



# VERMONT ENA

## January 2011 Newsletter

Vermont ENA

[www.vermontena.org](http://www.vermontena.org)

National ENA

<http://www.ena.org>

### **President's Message:**

Happy New Year to all of our Vermont ENA Members!

2010 was an exciting year for ENA as the organization celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. We enter 2011 with over 38,000 members (a little short of the 40,000 goal set for the 40<sup>th</sup> year, but the highest number ever) and a robust agenda that is focused on professional development, public health, and education.

The Institute of Medicine's just released "Report on the Future of Nursing" is a fascinating read and establishes 4 overarching standards for nursing:

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their training and education.
- Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through a system that promotes a seamless academic progression.
- Nurses should be full partners with physicians and other providers in redesigning the healthcare system in the United States.
- Effective workforce planning and policy making derive from better data collection and information infrastructure.

As I thought about this report on the future I couldn't help but reflect upon the accomplishments of ENA in these areas. ENA has always been about data and outcomes based practice. From original research that is presented in our *Journal of Emergency Nursing* to reports that are presented at our annual meetings, data drives our decision making and ultimately our practice. ENA has always been a partner with many other agencies. Strategic partnerships are in place with ACEP, several large vendors of emergency products, the AACN and other nursing professional organizations, and several other private foundations and businesses. All of these connections are important as ENA engages in advocacy work on behalf of its members, patients, and the public in general. Whether it is pushing for stronger motor vehicle laws that improve safety, campaigning for expanded scope of practice for APRNs, or leading a collaborative effort to reduce healthcare costs, ENA is engaged and present.

Here in Vermont I'm very proud of what our own small state council has achieved in this past year. We held our quarterly meetings and nurse manager forums which continue to be well attended and a success. Managers share ideas, collaborate on problems facing their units, and build strong connections with their colleagues at other hospitals in Vermont. We held a successful NERS (New England Regional Symposium) in April with over 150 attendees present. In September we were able to support 5 delegates to ENA's national meeting in San Antonio, TX, where Vermont was well represented at the discussions. Finally, in November we were able to hold our Annual Education Day which drew about 60 attendees and received extremely high marks for the quality of the presentations and the timeliness of the topics.

Our state council remains committed to providing great opportunities and services to our 170-plus members. We support the Joan Hartley Scholarship that provides \$1,000 to an ENA member to attend the national meeting. We support the Karen O'Neil award which supports an ENA member attending NERS. We support 4-5 delegates to the national meeting in September. We support an annual education day that all ENA members are encouraged to attend. We remain committed to lobbying our State government, Federal government, and the national ENA to make changes that we feel benefit our members and our patients.

I hope you as members will take advantage of all the great things ENA offers – both here in Vermont and at the national level. As I enter my second year of my term as your President I will be keeping our focus on education and quality – two of the most critical aspects of our nursing practice. I'm humbled to be entrusted with stewardship of Vermont ENA and I challenge each of you to help make our organization even better in 2011. Happy New Year – it's going to be a great one!

Matthew Choate, RN, BSN, CEN  
2010-2011 State Council President



Congratulations to Joyce Guillemette, R.N., (FAHC) the May 2010 Good Catch Award Winner! During a routine check of vaccinations, Joyce noted the pediatric doses were stored in the adult dose section. The bottles had very similar packaging and cap color, and it would be very difficult to differentiate between these two doses. Joyce took the

extra step to contact a pharmacist and explain her concern. As a result, a National Safe Medication Form was completed to alert others in health care about this important patient safety issue. Kudos to Joyce for making patient safety a priority.

## In SANE News...



The IAFN conference was held in Pittsburgh, PA from 10/27-10/30. Betty Lavoie from Northwestern Medical Center and Vickie Poulin, Alice Barber, Barbara Callahan and Joan Carson, from Fletcher Allen attended. We also met up with Michael Roy who did work at Fletcher Allen but is currently living in Ottawa.

The theme of the conference was "Ending Violence: Leading the Health Care Response." A dynamic keynote address was by John Rich, MD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Management and Policy at Drexel University. His recent book "Wrong Place, Wrong Time, Trauma and Violence in the Lives of Young Black Men," looked at urban violence, adverse childhood experiences, and intervention for violence.

The five of us came back with lots of ideas and new knowledge. A photography seminar will surely improve our photo documentation and we benefited from the discussions about the role of forensic nurses in death investigations, motor vehicle accidents, elder and child abuse and domestic violence. In many communities SANEs are now being used for these scenarios because of our expertise in evidence preservation and documentation.

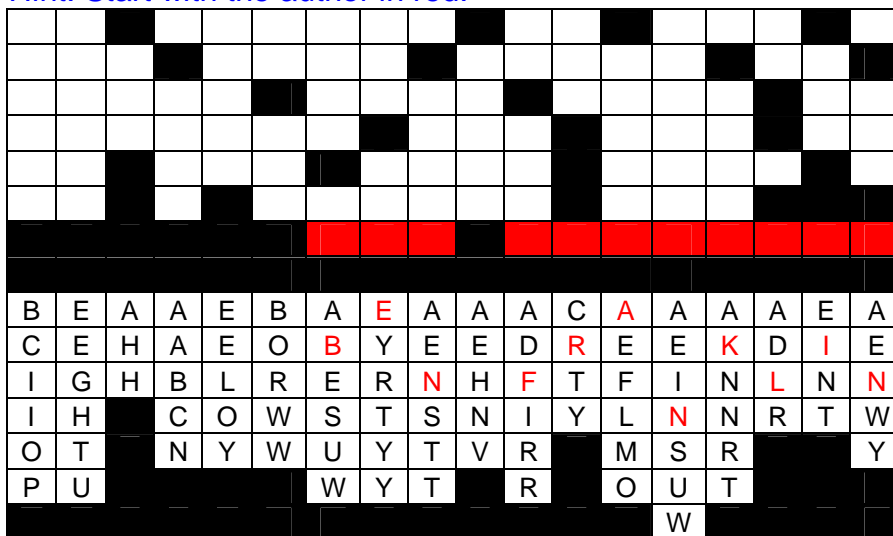
The IAFN Foundation held a fundraising evening with a Roaring 20's theme. This event was well attended and will support scholarships for future educational events.

The Joan Hartley Scholarship Fund does support attendance at the IAFN conference for ENA members. Joan Hartley was an Emergency Department RN as well as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. The yearly scholarship of \$1000 goes to an ENA member interested in attending either the ENA Scientific Assembly or the IAFN Scientific Assembly.

Next Adult SANE Course,  
Next Pedi SANE Course June 6-10<sup>th</sup> in Rutland

Joan Carson, RN, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P

Puzzle-Unscramble the letters in each column to spell out a saying. Words continue onto the next line unless interrupted by a black box.  
Hint: Start with the author in red.



## Membership News

As part of ENA's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday year, Vermont ENA set a goal of having 40 new members (or renewing) between October 15 and the end of 2010. All told, 50 members either joined or renewed in this time period keeping us at 170 members to start 2011. We still have a goal of getting to 200 by the end of the year and we hope our members celebrate the benefits of being an ENA member with their colleagues:

- Excellent professional networking opportunities
- An excellent scientific journal – *The Journal of Emergency Nursing* which comes to you six times a year
- A monthly "Connections" newsletter with practice updates, advocacy updates, and a host of other information important to members
- Access to Vermont/national ENA sponsored events at a significant discount
- Discounted classes (TNCC, ENPC & CATN) which are the standards of our profession
- Leadership opportunities at our State Council
- Reduced cost to Vermont ENA's annual ED education day
- Access to ENA's member only website with valuable tools, resources, and educational materials at little or no cost to members

# **Legislative Action Alert:**

In September of 2010 ENA released a study on surveillance of violence against Emergency Department nurses nationally. The figures are astonishing – each week between 8 and 13% of ED nurses are victims of physical violence and over 50% have experienced either verbal or physical assault in the past week of their work. Over 75% of ED nurses say that hospitals provide them nothing in response to this violence and over 65% say being a victim of assault is “a normal expectation of the work”. Other key findings include:

- Patients and their relatives were the perpetrators of the abuse in nearly all incidents of physical violence (97.1 percent) and verbal abuse (91 percent).
- The majority of incidents of physical violence occurred in patients’ rooms (80.6 percent). Nearly a quarter (23.2 percent) occurred in corridors, hallways, stairwells or elevators and only 14.7 percent occurred at the nurses’ station.
- The most frequently reported activities that emergency nurses were involved in when they experienced physical violence were triaging a patient (38.2 percent), restraining or subduing a patient (33.8 percent) and performing an invasive procedure (30.9 percent).
- Male nurses reported higher physical violence rates than female nurses (15 percent versus 10.3 percent); and physical violence rates tended to decline as nurses ages increased.
- Physical violence rates were higher in large urban areas (13.4 percent) than in rural areas (8.3 percent). Nurses working in emergency departments with more beds and treatment space, and those with higher numbers of visits were more likely to experience physical and verbal abuse than nurse in lower-traffic departments.

In the last Legislative biennium, two bills addressing violence against healthcare workers were introduced – one in the House and one in the Senate. Neither of these received any attention and consequently “died on the wall”. As your current President I will be working with our Government Affairs member, Arlene Law from the Bennington area, on reviving this effort. Key lawmakers have already agreed to take this issue on and will be reintroducing the bills in both the House and Senate. Already there is interest from several lawmakers to help advance this legislation. Key provisions will be to elevate the crime of assault & battery against a healthcare worker to felony status, increasing civil penalties for less severe infractions, and looking at ways to make ED’s safer and better controlled for access. We hope our membership will help us support this legislation by contacting your own Representatives and Senators as the bills move through the process later this spring.

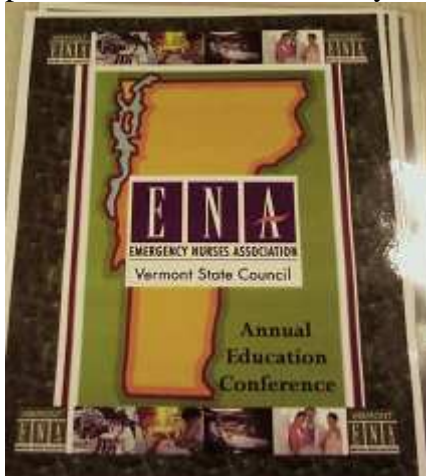
## **Happy ED Nurses’ Week!**

October marked another Emergency Nurses’ Week, celebrated across Vermont as well as the country! Each hospital marked the occasion with parties, food (we always love food!), journal subscriptions, in-house spa treatments, gift raffles and other give-a-ways. Know that you change lives with the care that you give each and every day!



# Education Day

Another popular education day was held at CVH this November. This year was a pediatric theme, and was very well attended.



# Hospital News

**Rutland news---** Cerner go-live weeks away—Feb 27<sup>th</sup> date EMR begins-- super user training /change management/adult learning etc..classes are happening....

SANE review course for certification exam-SANE-A (adult) – 40 registered participants from New England—

We have a new ED Educator – Diane Fietti RN BSB CEN –working on MSN—she has been busy in Kansas doing our ED build

Last quarter excellent drill done in collaboration with the Rutland PD--- shooter drill

Magnet Award received—October 13-15<sup>th</sup> in Phoenix,AZ --

## Burlington-Fletcher Allen

...hosted a TNCC-Instructor course, netting an additional 8 instructors for the state.

Re-Verified as a Level 1 Trauma Center

Re-Verified as a Stroke Center

Moriah McCullagh, RN, CEN, obtained her Pedi CEN!

FAHC is actively working on reducing and reporting violence in the ED setting. An ED Violence Task Force has been created to script responses, streamline reporting, and better flag issues and patients with a history of violence.





**Gator Aide**





Answer:

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man. ~Benjamin Franklin

If you have stories, pictures, upcoming classes/courses, updates, fun ED moments that you would like to share, please send along to:

[kathy.gutierrez@vtmednet.org](mailto:kathy.gutierrez@vtmednet.org)