TNA, District Four December Auction: Huge Success

On December 14, 2006 TNA, District Four hosted a silent auction at the December General Membership Meeting and Dinner to raise funds to support our endeavor to provide a spectacular 100 Year Celebration for TNA, TNA, D-4. The silent auction was a huge success raising over $1,566.50 in donations from auction items and cash donations. Thanks to all who attended and bid on the great auction items. We also want to thank the following TNA, District Four members and friends of TNA, D-4 for their generous auction donations: Jane Nunnelee, Vick Joswiak, Children’s Medical Center of Dallas; Dia Copeland, Marion Church, June Marshall, Rosa Belgard, Nancy Quelland, Rosie Steffen, Linda Camin, Victoria England, Charla Edwards, Dolores Alford, and Natalie Garry.

Besides a great silent auction, Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas provided a wonderful Christmas buffet for everyone to enjoy. Board of Director and Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas employee, Rosa Belgard, MS, RN provided the program entitled, “Diminishing Language and the Image of Nursing”. All evaluations rated the Continuing Education Program as “excellent”. If you didn’t get to attend, you missed a great evening!

A huge “thank you” is extended to Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas for their generous donation of $1,000 towards the June 14th 100 Year Celebration. Please make every effort to join us on June 14th to celebrate this wonderful milestone of 100 years. It’s guaranteed to be a night to remember! Look for more information to come regarding this gala celebration.

Pictured left to right: Nancy Quelland, representative of Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, Rosa Belgard, TNA, D-4 Board of Director and representative of Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, Margaret Martin, representative of Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, and Victoria England, President of TNA, D-4 presenting the $1,000 donation to TNA, D-4 for its 100 Year Celebration. THANK YOU PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL OF DALLAS for your support!
NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS FOR 2006-2007 NOW BEING ACCEPTED .......

Nominations are now being accepted for awards for 2006-2007. Each year at the Annual Awards Dinner and Installation of Officers we honor the recipients of the following awards: Listed below are the criteria to be followed in the selection.

Consumer of the Year
1. Candidate should be significantly known in the area for his/her overall contributions to the health field with preferably specific effects on nursing.
2. Candidate should be a non-health provider.
3. Candidate should have influenced health care in one or more of the following ways: A. Contributed to the overall improvement of health care. B. Contributed to better working relations of health care workers. C. Provided leadership to groups of consumers with respect to health care.

TNA. District Four Member of the Year
1. Candidate must be a member of Texas Nurses Association and active in local District 4 activities.
2. Candidate demonstrates leadership within District 4.
3. Candidate demonstrates high quality nursing practice.
4. Candidate enhances the profession of nursing within the community.

Nurse of the Year
1. Candidate must be a licensed professional nurse, a member of TNA who is directly involved in nursing through teaching, administration and/or clinical practice.
2. Candidate has had a demonstrable effect on raising the quality of nursing care through scholarly pursuits, research, writing, education and/or practice.
3. The candidate demonstrates ability to apply the ANA Standards of Nursing Practice and/or facilitation of their implementation by others.
4. Evidence exists of candidate involvement in continuing education as participant, organizer or sponsor.
5. Evidence exists of candidate's distinguished contribution to the profession of nursing at the local, state or national level.

Health Care Professional of the Year
1. Candidate must be directly involved in his/her field of service through teaching, administration, research or by providing service in the health care field.
2. Candidate has had demonstrable effect on improving the quality of health care provided to health care consumers through such activities as research, writing, education or direct provisions of health care.
3. Evidence exists of candidate's contribution to the betterment and support of the nursing profession.

Dolores M. Alford Lifetime Achievement Award
1. Candidate must be a member of TNA and active in D-4 activities.
2. Candidate must demonstrate excellence across the lifespan.

Please send nominations for the above awards to the District 4 office along with vita and other supporting documents by May 15th.
Mock Trial Committee Report: Listed below is the breakdown of attendance for the 2006 28th Annual Mock Trial. As you can see, we have a good representation from the schools in the North Texas region. The Mock Trial Committee did an EXCELLENT job in presenting yet another stellar trial for nursing students and RNs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Number of Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Brookhaven College</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. El Centro College</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Grayson County College</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Hill College – Cleburne</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Navarro College</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Northeast Central Texas College</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Northlake College</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Tarrant County College</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Texas Woman’s University College of Nursing</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Trinity Valley Community College</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. RN – Non TNA Member</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. RN – TNA Member</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Attendance:</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,144</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WANTED...YOU!

District Four elections are just around the corner! Don’t be shy! If you are interested in being considered or would like to recommend anyone for nominations to the following District Offices listed below, please contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Cole Edmonson by email at cole.edmonson@hcahealthcare.com or email the D-4 offices at d4tna@flash.net. All terms begin on July 1, 2007. All offices are for two years except the Nominating Committee which serves for one year.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINEES FROM DISTRICT FOUR POLICIES:

The office of **President:**

A. Shall be a member of District Four, TNA and ANA.
B. Shall have served as a member of the D-4 Board of Directors.
C. Demonstrated knowledge of purpose and objectives of TNA and ANA.
D. Served as an active member in D-4 Committees/Conference Groups.

The office of **Secretary-Treasurer:**

A. Shall be a member of District Four, TNA and ANA.
B. Shall have served as an active member in D-4 Committees/Conference Groups.
C. Demonstrated knowledge of purpose and objectives of TNA & ANA.
D. Shall be a member of District Four, TNA and ANA.
E. Shall served as an active member in D-4 Committees/Conference Groups.
F. Demonstrated knowledge of purpose and objectives of TNA and ANA.

The office of **Board Member:**

A. Shall be a member of District Four, TNA and ANA.
B. Shall have served as an active member in D-4 Committees/Conference Groups.
C. Demonstrated knowledge of purpose and objectives of TNA and ANA.

The office of **Nominating Committee:**

A. Active member of District Four, TNA and ANA.
B. Demonstrated knowledge of purpose and objectives of TNA and ANA.

The office of **Delegate to the TNA House of Delegates:**

A. Active member of District Four, TNA and ANA.
B. Demonstrated knowledge of purpose and objectives of TNA and ANA.
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
COLE EDMONSON, CHAIR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE

On January 1, 2007, the Nominating Committee will be activated to prepare a slate of candidates for the May, 2007, District Four election. The deadline for those who are both qualified and willing to serve if elected is March 1st. Nominees must complete curriculum vita summary and permission forms available through D-4 headquarters. The D-4 Bylaws specify minimum criteria for all positions. For more information and assistance in placing your nomination(s), please email Pat Pollock at the TNA, D-4 office, d4tna@flash.net

A brief description of each open position, including length of term, responsibilities, and estimated time commitment appears below. As you consider whether to nominate yourself or others, remember that promoting the vitality of the nursing profession through active service in D-4, TNA helps your patients, your colleagues, and yourself. And it’s fun!

PRESIDENT: Presides at D-4 monthly meetings; serves as Chair of the Board of Directors; ex-officio member of all committees (except Nominating Committee); Chair of D-4 Delegates to the TNA House of Delegates; serves on Dallas Area Consortium of Nursing Specialty Organizations; serves on the Steering Committee of Dallas-Fort Worth Great 100 Nurses; countersigns checks drawn by the Treasurer. (15 hours/month).

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Keeps minutes of all proceedings of D-4 and Board meetings, preserves documents, notifies officers, directors, and committee members of their election or appointment; notifies members of meeting dates; reports at meetings; arranges for general and TNA correspondence. Shall sign checks as authorized by District Four Board of Director policy, keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements, Chair the Finance Committee, be familiar with District Four procedures relating to receipt and deposit of funds, and present a complete written report of the finances of District Four to the Board of Directors and to the President upon request. (3-4 hours/month).

DIRECTORS (3): The D-4 officers and 7 directors constitute the Board of Directors (BOD). It has power and authority over the affairs and business of D-4 in between meetings of the membership. It meets 10 times/year to set priorities, policies, and a master plan. Directors serve as liaison members of D-4 committees and significant special interest groups; the BOD acts as custodian of District property and funds; it handles information; serves as collective “spokesperson”; and it reports regularly to the Membership. (2-5 hours/month). Currently the BOD meetings follow each membership meeting and one planning meeting at the start of the activity year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (5): The five (5) members are elected yearly. They request nominations for all open elected positions and convene each January to begin selecting at least two candidates for each post from among the qualified nominees. In April, the committee presents the ballot and candidate CV summaries to the membership. 2-10 hours/year). Most of the time is spent phoning or emailing perspective candidates. You are expected to attend the April membership meeting.

DELEGATE TO THE TNA HOUSE OF DELEGATES: TNA’s HOD meets for 1 1/2 days every year. The total number of delegates from each District depends on the number of members in that respective district. (14 hours/year). This meeting is in Austin and there can be an overnight stay involved. TNA, D-4 does provide a shared room for the Delegate of TNA, D-4.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The elected Officers and Directors constitute the Board of Directors of TNA, District Four. The Board of Directors is made up of the District officers plus seven (7) directors. The Board carries the legal liability for the conduct of the business of the District, for any statement issued under the auspices of the District, and for adherence to regulations for maintaining tax exempt status. Adherence to the Bylaws of TNA and ANA is overseen by the Board. Hence, any decision that requires District funds, time, or position statement must be considered and accepted by the Board prior to finalizing the decision and making any publications.

The typical agenda for the monthly Board meetings include: standing committee reports; TNA and ANA updates and requests for action; District concerns; financial report; and other business directed to the Board. Annual items for consideration are included on the Master Calendar.

Philosophy

An agency with good external methods, yet lacking in the full spirit of cooperation and dedication to a purpose, will fail; but an agency with a flourishing spirit of cooperation and active pursuit of a common purpose will overcome defects in organization and method. Board of Directors needs business-like methods and good group process – all these and spirit too.” (Sorenson, Roy The Art of Board Membership, New York: Association Press, 1950, p. 136).

Functions

“To consider, debate, and decide an issue is the primary function of a Board”. (Self Inventory concerning Administrative practice for the Board of Directors and the staff of the American Nurses Association. Updated 1970).

1. To conduct the business of the association between district meetings.
2. To provide means of administering the district programs.
3. To suggest to the district ways and means of furthering the program of the association.
4. To represent the thinking of the district to TNA and to local allied groups.

Duties

1. To perform the duties mandated to it by the members of the association.
2. To act as custodian of the property, securities, and records of the association.
3. Set a schedule of board meetings that will enable the board to carry out its functions.
4. Approve a budget that will enable the district to function in carrying out a program which the members authorize.
5. Employ an administrative officer to perform such duties as the Board may prescribe to support the District, Board, officers, and committees conducting the business of the District.
6. Appoint competent members to all standing committees and special committees.
7. Review all committee reports carefully and determine ways to carry out their appropriate recommendations.
8. Review the total program of the district periodically and make recommendations and suggestions to the district on how the program might be strengthened and broadened.
9. Reply to all communications from TNA that asks for special information or suggestions.
10. Develop ways and means of keeping all district members informed of district activities. This may be done through a newsletter, email, website, or other communications.
11. Develop ways and means of working with the community on matters concerning nursing.
Governmental Affairs Committee

June Marshall, RN, MS, CNAA, BC
Dorothy Foglia, RN, MS, PhD(c), CNAA, BC

November was a busy time with elections. GAC members have begun studying the issues that affect nursing and preparing for the upcoming legislative session that begins in January. Following the November elections, checks of support from the RN/APN Political Action Committee were delivered to the following legislators:

- Representative Linda Harper Brown - District 105 (R)
- Representative Tan Parker - District 63 (R)
- Representative Tony Goolsby - District 102 (R)
- Senator Florence Shapiro - District 8 (R)

When meeting with each legislator to deliver the check, the presenter reviewed legislative issues slated for the upcoming session that impact nurses and patients. Each legislator visited was supportive of nursing and recognizes the continued need to address the nursing shortage and create a culture of safety for patients.

TNA's significant legislative and regulatory initiatives for the 2007 legislative session include:

- Creating a regulatory environment conducive to cultures of patient safety
- Addressing the nursing shortage - improving faculty salaries
- BNE Sunset Review - review of the Nursing Practice Act and the Board of Nurse Examiners
- Continued Competency identifying ways to ensure ongoing competency of licensed nurses
- Limiting hours nurses work - TNA has written a white paper in support of limiting hours worked both per day and per week.
- Advanced Practice Nursing - moratorium from 2003 continues
- Health care reform - Code Red Task Force report on the healthcare crisis in Texas
- CHIP and Medicaid reforms

The legislative session has many issues that affect nurses and patients. TNA works hard to keep us informed of the proposed bills and the status of these important issues. Now is the time for nurses to speak out and have a voice in these issues that affect nurses and patients. Please visit the TNA web site at www.texasnurses.org and sign up to receive legislative alerts. The GAC members are also committed to keeping you informed regarding these issues.

And finally, get involved! Get to know the legislators in your district, and help TNA and the GAC educate them about issues that impact nurses and patients. Be the voice that ensures that legislators are committed to creating and maintaining safe workplaces for nurses and safe environments for patients!

December 2006