



*"I can't change the world alone, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples"* was said by Mother Theresa.

It is true that one person may not be able to make changes by themselves but with support from other people with the same ideas and consistency toward mutual goals, a group together can certainly make a difference. Change is inevitable, and our association must change with every tide.

Each of you, are members of the NYS ENA for different reasons but as a group we are involved to make a difference in the future of emergency nursing. As ED nurses we truly have mutual goals; **"Safe Practice, Safe Patient Care"**. We, the NYS ENA, are here to make a difference in the development of ED nurses and to continue positive outcomes for our patients. We see this with our TNCC and ENPC classes, CEN and CPEN, our annual conference, our 9/11 Scholarship Endowment Fund for nursing educational, and our advocacy initiatives in workplace violence and safe staffing issues.

There are a few new changes for the year 2015 to do just that.

The new Strategic Implementation Committee will develop the process by which our strategic plan will be implemented. It will look to concentrate on making changes to address the issues that concern today's nursing, healthcare and also society. The strategic plan has been developed to provide a plan for stability of the association and continued success to meet our member's needs. Areas of concentration are: communication, education, and financial structure of the association.

Three other committees that have been formed are the Advance Practice Nurse Committee, the Behavioral Health Committee, and the Research, Evidence Based Practice Committee. The APN Committee includes all advance practice nurses involved and working with in the Emergency Department. To address issues of practice, education and development of the advance practice nurse working in the Emergency Department. Behavioral Health Issues continue to be address and treatment sought with in the Emergency Department. The Behavioral Health Committee will look to address relevant issues that currently face today's ED nurses. It will also look to create public awareness of escalating health care problem facing NYS EDs and will look to develop positive strategies to address these issues. The Research Committee has been charged with furthering the practice of emergency nursing by investigating best practices and promoting evidenced-based practice through research. It is also responsible for being a resource to those nurses interested in developing new nursing research and evidence based practice and encouraging their presentations at our annual conference, "Setting the Pace".

So many times in Emergency Nursing, we must think of new approaches to handle old situations... **"by thinking out of the box"**. We do this daily as we care for our patients and so must we as an association. The future of emergency nursing is changing ever so quickly. Many nurses join for different reasons maybe to get a discount on a class or a certification but to join to make a difference in your practice of nursing, to make an impact on the care of your patients and the community that you live in. That is what we are about, our true purpose of why we chose to become nurses in the first place.

I think most of you are quite aware through the media that a terrible train accident occurred on February 3rd. A Metro train traveling north from NYC had collided with a car causing a multi-casualty incident. Well known to all of us as a disaster. The hospital where I work was the primary receiving hospital for that incident. Within minutes from being notified that 9 ambulances had been dispatched to the scene, 12 traumas and the likelihood of 30-100 more injured patients were to arrive later, a "Code Triage" was called. Resources throughout the hospital were mobilized to prepare for the unknown. Nurses, doctors, ancillary hospital staff from all departments were sent to the ER to assist in the care of all that would

come. That night the true meaning of collaboration and teamwork became apparent to meeting the needs of all patients that presented. This is the reason why we choose to be emergency nurses. Emergency nursing is truly a specialty. We care for many patients with different healthcare complaints yet at a moment's notice we react quickly for those that present in emergent distress. As if it was routine. It is through your experience, knowledge and nursing skills that you make a difference.

Every day as you go about caring for your patients you make a difference in the care that they receive and in their lives with little effort. This is NYS ENA's mission. You bring all of you to that patient care encounter, your knowledge, your skill and your compassionate hand. Being involved in NYS ENA, even at your local chapter level will change you and change your practice for the better.

You may think you are too busy to be involved, handling job, school and family. We are all volunteers within the association and welcome all newcomers. I encourage you to become involved at least at your chapter level. We are divided into 14 chapters throughout the state and are active within our local communities addressing today's issues of healthcare and emergency nursing. You can contact your local chapter president for more information about chapter meetings and getting involved in chapter activities. Your involvement will open new opportunities to network with other emergency nurses from your community and from the state. You can share your ideas and talents with the "*best that Emergency Nursing has to offer*". The association offers a great opportunity for you to develop your potential as an emergency nurse, as a leader and an advocate for "Safe Practice, Safe Care". I hope you will consider taking a step forward and become involved with the association and the future of your profession.

I truly believe that leaders are not born yet mentored and developed through experiences.... YOU are a leader; but may not have reached your full potential... yet.

Follow your passion and your interest, whatever that may be. Become involved...and have a voice in the future of emergency nursing...who knows you may learn something new and have fun doing it.

Sandi Tetler RN, BSN  
2015 NYS ENA President.