciary), and Ophelia Ford (D-Memphis, Judiciary). Other Senators facing opposition include Mae Beavers (R-Mt. Juliet), John Summerville (R-Dickson), Thelma Harper (D-Nashville), and Reginald Tate (D-Memphis).

*Retiring Senators include Charlotte Burks (D-Monterey), Doug Henry (D-Nashville; serves on Senate Health Committee), and Lowe Finney (D-Jackson; serves on Senate Health Committee). Representatives include Eric Watson (R-Cleveland), Paul Bailey (R-Sparta), Dale Carr (R-Lascassas), Mike Turner (D-Nashville; serves on House Health Committee), Joshua Evans (R-Germantown), & Barrett Rich (R-Somerville; serves on House Health Committee and Chairs House Health Subcommittee).

The most prominent House member in a contested race is the House Republican Caucus Chairperson Glen Casada (R-Thompson Station). Casada is a member of the House Health Committee.

Very few of the current or past Tennessee legislators have the knowledge, expertise, and experiences about health care that nurses do, nor is this expected. State Legislators deal with an incredibly broad array of issues and bills. Think about this: there were over 2500 Senate bills and similar number of House bills filed in the two-year long 108th General Assembly. Legislators must be generalists on most issues, relying on their colleagues with specialized expertise and that of special interest groups from advocacy organizations to industry and professional organizations lobbyists.

Nurses have an essential role to play. To be influential regarding health and health care and professional issues, nurses need to share their perspectives with state legislators. It is incumbent upon us to translate the consequences, intended and unintended, of proposed or existing legislation and what is being said about the problems which generate legislation. We need to share evidence, recognizing that the value of evidence is in how it is explained and applied. As nurses, we need to have meaningful dialogue with legislators and candidates about current, proposed, and needed policies and the problem these policies are meant to address. Simply put, public policy is government's response to societal problems. We need to illustrate the impact of problems faced by the patients and populations we serve in the course of our work as nurses. We have a unique opportunity to be honest brokers that help legislators understand the problems their constituents and others in Tennessee face, the burden of these problems, and how policy can be used effectively to make improvements.

Good relationships are balanced. As we engage more with legislators it is important that we listen to them and understand that policymaking is an intricate dance with many potential partners on the dance floor, each dancing to a different beat. We need to dance with many partners and be open to possibilities.

So what does all this mean? Summer is a great time to establish and grow relationships. Candidates for office are notably open to their constituents. Although there are no assurances about who will be elected, the return on the investment of working with a candidate who is elected can be the greatest and a wonderful start or an important point in a sustained relationship. I have found that the bond formed by working on a campaign is particularly strong. In the absence of being able to say you worked on a campaign, the next best thing can be sending a letter to a newly elected legislator, introducing yourself and offering to provide information as needed...and then following through. Another great strategy is to invite candidates and your elected officials to where you practice and let them see what you encounter on a daily basis.

Nurses are powerful advocates based on our numbers, knowledge, and experiences. The *Future of Nursing* report also cites our proximity to patients. We could really amp-up our power if every legislator had a productive working relationship with one or more nurses in their district. Just before the 108th General Assembly adjourned I had the privilege of accompanying a group of student nurses on visits with their state legislators in Nashville. I have seen the future and the future is bright (amped-up!). The students I accompanied quickly established connections with their legislators, were conversant on issues of interest, announced their intentions to follow-up with legislators, visit them in-district, and one offered to help with a campaign. The future is now!

TNA/TMA Summit

On Friday May 16, leaders from the Tennessee Nurses Association and the Tennessee Medical Association meet at Belmont University to find common ground on health policy matters that could advance our goal of improving the health of our citizens. It was the first time such a meeting has occurred between these associations and it would not be an understatement to say it was historic.

The discussion focused on three topic areas, healthcare workforce, payment reform and end of life issues. Potential collaborative projects were identified and the improved communication and common effort will be the foundation for future efforts. This was an excellent opportunity to engage in productive dialogue about health priorities for our state.



Attending the TNA/TMA Summit (from the top) Laura Beth Brown, TNA Past President; Ron Kirkland, TMA Prof. Relations Committee; Jill Kinch, TNA Vice President; Doug Springer, TMA President; Elise Denny, TMA Prof. Relations Committee; Sharon Adkins, TNA Executive Director; Katie Dageford, TMA Assist. General Counsel; Chris Young, TMA Immed. Past President; and Brooks Daverman (DOH Speaker). Attending but not pictured: Michelle McDonald, TMA Board Vice Chair; Billie Sills, TNA President; Virginia Betts, TNA Past President; Sharon Bailey, TNA Treasurer; Dave Chaney, TMA Communications Director; and Cathy Taylor, Dean, Belmont College of Health Sciences.

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* Nearly one-half of the proceeds from the sale of the specialty nurse license plate, *Nurses Change Lives*, go to help support Tennessee Nurses Foundation initiatives for nurses. Some of the programs include educational scholarships and grants for leadership nursing and research. Visit tnaonline.org for details and visit often as new programs are offered.

Celebrating National Nurses Week



TNA District 1

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare recognizes outstanding nurses at the Nursing Stars Celebration, held annually during National Nurses' Week. The event recognizes the exceptional registered nurses who lead the way in providing high quality patient and family-centered care.

This year's celebration was held on Monday, May 12. Four mayors, representing Shelby County, the City of Memphis, Somerville, Tennessee, and Olive Branch, Mississippi, issued proclamations recognizing the registered nurses of Shelby and Fayette Counties. These proclamations thanked nurses for their outstanding contributions to our communities by providing cost-effective, safe, and quality care.

Susonna Guimond, an ANATNA member and 2013 Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Nurse of the Year, was the keynote speaker. Her heartfelt speech focused on nurses leading the way in the care of our patients. "And in making a difference, every time a nurse says to family, friends, or in public that he or she is a nurse, the nurse is representing the profession. Nurses comprise the majority of healthcare professionals and yet we are largely invisible. Our competence, skill, knowledge and judgment are a reflection of our image," said Guimond.



Keynote Speaker, Susonna Guimond, Clinical Nurse, Critical Care Methodist University Hospital/Memphis/ ANA/TNA Member

"Recognizing Nursing Stars and Nurses of the Year is a wonderful way to thank and honor our nurses for their commitment to caring, professionalism, innovative spirit and community involvement," said MLH Chief Nurse Executive Nikki Polis, Ph.D., RN. "They are leaders, who have immeasurable influence on the health of our community and are making a difference in patients' lives in a variety of settings – the hospital, at home, in practices and so many other areas."



MLH Nurses of the Year. Standing, l-r: MLH President and COO Michael Ugwueke; Lelia Winfield, Methodist South Hospital; Keanna Dandridge, Methodist Le Bonheur Germantown Hospital; Jessica Smith, Methodist University Hospital; Tabitha Adams, West Cancer Center; Dana Perez, Methodist Fayette Hospital; Sheri James, Methodist Olive Branch Hospital; MLH Chief Nurse Executive Nikki Polis; MLH CEO Gary Shorb. Seated, l-r: Denise Hughes, Methodist Affiliated Services; Paula Pugh, Le Bonheur; Charis Baskin, Methodist North Hospital; Lindsey Aguilar, Methodist Extended Care Hospital; Cynthia H. Wilson, Physician Alignment

TNA District 3

The Nashville *Tennessean* newspaper, in partnership with TNA, held its 12th annual *Salute to Nurses* awards and luncheon on May 6. *The Tennessean's* program was outstanding again this year and Carol Etherington, MSN, RN, FAAN, (member of TNA), gave a wonderful keynote address. Of the 181 nominations received, there were several TNA members that were nominated for an award; Beverly Byram (received the *Community Outreach Award*); Anita Chesney; Beverly Craig; Robin Crowell; Judy Eads (received the *Lifetime Achievement Award*); Steven Klintworth; Deborah Lumpkins; Tina Miller; Mary Pleas; Gail Skoglund; Lisa Sullivan and Susan Taplin. TNA congratulates all the very deserving nurses that were nominated and those that won an award.



Members of TNA are selected to serve as judges, left to right; Sandra Murabito and Bethany Rhoten. Michelle Terrell was not present. Keynote speaker, Carol Etherington



Approximately 300 nurses were in attendance at the 12th annual *Salute to Nurses* awards and luncheon

TNA District 5

During National Nurses Week, TNA District 5 (upper east TN) was highlighted on Daytime Tri-Cities, the morning edition of News Channel 11 out of Bristol, TN. In celebration of National Nurses Week, District 5 asked members of the community to send tributes honoring a special nurse in their lives. Jeremy Winegar and Myra Blankenship were chosen to be honored.



TNA District 5 President, Teresa Martin, joins co-host Amy Lynn of Daytime Tri-Cities in celebration of National Nurses Week.

On May 7th, District 5 was represented at the first *Nurses Night Out* sponsored by WTFM 98.5/102.7, Lincoln Memorial Caylor School of Nursing, and Bachman Bernard. District 5 had a table and gave a presentation highlighting what TNA can do for you.



Nurses Night Out exhibit table. TNA members from left to right: Denise Forester, Sandra Wells and Jennie Walls. Not pictured: Teresa Martin

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TNF Scholarship Revisions and Additions

We are excited to announce that the Tennessee Nurses Foundation (TNF) is thriving; and many ongoing changes and additions will be done as the TNF Board of Trustees works toward the TNF mission of promoting professional excellence in nursing.

A requirement for most of the foundation's scholarships is membership in the Tennessee Nurses Association. A nurse's professional excellence begins with the nurse supporting their profession. And, what better way is there to do that than to support the Tennessee Nurses Association. TNA protects and promotes the practice of nursing to assure a healthier Tennessee. The TNF Board of Trustees invites you to join TNA today, and take advantage of the many things TNF has to offer. Visit tnaonline.org for membership details or call 615-254-0350.

Revised Scholarships:

- The RN to BSN/MSN Scholarship is now called the RN to BSN Scholarship
- The Memorial Educational Scholarship is now called the Memorial Graduate Nursing Education Scholarship

New Scholarship:

TNF's – TNA District Educational Scholarship.

Details are coming soon but basically, during TNF's fiscal year, funding in the amount of \$2,000 will be available to each TNA District Association for the purpose of educational scholarships. Each TNA District Association will have their own criteria and selection process. As soon as the scholarship details are finalized, TNA members will receive an email.

Current TNF Initiatives:

- Nursing Research Grants
- Leadership Nursing Program
- Arthur Davis LPN to RN Scholarship Program
- Honor A Nurse
- TNA Membership Dues Scholarship Program
- Tennessee Professional Assistance Program

Visit tnaonline.org and click on the Tennessee Nurses Foundation link on the right hand side of the home page for information on all of TNF's initiatives.

TNF Awards Four Nurses with \$1,000 Scholarships



The Tennessee Nurses Foundation Board of Trustees agreed to extend the November 1, 2013 deadline for the 2013 RN to BSN/MSN Scholarship, last November, until April 1, 2014. Several applications were received; and so it gives TNF great pleasure to be able to award \$1,000 each to four outstanding nurses as they work toward continuing their nursing education.

Deborah Leggett, BSN, RN, CNN

Thank you so much for choosing me as a recipient of the Tennessee Nurses Foundation's RN to BSN/MSN Scholarship. This scholarship will allow me to continue my pursuit for my Masters of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner degree. I have been a nurse for 25 years and my dream of becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner is even closer with your generosity. Please know how grateful and honored I am to be chosen by such a prestigious organization as the Tennessee Nurses Foundation.



Christine Tomes, RN

I appreciate being awarded the Tennessee Nurses Foundation Scholarship for RN to MSN. I am currently a nursing student at Union University in the Masters of Hospital Administration program. This award will help me to meet my financial obligations for this program. Being able to continue my nursing knowledge and skills has been very rewarding for me. The TNF scholarship will help me to bring this degree to fruition in the near future.



Daniel Vickery, BSN, RN-BC

Thank you for this opportunity. This scholarship will cover my Summer 2014 semester at the University of Tennessee College of Nursing where I will be pursuing a degree as a Clinical Nurse Specialist. The skills that I develop there will mold me into a respected professional who empowers other Registered Nurses to implement evidence based practice and improve patient safety and outcomes.



Sandra Wells, BSN, RN

I am honored to be awarded the Tennessee Nurses Foundation Scholarship and would like to extended my deepest thanks to all the board members and all of the contributors to the foundation. We have four children and have been in prayer about how we would afford to buy my books and pay for my tuition for my Master degree. This scholarship is one step closer to making my dreams of becoming a Nurse Practitioner come true. I am truly blessed to be part of the Tennessee Nurses Association. Thank you again for your support.



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District 02

Adam Boggs, Crystal D. Coates, Gwendolyn E. Crenshaw, Kira N. Ellis, Judy K. Hargis, Tracie Herrell, Nancy K. Hinkle, Joy Ingram, Monica D. Kornegay, Misty Suzanne McCray, Lynette Ann Medlen, Ami Ndiaye, Lauren Michelle Oppizzi, Mary Rouleau, Jackie Sharp, Darin Scott White, Mary Zuber

District 03

Wuraola A. Adesinasi, Angela Bennett, Traci T. Boswell, Elizabeth Keeley Bowman, Jennifer Marie Cooke, Laurel Denise Corbin, Jillian Dimond, Terri Donaldson, Barry T. Dority, Dinah Drummond, Nicole S. Foster, Keri Gray, Verneda L. Herring, Sarah N. Hill, Jodi Hopper, Amy Jacky, Katherine E. Johnson, Casey M. Keen, Rhonda Teague King, Dawn Krause, Lindsay Mann, Brittany L. Marley, Devila Martin, Darlene Kay McCormick, Rachel McQuerry, Steven Ray Mead, Rodney Lynn Morton, Jenny Elizabeth Mullen, Mechele Neal, Ann Marie Overdorf, Juanita Faye Perry, Kerrie Marie Salamone, Ryan Smokovitz, David Tosh, Vanja Trubajic, Windia Wilbert, Matthew Wilder, Jacqueline Adair Wilson, Samuel James Younger

District 04

Nancy Cromie, Cathy E. Davis, Nicholas Hatcher, Pamela Lentz, Jaclyn Brooke Meek, Laura E. Mudrich, Jo'Niece Phillips, Joy L. Rogers, Joscelyn White

District 05

Jessica Anderson, Jessica Lynn Churchwell, Jana Y. Clement-Flynn, Mary Renee Johnson, Melissa V. Layne, Louann O'Dell, Christine M. Reed, Jeanette Kellum Sanders, T. Melissa Solomon, Laura Templeton, Melissa Worley,

District 06

Debra A. Goodrum

District 08

Mary H. Martin, Susan W. Thomas

District 09

Olivia Cole, Loretta J. Sells, Rebecca Ashly Stiner

District 10

Melissa Mathis

District 12

Holly Stiles

District 15

Sarah Susanne Barrett, Glenda K. Beals, Christopher Campbell Dedmon, Rachel N. Heath, Angela J. Lane, Bruce E. McLaughlin, Sammie Mosier, Donna R. Oakes, Melissa May Ott, Kathryn Owens, Susan Parker, Mary Elizabeth Rawn, Elizabeth Anne Rudd



Nursing is a calling, a way of life. Nurses rely on each other for the synergistic effect of teamwork in our efforts of care giving. It is appropriate that we honor those colleagues that have made an impact in our lives and the lives of others.

We honor you...

Cynthia K. Boyd, BA, MA, EdS, RN

Cynthia accomplished her life-long goal to become a Registered Nurse after working for 30 years as a public school elementary teacher. She is currently working in the emergency room as an RN since her graduation in 2010. During her years as a teacher, she also worked in the emergency room as an LPN and has over twenty years experience prior to her RN degree. Cynthia is great with people and her dedication is unsurpassed. *Honored by Joe T. Upton, DDS.*



Dawn M. Krause, BSN, RN

Nurse Krause exemplifies the profession of nursing. She continually seeks out opportunities to improve her practice. This Spring, she graduated from Martin Methodist with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She provides professional nursing care to her patients, leadership to her colleagues and genuine compassion to all. *Honored by Theresa R. George.*



Janet C. Vawter, RN, BSN, MBA Chief Nurse, Ambulatory Care

Daughter, Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Chief Nurse, Leader. These are the many hats of Mrs. Vawter and each one exemplifies a standard of caring and excellence. She has inspired many to continue to be the best at what they do. We honor her for her wisdom, knowledge she has imparted, and for the time she has invested in the nursing profession. *Honored by Tracy Champion and Lakeisha Hardaway.*



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Student Forum



The 2014 TASN Board of Directors

From left; Porshia Mahoro- West Regional Director; Brittany Wiggins- Middle Regional Director; Melissa Moon- East Regional Director; Abbie Pierce- Secretary; Katherine Donovan- President; Carla N. Rosser- Vice President; Taylor Bowling- Treasurer; Bobbie House- Communications Director; Bridgette Torrance-Williams - Breakthrough to Nursing; Marqueta Abraham- Legislative Director

Greetings on behalf of the Tennessee Association of Student Nurses! My name is Katherine Donovan, and I am the 2013-2014 President of TASN. I also served as the Recording Secretary on the 2012-2013 board. I proudly graduated from Tennessee Wesleyan College- Fort Sanders School of Nursing in May of 2014 with my Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Receiving this degree was the culmination of the last three years of hard work, sleepless nights, laughter, and tears. I am grateful for every up and down because they strengthened me to make me a better nurse.

My call to be a nurse didn't come until April of 2011. I can't explain it in few words so I can sum it up by calling it divine intervention. By the end of that May, I quit my job, moved back home with my family and began taking my nursing prerequisites. For a person as deliberate as me, this leap of faith is completely out of character yet I always had peace that this was what I was supposed to do, and this has continued through the entire program.

This BSN is the second Baccalaureate degree that I have received. After five long years at the University of Tennessee- Knoxville, I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Spanish in 2006. I hear students say as they finish their last exam before graduation, "I can't wait to get out of school, I'll never go back." I said those words myself back in 2006. Nursing students, don't take your education for granted. My attitude was entirely different as I finished my nursing degree. Nursing has taught me to love learning and that lifelong

learning is a vital part of nursing. Walking across that stage in your cap and gown is only the end of one part of your learning and the beginning of another.

In the month of April alone, I had the honor of attending the Tennessee Nurses Association's Legislative Summit where I had the opportunity to address 1,100 nursing students and faculty. One week to the day later, I attended the National Student Nurses Association's Annual Convention held this year in Nashville, TN. I was asked to give the welcome in the opening House of Delegates as the host state's president. I have been so proud to represent my state and my organization.

I am on the board with ten women from all walks of life, yet with one common goal which is clearly stated on our website: To empower the next generation of nurses. Nurses are the largest group of healthcare workers and are under represented within their professional organizations. Collectively, we are more likely to have our voices heard than individually. Getting students involved in their pre-professional organization from day one gives them reason to continue their involvement post-graduation and transition them to their professional association. My hope for the rest of my term as president is to see more nursing students get involved with TASN. In the state of Tennessee, our professional and pre-professional organizations collaborate to hold one conference together. The annual TNA/TASN joint conference will be held October 10-12 and this is a great opportunity for nursing students and nurses from across Tennessee to come together for a weekend of education and fun. This is also the time when elections are held for the next TASN Board of Directors. I would like to see ten driven students elected to the next TASN board. Since we cannot personally reach every student in the state of Tennessee, we ask for the assistance of nursing advisors who are an integral piece of connecting us to other nursing students. Advisors, we ask you to encourage your student leaders to consider a position at the state level and inform all students of the upcoming conference and its networking and educational opportunities. As always, we are here to answer any questions along the way. On a much lighter note and perhaps most importantly, students and faculty, enjoy your summer break because August is right around the corner!



**Katherine Donovan,
TASN President**

Local Nursing School Awarded the National Student Nurses Association's Marilyn Bagwell Leadership Development Grant

Tennessee Wesleyan College-Fort Sanders Nursing Department, in Athens, TN, was recognized at the 62nd NSNA Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee on Wednesday, April 9, 2014. The grant is awarded annually to one nursing program that wishes to establish or enhance involvement in NSNA by their school club or NSNA chapter thereby developing leadership skills among nursing students at the school level.

Faculty Advisor, Lisa Kirkland applied for a special initiative/activity grant supporting NSNA Resolution: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AMONG NURSING STUDENTS submitted by Georgia Association of Nursing Students and adopted by the NSNA House of Delegates in 2013. The selection committee appointed to review all the applications for the Marilyn Bagwell Leadership Development Grant felt that the strategies listed in the application were well thought out and supported the resolution.

Tennessee Wesleyan faculty aims to develop and enhance leadership skills for nursing students serving as class officers and student nurse association (SNA) chapter leaders by providing opportunities outside the clinical setting in which students will have the ability to illustrate leadership concepts, skills, and decision-making. Proposed strategies for achieving goals will include: 1) the establishment of a Council of Student Leaders; 2) bi-annual leadership education seminars for student leaders; 3) promote attendance at state and national student events; and 4) a culminating community health project planned and implemented by student leaders. Program outcomes will be featured in the Summer 2015 *Imprint* (NSNA publication).

Visit the sites:

- Tennessee Wesleyan College: twcnet.edu
- Tennessee Association of Student Nurses (TASN): tasnonline.org
- National Student Nurses Association: nsna.org



TWC Student Nurse Association Chapter leaders from left to right: Justin Bowers, Vice President; Amanda Watson, Treasurer; Jason Jones, President; NSNA representative's name unknown.



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TNA District News

District 1

President: *Connie McCarter*

Both the February and March meetings were well attended and those in attendance enjoyed a nice dinner and had a great time of networking with nursing colleagues around the area. TNA's District 1 President, Connie McCarter, gave an update on Legislative issues. Dawn Meek, BS, Janssen Pharmaceutical Cardiovascular Institute Executive Representative (CIER) spoke about the importance of collaboration between physicians, nurses, and legislators, continuing education, and membership in professional organizations to promote good patient outcomes. In February Davida Kruger, MSN, APN-BC, ADM-BC, Diabetes Researcher with Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, Michigan discussed advancing paradigm changes in Type II Diabetes management with the use of the diabetes medication Invokana. Dr. Stanley C. Thompson, Regional Medical Director for TEAMHealth Midsouth, held a very informative discussion on the paradigm shift in treatment of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary emboli at the March meeting.



Connie McCarter



Some of the attendees at the March meeting

2014 Celebrate Nursing Awards held April 26 at the University of Memphis Holiday Inn.

The "Top 100" registered nurses from Shelby and Fayette Counties were honored based on the nurse's professionalism, active roles in nursing, and overall ability to show a genuine love and respect for the nursing profession. Out of the "Top 100", the "Excellent 11" were chosen.

TNA District 1 Member Recipients of the 2014 Celebrate Nursing Awards are:

- Amber Arnold-VA-Medical Center
- Lisa Best-Methodist North
- Anne Cook-Methodist University
- LaTonya Green-Baptist Memphis
- Angela Hudson-Regional One Health

Upcoming District 1 Events

District 1 meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month and are open to members and nonmembers. Feel the pulse of District 1 by visiting <http://www.tnaonline.org/district-associations> and find out about upcoming events and how you may get involved in District 1 activities. Don't miss the networking!!

District 5

President: *Teresa Martin*

District 5 is comprised of 12 counties in Upper East Tennessee including Carter, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblin, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington. Find out about meeting times on our Facebook page, Tennessee Nurses Association District 5, or by going to www.tnaonline.org and look under *District Associations*.



Teresa Martin

Recent Events:

District 5 held a Board meeting on March 26. Topics discussed were Nurses Week activities and ways to increase membership.



District 5 Board Members. Back row: Jason Hefner, Treasurer; Sandra Wells, Secretary; Florence Weierbach, Board of Directors; Teresa Martin, President. Front row: Jennie Walls, Nominating Committee; Kathleen Jones, 1st Vice President; Denise Forester, 2nd Vice President. Not pictured: Suzanne Bozwell, Board of Directors; Delores Fox, Board of Directors; and Cathy Forbes, Board of Directors.

A general meeting was held in April at the Harrison Christian Church Fellowship Hall. Mary Kilpatrick the Executive Director of CASA for Kids, Inc. came and gave us an informative presentation.

Upcoming Events:

Nurses Night Out at the Ballgame – TNA District 5 has been invited to join the Greeneville Astros as they take on the Kingsport Mets on Thursday, July 24, 2014, at 7 pm. Our group will sit together. This is open to members as well as nonmembers and their family. Cost of the game ticket is \$4/person. RSVP to tamartinnp@outlook.com by June 15th. We are asking everyone to wear a purple top so we stand out in the stands. We will be recognized and throw out the first pitch!

Be active! The Board of District 5 wants to know what you want from your membership. Members watch for a survey coming to your inbox.

District 9

President: *Angel Brewer*

Molly Heady, a student from Tennessee Technological University (TTU), has won District 9's Award for *Student Nurse Excellence* in the amount of \$200. Heady has successfully managed two, very overwhelming and demanding, schedules; basketball and nursing all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.



Angel Brewer



McCarter speaks to group on current Legislation



Dawn Meek, BS



Some of the attendees at the February meeting



Dr. Stanley C. Thompson speaks to the group at the March meeting.

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The University of North Alabama is accepting applications for the position of Tenure-Track, Assistant Professor of Nursing. This position is a full-time, nine-month, tenure-track faculty appointment at the Assistant Professor rank. A master's degree in nursing from an accredited institution and an unencumbered nursing license in the State of Alabama are required; a doctoral degree is preferred.

To view additional information and/or apply for this position, please visit the University of North Alabama Online Employment System at <http://jobs.una.edu>. Applications will only be accepted through this system. For questions, please email employment@una.edu or call 256.765.4291. UNA is an equal opportunity employer committed to achieving excellence and strength through diversity. UNA seeks a wide range of applicants for this position so that one of our core values, ethnic and cultural diversity, will be affirmed.

Member News

“I am extremely honored to receive the Integrity Award from Loewenberg School of Nursing. Integrity is one of the core values of the program, and it holds faculty, staff and students accountable for being honest and fair. Education has always been something that I value. The opportunity to be empowered through knowledge should be allowed for every human being, in academic settings of high integrity. As a nursing educator, integrity is the essence of a positive learning environment. I am also very proud to represent TNA District 1 while receiving this award. I hope to set an example for current and prospective nurses everywhere.”



Terrica Adams, BSN, RN

Anita Chesney received an Alumni Achievement Award from North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, NC. The award was presented during the March 2014 Founders’ Day program as the university celebrated 123 years of excellence. The university recognized seven distinguished alumni for outstanding contributions to their respective professions, community, and the university.



Anita M. Chesney, Ed.D, MPH, RN

Shelley Cohen has become the author of *Manager Matters*, a new bimonthly column in *Nursing Management*, the *Journal of Excellence In Nurse Leadership* published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. Cohen actively practices as a staff emergency department nurse and has authored/co-authored more than 15 books and numerous articles. Cohen is also among contributors to the fully revised 7th edition of *Sheehy’s Manual*



Shelley Cohen, RN, MSN, CEN

of *Emergency Care* and as a teacher, author, educator, coach and consultant; Cohen provides programs through HealthResources Unlimited for hospitals and staff.

Anita Croinex, BSN, RN has been promoted from DON to Director of Health Services (which incorporates all health areas of the CCRC), and was accepted for the Administrator in training program to begin this summer. Croinex received an Assisted Living Administrator License and is also enrolled at St Joseph’s School of graduate studies in a dual degree for a MSN/MHA. She was recently featured on McKnights’ and Provider’s website as a person of interest and ‘People on the Move’ and has developed, and will be piloting, a clinical ladder for CNA’s in long term care beginning this fall, called the NEHI Program.



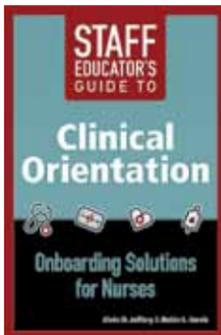
Anita Croinex, BSN, RN

Alvin Jeffery has written a book entitled *Staff Educator’s Guide to Clinical Orientation: Onboarding Solutions for Nurses*. Published by Sigma Theta Tau International, this book is a practical guide to nursing orientation written for nursing professional development specialists in the clinical setting. It can be purchased from the publisher at www.nursingknowledge.org



Alvin D. Jeffery, MSN, RN-BC, CCRN, FNP-BC

Jeffery is a PhD student at Vanderbilt University and will be starting this summer as a pre-doctoral Quality Scholar Nurse Fellow at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ TN Valley Healthcare System. Among the many other things going on in Alvin’s life, the *Journal of Nursing Administration* has accepted a manuscript he has written. It should run in the publication’s Summer/Fall issue.



Carrie Lenburg received the Pioneering Spirit Award from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, May 19, 2014, in Denver. This award recognizes her pioneering and continuing innovative contributions that have significantly influenced nursing education.



Carrie B. Lenburg, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN

Since the 1970s, Dr Lenburg devoted her career to the advancement of innovative and distance education, then widely rejected concepts. From 1973-1991, she directed the controversial NY Regents External Degree Nursing Programs (now Excelsior College) and created the national network of 8 Performance Assessment Centers.

Since then Dr. Lenburg, who lives in Roan Mountain, TN, has worked with many nursing schools to implement her COPA Model, emphasizing Competency Outcomes and Performance Assessment methods. She is a member and Living Legend in the American Academy of Nursing, a Fellow in NLN’s Academy of Nursing Education, received its Enduring Legacy in Nursing Award, has other honors and has written and spoken extensively.

Tracy Wilson, a TNA District 15 member, has been chosen by ANA as a candidate for ANA’s Nominations and Elections Committee. ANA’s slate of candidates will be in the March/April issue of *The American Nurse*. Wilson, who is also beginning a DNP program in August at Belmont University, asks for your vote and thanks you for your support!



Tracy R. Wilson, MSN, FNP-B

Catherine Pantik is a graduate student at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) enrolled in the dual degree program pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice and a Ph.D. in Nursing Sciences. Ms. Pantik holds a degree in Psychology from Southern Methodist University and a BSN from Union University.



Catherine Pantik, BA, BSN, RN, Ph.D (c)

As a second year doctoral student, she passed her comprehensive exams in January and is currently involved in her dissertation research, which focuses upon patient and healthcare system barriers and facilitators to improved long-term outcomes following kidney transplantation. Ms. Pantik recently received recognition as a top student abstract submission by the Southern Nursing Research Society, and presented her secondary data analysis in both poster and panel discussions. Additionally, she has a manuscript in preparation, which describes changes in body fat composition and distribution from baseline to 12 months post kidney transplant, and associated changes in cardiovascular risk.

Ms. Pantik is a member of many professional organizations and has enjoyed serving on the government affairs committee of the Tennessee Nurses Association (TNA), as well as serving on the TNA nominating committee. She has had the special honor this year working on the International Transplant Nurses Society task force charged with revising the Scopes and Standards of Practice for Transplant Nurses.

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Nurses have a Powerful Influence: Highlights from the Nursing Leadership in Global Health Symposium

Lauren Oppizzi, BSN, RN, CVN
Masters student/Graduate Teaching Assistant
Global Disaster Nursing Program
University of Tennessee

In February 2014, I had the privilege of attending the *Nursing Leadership in Global Health Symposium* as a student in the Global Disaster Nursing program (GDN) at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). I knew this conference would expose me to matters pertinent to serving as a nurse with a global health degree, but was entirely unprepared for the way in which it would significantly impact my future.

As I listened to the voices of nursing leaders from around the world, and saw their abilities to make a positive global impact, I became more aware of the powerful influence which a nurse has. I was inspired to think beyond what I have previously known a nurse to be and contemplated how my role could be used to promote justice, extend healing compassion to others, and contribute to the global advancement of the nursing profession.

I was moved as I sat among nurses from around the world who had a common passion for, and made great strides in promoting global health. Nurse leaders from Kenya gave a powerful testimony to nurse-led clinics which have empowered communities, improved health outcomes, and saved countless lives of children and pregnant women in rural villages. Senator Bill Frist joined nurse leaders from several different countries in helping me see that hope and healing are pertinent elements to the avenue for peace. This provides nurses with the privilege and responsibility to rightly steward our unique position in health diplomacy. I grew in my understanding of the significant way in which a voice of this trusted profession can help shape health policy.

Global health begins at home; therefore I plan to continue participating in the USDHHS funded interprofessional Appalachian Community Health & Disaster Readiness Project in the Southeastern Kentucky region, which actually stems out of the GDN program at UTK. As I gain more understanding in promoting rural community wellness, I hope to eventually share this knowledge with and gain valuable insight from other cultures. Furthermore, there is a renewed understanding of the responsibility I have as a nurse to advocate for the ones who have little power and to contribute to the profession at large. I look forward to how this, specifically, will continue to unfold as I carry on in my endeavors.

It is now April, and I have yet to see the end of this conference's benefits in my own personal experience: from significant connections made, to insight gained, and more ultimately, the resounding implications they leave for my life and my nursing career.

TNA Members—Please Contact TNA With Your Email Address

If you are not receiving emails from TNA, you are missing out on vital information regarding your practice. In some cases, particularly during the legislative session, your very practice could be compromised and we need your help. Nurses really must begin to understand the Legislative process and how much it affects your practice. TNA provides Legislative Updates to our members to keep you abreast of what is happening at the Legislature. You may also miss out on opportunities to serve both within TNA and ANA; receive continuing education event information and nursing news from across the nation, your State and your local area happenings. Contact Tracy Depp, TNA's Communication Administrator, to update your email address today. Tracy can be contacted at tdepp@tnaonline.org or call 615-254-0350. If you are not a member of the Tennessee Nurses Association, you need to join today. A secure membership application is available online at tnaonline.org or fill out the application below.

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- TNA Individual Membership Dues**
Any licensed registered nurse living and/or working in Tennessee. **\$17.09 per month** or \$199.00 annually. Includes membership in and benefits of the TNA, Nurses Association and the TNA District Association.

American Nurses Association Direct Membership is also available. For more information, visit www.nursingworld.org.

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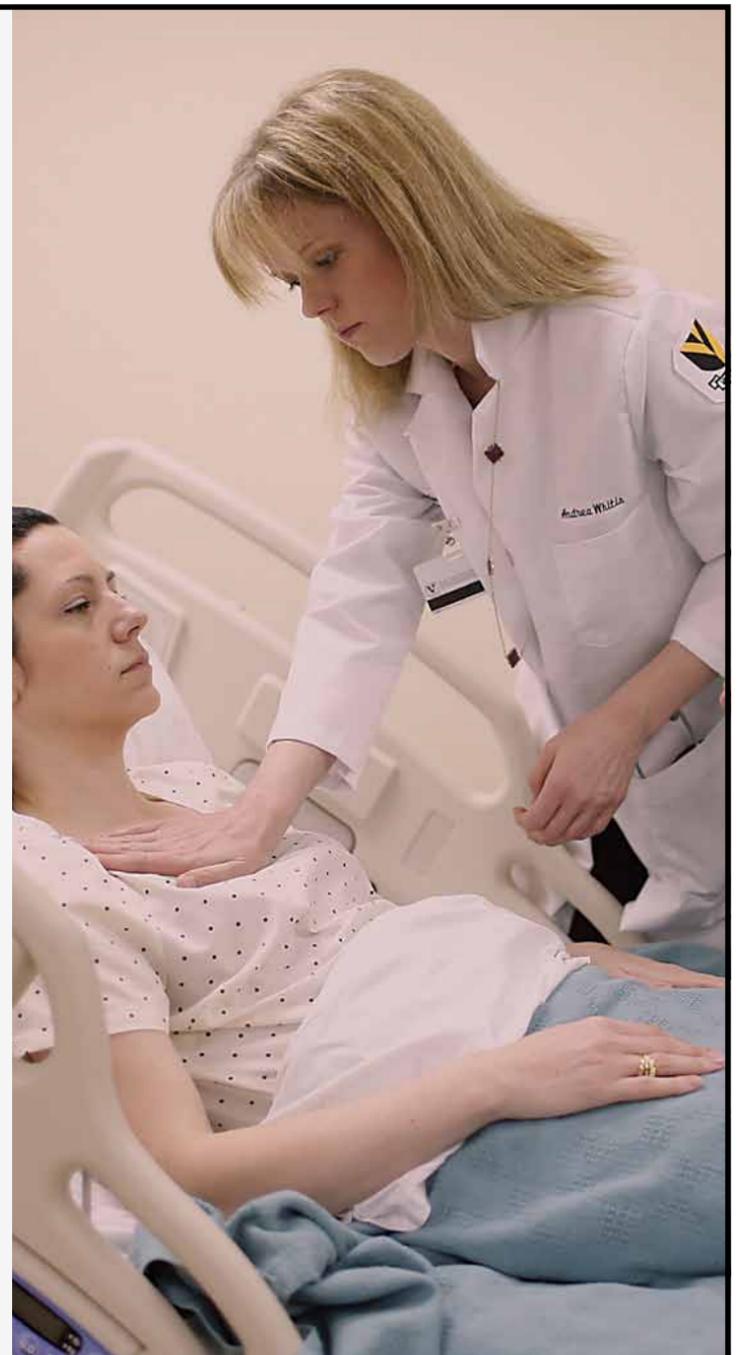
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