

# President's message

Mark Twain once said, "Always do right. This will gratify some and astonish the rest." Doing right is like active NENA membership, a personally and professionally rewarding experience. As members, we must share the NENA passion and enthusiasm while we help to promote the many benefits of membership.

Active membership in NENA demonstrates a professional commitment to both quality emergency health care, and to a high standard of practice in emergency nursing throughout Canada. Involvement in NENA allows individual members to contribute to the quality and to participate in the future direction of their chosen specialty.

Emergency nurses utilize a broad knowledge base, many finely honed skills and advanced critical thinking. Emergency nurses must possess a scientific mind, technological know-how, a compassionate heart, healing hands and, equally important, the personal stamina to repeatedly come back and do it all again.

In October 1902, suffragette Susan B. Anthony said, "The nurses of today are making history, and the results of their work will influence nursing throughout the next century." If she were alive today, I think that Susan B. Anthony would say that the NENA members of the Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale's (CTAS) National Working Group (NWG), are truly


making history and the results of their work and dedication will influence emergency nursing today and in the future, both across Canada and around the world.

Emergency nurses know that the primary purpose of triage in the emergency department is the timely evaluation and treatment of the ill and injured, accomplished by assigning each patient a triage category reflecting the urgency with which care is required. Historically on Napoleon's battlefields, Baron Dominique Jean Larrey, Bonaparte's chief surgeon, ignored the rank and distinction of the casualties. Instead, he prioritized care according to the severity of the injuries. This is the first known use of triage (from the French word "trier", to sort).

Today, triage assists us to determine patient needs, location of care, type of provider required, infection control protocols, patient and family education, assorted types of screening, as well as assisting with patient flow through our emergency departments. NENA supports the standardized Canadian CTAS program as created and revised by the CTAS National Working Group for all emergency nurses across Canada. The combined adult and peds CTAS program is expected early in 2006 and NENA looks forward to facilitating the program rollout in every Canadian province.



Your NENA board of directors (BOD) deserves special recognition for the incredible work they are doing throughout the year on behalf of, and for the benefit of NENA members and all of Canada's emergency nurses. Not only do they meet for six nine-and-a-half hour days each year conducting NENA business at BOD meetings, but they also put in many hours in smaller group work sessions during these evenings. Their role does not end after the BOD meeting or annual general meeting, since each BOD member then goes home with a to-do list. This is when the many hours of computer, phone, e-mail and committee work begins. Your NENA BOD members donate huge amounts of time, talent and work throughout each year because they share a true passion for our profession of emergency nursing. With member support for the work of the NENA BOD and participation in NENA activities, the true professional spirit of NENA will continue to shine.

Remember what Mark Twain said and "continue to do right", both for yourselves and your patients. Celebrate all that we are and all that we do as Canada's emergency nurses! 

**Janice L. Spivey, RN, ENC(C), CEN**

## From the editor


By the time you receive this issue of **Outlook** hopefully we will be enjoying spring weather as we prepare to meet at the National Conference in Ottawa. This year's theme is "Stayin' Alive" and it is one of those titles that can be interpreted in a number of ways depending upon how your day went or your shift....

What does "Stayin' Alive" say to me? Well, it speaks to me of the flexibility, the adaptability, the energy and the commitment of so many emergency nurses. It speaks to me of the challenges that emergency nurses face daily. It speaks to me of longevity – what I hope for the younger nurses coming up through the

ranks – that they remain in the specialty, that they continue to grow and develop their competency as emergency nurses and that they remain committed to being and working as an emergency nurse. It means that our veteran nurses will stay in the work force for a year or so more. Rather than retiring, they will stay to mentor these younger nurses.

It also means, for me, that we have educated nurses who are current with the latest in emergency health care. The health care environment continues to change rapidly. Nurses are challenged to remain current. This conference will explore and highlight new treatments, protocols and proce-

dures impacting emergency care. We want to continue to provide best practice care or evidence-based care for our patients

"Stayin' Alive" also speaks to me of "staying the course" – that your national association continues to grow, evolve and be responsive to the needs of emergency nurses across Canada. I look forward to seeing you at the conference. Enjoy learning, enjoy meeting new friends or renewing old friendships. Learn lots! Have lots of fun! Celebrate being an emergency nurse and "Stayin' Alive"! See you in Ottawa. 


**Valerie Eden**  
**Communication Officer**

# Call for nominations: “president-elect” and “communication officer”

Are you interested in serving on the board of directors? Then read on – this year there are two available positions. The president-elect position is a one-year term preceding the presidential role, and the communication officer position is a two-year term. Both positions would begin following the annual general meeting in Ottawa, ON. The board of directors meets twice yearly. Both meetings are three days in length. Typically, the spring meeting, though, is held in conjunction with a regional or national conference, so time away from home is usually longer.

As president-elect you are a vital member of the board. You would be expected to assume the role of president if the current president were to resign. Other duties include: reviewing and revising (as needed) the policy manual, position statements, bylaws and preparing achievements and actions in the strategic plan. There may be other duties that would be assigned to you by the president.

As communication officer, you are expected to ensure the production and dissemination of the **Outlook** journal every six months. You will liaise with provincial communication officers to encourage members to submit articles, pictures, tips, etc., to the journal. You will establish and maintain a credit rating with a printing firm for the production of **Outlook**. You will ensure that all invoices for the production of the journal are correct and are submitted to the NENA treasurer for payment. You will also maintain a liaison with NENA webpage designers to ensure updated information is displayed, and you will act as a contact resource for affiliation members who wish to use the website services. You will also assist with national and regional conferences by acting as a liaison between the conference committee and the board of directors.

Two NENA members must nominate candidates and the nominee must be a NENA member in good standing. A nomination form has been included for your use. Please forward completed nomination and curriculum vitae to Tanya Penney. Her address is listed on the nomination form. Nominations for these positions may also be made from the floor at the AGM. Announcement of successful candidates will be made following the election at the AGM in Ottawa, ON. 

**Outlook**

## Nomination Form

### NENA executive position

#### Positions:

- Communication Officer
- President-elect

We, the undersigned voting members of NENA, do hereby nominate:

\_\_\_\_\_ for the position of

\_\_\_\_\_ on the NENA executive.

\_\_\_\_\_ (nominee) is in good standing with NENA.

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby accept this nomination for the position of

\_\_\_\_\_ on the NENA executive.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this letter of intent and CV, by April 28, 2006, to:  
Tanya Penney, RR#1, Site 0 Box 9  
Head of Chezzetcook, NS B0J 1N0**



# The NENA Bursary

NENA recognizes the need to promote excellence in emergency care, and, to this end, to provide financial aid to its members. NENA will set aside a predetermined amount of monies annually with the mandate of providing a high standard of emergency care throughout Canada. All sections of the emergency nursing team are eligible for consideration including staff nurses, managers and educators.

Applications must be submitted prior to the spring Board of Directors meeting of NENA for review by the standing committee for bursary disbursements. On April 1 of each year the number of bursaries awarded will be determined by the number of registered members per province for that NENA fiscal year i.e.:

- 1-99 members - 1 bursary
- 100-199 members - 2 bursaries
- 200-299 members - 3 bursaries
- 300-399 members - 4 bursaries
- 400-499 members - 5 bursaries
- 500-599 members - 6 bursaries
- 600 + members - 7 bursaries

One bursary is to be available to NENA Board of Directors members and one bursary per year will be available to an independent member.

Successful candidates can receive a bursary only once every three years.

## NENA Bursary application process

Each candidate will be reviewed on an individual basis and awarded a number of points as set out below:

1. Number of years as a NENA member in good standing
  - 2 years .....1 point
  - 3-5 years .....2 points
  - 6-9 years .....3 points
  - 10 + years .....5 points

2. Involvement in emergency nursing associations/groups/committees:

- Provincial member.....1 point
- Provincial chairperson .....2 points
- Special projects/committee
  - provincial executive .....3 points
- National executive/ chairperson.....5 points

3. Candidates with certification in emergency nursing and/or involved in nursing research will receive an additional five points.

If two candidates receive an equal number of points, the committee will choose the successful candidate. All decisions of the bursary committee are final.

Each application will be reviewed once per spring board meeting.

Preference will be given to actively involved members of NENA and those actively pursuing a career in emergency nursing. Those members requesting assistance for emergency nursing certification, TNCC, ENPC, CATN, as well as undergraduate or post-graduate studies that would enhance emergency care will also receive preference.

Candidates must have completed Forms A, B and C (included with this issue of **Outlook**). The provincial director may forward applications at the spring board meetings.

Any incomplete forms will be returned to the provincial director for correction if possible.

### Eligibility

- Current RN status in respective province or territory. (Proof of registration required.)
- Active member in NENA Inc. for at least **two** consecutive years. (Proof of membership required.)

- Working at present in an emergency setting which may include:
  - Emergency department
  - Nursing station
  - Pre-hospital
  - Outpost nursing
  - Flight nursing

## Application process

Candidates must complete and submit the following:


- a. NENA Bursary application form "A"
- b. Bursary reference form "B"
- c. 200-word essay
- d. Photocopies of provincial registered nurse status and NENA registration

### Provincial representative responsibilities:

- a. Completes bursary candidate's recommendation form "C"
- b. Ensures application forms are complete before submission
- c. Brings to Board of Directors meeting all completed applications

### Selection process

The standing committee for bursary disbursements will:

1. Review all applications submitted by provincial representatives and award bursaries based on selection criteria.
2. Forward names of successful candidates to the Board of Directors for presentation. 

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### The NENA bursary



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## NENA Bursary application form "A"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers: work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_; home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_; fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of course/workshop: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of course: \_\_\_\_\_

Course sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost of course: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of course: \_\_\_\_\_

Credits/CEUs: \_\_\_\_\_ ENC(C) Certified:  Yes  No

Previous NENA Bursary:  Yes  No Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit a proposal of approximately 200 words stating how this educational session will assist you and your colleagues to provide an improved outcome for the emergency care user: Attached?:  Yes  No

Ensure photocopies of provincial RN registration and provincial emergency nurses association membership are included with your application: Attached?:  Yes  No

## NENA Bursary application form "B"

I acknowledge that \_\_\_\_\_ (name of applicant) is currently employed in an emergency care setting. This applicant should receive monies for \_\_\_\_\_ (name of course).

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## NENA Bursary application provincial director's recommendation form "C"

Name of bursary applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of membership with provincial emergency nurses group: \_\_\_\_\_

Association activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you recommend that this applicant receive a bursary?  Yes  No

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Provincial director signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Conference watch

#### CNA 2006 Biennial Convention

“Advancing Technology and Preserving Caring in Nursing” Saskatoon, June 18-21, 2006. Register at [www.cna-aiic.ca](http://www.cna-aiic.ca)

#### The 5th World Conference on Breast Cancer

June 4-8, 2008, at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg, MB. For more information contact: World Conference on Breast Cancer Foundation. Duane Eagles, Marlene Finn, Rachel Gillooly  
Tel. (905) 384-1848, E-mail [mail@wcbcf.ca](mailto:mail@wcbcf.ca), website: [www.wcbcf.ca](http://www.wcbcf.ca)

#### 14th Annual Scientific Assembly of International Association of Forensic Nurses

Vancouver, BC, at the Hyatt Regency, September 27-October 1, 2006.  
The theme is Forensic Nursing: A Global Response to Crime, Violence and Trauma.  
Check IAFN website for future information: [www.forensicnurse.org](http://www.forensicnurse.org)

#### 5th Annual Emergency Care Conference

Tackling Gridlock \* Reducing Wait Times \* Improving Service \* Managing Risk  
June 19-20, 2006, Marriott Yorkville Hotel, Toronto.

#### Call for abstracts for the ICN Conference and CNR

“Nurses at the forefront: Dealing with the unexpected” in Yokohama, Japan, May 27-June 1, 2007. Submission deadline is September 15, 2006. Submission form and guidelines may be found at [www.icn.ch/Conference2007.htm](http://www.icn.ch/Conference2007.htm)

#### Innovations in Rural Chronic Care: The “Beulah Salts”

Senior healthcare conference at Exhibition Park in Lethbridge, AB, April 12-13, 2006.  
For more information e-mail: [www.ruralinnovations2006.ca](http://www.ruralinnovations2006.ca) or call (403) 388-6580.

#### 1st National Health Emergency Preparedness Conference

“Preparing your Hospital for Disaster”. May 29-30, 2006, at Hamilton Convention Centre, Hamilton, ON.  
For more information and to receive a copy of the brochure contact: Leigh Norman, Continuing Health Sciences Education,  
Tel: (905) 25-9140 ext. 22958, fax: (905) 572-7090, or e-mail: [lnorman@mcmaster.ca](mailto:lnorman@mcmaster.ca)

#### 2006 Healthcare Middle Management Conference

April 6-7, 2006, Renaissance Hotel, Downtown Toronto.

#### 11th International Conference on Emergency Medicine

“Forward Thinking, Frontline Care” in Halifax, NS, June 3-7, 2006. See website [www.icem2006.com](http://www.icem2006.com) for further details.

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### Websites of interest

#### [www.guidelinesforhealth.com](http://www.guidelinesforhealth.com)

Guidelines for Your Health is a website that explains the evidence-based practices that many doctors follow in easy-to-understand language. The goal of the site is to provide reliable, usable information to help individuals better understand what their doctors are or aren't doing. As they become more informed, individuals can make better health care choices for themselves and their families.


Guidelines for Health is the result of a project called “The Best Evidence for Consumers”, jointly sponsored by The Change Foundation and the Guideline

Advisory Committee (GAC). The GAC promotes evidence-based health care in Ontario by assessing existing clinical practice and recommending guidelines that should be used by practising physicians. The GAC also develops and recommends appropriate strategies for guideline implementation and evaluation.

With the creation of this website, physicians and patients each have quick access to the same recommended clinical information in an appropriate language and format. Where the GAC logo appears, it verifies that the consumer education information contained on that

page has been reviewed by the GAC and has been confirmed as consistent with GAC-endorsed clinical practice guidelines.

The Change Foundation and the GAC believe that aligning physician and consumer information will have a positive impact on compliance with the guidelines and influence consumer expectations.

For more information on Guidelines for Your Health or the Best Evidence for Consumers project, please contact Julie Gilbert. 

[jagilbert@changefoundation.com](mailto:jagilbert@changefoundation.com)



## outlook

### Quotable quotes

“Maybe it is true that life begins at 50, but everything else starts to wear out, fall out or spread out.”

- *Phyllis Diller*

The cardiologist’s diet advice: “If it tastes good, spit it out!”

- *Author Unknown*

“We would certainly slow the aging process down, if it had to work its way through government channels.”

- *Will Rogers*

“Don’t worry about avoiding temptation... As you get older, temptation will avoid you.”

- *Winston Churchill*

“Be careful when reading health books, you might die of a misprint.”

- *Mark Twain*

“Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass, all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat.”

- *Alex Levine*

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### Book review

#### **The hopelessly human nurse: Simple strategies for overhauling your lamp**

**Authors: Linda Bridge and Kathy Knowles**


**Published by Hopelessly Human Productions Inc., Lethbridge, AB 162 pages ill., ISBN 0-97360400X**

Two Canadian women who have been practising nurses for more than 25 years wrote this great little book. The authors, as well as the illustrator, are or were emergency nurses. Like many of us who have said, “I could write a book...” they not

only talked about writing a book, they actually did! In the foreword of the book, the authors state that they were waiting for someone else to change things until they realized that the change had to come from within and so their journeys began.

This book is divided into four sections with several small chapters in each section. The sections are: “Where’s our lamp”, “Polishing our lamp”, “Our new wick” and “Shining it forward”. The stories are personal and real stories that happened to real nurses. When you read it, you will nod your head empathetically as

you will relate to each and every word the authors have written. Your stories will come bubbling to the surface as you realize you are “hopelessly human”, too. Their lamps shine brightly as they describe their journey to find or perhaps to regain their passion for the art of nursing. Their hope is that we reaffirm that we are “hopelessly human”, that we embrace it, call it our own and that we reclaim our passion for the art of nursing. It is one of those books that you will want to read again and again.

You can also visit their website: [www.hopelesslyhuman.ca](http://www.hopelesslyhuman.ca) 

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### Guidelines for submission

#### **Editorial Policy**

1. **Outlook** welcomes the submission of clinical and research articles, case studies, and book reviews relating to the field of emergency nursing.
2. Statements or opinions expressed in the articles and communications are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editor, publisher or NENA. The foregoing disclaim any responsibility or liability for such material and do not guarantee, warrant or endorse a product or service advertised in this publication, neither do they guarantee any claim made by the manufacturer of such product or service.
3. Authors are encouraged to have their articles read by others for style and content before submission.

#### **Preparation of Manuscripts**

1. The original copy of manuscripts and supporting material should be submitted to the **NENA Outlook** editor. The author should retain one complete copy.
2. Manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced (including references), on 8 1/2” x 11” paper with adequate margins. Manuscripts longer than one page must be submitted in a disk format in Word Perfect or Word. Submissions are accepted via e-mail to the communication officer.
3. Author’s name(s) and province of origin must be included.
4. Clinical articles should be limited to six pages.

5. Direct quotations, tables and illustrations that have appeared in copyrighted material must be accompanied by written permission for their use from the copyright owner, and original author and complete source information cited.

6. Photographs of identifiable persons, whether patients or staff, must be accompanied by signed releases, such as the following: “I hereby give (author’s name) authorization to use the photograph of (subject’s name) in the **NENA Outlook**.”

*Please submit articles to:*  
NENA Outlook Editor,  
34 Bow Street,  
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4P6  
[valeden@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:valeden@hfx.eastlink.ca)

**Deadline dates:**  
February 20 and August 16