



November, 2001



## President's Message

Here it is... near the end of the fall season... ready for the cover of snow... with thoughts turning toward the upcoming holiday season. It is with great pride in our organization that I would like to address you and tell you thus. I recently attended the state conference in Chamberlain. **WE HAVE MUCH TO BE PROUD ABOUT!!!**

The Second Annual South Dakota Emergency Nurses conference was indeed a great success. Hats off to all of you who had a part in planning, organizing, and contributing to the great success of this venture. It was wonderful to meet with other emergency nurses from across the state in a beautiful relaxed atmosphere. It was also a great opportunity to share and celebrate our 1st National Emergency Nurses WEEK. We are looking forward to next years conference. Plan to add that to your calendars. With the past two conferences as an example, I can assure you all that next years conference will be spectacular as well.

This past year has been a one of financial difficulty for both our state and national organization. This could have been an overwhelming obstacle except that on both levels of the organization, people were willing to do more with less, find other resources and be creative

in accomplishing what needed to be done. As a result, the national organization has turned around it's financial straights to achieve a positive financial balance in a very short time. This in turn has helped our state organization maintain the funds needed to hold our conference, provide educational courses with emergency/trauma focus, and go forward.

In going forward, we as a state organization will be incorporating. This will provide some financial benefits and protection to the organization. Thanks to Jill for her work with the State of South Dakota and the National ENA to obtain the necessary information for us.

As a state organization, we have achieved and maintained a membership of about sixty members. Our membership represents emergency nurses from all corners of the state. I would like to say a great big welcome to each of you and heartfelt thank you as well. My last two years as your president has been a great educational and fun experience. I would encourage each of you to become more involved in your ENA.

I would like to close this with a wish that you each will continue to expand your involvement in ENA, challenge yourself to take the CEN exam and grow in your spiritual, personal and professional self. Each of us is an evolving human being attempting to maintain a balance. May you find yours! Cheryl

# Treasurer's Report

by Jill Wiesner RN, CEN

National ENA posed two questions to state ENA councils in the June 2001 ENA Connection publication. They were: 1) "Do you know your status?" and 2) "Is your state council unincorporated or incorporated?"

The SD ENA tax status is 501(c)6 and we are NOT an incorporated organization. So what does this mean for our organization?

Regarding the Federal Tax Exempt status, National ENA recently changed from 501(c)6 to 501(c)3. Many state councils have asked if they can also switch to 501(c)3 status. National ENA is willing to help state councils by filing a petition for group exemption under 501(c)3. Why would we want to change our tax status? 501(c)6 focuses more on the business aspects of a profession. 501(c)3 focuses on education, members, and public activities. The 501(c)3 seems to fit with our organization's purpose. During the October meeting, a motion to change the tax status was approved. Several steps need to be completed in preparation for the tax status change.

The first step is to become an incorporated organization. In an unincorporated state council, the individual members could be personally liable for legal debts and other legal obligations. On the other hand, if your state council is incorporated, you as a member are protected from any debts and other legal claims. An "Articles of Incorporation" application will be filed at the Secretary of State's office.

Secondly, the SD ENA Bylaws needed to be changed to reflect the purpose to be for members, education, and public activities. Bylaw changes were reviewed at the October meeting and a ballot initiated. Two-thirds approval needs to be obtained for Bylaw changes. Please return your ballots!

A copy of the "Articles of Incorporation" and the Bylaw revision, along with a letter stating our state council's desire to be included in the group exemption process will be sent to National ENA. I am unsure of the time for completion of this process. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions.

# Trauma Committee

Clara Johnson, RN, MS

The SD ENA TNCC Reimbursement Program was approved for the second year in 2002 at the all October 11, 2001 membership meeting.

Letters will be sent to hospital Director of Nurses at the facilities with less than 50 beds in December, explaining the program and opportunity for reimbursement. Funds are dispersed on a first come first serve basis.

SD ENA is truly committed to disseminating trauma nursing education. The organization has taken an admirable approach to assisting our small hospitals who have little or no educational dollars in tight budgets. Congratulations and thank you to SD ENA members.

The following is a summary of the 2001 TNCC Reimbursement Program approved at the October 2000 membership meeting:

Program approved	Fall Meeting, October 2001	
Funds approved	SD ENA \$	\$4000.00
Funds requested	Ntl ENA \$	\$1000.00
*Ntl approved \$\$		\$ 250.00

**Final Available Dollars \$4250.00**

## Summary of Fund Disbursement for 2001

<u>RN's from:</u>	<u>Course Sponsor</u>	<u>\$\$Reimbursed</u>
Jobbridge - 8 RNs	St. Alexis, Bismark	\$1050.00
Lynd - 2 RNs	Avera McKennan	\$ 335.00
Vagner Community - 1 RNs	Avera McKennan	\$ 160.00
Freeman Community - 8 RNs	Avera McKennan	\$ 880.00
Scotland - 2 RNs	Avera McKennan	\$ 290.00
Markston - 4 RNs	Avera McKennan	\$ 340.00
Webster - 2 RNs	Avera St. Luke's	\$ 280.00
Britton - 2 RNs	Avera St. Luke's	\$ 280.00
Webster - 3 RNs	Avera McKennan	\$ 480.00
	Allowed:	\$4250.00
	Reimbursed:	\$4095.00
	<b>Available:</b>	<b>\$ 155.00</b>

## Meet SD ENA Secretary Cindy Baldwin

I have been a nurse for 13 years. I graduated from Augustana College and have worked at Sioux Valley Hospital and USD Medical Center since 1988. My first nursing experience was in ICU where I worked for 10 years as a Clinical Care Coordinator and bedside nurse. I then took a Case Management position that took me all over the hospital while gaining a lot of knowledge about reimbursement, LOS, DRG's and a great understanding and respect for other specialized nursing units. In December of 1999, I accepted the Trauma Service Coordinator position and began my involvement in ENA.

I currently live outside of Renner SD, a small town north of Sioux Falls, with my husband Greg, daughter Mallory and a son Marcus. Gonzo, Buehler, and Tom are our pets. I enjoy spending time reading, snow skiing, hiking and boating.

I am pleased to accept the position of secretary for the 2002-2003, and hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

Cindy Baldwin

**Note: Congratulations to Francine Miller on her appointment to Treasurer. Hear more about her in the next newsletter. Jodi Foster takes over as our SD ENA President in January.**

## ENCARE/INJURY PREVENTION

First off let me say thank you to all of you who have initiated and/or participated in injury prevention activities. Injury prevention is such an important part of Emergency Nursing and is not possible without the help of membership.

At the last meeting held in Chamberlain the budget for the upcoming year was approved. As far as injury prevention is concerned we have been authorized to continue the following programs. The bike helmet program has been renewed. In this program ENA/ENCARE will match local funds to purchase bike helmets for distribution from your Emergency Department. The funds are limited so if interested contact me as soon as possible. We are seeking renewal of the contract with the SD Office of Highway Safety for funds to promote highway safety. This is still in the works and if the contract is approved we will send a mailing to let you know the specifics. The Master lock Gunlock program is still available to ENA members. If you are interested in distributing gunlocks in your community please contact me. I can give you details and get the application forms to you. Each ENA member can get up to 100 gunlocks and supporting literature for distribution without cost from Master lock.

If you are doing any type of injury prevention/safety work in your community please contact me and give me the details. This data is important when we are asking for funding from agencies and civic organizations. It also helps ENA/ENCARE national obtain needed funding. Information we need includes, who is presenting, type of program, target audience, objectives if available, and numbers of people who attended.

Thank you for all your injury prevention work. It really does make a difference.

Tom Berg