I Am TNA

by Sylvia Pile Cowan, MS, RN, CNE-BC

Over 50 years in the nursing field is a long time! My first experience in nursing began as a nurse aide working after school and on weekends in our newly opened hospital in Jamestown. It was during my nursing school days at UT Hospital in Knoxville that I was introduced to the Tennessee Association of Student Nurses. But, the real influence regarding the importance of belonging to one’s professional organization was stressed by our nursing instructors. We were continuously encouraged to join our nursing organization upon obtaining our RN license! First, pass your state board, and then join your professional organization! Simple! Just do it!

Immediately after receiving my license, I started working as a Public Health Nurse and joined our little TNA District in Fentress County. One of my co-workers in PHN and I traveled every other month to attend the District meetings in Crossville. After a couple of years, I attended the University of Cincinnati to complete my BSN. I obtained my license in Ohio and joined the Nurses Association there. In 1968, I returned to Tennessee as PHN in Cookeville and immediately was elected secretary of District 9. Later, I served as Vice President and then District 9 President in 1971.

I have served as a delegate to many TNA conventions. I was honored to be elected as a TNA delegate to two ANA District meetings in Cookeville. After a couple of years, I attended the University of Cincinnati to complete my BSN. I obtained my license in Ohio and joined the Nurses Association there. In 1968, I returned to Tennessee as PHN in Cookeville and immediately was elected secretary of District 9. Later, I served as Vice President and then District 9 President in 1971.

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I was representing RNs who were unable to attend the conventions, plus keeping myself updated on health issues and legislative concerns.

During these many years in TNA and ANA, I have served on numerous committees, councils, and boards of directors while working and living in Alaska. Upon obtaining my license in Alaska, I called the Alaska Nurses Association (AAN) the first day on the job! We often met in -40 degree weather on the first Saturday each month. While there, I was elected District President. I found that if you attend meetings faithfully, you will be elected and can have a voice in your profession. I attended the AAN conventions each year for over 10 years. At one of the AAN conventions, low and behold, there was a young person at the Convention trying to sell us something. I assured them that the membership was now 2,000 strong, and they were impressed. They were surprised that I knew the number of members and that you and I still have worked for TNA for 24 of those more than 100 years, has jumped enormous hurdles without the help of the Tennessee Board of Nursing. Nurses are THE largest group of healthcare professionals in the country! You may think you are powerless and that your one voice makes no difference. But you are wrong. You do not realize the power you have.

The Tennessee Nurses Association advocates on your behalf and has for more than 100 years. This organization has jumped enormous hurdles without the help of the majority of those its mission is to “promote and protect.” I have worked for TNA for 24 of those more than 100 years and I still do not understand why nurses do not realize their power and the importance of this organization. Numbers count! I know, you are probably saying, “TNA has said this over and over again for many years,” but it’s true and YOUR POWER is in the number of licensed nurses versus the number of other healthcare groups in this state. It is VERY hard for TNA to work on behalf of you if they can’t count you in the number of members that are supported by our professional co-workers. It is important for you to want to be a part of a great organization. I have often heard (usually while working on membership committees) “What does TNA do for me?” I want to ask, “What have you done for your professional organization?” TNA gives you so much, and you will feel part of “a big family.” If you are busy with your family, children, work, church, etc., at least join, pay your dues, and know that you are part of your professional organization. When time permits, then attend District meetings, be active, volunteer to serve on committees, serve as officers, attend the state convention, and represent your profession. TNA speaks for us and is our representative for all RNs! WE ARE TNA! I would encourage all RNs to join their professional organization. If you are a new nurse, you can join for one-half price for one year and then utilize automatic monthly withdrawals. It’s less than a late a day to be a part of a great organization. I have been very impressed with the leadership in TNA and the guidance from these gifted individuals.

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In the fall of 2009, after moving back to Tennessee to be with our grandchildren, I transferred my ANA membership back to Tennessee, although I had lived working and living in Alaska. Being an ANA member has meant so much to me. I have made friends all over this state and learned from my professional co-workers. I have been very impressed with the leadership in TNA and the guidance from these gifted individuals.

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Who is the Nurse?

by Lena Patterson, MSN, RN, APRN, BC, CCNS

Nursing has achieved the distinction of being considered a profession. Along this journey our profession has grown to include nontraditional roles for nurses in a continuously expanding market. This has resulted in blurring of the defining characteristics of a nurse among our peers and the general public. This is especially true of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). If one were to ask the general public who is the nurse, what would be the answer? Is it anyone who enters the room to provide care? Is it the person that works directly with your physician? Is it the person wearing scrubs? Is it all the people caring for you at the bedside? What about our colleagues? Do they have a working knowledge of the different roles and scope of practice of nurses in general and APRNs specifically? If not, we must do a better job of articulating who we are, what we do, and most importantly, our capabilities. We must invite our legislators into these discussions. In the absence of our collective voices, they listen to others who may not know or care about our cause and capabilities. The legislative session is over for this year. Now is the perfect time to contact your legislators and get to know them. Thank them for their service, even if you don’t agree with or share their views.

The legislature passes laws that regulate nursing practice. It also authorizes all health related boards, including the Board of Nursing. The Board of Nursing has three general functions, licensure, education, and practice. The mission of the Board is “to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of Tennesseans by requiring that all who practice nursing within the state are qualified.” TNA is the professional nursing association whose primary purpose is advocacy. The mission of TNA is to promote and protect the registered nurse and to advance the practice of nursing in order to assure a healthier Tennessee.

The Winter Newsletter 2012 from the Board of Nursing reports there are 83,647 RNs, of which 8,656 are also APRNs actively licensed to practice in the state of Tennessee. Advanced practice registered nurses are further divided into four categories: Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) 121 (1%), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) 2382 (20%), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) 342 (2%), and Nurse Practitioner (NP) 8,761 (69%). The requirements for licensure as an APN in Tennessee is a current registered nurse license, a master’s degree in a nursing specialty, national certification, and evidence of specialized practitioner skills. Clinical Nurse Specialists and Nurse Practitioners are further subdivided by the populations that they serve. Additional details about each specialty and scope of practice can be found on the specialty organizations’ websites. This many nurses across our state working together means there is no obstacle we cannot overcome.

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As I write this, Nurses Week 2012 is coming to a close and it has prompted me to reflect on how influential nurses are in providing care, and how the contributions of nurses can improve health in our nation and communities across Tennessee.

The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) provides a blueprint for transforming the delivery of health care. This report identifies the need for, and benefits of, strong nursing leadership and for nurses to lead the way to a future of health care that ensures people get the very best care is the essence of nursing leadership, our historical legacy, and the hope for our future.

Tennessee Action Coalition

The Tennessee Action Coalition is moving toward an improved system of patient care by engaging many people from across the state to help make needed changes. We are assembling a board of directors, developing a strategic plan, and making a joint effort of the Campaign for Action and the AARP Foundation.

The newly commissioned Tennessee Action Coalition is in a formative stage. Attention is currently directed at assembling a board of directors, developing a strategic plan, seeking funds to operate the coalition, and identifying coalition members from across the state and many sectors. It is essential that the coalition have robust participation from all of these sectors to be successful.

As a strategic planning session of the board of directors is scheduled for late July. To facilitate strategic planning, a discussion is centered on how the board members are interested in being a part of the coalition’s efforts and to determine where Tennessee is in relationship to each of the recommendations. A link to the survey will be sent to all Tennessee Action Coalition members and distributed by other nursing organizations and leaders.

A strategic plan for the Tennessee Action Coalition, developed by the board, will be discussed during the full statewide kick-off of the Action Coalition. The kick-off will be a series of meetings, based in Nashville, with different groups featuring a national speaker and others interested in promoting the IOM recommendations as a means to ensure that all Tennessee nurses have access to high-quality, patient-centered health care, with nurses recognized as leaders.

As we move forward, the Tennessee Action Coalition will continue to lead efforts to develop real solutions that will improve patient care, increase access to services, and make us a healthier state. To attain our goals, we must ensure that the nursing workforce is equipped with the right skills to serve our changing population, whether it is through education or continuing education. We need to build a future of health care that emphasizes the value of the contributions of nurses to the delivery of health care. The Tennessee Action Coalition, coordinated by AARP Tennessee and The University of Tennessee, Knoxville College of Nursing, is focused on building a high-quality, effective health care system. The Tennessee Nurse Advocating, Leading, Caring. This theme is demonstrated by nurses in Tennessee every day at the bedside, in the boardroom, and in the community. In fact, advocating on behalf of our patients to ensure they get the very best care is the essence of nursing leadership, our historical legacy, and the hope for our future.

The need for, and benefits of, strong nursing leadership are among the recommendations outlined in The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM). The report provides a blueprint for transforming the delivery of health care by optimizing the contributions of nurses. Other recommendations focus on scope of practice, nursing education, and workforce data and development. Nurses Week prompted me to look forward to the future of health care in our nation and communities across Tennessee, to where we are headed as a profession to serve our communities’ needs, and how we are getting there. The theme of Nurses Week was Advocating, Leading, Caring. Who has figured out how to combine art and science—nursing is both! Both art and science, both reason and intuition. As I write this, Nurses Week is coming to a close, and I must ask: is there a case for both the patient and the nurse? Thomsen mentions a class she went to during a Dying course that appeared in the Spring 2012 issue of The Tennessee Nurse. Thomsen raises important questions that happen in the clinical situation. Consider the lateralization of brain function and Right Brain – Left Brain Theory. Those of us who operate more from the left brain mode of thinking tend to be logical, analytical, and objective, while those who favor the right brain tend to be intuitive, thoughtful, and subjective. While this theory does not put forward discrete dichotomies in thinking, it’s important to keep in mind that a nurse’s mode of thinking will be influenced by the ease with which one can be empathic, and, the ease with which one can function in the fast-paced and high-tech world of health care.

Is Bedside Manner or Technical Expertise More Important?

This article was inspired by comments sent to author Fern Richie, MSN, RN, about her article in the Spring 2012 issue of the Tennessee Nurse from a reader, Tina Thomson, RN, and Richie’s response.

Comments from Tina Thomson, RN

I really enjoyed the article in the Tennessee Nurse publication. It was timely, as I recently had a conversation with two other nurse friends about this issue. We all thought “bedside manner” was not as important as technical expertise, and if we had a surgeon with great skill, but no empathy, it wouldn’t matter. We all thought we should be able to practice to the level of our license and training, including the recently formed Tennessee Action Coalition, at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in collaboration with AARP and the AARP Foundation.

This article was developed in conjunction with the Center to Champion Nursing.
SB2275 / HB2558 Cosmetic or aesthetic procedures, treatments redefined.—Sen. Jim Tracy / Rep. Mike Sparks—Redefines persons who practice medicine and surgery to include those who perform any cosmetic or aesthetic procedure or treatment, as defined. Creates regulations and requirements for these physicians to follow in respect to said procedures and treatments. Authorizes board of medical examiners to promulgate rules, including establishing training and education requirements.

04/11/2012—Re-referred to House General Subcommittee of Health & Human Resources from the full committee.

SB2313 / HB2516 Board of nursing – sunset.—Sen. Mike Bell / Rep. Jim Cobb—Extends the termination date of the Board of Nursing to June 30, 2014. Under the Tennessee Governmental Entity Review Law, the Board was scheduled to terminate on June 30, 2011, and is currently in wind-down. Alters the membership composition of the Board. Reduces, from four to two, the number of consecutive terms a member may serve.

04/30/2012—Enacted as Public Chapter 0814 effective April 25, 2012.

SB2407 / HB2569 Doctor shopping laws expanded.—Sen. Randy McNally / Rep. Bill Dunn—Expands reporting requirements under “doctor shopping” laws. Gives hospitals access to controlled substance database for certain purposes and immunizes them from liability. Requires submission of photo identification for persons picking up prescriptions. Allows real-time electronic access to controlled substance database for law enforcement and pharmacists. Requires pain clinics to be owned by Tennessee doctors or hospitals. Penalizes interference with pharmacists’ decisions to fill prescriptions. Allows methadone clinics to query controlled substance database prior to prescribing drugs to patients.

04/30/2012—Sent to governor.

SB2416 / HB2568 Drug overdose reporting requirements established.—Sen. Randy McNally / Rep. Bill Dunn—Requires the board for licensing health care facilities to establish a protocol by rule for hospitals, community health centers, and clinics to report drug overdose compositions of the board. Reduces, from four to two, the number of consecutive terms a member may serve.

04/30/2012—Sent to governor.

SB2419 / HB2573 Federal drug indictment – emergency suspension of doctor.—Sen. Randy McNally / Rep. Bill Dunn—Emergency suspension of doctor. Authorizes the commissioner of health or the practitioner’s licensing board to suspend on an emergency basis the license of a practitioner who is under investigation by any state or federal indictment involving controlled substances. Taken off notice in House and Senate Health & Human Resources Committees.

SB2540 / HB2662 No helmet required for motorcycle drivers 21 and over.—Sen. Mike Bell / Rep. Judd Matheny—Allows motorcycle drivers 21 years or older who have health care coverage of at least $15,000 to ride without a helmet. Creates a Class C misdemeanor for when a driver fails to provide evidence of health insurance when requested by law enforcement. Taken off notice in House and Senate Transportation Committees.

SB2541 / HB2661 Riding of motorcycle without helmet – 21 years or older.—Sen. Mike Bell / Rep. Judd Matheny—Removes the requirement that a driver or passenger of a motorcycle 21 years or older needs to wear a helmet. Taken off notice in House and Senate Transportation Committees.

SB2542 / HB2672 Gun ownership by applicant or insured.—Sen. Stacey Campbell / Rep. Jeremy Faison—Prohibits health care providers and facilities from inquiring about a patient’s or a patient’s family member’s firearm or ammunition ownership or storage. Allows emergency medical providers to inquire in cases where the information is necessary to treat a patient in an emergency, or to protect the patient or others from immediate danger. Prohibits insurance providers from discriminating against an applicant based on gun ownership. Failed in House General Subcommittee of Judiciary.

(continued on page 6)
SB2581 / HB2549 Health care providers - interventional pain management.—Sen. Stacey Campfield / Rep. Matthew Hill—Authorizes the board of nursing to provide a certificate of competence in interventional pain management to a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA). Taken off notice in House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees.


SB2609 / HB2684 Unauthorized use of physician DEA registration number.—Sen. Charlotte Burks / Rep. Ryan Williams—Provides immunity to any medical doctor or contractor of the doctor to write the doctor or physician’s DEA registration number by an law enforcement agency regarding unauthorized use of a doctor or osteopathic physician who makes a report to a law enforcement agency. SB2609 / HB2684— undef. Public Chapter 0889 effective April 25, 2012.

SB2680 / HB2957 Certificate to operate a pain management clinic.—Sen. Brian K. Kelsey / Rep. Mark White—Extends the grace period for renewing a certificate to operate a pain management clinic from 90 days to 120 days. Taken off notice in House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees.

SB3003 / HB2567 Tamper-resistance technology extended to opioid analgesics.—Sen. Bo Watson / Rep. Glen Casada—Requires pharmacists dispensing opioid analgesic drugs to dispense a form whose formula uses tamper resistant technology to deter tampering or abuse. Signed by governor.


The Tennessee Nurses Association sincerely appreciates the support from its membership this year. A special thanks to each of you, who on behalf of registered nurses across the state, got involved with the legislative process by either coming to Capitol Hill to meet with legislators, or taking time to send emails and make phone calls to inform and educate our members of the Tennessee General Assembly regarding issues of concern. We look forward to your continued support.
Make plans now to attend the 2012 TNA & TASN Joint Convention! Again this year the Tennessee Nurses Association and the Tennessee Association of Student Nurses are joining together for the convention! The event offers an exciting agenda packed with interesting educational sessions and enjoyable activities for all nurses and students who attend.

Educational sessions will focus on a variety of informative, innovative topics related to your practice. In addition, plenty of networking opportunities will be available for you and your colleagues, including an expanded Poster Presentation session.

The Tennessee Nurses Foundation Silent Auction will be held for the seventh year and again offer a unique assortment of items for sale with proceeds going to support TNF programs.

Thursday, October 18 Pre-Conference CE Offerings

Two Pre-Conference CE sessions will be held on Thursday, October 18, from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. that offer 6.0 Contact Hours each. An APRN Seminar will be held, as well as Green Dots Violence Prevention by Margie Gale, MSN, RN, CEAP. The Tennessee Nurses Association is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

Green Dots is a new and innovative approach to measurably and systematically reducing violence within any given community based on current research across disciplines. Nurses trained as early adopters of the Green Dot approach are in a key position to implement the program in health care for the benefit of patients, families, and nurses, as well as all health care staff. The ultimate goal of Green Dots is to reduce power-based personal violence (including sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, child abuse, elder abuse and bullying, including lateral violence in nursing). You will gain the skills to take effective bystander action and work with others to support Green Dot strategies to eliminate violence one green dot at a time.

TNA Achievement Awards Luncheon

The TNA Achievement Awards Luncheon held on Friday, October 19, offers an opportunity to honor nurses and other individuals by acknowledging their exceptional dedication, commitment and professionalism to the profession of nursing.

Exhibits & Schools of Nursing Luncheon

The Exhibits & Schools of Nursing Luncheon held on Saturday, October 20, allows all attendees to visit with the large variety of vendors who exhibit and learn more about new products and services. It also offers a great opportunity for graduates from the many schools of nursing to visit with alumni and gives student nurses and seasoned nurses the chance to network and get to know one another.

Hotel Information – Franklin Marriott Cool Springs

To make a room reservation at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, you may visit http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bnacs?groupCode=NSRN&RS&app=rev_link&fromDate=10/18/12&toDate=10/21/12 or you may call 1-888-403-6772 and mention the conference name. The special room rate of $129 per night plus tax will be available until the group block is filled. The Franklin Marriott Cool Springs offers complimentary guest parking.

Keynote Speaker

This year’s Keynote Speaker is Sorrell King, who founded the Josie King Foundation in 2001 with her husband Tony after their daughter Josie died as a result of medical errors. The Josie King Foundation supports innovative patient safety programs that influence the way safety is incorporated into medical care. The Josie King Pediatric Patient Safety Program at the Johns Hopkins Hospital’s Children’s Center, and the Condition H – Josie King Patient Safety Call Line at UPMC – Shadyside Hospital both received initial funding from the Josie King Foundation and currently serve as models for patient safety programs across the country.

King is a leading advocate for improving patient safety. Her book Josie’s Story was published in September 2009 by Grove/Atlantic, Inc. Josie’s Story was named one of the best health books in 2009 by the Wall Street Journal, and won the “First Book” award at the 2010 “Books for a Better Life” Awards. King was chosen as one of “50 Women Changing the World” by Woman’s Day magazine in February 2010.
Call For Resolutions

The Tennessee Nurses Association is issuing a formal Call for Resolutions for the 2012 TNA House of Delegates to be held during the TNA & TASN Joint Convention on October 19-21, 2012 at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, Franklin, Tenn.

Resolutions can be submitted by any TNA member. If you wish to submit a Resolution, please submit it in writing to TNA no later than August 20, 2012. If you should need assistance, please contact Barbara at the TNA office at bmartin@tnaonline.org.

Tennessee Nurses Association Members Only

Request for Absentee Ballot

Please send an absentee ballot for the 2012 Tennessee Nurses Association election, “Request for Absentee Ballot” must be received at TNA by September 19, 2012. I understand that mailing this ballot to me in the manner and form approved discharges TNA’s responsibility to me in the matter of absentee voting. Absentee ballots will be mailed September 20, 2012.

I further understand that requesting an absentee ballot removes my name from the list of eligible voters at the TNA Annual Meeting. No “group requests” will be honored. Fill in this request for Absentee Ballot form and return it by:

- Email to Barbara Martin at bmartin@tnaonline.org
- Fax to (615)254-0303
- Mail to TNA, 545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 405, Nashville, TN 37228-1296.

Completed absentee ballots must be received at TNA headquarters by the close of business on October 4, 2012.

Name: ____________________________________
Address: __________________________________
City/State/Zip: ______________________________
District Number: ____________________________
Member ID Number: ________________________
Electronic Signature: (Required to receive ballot) ____________________________________
Description of donated item (please submit one item per form):

_______________________________________
City/State/Zip: ________________________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________________________________
Phone: ________________________ Fax: _______________________ Email: __________________________
Donor Contact Person: __________________________________________________________________________
Donor’s Name/Business Name: ___________________________________________________________________

IMPORTANT NOTE: Submission of this form to the Tennessee Nurses Foundation constitutes a written agreement between TNF and Donor in that Donor agrees to provide TNF with the donated item by: (1) getting the item to the TNF office at 545 Mainstream Dr., Suite 405, Nashville, TN 37228-1296 on or before October 12, 2012; (2) getting the item to their local District President on or before October 12, 2012 (District President contact information can be obtained by calling 615-254-0350 or email tnf@tnaonline.org); or (3) taking the item to the TNF staff office at the Franklin Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin, TN between Thursday, October 18, 2012 and no later than 8:00 a.m. Saturday, October 20, 2012. The Silent Auction begins Friday, October 19, 2012.

This donation becomes the property of the Tennessee Nurses Foundation and is to be offered for sale at an auction, the proceeds of which go to the Tennessee Nurses Foundation. Should donor provide any displays or samples of the donation to coincide with a donated gift certificate, TNF will not be held responsible for those items. It will be the sole responsibility of the donor to either pickup the samples or displays, as stated above, at the hotel or to pay the shipping charges on the return.

Donors will be listed in the Winter issue of the Tennessee Nurse (circulation 80,000+). The Tennessee Nurses Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c) (3) organization.

If you are unable to submit this form by email, please print the completed form and fax to 615-254-0303 or mail the form to TNF, 545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 405, Nashville, TN 37228-1296. For questions regarding this event please contact TNF Staff Liaison, Kathy Denton at 615-254-0350 or email tnf@tnaonline.org.

Signature

________________________________________________
National Primary Care Conference with Workshops

September 27-30, 2012
Loews Vanderbilt Hotel, Nashville, TN

FEATURED PROGRAMS
- Combating Chronic Illness: Helping Others Change Through Coaching
- Radiology Workshop: Chest and Abdominal X-Ray Interpretation
- Chronic Pain Management in Primary Care
- Pharmacology Workshop: Arthritis, GI and Dermatology Updates
- An Update on Osteoporotic Fracture, Prevention and New Treatment Strategies
- Pre-Participation Sports Physicals
- STIs in Older Adults: A "Booming" Problem with Aging Boomers
- Managing the Type II Diabetic in Primary Care
- Treating Addiction in Primary Care
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Salute to Nurses Awards, National Nurses Week

Linda Jennings, BSN, RN, at right, received the Tennessean’s Lifetime Achievement Award in its annual Salute to Nurses Awards event held each year during National Nurses Week. Jennings, Director of Clinical Services in Government Relations, Tennessee Health Care Association, was honored for her more than 30 years as a nurse during which she instructed, taught, trained and motivated thousands of nurses across the country. Jennings began her career as an LPN in a nursing home but went on to become a registered nurse and earn a bachelor’s degree in applied organizational management. Today she serves as a director of clinical services, advising and informing the administrators of 243 Tennessee Nursing Homes. Jennings was presented the award by last year’s recipient, Frances Edwards, MSN, RN. Both are members of the Tennessee Nurses Association. Photo by Dan Menlove
Carole R. Myers, PhD, RN, Chair of the TNA Government Affairs & Health Policy Committee, presented The Future is Now. Following Myers' presentation, Adkins presented a session entitled The Legislative Process: View Committee Meetings "In Person."

"Spending time at the legislature is always an eye opening experience for students and nurses alike," said Sharon Adkins, MSN, RN, Executive Director, Tennessee Nurses Association. "It is exciting to see their enthusiasm when they realize the role they can play in policy development."

The attendees received information on how a bill is passed into law, the general basics of becoming involved in health policy development, and how to contact legislators. Founded in 1905, TNA is the only full-service professional organization for the state's 80,000 registered nurses. The mission of TNA is to promote and protect the registered nurse and advance the practice of nursing in order to assure a healthier Tennessee.

The TNA Legislative Summit kicked off with a welcome from State Representative Matthew Hill, from Jonesborough, Tenn., who represents the 7th District. Rep. Hill is chair of the House Health and Human Resources Subcommittee and has worked diligently with TNA to assure that Tennesseans get accessible quality care.

During the afternoon of Nurses Day on the Hill, students had the opportunity to meet with their legislators to discuss current bills that would affect nursing. A TNA display was in Legislative Plaza and members of the TNA Government Affairs & Health Policy Committee were on hand to talk with legislators and students. Mary Jo Cheuvront, center, member of the TNA Government Affairs & Health Policy Committee, enjoys visiting with, from left, Kristen Eisan and Stacie Whitten, first semester nursing students at Southwest Tennessee Community College.

Stasia Ruskie, second from right, member of the TNA Government Affairs & Health Policy Committee, discussed legislative issues with students, from left, Dimpleben Patel, Kamara Harper, Krystal Hester-Smith, and Derrick Meadow, all of whom are Senior MSN-CNL students at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

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Brittany Conley, President of the Tennessee Association of Student Nurses, gave greetings and conducted the Roll Call of the schools who had students attending the Legislative Summit.

Smell the roses...
June, July, August 2012

New and Reinstated Members

District 4

District 2
Keela L. Bailey, Debra Pressnell Dobbs, Daniel M. Doyle, Amber M. Evans, Myala Hendricks, Susan L. Leaver, Christina G. Raman, Christina Lee-Wells Sanks, Connie R. Smith, Gary M. Smith, Phyllis C. Smith, Jamie, Michael Spall, Lana S. Spence, Tonya R. Suttles, Cyndeye Vanadosalle, Vicki F. West, KristyWilliams, Barbara J. Witherspoon

District 3

District 5

District 10
District 10 member, relaxes after taking her two dogs on the Nurses Walk for Health.

Brad Harrell’s 19-month old son, Elijah, participated in Bartlett, Tenn., on April 28. Several nurses brought their friends, family, and pets to walk for good health. State TNA President Lena Patterson and her husband attended the walk, as well as several board members in the District. A guest clown came to entertain our group, make balloon toys, and to do face painting. It was a great time and we look forward to growing this event in the future!

District 1 continues to partner with other community associations in nursing to increase the strength of our outreach efforts. We are also preparing to accept applications for our District Scholarship, and we will have some exciting CEU opportunities coming this fall related to nursing, health care, and ethics.

District 4
District 4 has had a busy winter and spring, educationally speaking. February’s membership meeting featured a guest speaker who presented information on electronic health records from a nursing perspective. The meeting was attended by nurses from various professional backgrounds, as well as students. The membership meeting for April was hosted by Southern Adventist University (SAU) and the subject matter was stimulation and improvement education for nurses. The speakers enlightened the audience on creative ways to improve education for nurses from novice to expert as we move into a more technical future. The SAU faculty presented the information and the student nurses did an excellent job planning and carrying out everything from signage to direct the way on campus, transportation from the parking area, greeting, tours of the facility, and dinner.

Brad Harrell, RN, ACNP-BC, CCRN District 1 President

District 9
District 9 covers 12 rural counties over a large area between Nashville and Knoxville. Currently the District has 73 members. Working with the membership include Cookeville (Putnam County) with 25 members, Crossville (Cumberland County) with nine members, and Sparta (White County) with nine members.

Attorney District 9 Board members are still needed! President duties are to serve as a liaison role in the District, represent the District at the state level by quarterly attendance as a member of the TNA Board of Directors in Nashville, review the bylaws to mentor legislation, and support nursing practice in Tennessee. First Vice President duties are to assist in organizing District meetings and attend TNA Board of Directors meetings in the absence of the President. Second Vice President duties are to produce the district newsletter twice to four times per year. Secretary duties are to maintain meeting minutes and assist with District communication. Treasurer duties are to keep District funds organized and communicate District financial status to TNA.

Angel Brewer, MSN, RN District 9 President

District 1
Congratulations to recently elected District 9 officers! Elections took place March 9-April 15. The new slate of officers includes: Angel Brewer (Crossville), President; Chasidy Davenport (Crossville), First Vice President; Linda McQuiston (Cookeville), Second Vice President; Sylvie Pile Cowan (Cookeville), Secretary; Tammy Howard (Cookeville), Treasurer; and Barbara Lancaster (Sparta), Board Member.

District 9 membership meeting will be on August 9. Hope to see you there!

Allison Neel, DNP, CPNP, PMHNP-BC

District 4 President

The Tennessee Nurse Page 13

The Carolyn McKelvey Moore School of Nursing has an atmosphere that is student-friendly and future-oriented with exciting and unique opportunities for experienced educators. The College is eager to attract faculty who are committed to active, learner-centered teaching, innovation in curriculum design and delivery, ongoing professional development, and scholarship. We are currently seeking candidates for the following Nursing Faculty positions:

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• MEDICAL/SURGICAL
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• OBSTETRICS

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For additional information and application procedure, visit our website at: www.uafs.edu or contact: UAFS, Human Resources, 5210 Grand Avenue, Fullerton Administration Building, Room 239, PO. Box 3649, Fort Smith, AR 72913-3549; phone: (479)788-7088; e-mail: jobs@uafs.edu.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
Betty R. Campbell, RN, was selected as one of the Top 100 Nurses in Fayette and Shelby Counties. A 25th Celebrate Nursing Gala was held in April at the Holiday Inn University of Memphis to honor the recipients. Campbell was also chosen as one of the “Excellent 11.”

Mary Jo Cheuvront, BSN, RN, was selected to participate in a dual role (reviewer and Chair) for the Health Care Innovation Challenge grant review process. The project was an excellent way to learn how stakeholders are applying innovative strategies including workforce transformation to improve healthcare access and delivery and achieve demonstrable cost savings.

Brother Ignatius Perkins, OP, PhD, RN, FAAN, FNYAM, FRSM, Dean of Nursing and Director of the RN-BSN Program Aquinas College in Nashville, Tenn., has been chosen as the inaugural recipient of the Saint Catherine of Siena Chair. He will be formally appointed during the Sixth Annual Mass honoring Men and Women of the Health Care Professions. The Dominican Friars of the Priory of Saint Catherine of Siena have established the Saint Catherine of Siena Endowed Chair in Catholic Health Care Ethics at the Pontifical Faculty of Theology of the Immaculate Conception (PFIC) in Washington D.C.

Stasia Ruskie, BSN, MS, RN, recently graduated from Arizona State University where she was honored by ASU as the recipient of the Outstanding Representative of Professional Leadership and Involvement Award. Additionally, Ruskie will begin working toward a PhD in Nursing at the University of Tennessee in May where she was awarded a Fellowship.

Vanderbilt Receives Second Magnet Designation

Vanderbilt University Medical Center has achieved its second ANCC designation as a Magnet organization from the American Nurses Credential Center (ANCC). Magnet Recognition is a much-sought-after distinction for health care institutions, which must satisfy a comprehensive set of criteria measuring the strength and quality of nursing and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Magnet recognizes hospitals for quality patient care, nursing excellence and innovations in professional nursing practice. Appraisers look at a combination of factors and best practices in order to evaluate the culture of care at a given institution. Specifically, they want to ensure there is a collaborative, interdisciplinary team approach to care that recognizes nursing as a vital part of the team.

VUMC joins an elite group of 392 hospitals in the United States, and four international organizations, that have achieved Magnet Recognition status. No other Middle Tennessee hospital has achieved the recognition. Johnson City Medical Center and University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville are the only other Tennessee hospitals to achieve this distinction.

“Each time, the ANCC raises the bar on what it takes to achieve Magnet status. This is an enormous, collective achievement that would not have been possible without the dedication of everyone at Vanderbilt,” said Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, VUMC’s executive chief nursing officer. “There is much to be proud of, but in particular, I am pleased that the appraisers noted we have an incredible level of collaboration among providers and that our patient and family-centered care is embedded throughout the Vanderbilt culture.”

VUMC earned its first Magnet designation in 2006. The Magnet Second Designation journey began in earnest three years ago. In fall 2010, VUMC submitted a 3,000-plus page Magnet document with data and evidence of the Medical Center’s approach and philosophy of patient care. In summer 2011, VUMC was asked to submit supplemental information. Two months ago, ANCC appraisers conducted a weeklong site visit of 125 areas within VUMC. Various interviews and other meetings included communication with approximately 700 nurses and staff.

“The Magnet journey is about individuals working toward a common goal,” said Sabrina Downs, MSN, MBA, RN, director of VUMC Nursing Professional Practice and Magnet. “Whether it’s the hundreds of examples of excellent patient care, the small army of people who helped prepare for the site visit or all the ongoing support during the last two years, this is a success we can all share. We are each part of the Vanderbilt story. Typically, hospitals earn Magnet Recognition for a four-year period. The ANCC conducts annual reviews requesting updated documentation. At the end of four years, the Medical Center will go through the entire Magnet Recognition process once again.
American Nurses Association/Tennessee Nurses Association Membership—It’s Your Privilege!

Do you work at the VA? Join TNA today for only $10.70 a pay period.

Check Payroll Deduction on the lower right-hand side of the TNA Membership Application. A TNA staff member will send you the form you need to take to the VA Payroll Department to setup your payroll deduction dues plan. It’s that simple. You will never miss $10.70 from your paycheck and you will have gained so much in return. If you have any questions, call 615-254-0350.

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Screening began November 28, 2011 and will continue until the position is filled.

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