

MENU

Massachusetts Emergency Nursing Update

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Massachusetts Emergency Nurses Association
www.mass-ena.org

From the President:

Last week we learned that the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program in Massachusetts is in danger of losing funding. This funding targets the statewide SANE program as well as the Massachusetts Children's Alliance (MACA) and Children's Advocacy Centers. We all know how vital these resources are to our communities and to our patients. Sexual Assault victims are among our most vulnerable patients. As emergency nurses it is vital that we advocate for these patients and for these services. Please take time to contact Governor Duval Patrick and his executive board – their contact information will be provided in this newsletter and is also available on the MA ENA website. I partnered with Deb Tonelli, our state council secretary and Gail Lenehan, from the National Board of Directors to draft and send a plea to Governor Patrick. The text of this letter follows. Let our legislators know how crucial funding of these programs are. Thank you!

Dear Governor,

I am writing on behalf of the Massachusetts Emergency Nurses Association in reference to the DPH Budget reductions for FY 2010, specifically to line item 4510-0810 being reduced by one third when other programs had no reductions. Line item 4510-0810 pays for SANE nurses and the Children's Advocacy Centers who make up the team of responders for recent victims of sexual violence. Massachusetts has led the way with the most comprehensive Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program in the nation, the only statewide program, one we can be proud of. It is looked to for leadership in the field by many who care for victims in other states. Twenty four hours a day specially trained "SANE's" respond to many of our hospitals in collaboration with the rape crisis centers. Just last year, SANE nurses provided expert care to 660 children and 918 teen adults. Line item 4510-0810 also funds rape crisis centers to provide 24 hour

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accompaniment to survivors who need to go to the hospital for a forensic exam. Rape Crisis Centers, comprised of trained volunteers, have been there for survivors, their families, and providers in the community 24 hours a day 365 days a year for the past 35 years without fail. In fact, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center received the 2009 National Crime Victim Service Award from Attorney General Eric Holder. Besides accompanying victims to ED's, they offer individualized invaluable guidance, counseling, information, and support to victims in the days, months, even years following the assault, as the victim suffers socially, sometimes physically, and/or goes through stressful court appearances. As healthcare professionals, our members are well aware that these are trying times, but we feel this is a disproportionate and unjust cut to funding for victims of sexual violence. This is a 30% cut in addition to a \$500,000 reduction that was made earlier this year. As our Governor, you announced that "*protecting and supporting the most vulnerable*" is among the values to which the Commonwealth is committed. Indeed the victims of sexual violence are the most vulnerable citizens and need expert coordinated, effective, cost-efficient services that have been demonstrated by these programs funded through this line item. Please reconsider and restore funding for this line item.

Respectfully,
Laura Raymond RN BSN CEN
President Massachusetts Emergency Nurses Association

Guest Editorial: ***"VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTHCARE WORKERS"***

By George O'Neil, ED staff RN

Imagine a night when your EMT's respond to a call for assistance at a public disturbance. On scene, not only are the medics verbally attacked by people at the disturbance, but they are struck and pushed as well. The medics are covered by Mass. state law making this assault a crime and the person involved is arrested. Now imagine a night when the same EMT is working as a tech in your ED. If an attack occurs in the hospital, the EMT is not covered by this law, nor is a nurse or other health care worker who is attacked while on duty.

The fact that an EMT working in the field is protected under the law in a different way from a nurse or even that same EMT while working in the ED is unfair. The assault on any one of us is an injustice that should not be tolerated, but the statistics when looked upon in their entirety are mind-numbing:

- In 2008, 80% of nurses surveyed had experienced some form of violence at work, most commonly from patients.
- Workers in the healthcare sector are 16 times more likely to encounter violence at work than any other service profession.
- The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health reported that more than 9,000 HCW's are verbally or physically abused on the job *every day!*

As you know, attacks are not confined to the ED or the psych ward, and it is not just the demented or intoxicated who assault us. Physical assaults and verbal abuse occur in every part of the hospital and on every shift. And customer service driven responses by hospitals to assaults on nurses have been the norm. As of now, there has been limited data to support that this is happening to us. Anecdotal reports will not give us the evidence we need to demonstrate in our own workplaces the need for increased security and to change the culture throughout our industry that assaults are "part of the job".

To find out how to contact your state legislators, go to www.congress.org, then type in your zip code, then "GO". This will bring you to a page with all your national and state elected officials and their contact information.

Now, there are two bills on Beacon Hill up for debate and vote addressing assault on a health care worker while on duty. S.1753 and H.1696 will provide the same penalties for assaulting a nurse or other workers in a hospital as currently apply to an EMT or Paramedic on the street.

While I heartily encourage everyone to contact their State Legislators to vote for these bills, we cannot allow the whims of politics to dictate our fate. We must now each act in our own workplace. We must document every instance of verbal or physical assault while on duty.

I am asking every nurse to file an incident report with their workplace every time we are yelled at and accosted with obscenities, profanities or threats; every time we are bumped, pushed, spit upon, kicked or punched. Armed with enough data we can demand a shift in the culture of safety and respect for all of us who work in healthcare, while we care for our patients and provide for their safety.

I'm also asking you to submit your personal stories to the MENU so that we can share your trials and successes. Tell us what goes on in your hospital or clinic that makes you feel respected or demeaned, safe or unsafe. Together we can work toward the day where it will be known to all that a nurse is not a punching bag, nor is it appropriate for patients, families or visitors to treat us with any less respect than we treat them.

BECOME INVOLVED! LET YOUR LEGISLATOR KNOW WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO EMERGENCY NURSES

CHAPTER NEWS.....

BEACON CHAPTER:

The next chapter meeting will be Wednesday, December 9th – location to be announced. On the agenda for the evening will be looking back at our activities in 2009 as well as looking ahead and making plans for 2010. For more information, visit the website www.mass-ena.org/chapters.htm and link to Beacon Chapter or contact Chapter President Mary Martel at maryamartel1@comcast.net.

PIONEER VALLEY CHAPTER:

We are continuing our CEN Review Series at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton– here is the schedule:

December 9 th	5p-7p	Neurological Emergencies
January 13 th	5p-7p	Ortho/Wound Mgmt and Maxillofacial/ENT
February 11 th	5p – 7p	Medical/Metabollic
March 11 th	5p – 7p	GI/GU and OB/GYN

Visit www.mass-ena.org for more information about Chapter activities and educational programs

April 15th 5p-7p Shock/Trauma and Professional Issues
 May 13th 5p-7p Psychiatric Emergencies
 June 10th 5p – 7p Patient Care Mgmt and Test Taking
 Each session is only \$10.00 and CNEs are provided.
 RSVP to Robin Walsh at rwrn627@aol.com

SAVE THESE DATES.....J

January 7, 2010 for a morning of Pediatrics

- *Pediatric Assessment
- *Pediatric IV Access
- *Pediatric Psychiatric Emergencies

June 17, 2010 EKG Interpretation with Chuck Margarites

Watch the MA ENA website for more information!

MASSACHUSETTS ENA STATE COUNCIL OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS

Many thanks to those of you who voted in the 2010 MA ENA State Council elections. The ballot was in the last newsletter or you could vote electronically if we have your e-mail address.

Election Results:

President-elect: Maureen Curtis-Cooper
 Secretary: Faye Everson
 Treasurer: Andrew Harding
 Board of Directors:
 Deb Tonelli
 Robin Walsh

Fulfilling the 2nd year of their 2 year term are:

President: Laurie Raymond
 Board of Directors:
 George O'Neil

Congratulations to Julie Bunn who will be fulfilling the final year of Sophia Veinoglou's term on the Board of Directors

Please contact any State Council officer and board member with your questions, suggestions or concerns.

NERS 2010

SAVE THE DATE! April 28th -30th 2010

Travel to Burlington, Vermont for NERS 2010

Some of the conference highlights include:

- Sunset cruise on Lake Champlain
- CEN Cram Session
- Implementing Evidence Based Practice
- Pediatric Poisonings
- Pediatric Pain Management and Sedation
- EJ and IO access

Visit www.vermontena.org for more information!

MASSACHUSETTS STATE COUNCIL 2009 FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

Submitted by Carlene Kincaid, 2009 SC Treasurer

Massachusetts State Council finances have seen a surplus for the fiscal year 2009. The council currently operates on a proposed budget of \$80,300.00. The revenue has exceeded this budget for 2009.

- Revenue increases are attributable to an increase in membership, therefore an increase in State Assessments from ENA
- Revenue increases from TNCC and ENPC assessments from previous years
- Revenue increases from TNCC and ENPC course fees
- Revenue decline has been in our interest/investment income
- Revenue decline has been in Massachusetts ENA yearly education program
- Revenue decline in yearly gifts/donations

The fiscal year 2009 has proportionately had a rise in expenses.

- Expense increase from membership over proposed budget
- Expense increase in conference calls
- Expense increase in ballot voting
- Expense increase in TNCC and ENPC programs

Massachusetts State Council has a business checking account, the Karen O'Neil Scholarship Award savings

account, an Injury Prevention business account and CD, a Rollout CD and 2 additional CDs. The 4 CDs are currently in a Risk Free Plan that will soon mature and need renewal. The Injury Prevention CD will roll money into the business account for education needs. The business account will roll money into the Rollout CD, a savings plan for the TNCC/ENPC Rollouts. It is recommended by National ENA to maintain enough savings to cover 6 months of operating budget, maintained in the CD accounts.

There are 3 officers that have signing privileges to the said accounts, a letter documents signers.

In addition to the State Council finances, there are 5 chapters who maintain business and savings accounts specific to each chapter under the state finance.

A Certified Public Accountant is employed by MA ENA State Council to keep documents in order for Federal filing. Each chapter is responsible for maintaining their records in accordance. Standard Operating Procedures are in place for the Chapter financial responsibilities.

Expenses for 2009 have been to educate members through a one day seminar, education offerings at State Council meetings, a more active participation in Government Affairs, partial funding for delegates attending the Annual General Assembly, membership incentives for each chapter to award, membership incentives for MA ENA member participation at the General Assembly President's Party. Committees have been more active with the available conference calling and each committee has its own budget and conference call number maintained under the State's finance account.

*Leadership 2010
Leading Into the Future
February 17 - 21, 2010
Chicago, IL*

*Visit www.ena.org
Registration is open*

Triage corner ... What 's the best chief complaint you have ever heard while you've been triaging? How about this one?

"I've got an EYE in my EAR"

Believe it or not, this adorable 3 year old girl did indeed have an "eye" in her ear.....When the triage nurse took a peek, imagine her surprise when she saw a craft google eye peering back at her. Submit your triage tales to rwrn627@aol.com

MA ENA DELEGATES TO THE 2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Massachusetts Delegates wearing their personal protective devices. From left to right: Kay McClain, Gail Lenehan, Robin Walsh, Faye Everson, Sophia Veinoglou and Carlene Kincaid

Your MA ENA delegates traveled to Baltimore, MD in early October to participate in the 2009 General Assembly. 19 Bylaw Amendments and 3 Resolutions were debated and discussed. Changes in the meeting agenda and format caused some confusion but in the end the work got done. Here is a list of the Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions.

Resolutions:

- Sub-waiting rooms: A Solution to Emergency Department Over-crowding and Extended Wait Times (passed)

- Establishing Standards and Processes for Healthy and Exemplary Emergency Settings (passed)
- Pediatric Procedural Pain and Anxiety Management in the Emergency Department Setting (passed)

Bylaw Amendments:

- The first vote was to approve a re-formatting of the ENA Bylaws – done by Collette Collier Trohan CPP-T, PRP ENA Parliamentarian
- Annual meeting location (failed)
- Annual meeting notice (passed)
- General Assembly Quorum (failed)

General Assembly Bylaws and Resolutions from page 5

- Board Meetings (passed)
- General Assembly Delegate Allocation (passed)
 - This bylaw amendment was presented by the MA ENA SC Treasurer and Berkshire Chapter President Carlene Kincaid – congratulations!!
- Officer Eligibility Requirements (failed)
- Nominations Committee Chair Eligibility and Election (passed)
- Results of elections (passed)
- Officer term limits (failed)
- Director term limits (failed)
- President–elect succession (passed)
- Filling vacancies on Nomination Committee (passed)
- Filling vacancies in Director positions (passed)
- Board Action (failed)
- Electronic voting (passed)
- General Assembly vote on Bylaws (passed)
- Geographical regions (passed)

The original amendments and resolution versions can be found on the ENA website under State Councils and Chapters, log-in is required.

At the state council meeting prior to General Assembly, all MA ENA delegates are expected to attend a forum where all bylaw amendment proposals and resolution proposals are discussed. Delegates are assigned to speak to specific issues. We feel that it is very important to go to the General Assembly prepared and able to intelligently discuss and debate the issues. We have been told that other delegations that they wait to hear our opinions before forming their own. Although this seems to be complimentary – it is very much preferred that all delegations arrive at General Assembly with an understanding of the proposals and be prepared to discuss and debate the issues. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. This lack of preparation delays the proceedings and causes a great deal of frustration. It is our hope that we can work with our board liaison and other members of the national board of directors to create delegate responsibilities and standards for General Assembly delegates. If you have any questions about General Assembly or want to learn more about becoming a MA ENA delegate, please contact any of the State Council officers or delegates.

STATE COUNCIL MEETING

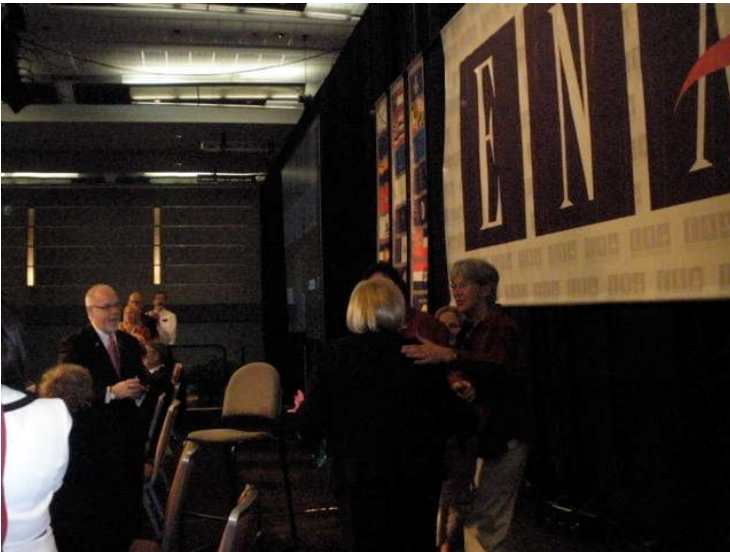
Everyone is invited to our next State Council meeting being held on Wednesday November 18th at the Westborough Doubletree Hotel 5:30pm – 8pm. On the agenda:

- Update on SANE funding
- Installation of 2010 officers
- Strategic planning and work on the 2009 State Council Achievement Award application

RSVP to Deb Tonelli at debniez@aol.com



ENA President Bill Briggs wears his personal protective device



MA ENA Delegates Maureen Curtis Cooper and Julie Bunn and Laurie Raymond congratulate 2010 ENA President Diane Gurney. 2009 ENA President Bill Briggs is seen at left.

On www.ena.org

Current Calls:

2010 Academy of Emergency
Nursing Fellows

Deadline: January 15, 2010

Call for abstracts for Paper and
Poster Presentations at 2010
Annual Conference

Deadline: January 15, 2010

Do More Than Survive: “Thrive”
2009 Nurse Manager Recruitment
Campaign

IAFN on the web at

www.iafn.org

“Violence is a Health Care Problem” is the theme of the first Forensic Nurses Week during the week of November 9th – 13th, 2009. This week honors and celebrates forensic nurses. This year’s theme reflects data showing that up to 37.5% of health care costs may be the result of violence, and research such as the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study that found a strong correlation between childhood experiences of violence and adult health problems such as diabetes and tobacco addiction.

Forensic nurses work to combat these problems, properly care for the victims and provide information and assistance to law enforcement to help them prosecute violent offenders.

The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) website defines forensic nursing as “the application of nursing science to public or legal proceedings.” Nurses in this specialty may work in a variety of settings and situations. Many care for victims of sexual assault and other violent attacks in emergency medicine, or work with victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse, or natural disasters. Some hold positions as coroners or legal nurse consultants for attorneys.

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