From the President

Gwen Guerin, President

Dear Fellow HEAL Members,

This year is coming to an end. This means my presidency is ending as well and I move into the role of past president. As I reflect back on 2010, I have learned so much from my fellow board members. Planning a conference that is hundreds of miles away is a unique challenge. We all have our ideas on how things should be and blending those ideas was fun. HEAL provides education for our healthcare educators and acts as a network of information for fellow state healthcare providers. HEAL is truly remarkable organization and a team effort by all.

The rewards of being on the board of HEAL are too numerous to count. The one I think that I have enjoyed the most is the friendships I have made throughout the state. Ann and Pam have provided guidance and support throughout my term. I owe them a huge THANK YOU.

One thing that I found was that I met people from previous conferences, not only did I recognize them and

made a connection. Heather and Kim have such a sense of “fun” about them. Connecting on a personal note with a group and sharing faith and dinner was a definite bonus.

I also owe a Thank you to Sue Morgan and Gayle Stinnett. When I moved into the educator role these ladies offered advice and encouragement. Through them I became involved with NAHEC, (Northwest region). The rest is history.

I look forward to seeing each of you again next year.

Thanks again for everything.

Gwenda Guerin, RN, CRNI

Kim Gilliland, President-elect/2011

Kim Gilliland has been the President-elect of the state HEAL organization preparing for her year as President in 2011. She was an active participant in planning for the Fall HEAL Conference recently held in Montgomery.

Kim has served a President in the West Region where she saw an increase in new member participation in that area.

Kim is looking forward to serving the membership of HEAL as President in 2011 and working with all the wonderful educators around the state.

Kim is the Coordinator of Education at Northport Medical Center—DCH.
Margie Jordan, BSN, RN, is currently employed by St. Vincent’s Health System as the Infection Prevention, Employee Health, and Education Resources Coordinator for St. Vincent’s Blount in Oneonta, AL. Margie has been a nurse for 30+ years with a background in critical care and clinical education. Margie is currently pursuing a MSN and EdD degree at The University of Alabama.

Pam Morgan, has worked many long, hard hours as treasurer, doing all the research and paperwork to carry HEAL forward and achieve tax exempt status for the organization. Our thanks to Pam (and her husband) for the many hours they devoted to this project.

Dawn Molz, is currently the president for the Birmingham region. She has been a member for four years and has served as Treasurer for the region as well as President. She has been a nursing educator for almost ten years. She works for UAB Hospital at the Highlands location. Dawn reports that HEAL has been a great medium for networking and sharing ideas. Her term as President expires at the end of 2010.

Jamal Brown

The President for the Birmingham Region for 2011 is Enoch Jamal Brown. Jamal is a native of Bessemer, and graduated from UAB School of Nursing in May, 2003. He has worked in critical care areas at UAB Medical West and at Cooper Green Mercy Hospital. He is currently the Education Coordinator for the hospital as well as a diabetes educator and keeps his clinical skills current working in ICU at Medical West “in his spare time.” Jamal has two daughters, Jamya and Jaylah Brown.

Pam suggests:
A great inspirational speaker is Amanda Gore. Check out her website: Amandagore.com

The Birmingham Region had her DVD presentation as the program in December.
LaPhon Reilly is a member of the West Region and was elected last year to serve as the Regional Rep. She works at Bryce Hospital in the Staff Development Department and assists with the orientation of new employees and the annual training for the current staff. She enjoys the networking that Heal has provided and has learned so much from the three Fall Heal conferences she has attended.

The West region had 4 attendees at the Heal Fall Annual Conference in Montgomery. It was a fun and informative time.

The TJC was in Tuscaloosa the week of the conference, so that prevented some of the membership from attending. We continue to recruit membership for the West Region.

We will meet again in February or March of 2011. Hope that everyone has a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

From the Northwest Region

Linda Evans

NAHEC (North Alabama Health Educator’s Council) hosted our annual conference on Friday, August 8, 2010. The conference was held at Corporate University at Huntsville Hospital. After a wonderful breakfast provided by Huntsville Hospital, we enjoyed a morning of enrichment with two great speakers. Deborah Alvis from Cullman Regional Medical Center was our first speaker. She is a Legal Nurse Consultant and presented a program on Successful Documentation and Learning Modes. The program was enlightening as she told of case studies describing charting errors that have an impact on litigation. She identified ways that nurses could reduce professional risk. The second speaker was David Dysen. He is a professional coach and trainer for life leaders and professionals. He gave us a glimpse of what is to come at our October Heal conference. His topic was Earning and Delegating Empowerment – 7 Practices for True Professionals. David has co-authored the book “Professionalism Under Stress and Patriotism in Action”. He discussed the aspects of professionalism in the workplace and ways to empower ourselves and our staff.

In addition to our NAHEC members, employees of Huntsville Hospital and the surrounding professional community attended. After the conference, our group met for a short meeting to finish the details of the conference. Two NAHEC members who had attended 50% of the meetings received complimentary registration to the Heal meeting in October. The next NAHEC meeting will be November 20th at Athens Limestone Hospital. This will be a “share time” meeting.

ALS Resources

For speakers and resources for dealing with ALS patients, check out Alsa.org

Janet Thorn is anxious to spread the word to the medical community and the patients about the resources available for people with this condition.

From the Northeast Region

Heather Bennett

Heather Bennett, BSN, is Director of Education at Coosa Valley Medical Center in Sylacauga, Al. Heather is an Auburn University at Montgomery graduate from 1994 and has been an employee at Coosa Valley Medical Center since graduation with her title in education for the past 11 years. Her roles throughout the years have included direct clinical care, Management, Quality and Education. Her clinical background is ICU/ED. Heather is American Heart Association Regional Faculty and enjoys teaching life saving skills to the community as part of her job. While she performs in an instructional role, she also remains active in clinical skills such as being certified in placing PICC lines in patients that need them and taking an active part in clinical leadership at the hospital. Being a member of Heal for 11 years now, she states that the benefits of active membership are priceless. The connections that you make throughout the state are not only a pleasure but very helpful in solving the problems and issues that arise in day to day. My goal for Heal is to engage as many educators in the state in active membership and let them see the benefits in their daily work. If standing alone, we are but a small voice. If we stand together, we are strong. Heather has been married to her husband, Craig for 16 years and they have two beautiful daughters, Sophie Camille and Ansley Lane, ages 9 and 2.
Fun at Fall Conference

The Ladies from “the Board” with their HEAL blankets.

They all look soooo serious!

Board members with Governor’s proclamation: Alabama Health Educators Week.

Mr. Blackwell gives us “the scoop” on TJC.

And then there were those bike rides.

From the Central and Southwest Regions

Laura Harris is the President of the Central Region. She is an educator with the Baptist Health System in Montgomery, Al.

Mary Ann Townson is the President of the Southwest Region and is an educator with Providence Hospital in Mobile, Al.

Special Thanks
Thanks so much to all of you who submitted pictures of the Fall Conference events. The editors camera malfunctioned and if you had not shared your pics, we would have missed those wonderful shots. (regrettably, the pics of Dr. David Dyson and Jason Willoughby were too fuzzy to use.)