

# The Nurse's Headliner

The Official Publication of the  
Licensed Vocational Nurses Association of Texas

## Message from Your President *Peggy Roberts*

Betty S. Neal, Helen Fontenot and your President attended the Austin Community College Career Fair on May 6, 2015 from 10am-1pm. We did not get any new members, but I considered it a success. Helen Fontenot was good at Public Relations that day. She went around to all the other tables and received information on where and how LVN's could seek employment. This is a valuable tool for the Association.

Betty S. Neal was excellent at explaining all the benefits in joining the Association. I think the students like hearing from some of us older members as they like hearing the old stories.

Thank you Betty and Helen for going with me to the Austin Community College Career Fair. Nina Almasy, RN, wants us to come back and start speaking to the students again during their class rotation. This will be a great opportunity for the Association.

What I found so impressive was that some of the students remember exactly what I said during my presentation to their class when I spoke to them. So they are listening. I think most of the students are just really broke, and are really concentrating on state boards at this point, or getting a job. All of us need to brainstorm what we can do to get new members, and younger members involved. I provided a basket with all the tools a new nurse would need to start working. My idea was to have a drawing from all who joined and give the basket to that student. So we still have this nice basket to give to one of the students at the convention.

A special thank you to Austin Community College for allowing LVNAT to come into your school and attend the Career Fair. We enjoyed meeting the students, instructors, and learning their future plans. Some of the students shared their resumes with us, which were very impressive! Congratulations students!

Ladies and Gentlemen. It is time to start thinking about who you want to run for office, or if you yourself want to run for an office. The offices we need to fill this year are the following: First

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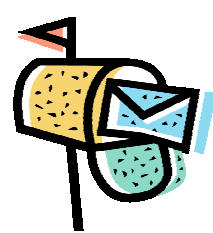
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**Membership Renewal Dues**  
Please mail your membership fee to:  
LVNAT  
P.O. Box 143415  
Austin, Texas



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**Welcome**  
 On behalf of  
 the LVNAT  
 membership,  
**President**  
 Peggy Roberts  
 wishes to  
 extend a warm  
 welcome to all  
 our new  
 member:  
**LaShanda  
 Anderson.**

**Reminders**

**We need candidates for Nurse of the Year, Scholarship, Scrapbook, Yearbook, and Newsletter. Please get your applications and scrapbooks turned in to the awards committee by the deadline which is October 1st.**

**We need help with getting new and old members to join the Association. Please help the First Vice President in accomplishing this.**

**We are needing the divisions and committees to start turning in their reports to be included in the newsletter.**

**Cookbooks**

I am requesting recipes from all members to make a new cookbook for the Association. I am wanting to make an updated cookbook as we have learned new recipes or even found new ones. I would like to receive the recipes no later than by Convention 2015.

**Deepest Sympathy**

To Clarice Barefield and family for the loss of Clarice's husband. You and your family are in our prayers.

# LVNAT Division Reports

Division 6 Galveston

Division 82 Fort Worth

Division 8 San Antonio

Division 9 Houston

## Division 8 San Antonio

San Antonio Division has 5 members and 1 supportive member. We have only had one meeting on April 11, 2015 since our last Headliner. It has been difficult to hold meetings due to weather or various illnesses to our members. We have not had any speakers due to the same reason. Our next meeting will be June 13, 2015. No speaker scheduled at present.

President: Peggy Roberts

## Division 6 Galveston

Our meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month at the Rosenberg Library 2nd Floor McCullough Room from 4-5:30 pm.

Secretary: Joyce Payne

## Division 9 Houston

Meetings held on the third Saturday of the month at Daisy Sancho's home.

## Division 82 Fort Worth

We meet on the second Monday of the month.

## Fall Convention

If anyone has any old medical equipment or textbooks they would like to donate to the Association, please let Peggy Roberts know.

We would also like any ideas on speakers for the upcoming convention. Everyone please help us with this.

Vice President, serves 2 years; Secretary, serves 2 years; 3 Board of Directors, serves 2 years; and 5 Nominating Committee members, serves 1 year. Qualifications can be found in your By-Laws. I am reaching out to everyone, if you have not served on the Board first, you may not run for Secretary or First Vice President. To qualify for these offices, you must serve on the Board for one year. This is found in your By-Laws under Article 7, Section 1, E. Please be thinking about the election, this is very important. Our officers need to keep us going. Anyone who wants to take over for me anytime may do so if qualified. I have agreed to keep this position until someone else can take my place.

So let's put on our thinking caps, and get serious about these elections!

Well I am very excited about the convention! We need to start planning it now.

Tammy and I ended up in Gruene, Texas for Mother's Day. Well most of you know I have been looking for old medical equipment. Well we found a gold mine. Some of the pieces are from 1889. This is fantastic. See if you can identify any of the pictures below.



This is just a preview of what will be on display at the convention. I have been a nurse for 47 years, and I could only remember two of them.



# LVNAT Committee Reports

## Membership Report

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Active:        | 33 |
| Retired:       | 28 |
| Provisional:   | 7  |
| Institutional: | 1  |
| Supportive:    | 6  |

Total: 75 members

## Continuing Education Report

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| February: | 4 |
| March:    | 2 |
| April:    | 4 |

Total: 10 classes

## Nominating Committee Report

Everyone please start thinking about who would like to run for the following officers up for election this year and who you would like to vote for:

First Vice President  
Secretary

Three Board of Directors  
Five Nominating Committee Members



## Diamond Healthcare Services

### We Provide:

- LVNAT approved IV certification for LVN's
- DADS approved Directed Inservice as required by state mandate
- Comprehensive mock survey preparing facility for Annual Survey.

- Board approved continuing education for the following:  
Facility Administrators

- Registered Nurses
- Activity Directors
- Social Workers
- Physical Therapists and Assistants

Visit our website or call 903.360.5805 for more information.  
[www.diamondhealthcareservices.org](http://www.diamondhealthcareservices.org)  
[dhcs2511@gmail.com](mailto:dhcs2511@gmail.com)

## Nurse Day at the Capital

Peggy Roberts attended Nurse Day at the Capital on February 23 and 24, 2015. Monday was an informational session which was held at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capital where arrangements were made for attendees to stay.

Here are the different bills that are being included in this Legislative session:

### **Reducing Workplace Violence Against Nurses**

Violence against nurses should not be part of the job. While violence cannot be eliminated from the workplace, it can be reduced and nursing will support initiatives designed to achieve that goal. Possibilities being explored include better reporting when violence occurs, funding of research and pilot programs on the most effective ways to reduce violence, de-escalation training, and enhanced penalty for assaulting a nurse.

*HB 2696 by Howard*

### **Protecting Nurses' Right To Report Unsafe Practitioners Without Fear of Retaliation**

Nursing opposes any legislation, similar to that filed in previous sessions, which would require or authorize the Texas Medical Board or any other agency to disclose the identity of a nurse who reports a physician, other practitioner or facility to that agency. Disclosing the identity of a nurse to the reported practitioner, or facility increases the nurse's exposure to retaliation and will likely have a chilling effect on reporting. Requiring an agency to maintain the confidentiality of the nurse's identity does obligate the agency to accept anonymous reports. Nursing's concern is not with the agency knowing the reporting nurse's identity but rather the agency disclosing the nurse's identity to the practitioner or facility reported.

### **Personal Protection Against Infectious Diseases**

The recent Ebola cases in Texas highlighted the need 1) to have appropriate standards for what is adequate personal protection equipment (PPE) and 2) for nurses and other health care practitioners to have adequate access to and be adequately trained in the use of PPE. Nursing will support initiatives to assure these goals are met.

### **Nursing Innovative Grant Program**

Extend the dedication of certain Texas Tobacco Lawsuit Settlement funds to nursing education and the authority of the Coordinating Board to make grants from those funds to nursing programs at all types of schools – public universities, community colleges and independent universities.

*HB 495 by Howard; SB 448 by Hinojosa*

### **Appropriations**

The Board of Nursing has several exceptional item appropriation requests which nursing supports including:

- Additional staffing needed for the board to effectively regulate nursing;
- Additional legal funding;
- Merit funding to retain staff
- Information technology upgrade; and
- Move executive director salary to a higher classification group and increase up to \$152,583.

### **Self-Directed, Semi-Independent Status**

The Sunset Commission has recommended a moratorium for the 2015 session on granting additional agencies "self-directed, semi-independent status" (SDSI status) while clearer criteria are established for granting that status. Accordingly, nursing will not seek the initiation of legislation this session to grant the Board of Nursing SDSI status. However, nursing continues to support the Board of Nursing being granted SDSI status because it would give the board the budgetary flexibility needed to more efficiently regulate its 375,000 licensees without removing it from effective legislative oversight.

The Texas Nurses Association and other nursing organizations participate in a variety of coalitions committed to improving the quality of and access to health care for Texans. Nursing supports the legislative initiatives of these coalitions.

**Texas Public Health Coalition**

Focus will be on cancer prevention and research, immunization, smoking cessation, eating healthy and eliminating driving distractions.

**Texas Women's Health Coalition**

Focuses on ensuring availability of preventive services for low income women.

**CHIP Coalition**

Focuses on maintaining and improving the Children's Health Insurance Program.

**Mental Illness Advocacy Coalition**

Focuses on improving mental health services.

**Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition**

- Texas Nurses Association
- Licensed Vocational Nurses Association of Texas
- Assn of Operating Room Nurses of Greater Houston
- Assn of Women's Health, Obstetrics & Neonatal Nurses
- Coalition for Nurses in Advanced Practice
- Houston Chapter Oncology Nursing Society
- Houston Organization of Nurse Executives
- Tx Assn of Deans & Directors of Prof Nursing Programs
- Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators
- Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Texas Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Texas Council of periOperative Registered Nurses
- Texas Emergency Nurses Association
- Texas Nurse Practitioners
- Texas Nursing Students' Association
- Texas Organization of Associate Degree Nurses
- Tx Org of Baccalaureate & Graduate Nurse Educators
- Texas Organization of Nurse Executives
- Texas School Nurses Organization

Peggy Roberts, President

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## ***ANNOUNCEMENT: ATTENTION ALL DIVISIONS***

### **WANTED: LVNAT Competitions 2015**

1. Your Division Newsletter
2. Your Scrapbook
3. Yearbook
4. Names for Scholarship Recipients
5. Names for Nurse of the Year

### **All entries must be received by October 1, 2015**

Please submit your names to Committee Chairpersons or to LVNAT Headquarters

#### **Scholarship Chairs**

Frances Musquiz      Emma Radcliff  
515 Overhill Dr.      1002 Kelsey Ct.  
Arlington, TX 75044      Forney, TX 75126

#### **Awards Chair**

Thelma Washington  
1818 Cliffdale Dr.  
Missouri City, TX 77489

#### **Headquarters**

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Austin, TX 78714