

The Central Line

Missouri Emergency Nurses Association

Fall 2004 Volume 5



A Word From the President

Tiffany Strever, RN BSN CEN

As my second term draws to a close I want to thank all of the members of this great state for supporting me in my presidency. We have faced many challenges at local, state and national levels over the past two years. Locally,

we once had a chapter fail and others through persistence (an emergency nurse's trademark) prevail, despite low attendance and other challenges. We even have emergency department managers buying memberships for their entire staff. Who would have thought?

At the state level, we have survived the ENPC update-thanks to the hard work of the validators. We saw one of our own vindicated in a case where many were to blame, but only one singled out. Combined Clinical saw ENA take the lead with international speakers and entertainment. People are still talking about "Fun Night." All I have to say is wait until next year.

Nationally, it was obvious that one voice can make a difference. The results of the Blue Ribbon Commission showed that. Members spoke up and said this is

a member-based organization and every voice should count. There are still challenges related to Blue Ribbon II and I would hope that Missouri submits a resolution to General Assembly in 2005.

As I reflect on the past I feel I have been blessed by the support of many colleagues who in truth are more like family. I have been through some rough spots, professionally and personally and without ENA those times would have been rougher. My time as president has been a challenge and a great reward. As I look to the future I see great things at all levels because of the committed members of

*"Emergency Room
Nurses Saving One Life
at a Time."*

Missouri ENA.

Pediatric Update

Jim Gillam, Pediatric Chair RN, CEN

The ENPC Instructor Validation is going strong. Individuals that have had their test re-scored by national are receiving letter to that effect; those that were still low, but scored at least an 80 will be given a retest that will be out by the middle of November 2004. The date for ENPC Instructor Validation has been extended to Feb 2005.

The new course is very nice and flows very well. The changes have been very welcomed by instructors as well as students. Contact me with questions at jgillam@saint-lukes.org.



EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION

Spread the News
www.ena.org
1-800-243-8362
enainfo.ena.org

Nursing Practice Update

Janet Kaminsky, Nursing Practice Chair, RN, MSN

One of the goals of the Nursing Practice Committee is to keep informed of the issues that impact our practice of emergency nursing. The following items are some of the issues we have been monitoring.

HIPAA Privacy Rules: Anyone working in Emergency Nursing knows how much HIPAA has impacted our lives. We are now past our one year anniversary since the HIPAA privacy rules were implemented. The overall goal of the Privacy Rules are to ensure patient privacy while striking a balance with the necessary disclosure of personal health information required for patient care and other important purposes. Anytime new legislation is enacted, there are many questions. The Department of Health and Human Services has made available on the web a wide variety of helpful guidance and technical assistance relating to HIPAA issues. This website address is: www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/.

EMTALA: In September of 2003, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule which clarified the scope and applicability of Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Law (EMTALA). The major components of the new rule included: 1) an expanded definition of the emergency department, 2) circumstances in which physicians must serve on the hospital's medical staff "on call" lists, 3) clarification that hospital owned ambulances may comply with citywide and local community protocols for responding to medical emergencies; and 4) permit hospital departments that are off campus to

provide the most effective way of caring for emergency patients without requiring that the patient be moved to the main campus when this would not be best for the patient. The EMTALA Interpretative Guidelines are now available on line at www.cms.hhs.gov.

Organ Donation Court Case: The Nursing Practice Council has been following the progression of a lawsuit involving an emergency department nurse who had obtained consent for tissue donations. In the initial lawsuit, the Hospital, Nurse, and the Organ Procurement Organization were found not negligent in obtaining consent due to immunity under the Anatomical Gift. Act.

This initial decision was appealed to the Missouri Court of Appeals, that ruled that the Organ Procurement Organization was not negligent, but the Hospital and Nurse would need to go to jury trial to determine negligence,

for there were discrepancies in the facts of the case coming from the opposing sides. Earlier this spring this case went to the Supreme Court which upheld the Appellate Court's decision—i.e. that the Hospital and Nurse would need to go to jury trial to decide if negligence occurred. The implications of this case are very significant to any nurse that obtains consents. One of the main issues impacting this case is the present language in the Missouri Anatomical Gift Act. Missouri is one of two states in the United States that contains "negligence language" In our law. We need to consider legislative action on this issue.

*"The high road to service
is traveled with integrity,
compassion and
understanding."*



Spread the News
www.ena.org
1-800-243-8362
enainfo.ena.org

ENA and MONA Collaboration: The Nursing Practice Councils of the ENA and the Missouri Nurses Association have been jointly working over the past few months in identifying gaps in pediatric care and education in our state. The focus of this collaboration has been to develop a plan that will facilitate the dissemination of the Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course (ENPC) throughout the state—focusing on the rural areas. The newly revised ENPC course will soon be available and there are plans to pursue funding through grants. Hopefully this would enable the ENPC course to be brought to many rural hospitals in Missouri, at minimum or no cost.

With fall arriving.....be safe and have a wonderful holiday!

Government Affairs Committee

Carol Pettit, RN

My name is Carol Pettit and I approve this message! The elections will be settled and what will they do with all the TV time? Missouri has changes in the House and Senate and the new session will open in January. With the number of health care issues on everyone's agenda it may be a very busy year. I will keep you informed as the year goes by.

Combined Clinical Conference

Carol Pettit, RN

Planning a large conference like the Combined Clinical Conference takes months of hard work and preparation. The state ENA, as one of the conference planners and sponsors, is very proud of the conference that was held in August of this past summer. August 2004's Combined Clinical Conference will be remembered as one of the best according to participant feedback. Evaluations reflected speakers, vendors, and especially Mardi Gras (hosted by ENA) were all extremely well received.

If you were not able to attend the conference this year, here is a little information about it. First, there are terrific speakers with information that is pertinent to your practice as an Emergency Nurse. Second, opportunity to network, especially in the large vendor area is invaluable. Third, there are numerous vendors that supply useful (and neat freebies) throughout the conference. Fourth, Tan-Tar-A is one of the best getaway places in Missouri. The grounds are gorgeous and there is something for everyone! Last, as an Emergency Nurse, this is your opportunity to get acquainted with ENA, the voice for Emergency Nurses.

This year, ENA hosted the first ever, "Fun Night." At fun night there was a medical Jeopardy game where the top prize was \$1000.00!! There were six teams with the Lifeline Flight Crew team emerging as the winners. There was also a triage game that four emergency nurses played to compete for an Applebee's gift certificate. Of course, food was provided and as well as a wide variety of beverages. After the games were over and the winners walked away with big bucks, ENA danced the night away with a DJ on a beautifully decorated dance floor.



Spread the News
www.ena.org
1-800-243-8362
enainfo.ena.org



Missouri Emergency Nurses Association will repeat ENA fun night at the August 2005 Combined Clinical Conference. Please mark off the second week on your calendar and plan to join us! In addition, if you have any topics or speakers you would like to recommend, please email them to Carol Pettit at carol1.pettit@tenetstl.com



Above: Pat Clutter and Brian Dolan host Medical Jeopardy
Middle: ENA dances the night away!



Top Left: Helen Leslie, Kirksville & Tiffany Strever, State President admire the decor
Directly above: Triage game players



Below: One of the Medical Jeopardy Teams in action

Below: Audience watches the Medical Jeopardy Game



Right: Carol Pettit and Gail Carrol toast the occasion



Right: Triage Game
Far Right: Mart Tuel
- the brains behind
fun night



Above: Party facilitators

Above: Score keepers



Left: Who's that
masked woman?

Below: Saint Louis Team in action



Trauma Committee Report

Helen Sandkuhl, RN, MSN, CEN, TNS

Volkswagen announces "Positive Peer Pressure" Volkswagen began airing TV ads created, produced and directed by high school teens. Volkswagen isn't airing these ads to sell its cars. Instead, it wants to sell safety by using the power of peer pressure to help convince more teens to wear safety belts and to reverse a tragic trend that sees some 5,500 young people die in car crashes every year.

As part of a contest sponsored by Volkswagen, high school students from across the nation were challenged to create and produce 30-second PSAs to convince their peers to buckle up. Three finalists were selected from hundreds of contest entries and their PSAs will air nationally on MTV.

DOT Announces Historic Low Highway Fatality Rate in 2003 The fatality rate on the nation's highways in 2003 was the lowest since record keeping began 29 years ago, the U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced today. The number of crash-related injuries also dropped to a historic low in 2003. "America's roads and highways are safer than ever," said Secretary Mineta. "The decreasing number of traffic fatalities and record low death rate on our roads shows that we are headed down the right road-one that leads to a safer America." Secretary Mineta pointed to efforts by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that contributed to the reduction in the fatal accident rate, including campaigns to encourage safety belt use and discourage impaired driving, work with state legislatures to pass tougher

safety belt and drunk driving laws, and rulemaking efforts to improve vehicle safety standards. A total of 42,643 people died, and 2.89 million were injured in 2003. The fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) was 1.48 in 2003, down from 1.51 in 2002. It was the first time the rate has dropped below 1.5. In 2002, 43,005 were killed and 2.93 million were injured. "We at NHSA are proud of the progress we've made and the success of the priorities we've established during this Administration," and NHTSA Administrator Jeffrey Runge, M.D. "But much of the credit goes to the committed professionals in the states and communities who implement the programs, and to safety professionals in the automotive industry who offer safer vehicles." Alcohol-related fatalities also dropped significantly in 2003, the first such decline since 1999, as more states adopted laws that allowed them to prosecute drivers at .08 blood alcohol content (BAC) and above. 2004 marks the first year that all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were able to prosecute drivers at .08 BAC.

Make a note on your calendar the next TNCC-Instructor Course will be held at DePaul Health Center on January 8th , 2005. Anyone interested in attending may contact Helen Sandkuhl, RN, MSN @ 314-577-8774 for more information.



Spread the News
www.ena.org
1-800-243-8362
enainfo.ena.org

2003 Highway Fatality Rate

Statistics Continued

2003 Highway Fatality Rate

In 2003, VMT increased to 2.88 trillion, up from 2.86 trillion in 2002, according to the DOT's Federal Highway Administration. NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) also shows that between 2002 and 2003:

- ◆ Motorcyclist fatalities increased from 3270 to 3661, a 12 percent rise.
- ◆ Rollover deaths among passenger vehicle occupants declined 3.3 percent from 10,729 to 10,376. Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) rollover fatalities increased 6.8 percent from 2,471 to 2,639, even as SUV registrations increased 11 percent. Rollovers declined in passenger cars (7.5 percent; 4,794 to 4,433) and pickup trucks (6.8 percent; 2,755 to 2,569).
- ◆ 27 states had decreases in the total number of fatalities. The highest percentage decreases were in Colorado (-15%); Vermont (-12%); Connecticut (-10%); Ohio (-10%) Oklahoma (-10%); and West Virginia (-10%). The highest percentage increases were in the District of Columbia (+43%); Rhode Island (+24%) and Oregon (+17%).
- ◆ Passenger vehicle occupant fatalities dropped to 31,904 the largest decrease since 1992. Declining fatalities in passenger vehicles are consistent with increases in safety belt use and more crashworthy vehicles.
- ◆ Passenger vehicle fatality rates per 100,000 registered vehicles declined for all passenger vehicle types except vans.
- ◆ Pedestrian deaths declined 2.1 percent from 4,851 in 2002 to 4,749.
- ◆ Fatalities in large truck crashes increased slightly from 4,939 to 4,986.
- ◆ In 2003, there was a decline in the number of unbelted fatalities, reflecting an increase in safety belt use. Still, 56 percent of those killed in passenger vehicles were not wearing safety belts. This underscores the need for states to adopt primary safety belt laws.
- ◆ NHTSA earlier estimated that highway crashes cost society \$230.6 billion a year, about \$820 per person.
- ◆ NHTSA annually collects crash statistics from 50 states and the District of Columbia to produce the annual report on traffic fatality trends. Summaries of the 2003 report are available on the NHTSA web site at:

<http://www-nrdnhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/PPT/2003AARRelease.pdf>



Spread the News
www.ena.org
1-800-243-8362
enainfo.ena.org

State Meeting Schedule for 2005:

- ◆ February 19, 2005 10:00am
 - ◆ May 14, 2005 10:00am
 - ◆ August 11, 2005 at Tan-Tar-A
 - ◆ November 5, 2005 10:00am
- Please contact Janie Schumaker for more information.
Janie.schumaker@tmcmcd.org. State meetings are a great experience and new faces are always welcomed!