

DISTRICT 3 NEWS

PARKER * SOMERVELL * TARRANT

PUBLISHED BY DISTRICT 3 TEXAS NURSES ASSOCIATION
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OCTOBER 2002

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2002-2003

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tna3@mindspring.com

President's Message

The surveys are in and the results show that most of those who voted (only 24) would like to stay on Thursday. Only a few asked to have their newsletter emailed. If you would like to change to email, you still have time. Email Lori and she will put you on the list. The BOD members who got the email version last month liked it. Emailing the newsletter has the potential to save TNA a good deal of money. More importantly, you can email it to other nurses who might be interested in the contents.

I am sorry if you missed the September meeting. It was very informative. One of the topics was an overview of the TNA Leadership Conference. Phyllis and Bonnie did a great job hitting the high points. District 3 committees and activities were also presented. There is still time to volunteer for a committee. Please let Lori or any board member know if you are interested in a project.

Please plan on attending the October meeting; the presentation should really be outstanding. We have arranged for a wonderful guest speaker, Beth Mancini, RN from Parkland. Lately, the membership turn out for District meetings has been sparse. It would be a shame for Beth to come all this way to speak to a mostly empty room. Some monthly meetings have had as few as 14 members present. Please invite others who would be interested. This topic should appeal to your chief nursing officers and nursing supervisors. There will be CEUs awarded to all that attend. See the list of events in this newsletter for all the details.

Don't miss out!

Debbie
GAC/Practice Committee

In this newsletter we would like to first focus on the issues for the upcoming state legislature. The Nursing Agenda will not be formalized until late November or early December, but the issues are emerging now.

Nursing Initiated Legislation

- Nursing Shortage:
 - Re-fund last session’s bill for increasing enrollment in nursing schools
 - Explore ways to increase nursing faculty
 - Fund the Nursing Data Center
 - Look for workplace issues not addressed in the new Staffing Rules
- Increased funding for TPAPN
- Advanced Practice
 - RX Controlled Substances
 - Increase Medicaid reimbursement rate
 - Moratorium
 - Standardized Credentialing
- Increased salaries for State Agency Employed Nurses (Mainly affects MHMR nurses)
- Amendments to the Nurse Practice Act
 - Criminal background checks by the BNE

Health Policy Issues

- Extending funding for Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid
- TORT reform
- Immunizations

Other Possible Nursing Legislation

- Mandatory Reporting
 - Give BNE authority to conduct pilots
- Enhancing the workplace environment
 - Strengthen protection of RN, LVN, and Nurse titles
 - Increase protections for reporting patient care concerns
- First Assisting clarifying legislation
- Conversion of VNA from a Title Act to a Practice Act
- Focused CNE
 - Hep C for new grads and endorsement licensees
 - Disaster Preparedness

Campaign Volunteer Opportunities

The election in November brings with it opportunities to help focus on health care and nursing practice. Every time you talk with a campaign office, make sure they know you are a nurse and a member of TNA. This goes for the calls you receive, too. If possible, discuss with them the issues listed above. We are so fortunate in Tarrant County to have a group of legislators that are friendly to nursing, but we have to get out and vote for these wonderful people to keep them in office. We also need to volunteer when possible in their campaigns and as an organization we contribute to their campaigns. These things are not possible without you. For ways that you can contribute to the PAC, contact Lori McBee at our District 3 office. Give an hour or two of your time also by volunteering for some of our favorite legislators that have opponents. Our legislator friends who have asked for TNA’s help are:

Senate Race

Dist 10 Kim Brimer (R) 817-292-2600

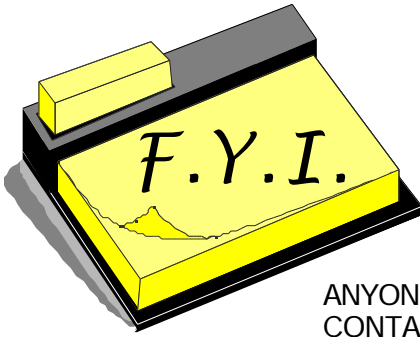
House Races

Dist 97 Anna Mowery (R) 817-921-2169

Dist 90 Lon Burnam (D) 817-927-7400

Dist 93 Toby Goodman (R) 817-460-8171

Fran Martin and Nancy Kupper



NEEDED: PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Job description: consistently make a few contacts to let the word know how great we are! No complex assignments or major time commitment needed. Your first contact is to Bonnie Higgins, Board Director and Liaison for Public Relations. 817/515-4656; 817/370-8844; or bonnie.higgins@tccd.edu

ANYONE WISHING TO SERVE ON THIS OR ANY OTHER COMMITTEE SHOULD CONTACT LORI MCBEE AT 817/558-4064.

Committees are:

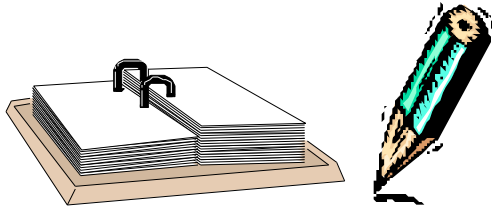
Finance, Ways and Means, Membership, Continuing Education, Bylaws, and Public Relations

Anyone wishing to get their newsletter via email or a website link should contact Lori McBee at 817/558-4064 or email her at tna3@mindspring.com. This is a GREAT way to receive your newsletter. You can easily forward it to fellow nurses that are interested in TNA-3, and you don't have to worry about "one more piece of mail" in your mailbox. The email or website version of the TNA-3 newsletter is available to you whenever you may need to access it. If you are interested, please contact Lori.



Welcome to District 3! We're glad you're here!

**Joy Baker
Rosena Clarke-Turner
Doris Penny
Martha Petty**



Mark Your Calendar!

Tuesday, October 15 – 6:30 p.m. – “Staffing Rules” presented by Beth Mancini at Harris Methodist Ft. Worth, Rutledge Education Center

Friday and Saturday, October 18-19 – Children’s Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT) 9th Annual Pediatric Conference, hosted by Cook Children’s Medical Center at the Embassy Suites Outdoor World in Grapevine, TX. This is a multidisciplinary conference offering a maximum of 15.0 contact hours. For more information or to register please call 817/885-4170.

Thursday, November 21 – 6:00 p.m. – “Annual Forum” with guest Clair Jordan at Texas Health Resources Pavilion, 601 Ryan Plaza, Arlington

CE Offerings for UTA – Contact (817) 272-2778 or email jjenkins@uts.edu

16th Annual Conference - *Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing: Integrating Practice, Research, and Education*

October 5-8, 2002

Co-Provided with the American Psychiatric Nurses Association and The University of Texas at Arlington School of Nursing

The Fairmont Dallas, Dallas, TX

35.8 Type 1 Contact Hours

3rd International “Crossing Borders” Conference – *Emerging Knowledge in Culture and Health: Caring for Hispanic Populations*, October 11-12, 2002

Co-provided with the Center for Hispanic Studies in Nursing and Health and the University of Texas at Arlington School of Nursing

E.H. Hereford Center, UTA

12.6 Type 1 Contact Hours

Nov. 7-8

Responding to End-of-Life Needs: Patient, Family and Nurse,

ELNEC Curriculum or Certification Review

November 7-8, 2002

Co-provided with Hospice Palliative Nurses Association Regional Group and The University of Texas at Arlington School of Nursing

Pickard Hall, UTA School of Nursing

14.4 Type 1 contact hrs