Notes from the President  Gwenda Guerin

Dear Fellow HEAL Members,

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you my hopes and visions for the coming year. First of all, I am having trouble believing that it is already Spring. Springtime brings new buds, flower and beginnings. Education is much like spring; we all need new fresh ideas and commitment in providing quality and excellent education to our fellow co-workers.

Education is a team effort that is both challenging and rewarding. The younger generation amazes me with their technical abilities and their qualities of multitasking. As a traditional educator I have had to change my way of teaching and presenting to the younger generation. I have decided this is a great thing vs. frowning on the fact they don’t “conform” to my way of teaching.

The HEAL conference this year is focusing on teaching the Millenium’s by Jason Wil- loughby. Other topics include Joint Commission Update by Russ Blackburn, Board of Nursing Update by Gennell Lee and Attitude and Ability by Dr David Dyson. Great lineup.

As your new president if there is anytime you have a question or comment, don’t hesitate to contact me via email or phone.

I look forward to working with the other board members as a team focusing on health educator’s issues.

Thank you,

Gwenda Guerin, RN CRNI
gwenda.guerin@hhsys.org
256 527-1829

News from the Regions

Coosa Valley (Northeast)

Coosa Valley Medical Center has embarked on a new adventure called “Saved by the Bell”. This initiative involves all levels of care and begins with the call light response. The thought is, if we respond in the appropriate manner to a simple call light, that we will exceed at meeting the patient’s needs at all levels. The initiative will include staff training, close mentoring and holding each other accountable to the defined measures. It is an exciting time for Coosa Valley with the beginning of this endeavor.

Heather Bennett, BSN
Education Director
Coosa Valley Medical Center

Northwest Region News

The Northwest Region of HEAL met on March 5th at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Officers for this region include: President-Linda Evans, Helen Keller Hospital, Vice President-Lisa Carter, Department of Public Health: Perinatal, Secretary-Tracy Durm, Athens Limestone, and Treasurer-Teri Mobley, Cullman Regional Medical Center. Agenda items for the meeting included: meeting dates for upcoming year, meeting planning, annual conference planning and Share Time. A brochure was presented to the group as a mail out for recruitment for other educators. Our goal this year is to reach out to educators in other fields such as Home Health, Hospice, etc. A committee was selected to plan the August conference. The next meeting will be held on May 21st at Cullman Regional Medical Center. The speaker will be Lisa Carter presenting her summary of research data related to infant mortality in the State of Alabama. Lisa is an outstanding speaker and is very knowledgeable in the field of perinatal health.

Linda Evans, RN, MSN, CDE
Director of Education
Helen Keller Hospital
Sheffield, AL 35660
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Regional News (continued)

Birmingham Region Report

The Birmingham Region has met twice this year. Dawn Molz took over as President in January. Other officers were elected in March: Jamal Brown as President-elect, Gail Butler as Secretary, and Ida Haney as Treasurer.

Our January meeting was hosted by UAB Hospital. Chris Morgan, the guest speaker, did a presentation on video teleconferencing which gave us ideas on how educators can possibly communicate across distances. Our March meeting was hosted by Brookwood Medical Center. We heard a presentation by Glenda Dickerson on horizontal violence which informed us, as educators, about what it is and how we can help staff deal with those types of situations.

One of our goals over the next year is to demonstrate our value to our organizations and the community. We brainstormed in the March meeting and have come up with a few ideas that we will further discuss this summer. They include obtaining specialty certification, hosting a HEAL informational open house, linking goals with hospital strategic plans and focus on outcomes, presenting a quarterly report card to our administrators on all of our activities, and developing a HEAL brochure.

Dawn Molz
Education Coordinator
UAB Highlands
Birmingham, Al

West Region

LaPhon Reilly is new representative. Next meeting is scheduled for May 14th at Bryce Hospital. A Program on Suicide risk assessment will be provided.

Kim Gilliland
Education Coordinator
Northport Medical Center, DCH

Nominations Needed!

We have been tasked with finding nominations for the following positions at the state level:

- President-elect (to take office January 1, 2011)
- Secretary (to take office January 1, 2011)

The requirements for each position are as follows:

All members of the Board of Directors must be members of the HEALTHCARE EDUCATORS OF ALABAMA. Ideally, officer candidates will:

1) have been a HEAL member for the past three consecutive years;
2) have an understanding of and agree to the requirements of the office in which they are interested in serving and
3) have within the past two years served as regional representative and/or have been active and proactive in HEAL activities at the regional and state level. Should an individual have an interest in an officer position but does not meet the qualifications above, the nominating committee may present the candidate to the Board who may make exceptions. This will be addressed on a case by case basis.

The President-Elect shall, during the year preceding his/her term of office as President, become familiar to the fullest extent with the operations of the Organization. The President-Elect shall assume the duties of President, in the absence of the President. This shall be a one-year term of office. January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011.

The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Organization and the Board of Directors and maintain the official minutes and records of the Organization. The Secretary maintains the current membership roster. The term will begin on January 1st in the odd numbered year and end on December 31st in the even numbered year. This shall be a two-year term of office. January 1, 2011- December 31, 2012.

A formal ballot will be sent out later. But, if you would like to run for either of these positions or nominate someone (obtain their permission first) email or call one of the following:

Dawn Molz 205 930-7501
dmolz@uabmc.edu
Sarah Joy Maxwell 205 481-7496
smaxwell@uabmw.org

One last thing regarding officers, by the end of 2010, we will need to elect a new Treasurer. If you think you might be interested and would like to see what it’s all about, our current Treasurer, Pam Morgan, will be happy to mentor you so that you can make an informed decision.
AlaHa Task Force Update

AlaHa Quality Initiative Education Task Force Update:

The AlaHa Quality Education Task Force is a state wide subcommittee of hospital based quality leaders and educators. The purpose of this committee was to develop a plan to provide faculty and students with timely information on Quality Initiatives, National Patient Safety Goals, and Prevention of Hospital Acquired conditions. Incorporating this Quality information into Nursing and Allied Health curriculum will enhance student clinical’s as well as provide hospitals with better prepared new graduates.

The AlaHa Quality Education Task Force worked with Institute for Healthcare improvement (IHI) Improvement Map to link content to various nursing courses within the two and four year programs. The result is a color coded IHI Improvement map available on the AlaHa website. The material may be used by faculty to supplement information currently provided in Nursing program. Hospitals may use the IHI map for staff education as well. The IHI material is updated twice a year.

The committee sent a letter to school faculties this Spring informing them of the available resource for Fall semester. A follow up survey to assess utilization is planned for Spring 2011. Once the process is evaluated, the committee plans to work with Allied Health and Medical School professionals.

HEAL Now Tax Exempt

(Editor’s note: Many thanks to Pam and her husband for all the hard work and long hours spent in doing all the work necessary to achieve Tax Exempt status for HEAL. Below are the guidelines for those who may want to pursue this with some other organization. See additional information in side bar.)

- The IRS referred us to Publication 557, Tax Exempt Status for Your Organization”, which my husband and I read well.
- HEAL filed form 1023 which requires MANY attachments, bylaws (which we used instead of articles of incorporation), copies of newsletters, financial records, etc. (Follow the instructions in form 1023 extremely well.) We had to add a conflict of interest statement that members voted on as an addendum to our bylaws (board members sign conflict of interest statement annually). We used the conflict of interest statement from the IRS site, and modified it. http://www.irs.gov/instructions/i1023/ar03.html
- We had to amend our bylaws to include specific IRS statements. For example: Section I - Name This Organization, established as a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Alabama, shall be known as the HEALTHCARE EDUCATORS OF ALABAMA. The HEAL name and logo should be used only by the HEAL organization. Said organization (HEAL) is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- We also had to add a Dissolution Clause which reads: Section VII- Dissolution Clause. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.
- In addition, the letter with my replies to requested information, had to include this statement: Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this information, including accompanying documents, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information contains all the relevant facts relating to the request for the information, and such facts are true, correct, and complete.
- It cost a total of $750 (plus shipping) since we took in over $10K annually in gross income (but less than $25K).
- The time it took to get this information together was huge, but I was fortunate that HEAL had good records and I had

Because organizations make different amounts of money, and there are many things to consider in how that money is managed before giving tax advice, I would be hesitant to tell anyone to do exactly what we did until they write a letter of query to the IRS and ask for advice (or consult a tax accountant). By the way, an accountant would have charged us around $8,000 to do this, but it can be done outside an accountant by someone very organized, detail oriented and patient. They will need to get their records together for sure for the past five years at least....

I found the IRS reps to be quite helpful, really. They gave me references to use for the conflict of interest statement and the wording to add for the dissolution clause, etc.
FROM THE FALL '09 CONFERENCE

Attention Region Representatives

Margie Jordan

We are going to try something a bit different for regional breakout communication. At conference this year, we would like for you and your region to create and present a storyboard/poster reflecting what you have done and your plans for the upcoming years. We are working on the details for display and presentation, but would use this to help with the discussions during our regional break out session during the conference. One thing that we have found over the years is that during the breakout sessions, it is often difficult to hear the discussions and we hope this will help each individual to gather more information about what is going on in the different regions.

FOR OUR BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

Fall Conference 2010

October 7 & 8, 2010
“Together We Rock”
Embassy Suites, Montgomery, Alabama

{More details to follow}

For reservation use code HEA. This code may be used when booking at 1-800-Embassy (362-2779), online at www.embassysuites.com, or by calling the hotel directly at 334-269-5055 Ext. 1092.