



# Professional Nurses District



# 3

FALL NEWSLETTER 2005

## Our Mission

- ◆ To promote better understanding of professional nursing on the part of the public.
- ◆ Inform nurses of the activities of the professional nursing organization through the official publication of this district and other media.
- ◆ Foster high standards of nursing practice.
- ◆ To promote the professional and educational advancement of nurses.

## President's Message by Margie Hopkins

There is so much going on in health care and nursing today. We as nurses have multiple opportunities to impact both the profession of nursing and health care in general. As one of the many professional organizations representing nurses in our area, we take very seriously our responsibility to nurses in Chemung, Schuylar, Steuben and Tompkins counties. Of late, it has become clear that the format of educational offerings we have presented at general meetings do not meet your needs. Two general meetings this past winter were cancelled due to low attendance. So we need your help and feedback.

Our organization will be undertaking a membership drive in the Fall. Starting in September, current members who get four (4) or more new members to join will receive a one year's membership to District # 3. Information will be available on the web site later in the summer, but start "drumming up" business, and benefit yourself.

Please keep in mind that our organization is as good as its members. As professional nurses we have a responsibility to be active in our professional organizations. We

need to make sure we do not limit ourselves to activities within our employing agencies. We can never know what is possible unless we network to find out what nurses are doing elsewhere. To advance in the profession, and therefore advance our own practices, we must make a commitment to challenge ourselves professionally. Being active in a professional organization is a very good way to do this.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president over the past two years. I have learned so much about nursing and about myself over this time. I have become more active in NYSNA, which has enhanced my abilities as a nurse and a nurse educator. I have met many nurses from throughout the state, and realize even more the strength we have in numbers. We must use this to move nursing into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Certainly, we always need to remember our history, but as a profession we need to change and grow to meet the needs of an ever changing health care system. The following quote attributed to Will Rogers speaks to where I feel nursing is today: *Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just*

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sit there.” Is that what we want for ourselves?...for nursing?...for our patients? Let’s all be part of the solution by moving nursing forward. We all will benefit.

*Margie Hopkins*

### *Make us an offer!*

There is a desk computer printer for sale—just make an offer! This Year 2000 compliant Brother machine is a laser printer, copier, scanner, answering, and fax machine in one!

For more information, or to make an offer, please contact Linda MacAuslan at 737-4263 or e-mail:

lmacauslan@aomc.org

### *2005/2006 General Meetings*

The General Meeting schedule will be:

**November 2005**

**March 2006**

**May 2006**

**Currently, the Board of Directors is investigating a program on the Women’s Health Initiatives for the November Meeting.**

**Look for the District flyer for further information in regards to programming.**

## *Current Board and Staff*

### Officers

**President:** Linda MacAuslan (2005-2007)

**President Elect:** Susan Gosden (2005-2007)

**Vice President:** Mary Adamus (2004-2006)

**Secretary:** Lisa White (2005-2007)

**Treasurer:** Paula Gilbert (2004-2006)

### Nominating Committee

**Marion Leljedal** (2004-2006)

**Janet Linderbery** (2005-2007)

**Linda Pasto** (2004-2006)

**Joyce Stehle** (2005-2007)

**Heidi Vail** (2004-2006)

### Newsletter Co-Editor

**Karen Davis/Lisa White**

### Board of Directors

**Janet Morgan** (2003-2006)

**Jean Swinnerton** (2003-2006)

**Janet Appier** (2004-2007)

**Karen Davis** (2004-2007)

**LouAnn DiPetta** (2005-2008)

**Rosalyn DuBois** (2004-2007)

**Theresa Hauptman** (2004-2007)

**Carol Noyes** (2005-2008)

**Professional Nurses District 3 website address:  
www.district3rn.org**

## Student Nurse Employment Issues

Over the summer and throughout the school year, many health care institutions employ student nurses. These student nurses might be called many things: nurse's aides, patient care technicians, student interns, etc., etc. By any other name, when employed, student nurses may ONLY carry out duties of an aide specified in your institution's job description. Student nurses may carry out the duties and functions of a registered professional nurse only when they are enrolled in a course and under the supervision of a faculty member from their school.



Nursing students and staff may be confused by this, as students, in their roles as aides, may be asked to help with medication administration, a sterile procedure (dressing or catheter change) or other function, as the nurse knows this aide is a student. These functions and procedures may only be carried out by LICENSED personnel. As much as nurses may like to give nursing students learning experiences, it is inappropriate to have student nurses carry out nursing functions while working as aides. For more information, go to <http://www.nysna.org/programs/nai/practice/alerts/alerts.htm>

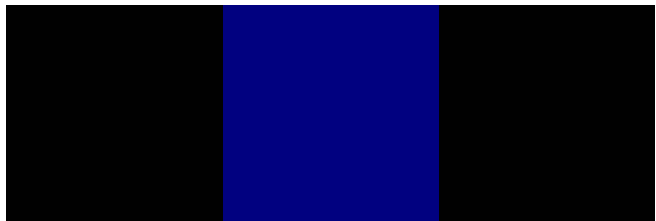
Legislation Update: from [www.nysna.org](http://www.nysna.org)  
 Legislation was passed in June authorizing ...a two-year study of safe patient handling programs implemented voluntarily by healthcare facilities in New York state. The results will build upon existing evidence-based data, with the ultimate goal of recommending strategies for safe patient handling throughout the state.

*"This is a significant victory for healthcare workers, facilities, and patients," said Janet*

*Haebler, director of NYSNA's Nursing Advocacy and Information Program. "Participating facilities will see a reduction in costs related to absenteeism, staff replacement, workers' compensation claims. Patients will also feel safer when they are being transported."*

As many of you know, back injuries are a leading cause of time lost from work for nurses, and a significant cause for nurses leaving direct patient care.

*Margie Hopkins*



### Elmira College

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**Nurse Education Program (607) 735-1890**

# Professional Nurses District 3

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## Professional Nurses Gourmet Adventure

Are your guests wowed by your culinary talents? Do you have a favorite dish for which people are always requesting the recipe?

**If so, then we need YOU!**

As a fund raising effort, District 3 Professional Nurses Association is collecting recipes from members to publish a cookbook. This cookbook will be sold to raise money for future association endeavors. Paula Gilbert and Jean Swinnerton have graciously agreed to spearhead this effort. But, they need your help for this project to succeed. If you are interested in joining them on the committee, please contact Paula at 737-2620

Recipe	Serves _____
from the kitchen of _____	
	
_____	
_____	
_____	

or Jean at 546-2502.

For those of you who are unable to participate on the committee, please e-mail your favorite recipe or recipes to [gardnspr@earthlink.net](mailto:gardnspr@earthlink.net) or [JSwinnerton@htva.net](mailto:JSwinnerton@htva.net).

Please be sure to include the number of servings that your recipe will make. If you have taken a recipe from a book, or modified a recipe from a book, please credit it as such (i.e. recipe modified from Betty Crocker)

