Welcome 2009! It’s hard to believe that we are heading towards the close of the first decade of the new millennium.

Luckily we will not have to gear up for a computer meltdown on the eve of 2010! Not to worry, we’ll have plenty to keep us busy before the new decade arrives.

Before we look ahead to the coming year, I would like to look back on 2008 and the many successes of the Chapter. I am blessed to be entering the presidency with the Chapter in such excellent organizational and financial stability. Under the leadership of past-president Diane St. Denis and the dedication of our Board and members, the Chapter has flourished. We successfully submitted a resolution to National to amend the Procedural Sedation Position Statement to include capnography as an evidence-based patient monitoring adjunct. The resolution was accepted with an 87.2% pass rate. Our annual education update held in May surpassed attendance of any other previous update. Thanks to Kelly Johnson, Education Chair, for securing vendor support for the update that adds to the financial viability of the Chapter. And finally, the Chapter increased our membership by 11 new members. Whew! What a year!

Given these successes, I have some big shoes to fill. I am confident, though, that this year will be another great year. At our first Chapter meeting in January, I presented for discussion my goals for the coming year:

1. Increase membership by 5 new members
2. Annual Update attendance of 50
3. Obtain two vendor sponsorships for the Annual Update

Loma Prieta Chapter, Emergency Nurses Association

The Loma Prieta Chapter, #232, is a non-profit professional organization with a membership of approximately 230 members. Our chapter covers a large area, including Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz County, San Benito County, and Monterey County.

We meet the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at a hosting facility within our chapter borders. We invite you to join us at our meetings, and encourage you to bring a friend.
4. Survey membership for insight into member needs

5. Sponsor a CEN review course

We are already well on our way to meeting our goals. Kelly Johnson and the Education Committee are hard at work planning the annual update scheduled at Regional Medical Center of San Jose on May 21st. The speaker line-up will focus on care of patients “Through the Ages”. I am sure you will be as excited as I am with the topics. Mark your calendars!

Kelly Johnson and Anne Marcott are working on the electronic survey. Our goal is to query the membership for insight on how to better meet the needs of our members. We hope you will take the few minutes to give us your feedback when you receive the email. You can also contact me via the Chapter link on the Cal ENA website to relay your ideas and suggestions.

Check out the 2009 Chapter meeting calendar posted on the Chapter website. Cathy Marlett, Director-at-Large has confirmed our calendar of meetings so that you can plan now to attend. For more information on the upcoming meeting or the 2009 calendar, go to www.calena.us, click on the Chapter link and then Loma Prieta. I hope to see you at a Chapter meeting soon.

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2009 Calendar

Feb 19  Good Samaritan
Mar 19  Kaiser San Jose
Apr 16  WestMed College
May 12  State Council Palm Springs
May 21  Regional Medical Center - Annual Update Class
June 18  O’Connor
July 16  St. Louise
Aug 14  State Council Universal City
Aug 20  Stanford
Sept 17  Santa Clara County EMS
Oct 8-10 Annual Meeting Baltimore, MD
Oct 15  El Camino Emergency Nurses Celebration
Nov 13  State Council San Diego
Nov 19  WestMed College
Dec 10  Holiday Soiree

Hospitals in Our Chapter Area

There are more hospitals in our chapter area than some of us know of. Many do not have active members. Let’s reach out to our colleagues and show them the advantages of being a member.

Santa Clara County
* Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
* Good Samaritan/Mission Oaks
* Community of Hospital of Los Gatos
* Regional Medical Center of San Jose
* El Camino Hospital
* Stanford University Hospital/ Lucille Packard Childrens Hospital
* Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Hospital
* O’Connor Hospital
* Kaiser San Jose (AKA Santa Teresa)
* Kaiser Santa Clara
* St. Louise Hospital

Santa Cruz County
* Dominican Hospital
* Watsonville Community Hospital

San Benito County
* Hazel Hawkins

Monterey County
* Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula
* Natividad
* Salinas Valley
* Mee Memorial

If you work at any of these facilities and would like to host a meeting, please contact our Director-At-Large, Cathy Marlatt at clmarlatt@gmail.com.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.

Mother Teresa
Educational Offerings

Looking for a CEN Review Class to attend? LPENA will be sponsoring one later this year, but if you don’t want to wait, there are 2 upcoming review classes. There is a link to the brochures for each class on the CalENA webpage under Education. There are also TNCC & ENPC classes available. Here is a link to the page...
http://www.calena.us/education.htm

March 2–3, 2009 ... Reno, Nev
April 13–14, 2009 ... Torrance, Ca

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Our State Council meeting in May will immediately precede the CFED West Conference in Palm Springs in May. CFED West is a multi-disciplinary conference with tracks for Fire, EMS, Nursing, Disaster Response, Public Health, Terrorism, as well as blended tracks. This is the third year CalENA has partnered with CFED West, and the previous conferences have been extremely successful. There is a link on the CalENA homepage to this conference at www.calena.us.

CalENA meets May 12, and the conference is May 13–15.

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Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.”

Leo Tolstoy, Russian novelist and philosopher

Colleagues Corner

Janet Neff is off on leave from Stanford. We all hope to see you back at your desk soon!

New faces at VMC..... Joining the per diem staff at VMC are Scott Thompson, Director of the ED at Good Samaritan, and Monte Wright..........................

New grads at VMC are Sean Clew, Gigi Trapani, Melanie Snyder, Ricky Walker, Tiffany Jousselin, & Moges Yimer. They are a great group and are outstanding additions to the staff.

Donna Update: Our friend, Donna Everett, continues in rehab 3 times a week. She is using a cane, but still has a bit of trouble ambulating because of the weakness in her right leg. Her right arm is not faring so well. She has very little use so far. It looks like the trach and feeding tube will be with her for about another year, as she has scar tissue on her cords. Art says they are very appreciative of the money we raised (thank you, Garrett Chan). If you would like to send a card or letter, you can write to Donna at:

   Donna Everett
   107 Spivey Rd
   Hobbsville NC 27976

SCVMC is proud of their ED Tech, Ting Wong, who just passed her RN boards. She will be starting her career as an RN at Good Samaritan Hospital. Congratulations, Ting!

Have you checked out the CalENA web- page? Our calendar of events for the remainder of 2009 is posted at:
http://calena.us/Loma%20Prieta%20Child%20Chap-ter.htm

Do you recognize these faces?

If you were at the holiday soiree this year, you would have met our East Bay colleagues who came to do some networking. From L-R, Tiffany Light, Shailla Sheikh, & Erik Ruhe. Erik is still finishing his studies, but Tiffany & Shailla have graduated.

Watsonville Community Hospital

On Jan. 19, Watsonville Community Hospital opened a new "fast track" unit in its emergency department, the Santa Cruz Sentinel reports. The unit houses four to seven beds and is intended to help avoid overcrowding in the ED (Gumz, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 2/19).

Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.”

--Mother Teresa, Nobel Peace Prize-winning humanitarian
Regional Medical Center Unveils New ICU and EP Lab  
by Julie Rossie

Since 2005 Regional Medical Center has embarked on a $150 million dollar construction. The growing pains of construction are never any fun but the finished product is always a treat. RMCSJ celebrated the opening of an additional newly constructed 10 bed ICU with a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 13, 2009 with plans for patient admissions on February 17, 2009. The new ICU is very spacious with larger patient rooms, family waiting rooms, a conference and family support/ bereavement room, and a greater number of computer terminals with wireless scanners for eMAR. The ICU staff are very excited about their new digs but I think the ED staff are even more elated with the prospect of much needed ICU beds. This will alleviate ICU holds and allow timely transfer of patients to the appropriate care setting. The ICU addition is part of the overall campus development plan.

The Cardiac Cath Lab also has reason to jump for joy. February 20th, 2009 marks the day the first official patient procedure was performed in Regional’s new state-of-the-art Electrophysiology Lab (E.P. Lab). In the new lab, Regional will be able to perform all types of E.P. procedures. A large part of the service will be focused on complex procedures, such as lead extraction, catheter ablation for atrial fibrillation (AF), atrial tachycardias and atypical atrial flutters, Bi-V device implantation, and catheter ablation for ventricular tachycardia (VT) in the setting of structural heart disease. While a primary clinical focus is cutting-edge catheter ablations for atrial fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia, the program is evenly split between device therapy and complex catheter ablation services. Regional is expecting significant growth in the area of catheter ablation.

Regulations Affecting Practice 2009

HIPPA  by Kelly Johnson

First enacted in 1996 to protectect workers who changed or lost jobs from being denied insurance, HIPPA also addresses privacy issues. This year after several leaks of health information of some famous people the regulations have been tightened. SB 541 this year enacts tough new penalties of up to $250,000 for anyone accessing patient medical records without proper authorization. The fines are going towards the opening of "The Office of Health Information Integrity" a new oversight policy office within the Ca Health and Human Services administration.

"I got a feelin', somebody’s watching me" 😜

MRSA

SB 1058 now mandates screening for MRSA within 24 hours of admission to an acute care hospital of patients who have the following risk factors.

* Previous inpatient hospital stay within the last 30 days
* Inpatient dialysis patients
* Patients going to an ICU or Burn unit post op
* Patients transferred from a skilled nursing facility

SCC no longer requires the reporting of skin infections of MRSA, only bloodborne infections. This data will be posted on a website to report each hospital’s infection rates to the public.

The testing of healthcare workers themselves is a bugger of a problem and has not been adressed in policy.

Do Not Pay

Two new 2009 medicare Do Not Pay complications are:

* Blood clots in legs or arms post op.
* Complications from inadequate blood sugar control.

Soon it will be easier to have a list of what will be paid for.

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Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren’t used to an environment where excellence is expected."

--Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple

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Do you have something to share with your colleagues? Do you have expertise or a case study that will benefit all of us? How about ‘hospitality news’ about your coworkers... email me dianestd@mac.com.