



Texas Organization for Associate Degree Nursing

Newsletter

Spring 2007

Message from the President



We are **beset with challenges** on all sides. AD nursing programs are providing some of the finest nurses that Texas has to offer! That is our purpose. That is our goal. How can we ever feel defeated when we know our accomplishments? The majority of practicing nurses in the state of Texas are from our schools!

I believe the source of many of our challenges originates from Linda Aiken's speech in Austin and the article she wrote. An example is Representative Kolkhorst's position. Not only does the representative not want to fund BS and AD programs equally, she wants to fund BS programs at least three to four times higher than AD. Kolkhorst has apparently told TNA that she wants to change the ratio of BS to AD nurses in the state of Texas. Why would she want to do this at a time when Texas is trying to increase RNs and it is a well known fact that AD students become RNs within three years and BS students become RNs within four years? Another worrisome legislative example is that Governor Perry's original plan excluded AD nurses from the partnership with hospitals. These are only two of the legislative issues; there are other troubling issues that could be listed such as priority given for clinical sites in some areas of the state.

The question is: **how do we overcome the damages that we did not cause?** I firmly believe the only way is through research. **It is clear that pointing out the flaws of Aiken's study only makes us look like "poor losers". We are in an "evidenced-based" era and without the evidence, we have no measurable rebuttal. Without the evidence, we find ourselves insipid when stating our request for equal funding.**

During a conference call with some presidents from other states, I asked the president of NOADN to pursue the option of asking the well known researcher, Peter Beurhaus to replicate Aiken's study (without the flaws). This idea is to be presented at the next NOADN BOD meeting. If possible, we must have a nationally respected researcher to prevent any appearance of bias. If Peter Beurhaus does not commit to the project, we must ask the community colleges to help fund such a project and include BS educators as well as AD educators. This will avoid any appearance of bias.

TOADN and NOADN were created to protect and support the AD nurse. We must wait no longer to act or the very purpose of the organization would be in question. It is essential to state we are not in opposition to BS programs. We simply want to protect the professional reputation of the AD nurse.

Increasing our membership is also a priority. I encourage you to ask your fellow ADN supporters to become members of the National Organization and TOADN.

In conclusion, I would like to **salute Jere Hammer**, TOADN's past president. After reviewing her work: committee representation for TOADN, letters written on behalf of TOADN, and overseeing the TOADN website (to name just a few) it would seem that she deserves more accolades than we can give. All I can say is thank-you for your service Jere. You are appreciated.

Bonnie Higgins

Nurse in the Spotlight

Marian Crawford graduated as an Associate Degree RN in 1977 from Northwestern State University in Louisiana. She worked as a surgical nurse for seven years and in psychiatric nursing for 5 years. For the last 17 years, she has worked in Occupational Nursing.

She is board certified in Occupational Health Nursing. She received the Marguerite Ahern Graff award for Excellence in Occupational Health Nursing in 2005. She has been employed with University of Texas Health Center at Tyler for the past ten years. At UTHCT, she is the Infection Control/Employee Health Nursing Coordinator. She is a member of AAOHN, TAOHN and APIC.

"I feel so blessed to be a nurse and I am very proud to be an associate degree nurse. Completing my nursing program was only the beginning of my education. In a world that is constantly changing, all nurses are required to stay up to date on health care issues. Being a member of your professional organization, volunteering to participate on nursing councils and committees and attending conferences or in-services to stay current is mandatory for nurses today."



Marian was a guest speaker at TCCTA for TOADN. Her topic was "Curriculum Changes for Safe Patient Handling" (see picture below)

Marian is married to an associate degree nurse, Doug Crawford. She is the mother of four daughters (one is a RN) and has one granddaughter and two grandsons.

Safe Patient Handling @ TCCTA

Beverly Howard "Patient"
Instructor Alvin Community College

