

Valda Rae Hall, Editor

TCN Honors National Nurses Week

MAY 6-12, 2004

In Tennessee and all across the United States, registered nurses are being saluted. On May 6, 2004, the Tennessee Center for Nursing (TCN) joins the American Nurses Association (ANA) in celebrating National RN Recognition Day, as part of National Nurses Week, which is held May 6-12, every year. The purpose of National RN Recognition Day is to raise awareness of the value of nursing and help educate the public about the role nurses play in meeting the health care needs of the American people.

In honor of the dedication, commitment, and tireless effort of the nearly 2.7 million registered nurses nation-

wide who promote and maintain the health of this nation, TCN and the ANA are proud to recognize registered nurses everywhere on this particular day for the quality work they provide seven days a week, 365 days a year.

In honor of National RN Recognition Day, all registered nurses in America are encouraged to proudly wear the official ANA "RN" pin or any other pin that clearly identifies them as registered nurses, and/or their nurses uniform on May 6, 2004.

For distinctive gift ideas for nurses, please visit our website:

www.centerfornursing.org

HRSA ANNOUNCES NURSING GRANTS

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will be accepting applications for the Nursing Scholarship Program beginning in April. The Nursing Scholarship Program provides scholarships to individuals for attendance at schools of nursing. In exchange, the student agrees to provide a minimum of two years at a health care facility with a critical shortage of nurses. The scholarship consists of payment for tuition, fees, other reasonable educational costs, and a monthly support stipend. **The application deadline is June 1, 2004.** More information and online applications are available on the Web at: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing/scholarship/default.htm>.

In addition, HRSA announced new competitive grant programs scheduled for awards in fiscal year 2004. They include \$4.8 million for the Nurse Faculty Loan Program, which provides loans to nursing students pursuing advanced degrees to teach nursing; and \$400,000 for the Health Careers Adopt a School Demonstration Program, to develop model partnerships between community-based organizations, schools and health professionals that expose under-represented minority and disadvantaged students to health careers. For more on the grants, see the Federal Register notice under "Health Resources and Services Administration" at:

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a040420c.html

In this Issue

TCN Spring Meetings.....	2
State Nursing Conference.....	2
Computers Analyze Care	3
JNE Launches New Feature.....	3
Calendar of Events.....	3
Nurse License Plate.....	4
New Board Members	4

LPN IV PRACTICE IN TN SURVEYED

In April 2002 the TN Board of Nursing (TN BON) adopted the position which states in part that "...it is beyond the scope of practice for an LPN to ...administer IV push medication..." In response to testimony from hospital providers, the TN BON suggested that a needs assessment be conducted by TCN to study LPN practice relative to IV therapy. Consequently, TCN conducted a blind survey earlier this Spring which revealed that a large percentage of LPNs are practicing IV therapy in hospitals and nursing homes. Findings from the surveys include:

HOSPITAL RESULTS

88.8% PERMIT IV THERAPY BY LPN
35.2% PERMIT IV PUSH BY LPN

There are differences in LPN IV practices across the state based on the location of the health facilities. Being a rural facility and being located in the east and middle grand divisions of the state indicate a higher incidence of LPNs performing infusion therapy in hospitals.

NURSING HOME RESULTS

67.8% PERMIT IV THERAPY BY LPN
12.2% PERMIT IV PUSH BY LPN

Respondent reported that this practice began as recently as September 2003 and as long as 20 years ago. Many of the respondents stated that the practice began when their facility became a skilled facility and when the patient acuity required more acute care.

The report "An Assessment of LPN IV Practice in TN" is available in its entirety at our website, click on the Research tab.



PRIORITIES:

DOUBLING NURSING ENROLLMENT & LPN TO RN ARTICULATION

Spring is in the air and TCN board members are budding with strategies for addressing the nursing workforce shortage in Tennessee. TCN's biannual Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings were held April 14-16 at Radisson Opryland, Nashville. Some of the meetings highlights are:

- At the request of the THA Center for Health Workforce, **Ann Duncan**, Executive Director, TCN has drafted *A Proposal to Develop a Nursing Education Master Plan* which will focus on efforts to double nursing enrollment in TN. Projections show an emerging nursing shortage crisis that is expected to begin in 2008 when TN will have a critical shortage of RN's statewide. To avoid the adverse impact on health care in TN, the proposal suggests that the state must:
 - 1) Significantly increase nursing school enrollments by attracting more people into the nursing profession and
 - 2) Immediately resolve the enrollment capacity crisis due to faculty shortages and other barriers.

- **Treva Berryman** along with other TCN Board members are collaborating with key administrators representing ADN and LPN nursing programs to discuss barriers for LPN to RN articulation. The group is looking at model's from other states to improve the articulation between the LPN programs at the technology centers and the two year ADN programs in community colleges. Berryman reported that the taskforce is optimistic in developing a pilot model by Spring 2005.

- **Representative Diane Black**, Sumner County, reported on a recently passed bill that will give title protection to the term "nurse". This bill states that in order to use the title of "nurse" you must be either a licensed LPN or RN. Another bill that is working it's way through the senate is the availability of scholarships loans at a reduced rate for nurses who are returning to school to obtain a MSN or other advanced degree. This bill has been in statutes since 1974 during which time the legislature set the loan repayment rate at

6%. This rate has now been removed to accommodate current market rate fluctuations.

- **Louise Browning** who recently retired as TNA's Executive Director was recognized for her outstanding contributions to TCN from 1999-2004. Browning was commended particularly for her work on revising statutory language which led to a contract between TCN and the TN BON. She was presented with an engraved crystal award.

- TCN purchased 2,000 t-shirts that were distributed at the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Regional Leadership Conferences held throughout the state. The t-shirts were a great marketing tool for the nursing profession and the students were excited to receive them, reported **Valda Hall**, Mktg Coordinator/Executive Assistant, TCN. The front side of the t-shirt displayed the HOSA logo and theme "With nurturing hearts and caring smiles, HOSA goes the extra mile" while the back featured TCN's website address and the quote: "You have the power to learn and grow---the power to be anything you want to be. BE THE DIFFERENCE. CHOOSE NURSING." At Roane State Community College **Sharon Tanner** distributed over 1,100 t-shirts to HOSA students. According to Tanner, approximately 5,000 students participated statewide in the competitions and the t-shirts were an excellent way to promote the nursing shortage to HOSA students.

- The Board meeting also featured an orientation and welcome for new members: **Kathy Martin**, Dean of Nursing, APSU; **Manny Martins**, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of TennCare; **Deanna Menesses**, Executive Director, TNA; **Maureen Nalle**, Asst Prof, UT Knoxville College of Nursing; **Zoila Sanchez**, PHD Nursing Candidate, UT Memphis Health Science Center; and **Andrea Willis**, Deputy Commissioner of Health.

For a schedule of upcoming TCN meetings, please see page 3.

2nd Annual State
Nursing Conference:

Nursing Workforce Shortage Evolving Across the Country

Stakeholders representing State Nursing Workforce Centers from across the country participated in the *Taking the Long View: Grassroots Nursing Workforce Initiatives* in Orlando, FL April 29-30. Eight delegates from TN attended the conference that addressed the nursing workforce shortage and it's impact on the quality of care, health outcomes, patient safety, and access to care.

The meetings embraced a continuing workforce initiative championed by a cooperative of states and regions spurred by the Colleagues in Caring Project funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Participants engaged in valuable networking sessions with other stakeholders who are involved in developing strategies for strengthening the nursing workforce including establishment of state nursing workforce centers, creation of statewide strategic plans, exploration of retention strategies, and design of new models of nursing education and nursing care delivery.

Ed O'Neil, Director, Center for Health Professions, University of California gave the keynote address: *The Promise of Nursing in the Coming Health Care System*. **Ann Duncan**, TCN Executive Director, conducted a poster presentation describing TCN's web-based data dissemination application. A poster session prepared by **Deborah Wollaber** and **Nancy Moody** describing the TICUA Commission on Nursing report was presented by **Treva Berryman** and **Leo Lindsay**, TCN Treasurer, staffed the TCN exhibit display.

PROJECT USES COMPUTERS TO ANALYZE NURSING CARE

Nurses at three Aurora Health Care hospitals are turning to technology to reduce costs and speed patient recovery. The project initially will involve Aurora Sinai Medical Center in Milwaukee, West Allis Memorial Hospital and Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh, said Judy Murphy, Aurora's director of information services.

Instead of relying on paper medical charts, nurses will use computers and a program developed by Cerner to record details about patient care. University researchers then will comb through the information to determine how nursing care contributes to the length of time patients are in the hospital and the overall cost of care, said Judy Murphy, Aurora's director of information services.

Patient records do not effectively document the work that nurses do, Sally Lundeen, dean of UWM's College of Nursing, said in a statement. While the records note each time a patient takes a pill or gets a blood-pressure check, they devote little attention to other critical nursing tasks such as educating a patient about his condition or coordinating care with another medical agency.

"By developing ways of better capturing information on what nurses are doing, researchers will be able to make links between the work of nurses and outcomes for patients," Lundeen said.

In some cases, nurses will enter information on computers located just outside patient rooms. Other times they will bring in a computer cart so they can type in the details at a patient's bedside.

When a hospital installs the complete system, computer screens will flash an alert when a doctor submits new care instructions, test results are available or some other development requires a nurse's attention, Charlotte A. Weaver, Cerner's chief nurse officer and vice president of patient care systems, said from her Kansas City office.

The system also can provide instant access to patient information recorded at all times in all hospital departments, Weaver said. Instead of recording the same information over and over, a nurse can review the critical details for accuracy.

The system also provides an electronic to-do list, providing reminders for a harried nurse if a task ordered by a doctor has yet to be completed.

"It is their way of looking at what they have to do next," Weaver said.

2004 Calendar of Events

JUNE 10

TCN Executive Committee
Conference Call

AUGUST 12

TCN Executive Committee
Conference Call

AUGUST 11

TCN Strategic Planning Committee
Annual Meeting of Executive
Committee Members & Chairpersons
of Standing Committees

TCN Conference Room, Nashville

OCTOBER 6

TCN Executive Committee
Fall Meeting
Location TBA

OCTOBER 7-8

Board of Directors
Fall Meeting
Location TBA

JNE Needs Your Help with an Exciting New Feature!

This fall the Journal of Nursing Education (JNE) will launch a new, 1-page feature to run opposite cover 3 in every issue. The new feature will be called "Syllabus Selections: Innovative Learning Activities" and will include innovative strategies, methods, case examples, and so forth that faculty can use in teaching nursing concepts and content (e.g., case studies for teaching pharmacology or disease signs and symptoms).

However, before we can launch the feature, **we need your** help developing a backlog of submissions. We're asking you to either write one yourself or perhaps work with a new faculty member to help them write one, providing them with a collegial learning experience, an interest in writing, and positive feelings about JNE, while providing us with submissions for the feature. These submissions will not undergo the usual peer-review process and should NOT be submitted online via Rapid Review. Submissions can be e-mailed to the Managing Editor, Karen Stanwood, at kstanwood@slackinc.com. She'll take care of it from there.

Here's what you need to know:

1. Submissions should be no longer than 2 typed, double-spaced pages.
2. Each submission must include the author's e-mail address and be organized as follows:

- *Paragraph 1:* Clearly and concisely identify the strategy, method, or case example and connect it to the "bigger picture" (e.g., nursing theory, pedagogical thinking). The goals and objectives should be stated. Citations and references should be limited to only the most applicable (i.e., two to three references maximum).

- *Paragraph 2:* Describe the strategy, method, or case study. This could be an actual page from your syllabus.

- *Paragraph 3:* Explain how it would be carried out, in what setting, and students' results and reactions.

This is a great way to get your innovative teaching strategies out to a broader audience. Tell our readers what worked for you--maybe it will work for them as well! Submissions will be accepted continuously, but to get the backlog we need to launch the feature, please send in your submission by **June 1**.

Before that deadline, please e-mail Karen Stanwood (kstanwood@slackinc.com) if you're planning to submit something yourself or work with a colleague on a submission.

**TCN Encourages
Purchase of
Nurse License
Plate**



The Tennessee Nurses Foundation (TNF) is offering a new specialty license plate honoring nurses with the theme *Nurses Touch Lives*.

Proceeds from the sale of the license plate will go to TNF, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, to help support its programs including Scholarships for Nurses, Nursing Research Grants, and Nursing Leadership Development. TNF has until **June 30, 2004**, to sell 1,000 plates before the actual production of the plate will begin. The cost of the plate is \$35 in addition to the cost of your regular license plate.

To reserve your license plate now, visit www.tnaonline.org or call 615/254-0350 to obtain an order form. Please complete the form and return it along with a check for \$35 payable to TNF or you may select the Credit Card Payment option and mail to:

**Tennessee Nurses Foundation
545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 405
Nashville, TN, 37228-1296**

TNF fully expects to sell the required number of 1,000 nurse license plates by June 30, but in the event that 1,000 plates are not sold, your full \$35 payment will be returned to you immediately.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Manny Martins

Deputy Commissioner

TN Department of Finance & Administration

Bureau of TennCare

Nashville, TN

Deanna Menesses

Executive Director

Tennessee Nurses Association

Nashville, TN

The TCN staff congratulates new board members on their appointment to office and selected committees.

Johnson & Johnson Promise of Nursing Campaign a Great Success in TN

Earlier this year more than 550 individuals celebrated the Promise of Nursing for TN by attending a nursing gala here in Nashville. The gala raised over \$450,000 which is being used for nursing student scholarships, faculty fellowships, and nursing school grants.

"It was a fabulous evening"

said Jim Pace, School of Nursing, Vanderbilt University.

"we went away feeling proud to be nurses...again.

That was needed for many of us and I thank you for such a wonderfully prepared event and the good work on the scholarships!"



Tennessee Center for Nursing

545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 406

Nashville, TN 37228-1201

615-242-8205 ~ FAX: 242-8207

www.centerfornursing.org

TCN Mission: To guide the ongoing development of a diverse and qualified nursing workforce to meet the health care needs of Tennesseans through professional advocacy, industry research, recruitment efforts, and public awareness activities.



Coming Fall 2004!

**Master of Science in Nursing
(MSN)**