



EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION  
New York State Council  
P.O. Box 23451  
Rochester, NY 14692-3451

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EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION  
New York State Council

# Setting the Pace

Spring, 2010 • Volume 30 , Number 1

NYSCENA • P.O. Box 23451 • Rochester, NY 14692-3451

## 2010 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Deb Taylor

### LEADING INTO THE FUTURE:



The New York State Council Emergency Nurses Association (NYSCENA) met January 25th at the Crowne Plaza in Albany. The day was energetic and leadership was in action with the new members to the council. Thank you to all who are mentoring the new members, as that is what leadership is about.

The Legislative Action Day on January 26th was very informative and the NYS legislative body was receptive to our positions on Mental Health Care in the ED, Traffic and Safety Concerns, the ENA National Scorecard and Violence in the Emergency Department. Anyone who is interested in speaking with his/her NYS representatives on these topics, feel free to contact any board member or Sue Prezzano, Professional Issues and Practice Chair for information. I would personally like to thank Sue for all of her hard work in the program change for the Legislative Action Day.



Pres. Deb Taylor and  
Professional Issues Chair  
Sue Prezzano

The next meeting in April is our annual spring conference at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs. I hope you will join us for an exciting learning experience and to meet our National ENA President Diane Gurney, our President-Elect Ann Marie Papa and our Board Liaison Gail Lenehan. The Council meeting is scheduled following the conference on April 24th and all members are welcome. Please RSVP to Sandi Tetler, sandi@tetler.net if you plan to attend the council meeting.

Sue Chalupa-Breese, Immediate Past President, Mickey Forness, President-Elect, Sandi Tetler NYSCENA Secretary and I will be attending the Leadership Conference on February 17th through 21st in Chicago. We will bring back information to leaders throughout the state. As we enter ENA's 40th year, we look forward to our future leaders to promote Emergency Nursing and support the goals of ENA.

## NEW YORK STATE ENA AWARDS

Nominations for the annual NYS awards to be presented at the Setting the Pace conference to be held in Saratoga in April are now being sought. We all work with outstanding individuals who are very deserving to be honored for all they do. This is the opportunity to share these heroes with all the ENA members in our state.

**Education Award** - Recognizes an ENA member who has demonstrated excellence in the education of nurses or others in the area of emergency nursing.

**Special Recognition Award** - Presented to an individual who has demonstrated commitment to NYSCENA and helps to promote the ideas of emergency nursing through various special projects.

**Anita Door Award** - Presented to an emergency nurse who is recognized by his/her peers for consistently being knowledgeable in emergency nursing and for presenting him/herself as a caring professional individual, reflecting the integrity and commitment of the woman in whose memory the award is given...the co-founder of ENA, Anita Dorr.

**Ginny Hens EMS Award** - This award is given to an ENA member who promotes collaboration between prehospital care providers and ENA through various activities and projects.

**Certificates of Appreciation** - Given to non members of ENA, who have assisted ENA in any variety of special activities.

If you are aware of someone special who is deserving of one of these awards, please submit the following information to the address below no later than April 1, 2010.

1. Nominee's name and a brief biographical sketch.
2. A letter stating why the person should be considered for the award.

Mail to:  
Mickey Forness  
118 S. 19th St.  
Olean, NY 14760  
Email: mickeyforness@yahoo.com

## 2010 NEW YORK STATE OFFICERS

President — Deb Taylor -Western  
585-344-1553 - ddt1027@verizon.net.

President Elect — Mickey Forness - CHATT  
716-373-3612 - mickeyforness@yahoo.com

Secretary — Sandi Tetler - Lower Hudson  
914-493-7000 - sandi@tetler.net

Rosa T. Waldroff—Genesee  
585-334-4725 - Pijny48@aol.com

Immediate Past-President —Sue Chalupa-Breese - Genesee  
585-425-4753 - sbreese@rochester.rr.com

Director at Large — Maggie Miller —Mid Hudson  
845-876-1043 - mmiller7@hvc.rr.com

Director at Large — Mary Ellen Jennison-Southern Tier  
607-762-3268 - Mary\_Ellen\_Jennison@uhs.org

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Please submit any ideas, suggestions, or articles to:

Editor: Phyllis Parker [www.nysena.org](http://www.nysena.org)  
(click Contact Us)  
[pparker39@optimum.net](mailto:pparker39@optimum.net)

You can contact us via the website:  
[www.nysena.org](http://www.nysena.org).  
Click on Contact Us.

Deadlines for the 2010 newsletters:  
May 7, Sept. 3 and Nov. 5, 2010



ENA IS GOING GREEN!

This newsletter is now printed on recycled paper.  
Paper contains 30% post-consumer recycled fiber.

Do you have a clinical question?  
Send it to us.

One of our expert clinicians will answer it in a future newsletter

## WRITING GENERAL ASSEMBLY BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS A PERSONAL REFLECTION

Marylou Killian, RN, MS, FNP, CEN

The Emergency Nurses Associations General Assembly is the annual meeting where members provide direction and stewardship for our organization by creating emergency nursing policy and positions which support the purposes of ENA. The General Assembly delegation is the only group that has the right to amend the organization's bylaws.

A questionnaire from ENA's national office regarding the composition of the General Assembly was presented to the NYS Council by NYS President Sue Chalupa Breese in January, 2009. At that time the national Board of Directors had the authority to determine the number of delegates that could vote at the national meeting and they were considering cutting the number of delegates by one-half. Each state had been allowed one delegate for every 50 members. The New York State Council made it very clear that they did not want any reduction made in the number of their delegates.

A week later Carlene Kinkaid, from Massachusetts, called requesting my support and input regarding a bylaw amendment that she was developing which would cap the number of delegates at 750 and prevent a change in this number without the approval of the General Assembly. After some editing of the amendment, we went to the State Leaders meeting in Reno, seeking support from other states. Carlene was armed with the draft of our proposed amendment and spreadsheets which demonstrated the effect to each state's number of delegates should the Board approve the proposed reduction.

At the national Board of Directors meeting in Reno, a vote was taken to essentially cut the General Assembly delegation in half. The proposal was defeated by one vote. Prior to the Board's vote, many state leaders vocalized that they did not support across the board cuts in their delegation size. The issue, however, remained that the size of General Assembly was becoming unwieldy and the Board still had the authority to change the size of the delegation at any time. This is when Carlene and I started lobbying for our proposed amendment in earnest.

Over the next five months, the amendment was refined with input from other state leaders and the capped number was reduced to 700. When we walked into the General Assembly in Baltimore

in October, we knew that we definitely had support from 11 states including New York, 3 states had said they would not support the amendment, and we had received no communication from the other states. Even though we knew we had a large amount of support, it takes a 2/3 vote by the General Assembly to approve a bylaw amendment and we did not know if we could get the required number of votes. When the amendment was presented to the floor for debate, a number of the states spoke in opposition. During the hearings Carlene and I took notes and during lunch and breaks, we made a point of talking with members from opposing states to address their concerns. When the debate was reopened after lunch, further discussion ensued. At this point George O'Neil (MA) spoke up to make it clear that if this amendment did not pass, the board of directors could change the number of delegates to General Assembly at any time. The following morning we talked with delegates from a few more states, managing to win them over. Before the vote took place, two members who had previously spoken in opposition stood up and stated that they were now in support of the amendment. Our bylaw passed with over 90% of the vote.

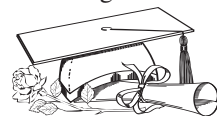
Over the nine months that Carlene and I worked on this amendment, we had the opportunity to learn more about our ENA's resolution process, to talk to members from all over the country, and in the end we felt that the work we had done would help to strengthen our organization. After the vote, we were approached by members from all over the country who talked about other possible resolutions and amendments. Before I left Baltimore I was challenged by Jeff Jordan (TX) to submit a clinical resolution for next year.

Being involved in developing resolutions or bylaws amendments for discussion at the General Assembly is very educational and rewarding. I encourage all members to think about issues that they would like ENA to address and consider getting involved in the resolution process. It is a lot of work but the experience is worth the effort. If you have any questions regarding the process, or any thoughts regarding resolutions that you think New York State should introduce, please contact me by email at mlk724@yahoo.com.



## EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know plans to enroll or is enrolled in a nursing program, you are encouraged to check the ENA website for educational scholarships. The ENA Foundation is offering many scholarships and some research grants. A number of Tapestry Awards were granted this year to attend the Leadership Conference in Chicago. Other opportunities include CEN Renewal Assistance and awards to attend ENA Management programs. For information and/or applications, log onto ena.org, select ENA Foundation/ENAF and then select Scholarships. You may also contact the Foundation at 800-900-9659, Ext. 4103 or by email at Foundation@ena.org.



Deadlines vary. The deadline for nursing program 2010 scholarships is June 1, 2010.

## NYSCENA 2010 MEETINGS

**April 22 & 23, 2010**  
**SETTING THE PACE 2010 CONFERENCE**  
The Holiday Inn at Saratoga Springs  
232 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY  
Call 518-584-4550 for reservations. Room rate \$139/night (ENA Code)  
**April 24, 2010 • NYSCENA MEETING**

**August 14, 2010 • HILTON GARDEN INN**  
15 Crossroads Court, Newburgh, NY  
Call 845-567-9500 for reservations. Room rate \$129/night (ENA Code)

**October 23, 2010 • THE HOLIDAY INN, BATAVIA**  
Call 585-344-2100 for reservations. Room rate \$70/night (ENA Code)

Please contact the NYSCENA secretary,  
Sandi Tetler if attending a Council meeting.  
sandi@tetler.net

All New York State members are welcome to  
attend the meetings. Bring a friend!

## COURSE SCHEDULE

COURSE	DATE	PLACE	CONTACT
TNCC	March 3 & 11	Brookhaven Medical Center	Barbara Clasen 631-687-4093
TNCC	March 4 & 11	St Francis Hospital	Jean Walsh jwalsh@sfhhc.org
TNCC	March 6-7	Rochester	Sue Knapp rknapp5@rochester.rr.com
TNCC	March 10	Bronx	Virginia Ann Tufaro 646-879-5955
TNCC	March 18	Plattsburgh	Ann J. Heywood aheywood@cvph.org 518-562-7378
TNCC	March 26	Mineola	Judy Jax 516-663-8708
TNCC	March 31	New York City	Deborah Travis dtravis@chpnet.org 504-975-8918
TNCC	April 10-11	NY Presbyterian	Meg Barry barryma@nyp.org
TNCC	April 19	Brookhaven Medical Center	Barbara Clasen 631-687-4093
TNCC	April 28 & 29	Johnson City	Alice C. Sturckler alice_sturckler@uhs.org 607-762-2545
TNCC	May 1-2	Valhalla	Helen Keating efkhk@msn.com
TNCC	May 6-7	Genesee	sbreese@rochester.rr.org
TNCC	May 11-12	Buffalo	Jessica Castner 716-774-1050 westernnewyorkena@verizon.net
TNCC	June 2-3	Bassett, Cooperstown	coleen.vesely@bassett.org 607-547-4812
TNCC	June 5-6	Montefiore Med. Center	Ikosits@montefiore.org
TNCC	June 15	Plattsburgh	Ann J. Heywood aheywood@cvph.org 518-562-7378
TNCC	July 14 -15	Southern Tier	Alice C. Sturckler alice_sturckler@uhs.org 607-762-2545
TNCC	Sept. 18-19	NY Presbyterian	barryma@nyp.org
TNCC	Oct. 28-29	Bassett, Cooperstown	coleen.vesely@bassett.org 607-547-4812
TNCC	Nov. 13-14	Rochester	rknapp5@rochester.rr.com
TNCC	Nov. 20-21	Lincoln Hospital	Ikosits@montefiore.org
TNCC	Dec. 1 & 8	St. Francis Hospital	jwalsh@sfhhc.org
TNCC Instructor Course	March 26	Elmira	Mary Ann Teeter mteeter@aomc.org 607-737-4426
ENPC	March 18	New York	Deborah Travis 504-975-8918
ENPC	March 23-24	Buffalo	Jessica Castner 716-774-1050 westernnewyorkena@verizon.net
ENPC	March 24 & 31	St. Francis Hospital	Marylou Killian mlk724@yahoo.com
ENPC	May 6-7	Bassett, Cooperstown	coleen.vesely@bassett.org
ENPC	May 6-7	Valhalla	Helen Keating efkhk@msn.com
ENPC	May 25	Plattsburgh	Ann J. Heywood aheywood@cvph.org 518-562-7378
ENPC	August 4-5	Bassett, Cooperstown	coleen.vesely@bassett.org
ENPC	Sept. 16&23	Mid Hudson	Marylou Killian mlk724@yahoo.com
ENPC	Nov. 22-23	Southern Tier	Alice C. Sturckler alice_sturckler@uhs.org
ENPC	Oct. 2-3	Montefiore Med. Center	Ikosits@montefiore.org
ENPC	Oct. 9-10	Rochester	Rknapp5@rochester.rr.com
ENPC	Dec. 15-16	Southern Tier	alice_sturckler@uhs.org
CATN	May 13-14	St. Francis Hospital	Marylou Killian mlk724@yahoo.com
Trauma Conference	June 4	St. Elizabeth's, Utica	ftalerico@stemc.org
EMS Trauma Conference	Nov. 5	Bassett	coleen.vesely@bassett.org

## TNCC/ENPC/CATN UPDATE

Coleen Vesely, Professional Development Chair  
Email: coleen.vesely@bassett.org

**Good news!** The ENA Board of Directors recently approved an additional \$1,000 per state for the TNCC/ENPC/CATN grant program. Last summer the Board approved an initial \$1000 per state to use in any manner which specifically supports courses. The New York State Council discussed the monies and how to best serve the members. We decided to use this money to hold a TNCC/ENPC instructor course on Friday August 13th, the day prior to the State meeting. We hope if you are coming for the course you will stay for the meeting. Stay tuned for more information.

Each year the national ENA office arranges quarterly State Trauma/Pediatric Chair conference calls. This is our opportunity to discuss concerns and issues surrounding TNCC, ENPC or CATN. If you have any issues to bring forward, please let me know by the following dates: Wednesday, April 28th, Wednesday, July 28th and Wednesday October 27th.

### CURRENT COURSE APPLICATIONS ON THE WEB

We would like to remind our course directors to utilize the current TNCC, ENPC, and CATN course applications that are posted on the TNCC, ENPC, and CATN pages of the ENA web site. These applications have the most current pricing information, allow for you to specify what contact information you would like to be shown on the web, and allow you to specify the payment amounts you are submitting for books and for indirect fees. Many follow up calls and emails to the course director can be eliminated by use of the current application forms.

It is required that course directors submit a separate application for each course to be held. The national office often receives one application that lists multiple course dates, leaving much room for error in processing and handling. Additional follow up with the course director is necessary to clarify if the number of books specified is for one course or all courses collectively, whether the credit card information provided is to charge for one course, or all courses collectively, and other possible questions. The course applications are in Word format and can be easily reproduced so that you can submit one application for each course, without having to retype all of the information. Please do so to eliminate the possibility of errors.

## NYS COUNCIL CONSIDERING ONLINE NEWSLETTER

In the interest of going "green", the NYS Council is considering sending our quarterly newsletter via email to members who would prefer receiving it online rather than receiving a hard copy by USPS.

As most of you know, the newsletter is currently posted on the nysena.org website, which would continue.

If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of our newsletter, please complete the information below and send it to Phyllis Parker, 5 Willow Street, Centereach, NY 11720 or email the information to pparker39@optimum.net.

If choosing the online option, please verify that National ENA has your correct email address.

Check future newsletters for updates on our decision.

I would prefer to receive my NYS newsletter, "Setting the Pace" by USPS.

NAME (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

## REVERSE RAFFLE

Once again at the Setting the Pace conference in Saratoga on April 22 and 23, 2010, we will be conducting our reverse raffle to raise money for a donation to the ENA Foundation 911 scholarship fund. In the past we have had a variety of exciting items, including an IPOD, Broadway show tickets, handmade quilts, Tiffany jewelry, wine baskets, textbooks and many other articles. All donations will be accepted and on display during the conference. On behalf of the NYSCENA and ENAF we thank you for your continued support of this exciting and fun filled event. For more information or to make a donation, please contact Mickey Forness at mickeyforness@yahoo.com.

## FROM THE CHAPTERS

**Central** will be conducting TNCC and ENPC classes in the spring and summer. A Fall Conference is being planned. Check their website, cnyena.org.

**CHATT** is planning a Safety Day on June 5 with Mercy Flight and Southern Tier Health Care participating. They will conduct a bike rodeo, car seat checks, boating safety, child identification, etc. For information, contact Jacquie Glendinning at barkeley97@hotmail.com.

**Manhattan Bronx** conducts many TNCC and ENPC classes. Check the course schedules in this newsletter.

**Mid Hudson's** website was scheduled to go live on February 11, Mid Hudson ena.org.

**Mohawk's** next meeting is planned for March 4. In conjunction with Bassett, EMS Education on the 2nd Saturday of each month continues. Falls prevention, bike helmet safety, water safety and winter safety programs are on going.

**Southern Tier** is working on their website. Their next monthly meeting is scheduled on March 10 at 5pm at McGirk's Irish Pub. An Education Day is planned for October 6th.

**Suffolk** held their February 18th meeting at Stony Brook Medical Center with a presentation on "Critical Thinking in the ED." All Suffolk County ED leaders were invited to "Leading Your Emergency Department into 2010," an evening conference at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center on February 22.

**Western's** topic for their February 10th meeting was "Anatomy of the Lawsuit."

## NYS 2010 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Conference - Margaret Gallagher • 845-896-8119 • p.gallagher@sfhhc.org  
Nominations - Susan Chalupa-Breese • 585-425-4753 • sbreese@rochester.rr.com  
Membership - MaryEllen Jennison • 607-849-3392 • Mary\_Ellen\_Jennison@uhs.org  
Professional Development and EMS - Coleen Vesely • 607-547-4812 • coleen.vesely@bassett.org  
Professional Issues & Practice - Susan A. Prezzano • 845-656-3337 • tnc136@aol.com  
Awards - Mickey Forness • 716-373-3612 • mickeyforness@yahoo.com  
Injury Prevention- Judy Jax • 516-663-8708 • jjax@winthrop.org  
Communications - Phyllis Parker • 631-585-6989 • pparker39@optimum.net

## NYS 2010 STATE VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSONS

Student Nurses - Stephen Stewart • 315-882-7523 • singrdude@aol.com  
Membership - Jacquie Glendinning • 716-375-6275 • barkeley97@hotmail.com  
Certification - Margaret Gallagher • 845-896-8119 • p.gallagher@sfhhc.org  
Media Relations - Mary Ellen Jennison • 607-849-3392 • Mary\_Ellen\_Jennison@uhs.org  
Volunteer Development - Rich McCaffery • 607-547-5256 • Richard.mccaffery@bassett.org  
*These committees welcome new volunteers. If you or anyone you know is interested in assisting one of these committees, please contact the chairperson listed or just come to the next state council meeting and volunteer. It's a good way to start getting involved on the state level of your professional organization.*

## SETTING THE PACE 2010

### "MEETING TODAY'S CHALLENGES WHILE PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE"

April 22 & 23, 2010 • Saratoga Springs, NY

Please join us for an educational and entertaining conference with many well-known national speakers.

From the pre-sessions to the closing reception and basket raffle, you may choose sessions with a variety of topics, network with other ED nurses, meet sponsors, see new products and attend the Awards Luncheon. Saratoga Springs offers many restaurants, shopping, mineral baths, history and much more. All are invited to stay for the NYS Council meeting on Sat., April 24th.

*Please contact sandi@tetter.net if planning to stay for the meeting.*

Please check the nysena.org website for conference and registration information or complete the registration form below to mail your registration and payment. **See you in Saratoga Springs!**

## Setting the Pace Registration

ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE VIA THE NYSENA WEBSITE WWW.NYSENA.ORG

### Setting the Pace 2010 Conference and Pre-sessions

(please print)

NAME ..... ENAF .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... STATE ..... ZIP .....

EMPLOYER .....

EMPLOYER CITY/STATE .....

PHONE ..... EMAIL .....

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NYSCENA

Please note: no refunds after April 15th.

MAIL TO: SUSAN BREESE

48 WINDING BROOK DRIVE, FAIRPORT NY 14450-2655

(phone) 585 425 4753

(email) SBREESE@ROCHESTER.RR.COM

If you require special materials or services as covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act please notify registration coordinator Susan Knapp. Notices must be received in writing by April 14, 2010.

APRIL 22ND & 23RD—CONFERENCE AND PRE-SESSIONS

Includes all materials, breaks, and awards luncheon.

PRE-SESSION, THURSDAY APRIL 22ND, MORNING (all in amount)

SELECT ONE:  WRITING FOR PUBLICATION  CPEN REVIEW  TEX 2 (FREE)

ENA MEMBER (CPEN REVIEW) ..... \$60.00 .....

NON-ENA MEMBER (CPEN REVIEW) ..... \$70.00 .....

CONFERENCE: THURSDAY APRIL 22ND AND FRIDAY APRIL 23RD

ENA MEMBER (postmarked by March 24) ..... \$150.00 .....

NON-ENA MEMBER (postmarked by March 24) ..... \$170.00 .....

ENA MEMBER (postmarked after March 24) ..... \$170.00 .....

NON-ENA MEMBER (postmarked after March 24) ..... \$190.00 .....

3 OR MORE REGISTRANTS ..... \$140.00 EACH .....

Must be mailed together with one check before March 24.

Fee is the same for ENA and non-ENA member.

UNDERGRADUATE/DIPLOMA NURSING STUDENT ..... \$120.00 .....

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE ENCLOSED .....

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

DATE RECEIVED ..... AMOUNT RECEIVED .....

# ALL THINGS HAPPEN FOR A REASON

Coleen Vesely, RN, BSN, CEN, CPEN, MEP

Recent changes in the Ethics Policy for our state government resulted in the cancellation of the New York State ENA Legislative Breakfast. While this was a disappointment for the founders and those who worked so hard to keep it going, I believe it was a blessing in disguise.

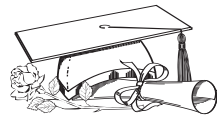
Let me tell you why I think so.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the ENA Legislative Workshop in Arlington Virginia. I didn't know what to expect from this two-day affair and was a little anxious after reviewing the materials. All I can say now is WOW!

I had a fair working knowledge, or so I thought, of how our government works and how bills are passed. Now I have changed that statement to "I had a very basic knowledge". I learned the difference between lobbying and being a lobbyist; I learned about the budget process and why some bills that are passed with a dollar amount attached are really not funded. I learned how to approach my government officials so they will be more attentive to my needs and desires and how to continue reaching out to them on those issues. And I learned where the resources are to keep abreast of current issues that affect me both personally and professionally. I left with so much more information.

The first thing I want to share with you is available to everyone, not just ENA members. On the national ENA web site, [www.ena.org](http://www.ena.org), there is an icon on the left-hand side of the home page labeled Government & Advocacy. Under that heading are a number of sub-categories, but I want to draw your attention to the second one – E-mail alerts. You can sign up for emails from

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



Nursing students are invited to attend the New York State ENA annual conference, Setting the Pace 2010 on April 22 and 23 at the Saratoga Springs Holiday Inn. In addition to the educational offerings, the conference is an opportunity to network and be introduced to emergency nursing.

The New York State Council ENA provides a limited number of scholarships to nursing students who wish to attend this conference. The scholarship covers the registration fee. To apply for the scholarship, a student must send a letter indicating his/her interest in the conference and in emergency care. The student also needs to send a letter from a faculty member indicating that the student is a good candidate and would benefit from attending the conference. Both letters should be mailed to Mary Ellen Jennison, 8 Tannery St., Marathon, NY 13803-0393 or emailed to [Mary\\_Ellen\\_Jennison@uhs.org](mailto:Mary_Ellen_Jennison@uhs.org) by March 30th. A committee will review all candidates and awardees will be notified by mail/phone.

Please pass this information to any students you know who might be interested.

national ENA on hot topics affecting nursing. You can also visit this section without getting emails and check to see the current hot topics, the current legislation and you can find your representatives on both federal and state levels. I can't begin to tell you how much information can be found in this one section of the website. Explore it and find the wonderful information it holds.

We have been empowered to change things. With almost 40,000 national members and over 2,500 state members, we have a strong voice. We can make a difference and I challenge you to do that. Start at your local chapter meetings. Go to the [ena.org](http://ena.org) website and review a section together. Find out who represents you, how they voted on an issue that might have changed your practice or where they stand on current bills.

Having to cancel our Legislative Breakfast was a blessing in disguise. It has changed the way we will consider Government Affairs. Instead of getting energized every two years and trying to effect change, we will now talk about issues at every State Council meeting with a new mindset. This article can't possibly give you the many tools that I acquired. Each future newsletter will have information on legislation and government affairs. This is your chance to speak up and be heard. Come to the state meetings and join us on the Government Affairs Committee.

Editor's Note: Although the Legislative Breakfast was cancelled, some members were able to make appointments and meet with their legislators. See photos in this newsletter.



*NYSENA members meet in front of the State Capital, Jan. 26, 2010*



*NYSENA members with Legislative Assistant*



*NYSENA members meet with Sen. Padavan*



*Sen. Flanagan with NYSENA members*



*New York State Sen. LaValle*



*NYSENA members meet with Sen. Golden*



*Sen. Maziarz with NYSENA members*

## SUFFOLK CHAPTER ENA MEMBERS ASSIST IN VACCINE EFFORTS

Connie Kraft, RN, MSN, CEN

Members of the Suffolk County Chapter of the Emergency Nurses Association volunteered their services at a Point of Dispensing (POD) operation for local first responders. ENA partnered with the Suffolk Regional Resource Center and Stony Brook University Medical Center in order to vaccinate firefighters and EMS workers with the H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccine.



The POD was conducted at the Setauket Fire Department's Station 3. ENA members interacted with the first responders on a new level as they provided information and education along with a vaccination. One might see this as a "shot in the arm" for relations between ED nurses and pre-hospital providers.

*Kudos to the Suffolk ENA for a fantastic volunteer effort!*



## LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY

Mary Schmidt Roth

As noted in Coleen Vesely's article "All Things Happen For A reason", the NYSENA legislative breakfast, which had been held biannually over the past ten years, was cancelled due to ethics policy changes in NYS government. In its place, a Legislative Action Day was held, with about 10 members visiting legislators and presenting NYSENA's legislative agenda. For some members, meeting with their legislators is a common event. For other nurses, this was a first and exciting visit.

Phyllis Parker and Barbara Clasen were happy to hear from Senator LaValle that the Senate had just voted to increase penalties for anyone who assaults ED nurses. The focus now is to get the Assembly to do the same.

Government Affairs Chair Sue Prezzano encouraged the members to take this opportunity to present NYSENA issues and also to offer themselves as resources to the legislators as experts in emergency care in NYS. Since this is the beginning of the legislative session, ENA wants the senators and assembly members to be aware of NYSENA's concerns for legislation impacting patient care in the Emergency Department.

The NYS legislature is quite large. When an individual meeting was not possible, the agenda was left with staff. NYSENA's contact person is Susan Prezzano at [tnc136@aol.com](mailto:tnc136@aol.com).