



# Coastal Bend Chapter 274 ENA Newsletter

JUNE 28, 2011

Contact Coastal Bend

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Membership:

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## President's Message

Charlotte Trudeau MSN, RN, CPN  
Coastal Bend Chapter 274 President 2011

It is hard to believe that half of this year has gone by! We have lots of opportunities ahead of us as we finish up the year but we have accomplished so much already. Great work everyone!

Eric Conrad and Charlotte Trudeau attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter TENA meeting in Sugarland in January. Our Chapter hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter TENA meeting in Corpus Christi in April. Thanks to Eric Conrad, Wally Fears, and Linda Snyder for assisting to pull off a great meeting. All went well and for those Texans that don't get to see the beach often, it was a nice break!

The next and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly TENA meeting will be in Austin at St. David's Medical Center July 15-16<sup>th</sup>. TENA quarterly meetings are open to all TENA members; our chapter sends two voting delegates to each meeting. If you are interested in attending one of these meetings and/or are interested in attending as a delegate, please let us know. It is a great opportunity to attend TENA committee meetings and also to see how our TENA chapter operates.

This Texas Legislative Session was a busy one and I have to say that I was proud of myself and others from within our chapter and TENA who made an effort to contact their local representatives on these issues that affect Nursing. We often hear that "they" need to change things and "they" aren't going to do anything! We all need to realize that we are "they" and we CAN make a difference!! Particularly if we work together in our Nursing Organizations. Here is an overview of how this Legislative session went:  
(Reported from the TNA newsletter)

**SB 295** The bill that would enhance the penalty for assaulting ER personnel. This bill passed the Senate after an agreement was reached with most of the mental health advocacy groups

[If the patient is a mental health patient or has dementia, or autism or some type of mental impairment, before we can have them charged with a felony assault, we must have had the minimum training as set by the Texas Hospital Association (which has not been developed yet, and would not have to be mandatory, or may not be mandated for hospitals to participate). The minimum training needs to have some de escalation and crisis/violent management education and/or training.]

Thought the bill was going to die in the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence. Then, it got voted out with an amendment excluding patients with mental disabilities from the enhanced penalty

The bill had a chance if it could get set on the House Calendar for a vote. Which it did, but it was one of the later bills on the Calendar (57th bill listed) for Tuesday, 5/24, the last day bills could be passed. Typically, bills set late on the last day are not reached and die. All bills had to be reached by midnight. At midnight, SB 295 was still 20 bills down the Calendar. SB 295 was officially dead.

**HB 1013** that would maintain the confidentiality of the identity of a nurse who reports a physician for unsafe care.

This bill continued to reappear every time it was thought to be dead.

First, Representative Howard was successful in amending HB 1013 to maintain the confidentiality of a nurse's identity. Next, a Representative planned to offer HB 1013 as an amendment to SB 8. Unfortunately, it was HB 1013 without Representative Donna Howard's language protecting nurses. Luckily the Speaker of the House ruled the amendment was "not germane" (not relevant to the bill it was trying to amend) to SB 8. We thought we were okay again.

Then HB 1013 would be offered as an amendment to SB 190, but that bill died on the calendar Tuesday at midnight. Second bullet dodged, then another Representative was planning to offer HB 1013 as an amendment to SB 8 on third reading. Again, this would be HB 1013 without Howard's language. At the last moment, the Representative withdrew the amendment because it was ruled not germane again

**HB 1** Nursing Ed Funding Included in budget

The Appropriations Bill Conference Committee (HB 1):

\$30 million (67%) of the \$44.6 million appropriated in special funding for nursing education appropriated in 2009 would be maintained in the 2011 budget. The House's version of the budget had included only \$18 million. ( \$30 million which is much closer to the \$36 million in the Senate version ). TNA was also successful in keeping about \$6 million in tobacco lawsuit settlement funds dedicated to nursing education. This \$6 million will go to the Nursing Innovative Grant Program, which is used to fund innovative ways to increase the production of RNs in Texas.

## Chapter Meeting

We held our January meeting at Driscoll Children's Hospital and started planning on the April TENA meeting to be hosted by our Chapter. The March meeting was a social networking/Meeting at "On the Border" Mexican Restaurant. This was a great meeting and a wonderful networking opportunity where staff, educators, and managers got together.

Our May meeting had an educational offering with CEU's on "Forensic Evidence Collection." Just a reminder that in 2006 the BON had made Forensic Education 2 CEU's, a component for License renewal and it did not have an expiration date. If any of you know of new nurses to the ER, nurses who float to your ER, or the old timer that may not have heard of the requirement, please let them know. You will have only had to complete a "Forensics Training" once. You can find more information on the BON website.

In June we had a Board meeting where we reviewed the progress on our goals and strategic plan. A lot of hard work has been completed. Thank You All!

Our next Chapter meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Location and time to be announced. Please check the website for details.

## Meeting Schedule

Coastal Bend Chapter 274 meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the odd numbered months.

July 6, 2011

September 7, 2011

November 2, 2011

## Strategic Plan 2011

We held our Strategic Planning Session in February and had lots of great ideas. We are currently working on many of our goals. To see the 2011 Strategic plan please [click here](#).

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## TNCC/ENPC News

We have for the second year, partnered with the Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council to provide two TNCC Provider Courses and Two ENPC Provider Courses that are fully funded by CBRAC. As of June 2011, two TNCC and two ENPC provider course will have been completed. Our thanks to CBRAC for their support!

In addition one TNCC recert course and one ENPC recert course has been completed with another ENPC recert to be completed by July 2011. We have completed two other TNCC Provider Courses with one course for Driscoll Children's Hospital as they prepare for their Trauma Verification in October.

Our thanks to the TNCC and ENPC instructors and Course Directors that have taken on this challenge.

## TNCC/ENPC Courses

### ENPC Reverification Course

July 9, 2011

Location: CSHCC-Memorial

Course Director: Wally Fears

Contact [Wally](#) for registration information

August 18-19, 2011

Location: CSHCC-Memorial

Course Director: Wally Fears

Contact [Wally](#) for registration information

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Wally Fears, RN, CEN  
Coastal Bend Chapter 274 Treasurer

The Coastal Bend Chapter is doing well financially. The best news is that all of the returns and reports have been filed on time to the IRS for FY 2010. During FY 2010 the board added the necessary Financial SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) to our Chapter by Laws and SOPs. These are standard SOPs necessary to meet the IRS and accounting standards for our IRS 501c3 Not for Profit status. For those of you that are reading this and maybe not familiar with the process, it was a long process that took several years and a lot of hard work.

For FY 2011 our chapter was able to host and fund the TENA 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Board and State Council meeting, a portion of those expenses will be reimbursed from TENA. But, it was our way of supporting TENA and ENA. Our chapter also made a donation to the State Challenge for the ENF annual fundraiser that provides scholarships for ENA members. We have also purchased a computer and printer for the Treasurer so that accounting records may be transferred easily from the outgoing Treasurer to the incoming treasurer. In our chapter's history, the treasurer role does not change very often, and that is the case for most local chapters. It does take some time to learn the role and make sure that everything is filed and kept up to date.

Upon the advice of our accountant, we will be opening a savings account soon. That has been a goal for several years, but now is the time to get that task completed. It is a business best practice to have at least 6 months operating capital in reserve. This account will be designed to allow for necessary funds to be available in the case of a shortfall in income, and also to allow us to provide needed services to the membership.

Please let me know if you have any questions. The Chapter by Laws and SOPs are posted on the [chapter website](#) for your review.