

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Lou Killian

Last July when the Conference Committee started planning this year's Setting the Pace conference, the decision to include Biological and Chemical weapons and Terrorist Attacks was made because "some people find that sort of thing interesting". It just goes to show how rapidly change can occur.

As emergency nurses we work in an environment where we expect change. This can be demonstrated in every aspect of our practice. We never say "it's Quiet" - because we know that the Bus will pull up. When we return from vacation, one of the first questions we ask is what changed while I was gone? In fact, I dare say that many of us chose emergency nursing because of how frequently our work changes. This doesn't mean that the changes are not stressful or that all of us react the same to change.

One of the major challenges for New York State ENA is to help emergency nurses cope with the changes in their practice environment through education and advocacy. In order to meet this challenge we need input and participation from all our members.

If you don't have the time to show up at a meeting or educational program, there are other ways you can help. Talk to your chapter and state representatives about your concerns. Any help that can be given to the organization is appreciated. This can range from becoming an instructor at educational programs, placing stamps on flyers, bringing food to meetings or even just telling the new nurse in your department about what can be gained from membership.

Emergency nurses are smart, caring, flexible, and hard working professionals. We have the ability to make positive changes and to deal with the changes thrown at us by working together.

NEW YORK STATE ENA TO RUN A MEMBERSHIP CHAPTER CHALLENGE BY THE NYS ENA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The membership goals for this year include increasing total membership by five percent and increasing the number of New York State ENA members participating in ENA activities by ten percent. A large portion of achieving these goals will be at the chapter level, at the January State Council meeting a "CHAPTER CHALLENGE" developed.

Here is how the challenge will work:

Membership numbers will be tracked for each chapter starting with the January membership numbers. Next January the chapters with the largest total increase in numbers and the largest percentage increase in numbers will each be given a scholarship to SETTING THE PACE 2003. It will be up to the winning chapters as to how to award the scholarship. If you want a say about how your chapter awards this scholarship (if your chapter wins) become involved in your chapter's activities and attend their meetings since this is where the decisions are made. Good luck to all Chapters.

Currently, here is how your chapter stands:

Adirondack	96	Mark Twain	19
Brooklyn/Staten Island	234	Mid Hudson	98
Central	67	Mohawk	28
Chatt	12	Nassau/Queens	261
Genesee	57	Southern Tier	27
Lower Hudson	136	Suffolk	116
Manhattan/Bronx	187	Western	50

SETTING THE PACE - ANNUAL CONFERENCE

I would like to personally invite you to our annual educational (and social) event "Setting The Pace 2002." This year we will be meeting in the Lilac City - Rochester at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. We will begin with a welcome Reception hosted by the Genesee Valley Chapter on Thursday April 18, 2002 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The following day (April 19) we are offering an exciting line up of speakers starting with Kathy Robinson, RN, CEN, EMT-P, President-elect of the Emergency Nurses Association. Kathy will speak on "Error Reduction in Emergency Care." Other speakers include Sue McAllen, RN, BSN, CEN presenting "Family Presence During Resuscitation;" Ken DeMott, RN, MS, Lt Commander USN (Ret.) presenting "Selected Bio-Chemical Weapons: What Front Line Emergency Personnel Should Know" and "Emergency Department Preparation in Response to the Terrorist Threat;" Virginia Duffy, PhD, RN, CS, NP presenting "Nurses as Entrepreneurs;" Pam Haines, RN presenting "Chest Pain, Syncope and Palpitations in Adolescents;" Michael Roach, PA presenting "Update on Biphasic Defibrillation & Implanted Cardiac Devices" and Paul Maurer, MD presenting "Current Neurosurgical Care in the ED Setting." We will top off the day with our Reverse Auction/Cocktail Reception followed by our Awards Banquet.

Come join us and earn a maximum of 6.2 CECHs while meeting colleagues from around the state! You are also invited to join us at our State Council Meeting on Saturday April 20. Rochester is easily accessible from I-90; Amtrack or the Rochester International Airport (Jet Blue has a terminal here). For further information please contact me via email: kkearls@AOL.com or call me at 914-935-0478. Hope to see you at "Setting The Pace 2002!"

Kathie Carlson, RN, MSN, CEN Conference Chair

CALL FOR AWARDS

Is there someone who you believe is a shining star for New York State ENA? Why not let them know how much their work means to you and your chapter by nominating them for one of the State Emergency Nurses Association Awards? Here is a list of the awards that are given annually. .

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: Is presented to an individual who has demonstrated commitment to New York State ENA and helps to promote the ideas of ENA through various special projects and efforts.

Anita Dorr Award: Is given to the Emergency Nurse recognized by peers for consistently being knowledgeable in Emergency Nursing and for presenting themselves as a caring professional individual, reflective of the integrity and commitment of the woman in whose memory this award is given, the co-founder of the Emergency Nurses Association, Anita Dorr.

The Ginny Hens EMS Award: This award is for the ENA member who promotes collaboration between pre-hospital care providers and New York State ENA through various activities and projects (presented at the EMS Vital Signs awards banquet in October).

If there is anyone who you would like to nominate for these awards, please send:

1. C.V. of the Nominee
2. A letter stating why the person should be considered for the nomination.

To : Susan D. Knapp
7754 Roder Parkway
Ontario, NY 14519
1-315-524-4883
rknapp02@rochester.rr.com

Absolutely no later than April 1, 2002.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!

The New York State Council of the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) has a newsletter circulation of 2300. It is published quarterly and reaches all Emergency Departments and ENA members in New York State. We accept paid advertisements meeting the following criteria:

1. Products which relate to emergency nursing
2. Services relating to emergency nursing
3. Recruitment advertising within New York State

Advertisements are subject to committee approval prior to publication. Advertisement are to be copy ready and reducible. The New York State Council of ENA disclaims any responsibility for advertising material and does not guarantee, or endorse any product or service advertised. We are very proud of the work that is done by the Council and encourage your support of ENA. Should you decide to advertise, checks should be made payable to NYSCENA. For further information, please contact Mary Roth, roth2@ix.netcom.com or fax (516) 766-5709

ASK THE CLINICIAN

The editorial staff agreed to a new column to start in 2002, ASK THE CLINICIAN. Readers who have clinical questions are invited to write/email or fax their questions to the editor. Send yours to 43 Lehigh Ct., Rockville Center, NY 11570; roth2@ix.netcom.com; or 516-766-5709.

The first question is: Is there evidence that amiodorone actually works in the cardiac arrest situation?

Amiodorone was added to the ACLS guidelines in 2000. It is a class III antiarrhythmic, but it does have some qualities of all the antiarrhythmic classes. There is very limited research on the effectiveness of antiarrhythmics in cardiopulmonary arrest. Amiodorone is one drug in which there is some research to support its use. There is one random controlled trial which compared amiodorone with placebo and showed that for every ten people suffering an out of hospital arrest, one life would be benefited and survive to receive in hospital care. So far, no study has shown that long term mortality would be affected. The AHA Emergency Care Committee recognizes the need for additional research with the various drugs to treat the cardiopulmonary arrest patient.

Can you tell me something about the new drug Nesiritide (Natrecor), and should we expect to use it in our EDs?

Nesiritide is an intravenous drug used to treat decompensated congestive heart failure (CHF), being those with dyspnea at rest or with minimal exertion. Chemically it is a human B-type natriuretic peptide which resembles the naturally occurring hormone found in our cardiac and brain tissue. Nesiritide acts as a vasodilator and also as a diuretic. It reduces both preload and afterload. The most common adverse effect is symptomatic hypotension, and associated symptoms such as headache, nausea, substernal pain lightheadedness and sinus bradycardia. Compared to Dobutamine, there were fewer ventricular arrhythmias.

Nesiritide is for intravenous use only. The recommended dose is IV bolus of 2 mcg/kg followed by a continuous infusion at dose of 0.01mcg/kg/min

Nesiritide is not considered first line therapy. Continue to expect medications like diuretics and nitroglycerine and nitroprusside to be used initially. So hopefully you will not be using Nesiritide except infrequently in the ED. Those of you who have many critical holdovers including for several days would be more likely to see this drug ordered in the CHF patient who does not respond well to initial therapies.

NEWSLETTER/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Please submit any ideas, suggestions, or articles to:

Editor: Mary Schmidt Roth
E-mail: roth2@ix.netcom.com
Phone: (516) 766-2784
Fax: (516) 766-5709

Contributing Editors: Lori Barkwell
E-mail: Bark518@aol.com

Denise Harris
E-mail: Dharris719@aol.com

Next issue deadline: April 27, 2002

INJURY PREVENTION COMMITTEE NEWS

New York State ENA is compiling a list of those who are ENCARE Providers. If you give injury prevention classes where you live or work, please give your name to Judy Jax at Jjax@winthrop.org.

If you are interested in attending a class to become an ENCARE Provider, please contact Judy Jax, so you can be placed on a mailing list for the next class. Provider classes are one day in length, and the cost is approximately \$50. Contact Judy at Jjax@winthrop.org.

DONATIONS WANTED

A Reverse Raffle will be held at the state conference in Rochester on Friday April 19, 2002 from 5-7 pm. Past raffle items have included baskets, lilac bushes, theater tickets, crystal, books, etal. Anyone wishing to donate items for the raffle please contact Gwen Williams at 585-663-0563, or at 585-922-2300. All proceeds from the raffle benefit ENA.

EMS COMMITTEE NEWS

The EMS Committee will be developing the newly formed September 11th Fund. The September 11th Fund is a scholarship fund which will be administered by the Emergency Nurses Association Foundation (ENAF). This fund was initiated by the New York State Council ENA to benefit prehospital care providers who return to school to obtain a registered nurse degree. Any police, firefighter, EMT, or paramedic can apply for this scholarship. The EMS Committee will be soliciting funds for the continuation of this scholarship and will market this fund to potential recipients. If you are interested in contributing or wish to have more information about the September 11th Fund, please contact Laura Giles at 212-241-5581 or at Laura_Giles@smtplink.mssm.edu.



(L to R) Assembly Member Kevin Cabill, President Mary Lou Killian and Issues & Practice Chair Denise Harris.

COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

NYSCENA has several committees which focus on different projects. Membership is open to all. If you are interested in participating, contact the Chair of the Committee of interest.

Conference Committee:	Kathy Carlson kkcarlson@aol.com 914-934-3807
EMS Committee:	Laura Giles Laura_Giles@smtplink.mssm.edu 212-241-5581
Issues and Practice:	Denise Harris Dharris719@aol.com 718-602-2351
Professional Development:	Cathy Lind Harbor97@aol.com 717-634-6765
Injury Prevention (ENCARE):	Judy Jax Jjax@winthrop.org 516-663-8708
Communications:	Mary Schmidt Roth roth2@ix.netcom.com 516-766-2784
Membership:	Mickey Forness Mickeyforness@yahoo.com 716-373-2612

CVPH MEDICAL CENTER

Where In the World Is Plattsburgh, NY???

Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital Medical Center is ideally located at the foot of the Adirondack Mountains and on the shore of Lake Champlain in Plattsburgh, NY. Our community offers a high quality of life difficult to find in many mid-sized cities. A wide variety of recreational activities abound in the Olympic Lake Placid region and our close proximity to Montreal offers an abundance of cultural and entertainment opportunities.

CVPH's talented and dedicated employees and physicians enjoy working for the only major health care resource in New York's North Country. We take pride in our community based, community supported Level II hospital that offers a broad range of inpatient and outpatient services rarely found outside a big city medical center.

Our Emergency Care Center is comprised of a 16 bed main ER, 6 bed Fast Track Clinic, 6 bed Chest Pain Unit and 3 bed Crisis Unit. Our highly skilled staff of RN's, LPN's, EMT's, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and Physicians work hard to serve the community in which they live. We provide our staff state of the art equipment; manageable staffing ratios; proactive management; comprehensive benefits plans including health coverage, life insurance, retirement benefits with matching employer funds and generous staff education funds. Relocation assistance available.

Make the most of your distinctive experience/skills and join our team today!

If you place a high value on quality of life in combination with a satisfying professional career, submit your resume or call today for an application (800) 562-7301; 75 Beekman St. Plattsburgh, NY 12901; fax (518) 562-7302; email cjudd@cvph.org. For more information about our medical center visit our website at www.cvph.org.

Equal Opportunity Employer

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NEW YORK ENA LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Lori Barker, MS, RN, CEN

On January 22, 2002, members of the New York State Emergency Nurses Association gathered at the Legislative Office Building in Albany for its Fourth Legislative Breakfast. Members greeted senators, assemblymen, and their legislative assistants to discuss current healthcare legislation. ENA members identified themselves as constituents to their respective legislators and conveyed the need for their support on four key pieces of legislation.

The Child Abuse Reporting Bill (#A03493) (sponsored by Assemblyman Calhoun) would mandate the State Central Registry to record and preserve all calls of suspected child abuse. It would require that all calls to the child abuse hotline be treated as a report of abuse, unless two department personnel made written determination that the allegations could not reasonably constitute such abuse. NYSCENA supports passage of this bill in an effort to stop abuse and save children's lives.

The Nursing Care Quality Protection Act (#A02581) (sponsored by Assemblyman Gottfried) is a consumer protection bill. It would limit the use of the term "nurse" to licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and licensed professional registered nurses (RNs) only. It would also allow the consumer access to facility information concerning nursing quality indicators. This information includes patient complaints, incidence of adverse outcomes (ie. medication errors, falls, nosocomial infections), and compliance with healthcare standards. NYSCENA supports passage of this bill as a means to empower consumers to make an informed choice when seeking healthcare services and to give the public an assurance that the "nurse" taking care of them is indeed a licensed nurse.

The Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Payment Act (#A07306) (sponsored by Assemblyman John) amends the sexual assault forensic exam act of 2001. It would provide for direct reimbursement by the crime victims board to hospitals, sexual assault examiners, and licensed healthcare providers of sexual assault forensic exams. Reimbursement of \$800 for the exam, to be adjusted annually, would be instituted statewide. The rape survivor would not have to receive a bill for the exam and potentially lose crime victim compensation (for claims made after a specified time period). The hospital and examiner would receive payment for their services, ensuring continued specialized

support to survivors of sexual assault. NYSCENA supports the passage of this bill as a means to minimize further victimization of sexual assault survivors and to directly compensate the hospital and examiner for their services.

In addition to these bills, members discussed the effects of the Nursing Shortage on our profession and the services we provide. We are encouraged by Assembly Minority Leader John Faso and Assemblywoman Maureen O'Connell's work on the Assembly Minority Nursing Shortage Task Force. NYSCENA supports financial assistance to nursing students, coordination of recruitment campaigns, mentoring programs for new nurses, and improved working conditions for current nurses as potential solutions to the nursing shortage. Recognition by our legislators that the nursing shortage is a true crisis that affects everyone is the first step towards finding solutions to this national problem.

During the Legislative Breakfast, there was also a flurry of discussion about the amendment to the Health Care Reform Act (HCRA) passed by the legislature in January. It calls for a \$3.5 billion dollar health care plan. The plan relies on a \$1.8 billion dollar contribution by federal Medicaid funds, along with tax increases, including a 39-cent per pack tax increase on cigarettes. This legislation has drawn criticism from both conservatives and liberals. It is too costly, and the plan lacks input from the public. White House Budget Director Mitch Daniels ruled out an increase in the federal Medicaid contribution, which is needed to make the \$3.8 billion dollar plan happen. The plan, said to have been brokered by 1199 Union leader Dennis Rivera, is devised to improve healthcare worker's salaries. NYSCENA will continue to track the progress on this issue.

I found the legislators overwhelmingly interested in our input. I would encourage each of you to know who your local legislators are and to communicate to them your feelings on current healthcare legislation. If you need help, I recommend the following websites: www.assembly.state.ny.us, www.senate.state.ny.us, and www.ena.org (check "government relations" homepage under "programs & meetings") as starting points. Also, ENA's Legislative Action Center can assist you with pre-composed letters to Legislators.



Phyllis Parker (L) with local Assembly Member Patricia Acampora (center).



ENA members at legislative breakfast. State President Mary Lou Killian (L) and Denise Harris (R) holding the banner.



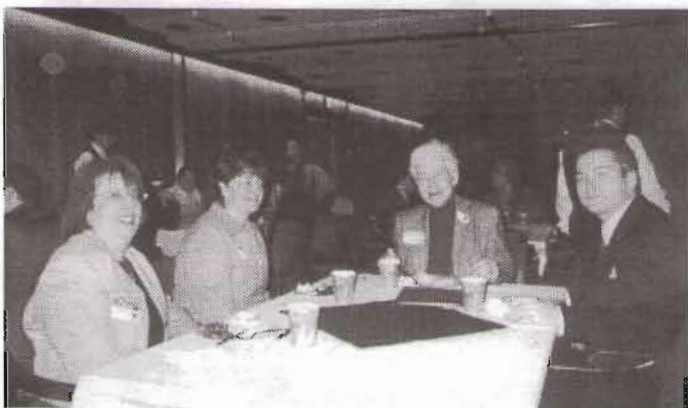
ENA Council members at council committee meeting.



Assemblyman Joseph Robach with ENA members at legislative breakfast.



Assemblywoman Sandra Lee Wirth meets with Issues & Practice Chair Denis Harris.



(L-R) ENA members Judy Jax and Debbie Uhlman meet with Senator Patricia McGee, along with Mike Dixon.

BROOKLYN/STATEN ISLAND CHAPTER NEWS

The Brooklyn/Staten Island Chapter had donated some funds to the relief efforts in NYC, but felt we needed to do something to acknowledge our own. Many of our nurses had assisted in relief efforts, not only on September 11th, but in the subsequent days and weeks; many had suffered personal losses, all had been ready to help in any way that we could. The chapter assembled 17 baskets of lotion, candy, cookies and a letter of thanks, and in one mad day of driving through Brooklyn and Staten Island delivered the goodies to hospital EDs. (Picture the attempt to secure parking spaces in downtown Brooklyn. In most cases that meant someone dashing through security... mostly pretty lax, surprise!... into the ED, while someone sat in the car, usually at a hydrant or another illegal spot ready for a quick getaway.) Those hospitals that we didn't reach that day received boxes of candy and a letter of thanks. Hopefully the nurses who weren't around when the goodies arrived, at least saw the letter and knew that we had thought of them. We also mailed candy and letters to a number of hospitals in the New Jersey. Many EDs there had received a number of patients due to the emergency ferry runs across the river but were not being acknowledged for the service that they rendered.

Carol Jarmel, President

MY EXPERIENCE AT THE LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST IN ALBANY

Michael Dixon

As with most people who go to Albany to promote their agenda, I felt a bit uneasy. Although these are our elected legislators and our cause is well worthy of their attention, the feeling that Albany is their home turf and lobbying isn't an emergency nurses typical forte, left me nervous. In reality we have a lot to offer on the topic of health care and nursing issues and we do provide them with some very much needed direction. Other than having knowledge of what they can do for our cause, I found that there is something that they want much more, our picture. At first I found this somewhat unbelievable. How much worth could a picture with a group of nurses hold? Well, it turns out much more than you might expect. Not only do nurses have the numbers (especially in New York), but we are generally held in high regard by the voting public. So, you see we do have quite a bit to offer.

Prior to leaving for Albany, I emailed the legislators who represent my district and personally invited them to the breakfast, stating that I was a registered nurse and a registered voter from their district. I also looked up the legislative issues to be discussed as you can never be over prepared for this group. I received a response from my Assemblyman, Harvey Weisenberger saying he would be there and was looking forward to meeting with us. Confident that I would meet with at least one of my legislators I drove up to Albany the night before to attend the Legislative Workshop given by Denise Harris and Mary Schmidt Roth. The workshop was very informative and helpful as it gave an overview of the issues to be discussed and some other things that would probably be asked by the legislators.

The morning of the meeting, I dressed in my professional best, ready for my lobbying effort. Assemblyman Weisenberg came about 9:30 stating he wanted to discuss the issues, but that he was in a rush. Could I come with him to talk during the photo-op. (photo opportunity) On the way down in the elevator, he looked at the issues folders we gave him. Then he asked if I thought I could talk about these issues for about fifteen minutes on TV. Instantly the butterflies turn to bats. I swallowed hard and said I believed so. He said great, the elevator doors opened and we went to a small studio located within the legislative office building. While waiting the short period prior to shooting the program Assemblyman Weisenberg spoke with me, telling me not to be nervous and he discussed his own background prior to becoming an elected official. He had been a police officer from Long Beach and his wife is a registered nurse. He was very disarming. The television shoot was nerve racking regardless, but I'm sure better than I thought. Afterward he told me you never know what to expect up here in Albany. I couldn't agree more.



Assembly Member Harvey Weisenberg (L) with ENA Member Michael Dixon, RN, BSN, CEN.



Instructor Courses: TNCC and ENPC

Date: April 18, 2002

***Location: Strong Memorial Hospital
Rochester, New York***

Applicants must forward to following information to:

**Cathy Norton Lind, Chair
NYSCENA Professional Development
141 Beach 207th Street
Rockaway Point, New York 11697**

- **Copy of curriculum vitae**
- **Letter of recommendation from one of the following sources:**
 - **A colleague with whom you have taught a program**
 - **Chapter president**
 - **Course Director from your provider course**
- **Copy of TNCC provider card (for TNCC class)**
- **Copy of ENPC provider card (for ENPC class)**
- **A letter of commitment from the applicant stating participation in at least 2 programs per year.**

Applicants will be notified of acceptance in the course at least four weeks prior to the program.

**Seats Available: TNCC: 8 Instructor candidates; 4 ENPC
“bridgers”
ENPC: 8 Instructor candidates; 4 TNCC
“bridgers”**

**Tuition: \$250.00 per person (includes instructor
candidate and instructor manuals, light
breakfast and lunch)**

For further information please contact:

***Cathy Lind
718-634-6765 (H) harbor97@aol.com
718-240-6512 (W) clind@brookdale.edu***

CEN REVIEW DATE

October 17 & 18	St. Francis Hospital Poughkeepsie	Sue Prezzano 845-431-8728
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ENPC COURSE DATES

March 22 & 23	Western New York Erie County Medical Center	Debbie Uhlman 716-898-3631
April, 2002 dates TBA	Mohawk Valley	Janet Morrison Naughtynurse@yahoo.com

TNCC COURSE DATES

March 15 & 16	Nassau Queens Winthrop Hospital	Judy Jax 516-546-4905
April 9, 11, & 13	Brooklyn Staten Island Lutheran Medical Center	Eileen Cronin 718-602-2351
June 4, 6 & 8	Brooklyn Staten Island Lutheran Medical Center	Eileen Cronin 718-602-2351
April 27 & 28	Manhattan Bronx	Meg Barry 212-305-2432

TNCC RECERTIFICATION COURSE DATES

March 7 & 9	Brooklyn Staten Island Lutheran Medical Center	Eileen Cronin 718-602-2351
November, 2002	Brooklyn Staten Island Lutheran Medical Center	Eileen Cronin 718-602-2351

TNCC ENPC INSTRUCTOR COURSE DATES

March 17, 2002 Bridge Course	Adirondack Albany Medical Center	Rena Rovere 518-262-3477
April 18, 2002	NYSC Strong Memorial	Cathy Lind 718-634-6765 Harbor97@aol.com

UPCOMING COURSE DATES

EKG-Delayo Style

Cathy Emerson, NREMT, CFRN Instructor
March 5, 2002 at Saratoga Hospital
Contact: Bark518@aol.com

Management of the Burn Patient

Jackie Norris, RN, Burn Clinician, Instructor
May 1, 2002 at Saratoga Hospital
Contact: Bark518@aol.com

Update in Emergency Nursing, a one day conference including:

Sepsis, Trauma, Emergency Delivery and other topics.

Sponsored by Nassau Queens Chapter, ENA

June 5, 2002 in Douglaston

Contact: Mary Schmidt Roth 516-766-2784
roth2@ix.netcom.com

NYS Student Nurse Association, Conference

March 13-15, 2002 at the Fishkill Hilton

Contact: Denise Harris
Dharris719@aol.com

New York State Council
Emergency Nurses Association
Website:

www.nysena.org