

Newsletter

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SPRING 2012 ISSUE



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"Show Me...We Care"

Update on Fundraising Campaign... Reaching Out to Joplin Nurses



The Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses has previously announced the "Show Me...We Care" campaign to recognize the efforts of Joplin nurses during and after their devastating tornado on May 22, 2011.

The Chapter supported 12 Joplin nurses to attend the Chapter's annual Visions Conference located at the Ritz Charles in Overland Park, Kansas on March 8 and 9, 2012. On Friday March 9, four of these nurses shared their stories of courage and strength in supporting their hospitalized patients and needs of their community during and after the devastating tornado on May 22, 2011. Everyone in attendance was awed by their stories of bravery and was amazed by the capability of these nurses to continue to care for patients while their own homes and families were affected by this disaster. *Continued on page 2...*



Continued from page 1...

At the Visions Conference, Joplin nurses gave the Chapter a piece of artwork made from the disaster effects in the city of Joplin. The artwork is an angel representing hope and peace for the Joplin community. We appreciate their recognition and will cherish this angel for years to come.

Another part of this important project is that our Chapter, in collaboration with national AACN, seeks to recognize these nurses at AACN's National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition (NTI), May 19-24, 2012, in Orlando, Fla. GKCC AACN is donating \$5,000 and invites community support to match those funds for a total of \$10,000 to enable five Joplin nurses to attend NTI.

We have raised \$2,500 with the hopes of reaching our goal of \$5,000. We encourage all to request donations from family, friends, co-workers, and vendors. To donate, please visit the GKCC AACN website, www.aacngkcc.org, or send donations to the chapter's mailing address: GKCC AACN, PO Box 10113, Kansas City, MO 64171.

**Thanks to the Joplin Nurses that
Attended Visions,
for Sharing Your Story**

Dave Adamson
Laurette Charron
Kristie Conner
Kristin Curry
Amy Drenick
Kathy Drenick
Joanie Dutton
Bobby Hall
Jillian Mathia
Vicki McCleary
Karen Parsons
Monty Trinkle

**NTI Scholarship Winners from St.
John's Mercy Hospital, Joplin, MO**

**Kim Clark
Tammy Fritchey
Kevin Kepley
Monty Trinkle
Joan Wilson**

Congratulations!!

New Certification Classes on the Horizon!

Based on your feedback, we are excited to offer you a change to our presentation method for the certification review courses. The future classes will be more like a study session generating audience participation and feedback. A facilitator will guide participants through presentations from a current CD, taught by nationally known certification speakers such as Suzi Burns, Mary Kay Bader, and Bobbi Leaper, stopping to go through case studies and review test questions. Although we still need to iron out the details, the class will probably be 18 – 24 hours of content facilitation and review. Information about these classes will be forthcoming. Please follow us on our website for updates about these classes.



UPCOMING EVENT 12-LEAD ECG REVIEW

By Lisa Riggs, RN, ACNS-BC, CCRN

**Tuesday, June 12th, 2012
St. Joseph Medical Center**

**1200 Registration
1220 Class • 1640 Adjourn**

*~Fees Apply~
CE Hours Pending Approval*

**For more information and
registration:**

<http://gkcc12leadecg.eventbrite.com>

Improving Your Practice Through Continuing Education



Mechanical Ventilation: Basics and Beyond was a Huge Success!

This year, your Greater Kansas City AACN Education Chairs developed an initiative to host three continuing nursing education offerings for critical care and progressive care nurses. Results from the GKC AACN Chapter Needs Assessment survey guided the topics of focus for these sessions. Our first education offering, Mechanical Ventilation: Basics and Beyond with Lynelle Pierce, RN, MSN, CCRN was held on January 24, 2012 at St. Joseph Medical Center. The course qualified for 3.5 contact hours, Synergy CERP category A.

Registration for this event exceeded our expectations, and we were thrilled to request and receive a large auditorium to accommodate all 40 attendees! Lynelle Pierce, nationally known speaker, expert in critical care nursing, and author of Management of the Mechanically Ventilated Patient, lecture on this topic. She reviewed the following: identification of patients for whom mechanical ventilation may be appropriate, various modes of mechanical ventilation, and weaning your patient from the ventilator. Reviews were extremely positive including, "the information presented correlates 100% with my bedside nursing," and, "The speaker had a great ability to speak to the many levels of expertise in the room – from novice to expert." Look for Lynelle Pierce to present again next year on her highly anticipated topic, understanding ventilator waveforms!

Don't Miss! 12-Lead ECG in June 2012

Our second continuing nursing education session will be held June 12, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 4:40 pm at St. Joseph Medical Center. Lisa Riggs, RN, ACNS-BC, CCRN, will present on ECG: ischemia and infarction patterns, 12 lead ECG layout, electrical conduction, and bundle branch blocks. For more information and to register, please visit our website at <http://aacngkcc.weebly.com/events.html> or directly to the registration site at: <http://gkcc12leadecg.eventbrite.com>

Please continue to visit our website often for the most up-to-date information on future continuing nursing education events! Your interest in improving your practice through continued education is important to us. As your Greater Kansas City AACN Education Chairs, we strive to advance nursing practice through continued education.

To receive up-to-date information, announcements, and event information, "Like" us on Facebook at:



www.facebook.com/aacngkcc

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Next Due Date

Thursday, April 12th, 2012

The Dr. Janet Pierce Evidence Based Practice / Research Scholarship Award - \$250

Next Due Date

Thursday, April 12th, 2012

Academic Completion Scholarship - \$500

~See scholarship application packet~

<http://aacngkcc.weebly.com/scholarships.html>

134 Nurses Gather to Learn & Network at the 25th Visions Symposium

On March 8th and 9th, 134 critical care nurses gathered at the Ritz Charles in Overland Park for the 25th Annual Visions Symposium. This conference opened with a keynote address by AACN National President Mary Stahl presenting her theme Together, Stronger, Bolder. Other speaker highlights included Barb McLean discussing her experiences in Haiti after their disaster and our local stroke expert Debbie Summers on Stroke Management. This conference had something for everyone whether you work in ICU, Progressive Care or Pediatric Critical Care.



We were honored to have 12 critical care nurses from Joplin Missouri who shared with us their journey since May 2011 when an F5 tornado hit their hospital. I was awed with their stories of courage and heroism although they humbly say that they just did what was needed.

Once again we had a good group of vendors on Friday that gave us the opportunity to shop during our breaks. You could purchase anything from candles to purses and then some. The silent auction provided entertainment as well as funding for the scholarships that Greater Kansas City Chapter of AACN provides each year.



Please plan to join us next year for the 26th Annual Visions Symposium on February 28th and March 1st, 2013. We plan to continue to grow and improve and would like you to join us in this journey.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 26, 2012

Greater Kansas City Chapter AACN Members:

It's so hard to believe that Spring is here and our fiscal year for AACN is closely coming to an end! We just completed another successful Visions Symposium a couple of weeks ago, and based on the participant evaluations, it was a great success. It was our 25th Annual Visions which made it all the more special. We ended up with close to 140 participants, over 50 vendors spanning the two days, and a great mix of local and national speakers, including our own Mary Stahl, the current President of National AACN, Barbara McLean, and Dr. Pratik Panharipande. I can also share with you that we could have heard a pin drop in the room as the panel of nurses from Joplin, Missouri, shared their personal stories of the EF5 tornado that devastated their hospital last year. Their stories truly depicted Mary's theme of standing Together – Stronger – and Bolder as they described how they were able to intervene with resilience and professional fortitude as they worked to save the lives of their patients and peers.

As you may have heard by now, one of the Chapter's major projects this year has been to raise funds to send five nurses from Joplin to the 2012 AACN National Teaching Institute and Exposition in Orlando. This project is known as the "Project Show Me Campaign" which has a goal of raising \$10,000. We are proud to be able to announce that we have raised close to \$8000 thus far, and have made a decision to extend our deadline date to April. If you would like to make a donation that will be combined with others from across the bi-state area, please visit the AACN GKC Chapter website at www.aacngkcc.org or send us a donation to GKCC AACN, PO Box 10113, Kansas City, MO 64171.

In addition to the annual symposium, Visions, the Board has been actively planning and implementing other educational offerings, including a Ventilator class which was offered in January. Other courses planned for this spring include a 12-lead EKG course, scheduled for June 12 at SJMC, and certification preparation courses for the PCCN and CCRN exams. For further information regarding these educational offerings, please see the chapter website at the above address.

Finally, just a reminder that voting for our slate of new officers for the 2012-2013 GKC AACN Board is well under way, so please do not hesitate to vote!! Membership participation in the voting process ensures that we are able to establish a board composed of a variety of talented nurses, administrators, and/or educators from throughout the city. We are not able to grow and diversify without your input and participation.

In conclusion, Mary Stahl's AACN theme of "Together, Stronger, and Bolder" is one that we believe we have successfully incorporated throughout our chapter programs and activities throughout this past year. We value the concept of teamwork in the work we do as a chapter, and fully know that we need each other in order to take strong and bold actions to maintain the success of our chapter. Please let me know if and how we can meet your professional and/or learning needs by contacting me, or any one of the current board members, at our website: aacn.gkcc@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Kay Luft, President

MEET THE NEW OFFICERS FOR THE JULY 2012 to JUNE 2013 YEAR

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Janell Huskey RN, BSN, CCRN *[Clinical Educator, Progressive Care, North Kansas City Hospital]*

Janell Huskey is a graduate of Graceland College. She started in Critical Care as a new graduate nurse. "I have always had an active interest in the Greater Kansas City Chapter having served as education co-chair elect and education co-chair in the past. Recently, I have had some involvement in AACN on the National level serving on several volunteer groups as well as being a part of the NTI Work Group 2010-2011. I am interested in continuing to be a part of the chapter as it grows by being a member of the board."

TREASURER-ELECT: Tammy Carroll, NP-C, CNS, BSN, MSN *[Neuro Critical Care Nurse Practitioner, The University of Kansas Hospital]*

Tammy Carroll is currently the Education Chair. "I enjoy being involved with other professionals in the KC area. This provides networking opportunities as well as the ability to influence current practices in Critical Care. AACN is a strong organization that advocates for and supports Critical Care Nurses. It is a great organization to be associated with. I have been in the Critical Care area in some capacity since 1990. I look forward to continuing to serve the board and the critical care nurses in the KC area."

SECRETARY: Courtney Hodges, RN, BSN *[Quality Assurance Coordinator, Shawnee Mission Medical Center]*

"I obtained my RN, BSN from Baker University in 2007 and I have four years of ICU experience. I obtained my CCRN in July 2010. I am married to Paul, who is a research scientist. We have two wonderful dogs, Maggie and Wally. We live in Overland Park and enjoy keeping busy! I am employed at Shawnee Mission Medical Center, since July 2011, where I work in Quality Management as the Quality Assurance Coordinator. I am also earning my Master's Degree from KU School of Nursing in Organizational Leadership.

I feel this would be a great position to start and learn the ways of the Chapter. I am dedicated to attending the Chapter meetings among other commitments. I am interested in becoming more involved in the Chapter and keeping abreast in critical care. It is important for me to stay involved in critical care and I am grateful I have an opportunity to stay involved. I am a dedicated individual who wants to make a difference in nursing and become more involved in the community."

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Cheryl Rader, BSN, CCRN-CSC *[Cardiothoracic ICU, St. Luke's Hospital]*

Cheryl Rader graduated from Graceland University with a BSN in 1979 back when it was a College. Cheryl is our current Chapter Advisor for AACN Region 14. "I have worked at St. Luke's Hospital in the Cardiothoracic ICU for the past 20 years. Prior to that, I had worked in general ICUs and Progressive Care Units for 13 years. I have always loved critical care. I remain a bedside staff nurse although am very active in our Shared Governance process so get lots of opportunities to do things outside my unit. I became active in AACN about 10 years ago when I was encouraged to take my first board position by someone who I have viewed as a positive example of professionalism. I think the membership chair has the opportunity to reach out to chapter members and potential members. As I have participated in several AACN national work groups I have been able to see how other chapters function and hope to bring some new ideas to our chapter. Being on the GKCC board helps me remain energized and active in caring for our profession. It isn't possible to become stale or burned out when you are constantly meeting new and motivating critical care nurses. I also would like to work toward increasing our membership particularly from the Progressive Care area."

EDUCATION CO-CHAIR ELECT: Stacia Peters, RN, BSN *[Clinical Nurse Educator, Cardiothoracic PCU, The University of Kansas Hospital]*

"Since moving to Kansas in 2002, I have worked as a staff nurse on the Cardiothoracic Surgical PCU, and became their Clinical Nurse Educator in 2007. I have worked in a variety of units during my 20+ nursing career, from being a traveling nurse to a nurse recruiter to staff nurse on Telemetry/Progressive Care Units. I am involved in many improvement projects through committees such as the Competency Steering Committee, 5-Star Committee, and have had large-scale educational program planning experience through The University of Kansas Hospital's Cardiac Symposium. I am currently a member of AACN and the Greater Kansas City Chapter. I recognize the pivotal role that education plays in equipping my staff for success. I would love the opportunity to work with Akiko and become more involved in my local chapter of AACN."

EDUCATION CO-CHAIR ELECT: Cher Brownback, RN, BSN, CCRN *[Staff Nurse, Medical ICU, The University of Kansas Hospital, Clinical Adjunct Faculty for KU School of Nursing]*

"I am interested in serving on the board as I am very passionate about education and love critical care. I think that there are so many excellent opportunities for nurses to continue learning and growing. My goal is to help other nurses realize their full potential through education and promotion of professional values."

COMMUNICATIONS CO-CHAIR ELECT: Mindy Stites, RN, BSN, CCRN [*Nurse Educator, Telemetry/Stepdown, Truman Medical Centers Hospital Hill*]

Mindy Stites started in nursing as a CNA, then progressed to an LPN, ADN, BSN, and will finish her Masters' degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia in May 2012 as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (Critical Care). She is currently a Nurse Educator for Telemetry/Stepdown at Truman Medical Centers Hospital Hill. "I am so excited to have the opportunity to become more involved in the Greater Kansas City Chapter of AACN! I truly love critical care nursing and learning from my colleagues in critical care. Serving on the board would allow me to give back to the Kansas City critical care community."

COMMUNICATIONS CO-CHAIR ELECT: Amanda Gartner, RN, MSN, CCRN-CMC [*Quality Outcomes Coordinator – Critical Care Sepsis Coordinator, The University of Kansas Hospital*]

Amanda Gartner graduated from The University of Kansas School of Nursing in 2003 with a BSN and an MSN, Organizational Leadership in 2010. She has spent her time on the Cardiac ICU, moving into the roles of Unit Coordinator and Unit Educator before her current position as a Quality Outcomes Coordinator and Sepsis Coordinator. Besides her passion for KU basketball, she has a true passion for advancing the profession of nursing. "I constantly strive to improve the delivery of healthcare one day at a time by serving as a resource, mentor and coach to bedside staff. I want staff to understand how they can contribute to improving patient outcomes each and every day."

HISTORIAN: Angie Foster, RN, MSN, MBA [*Staff Nurse, Charge Nurse, ICU, Kansas City VA Hospital, Adjunct Faculty for St. Luke's College of Nursing*]

I graduate from St. Luke's School of Nursing class of 1984. I recently completed my MSN and MBA at the University of Mary. My 28 years of nursing has been mostly in ICU as a bedside nurse and charge nurse. I currently work at the Kansas City VA Medical Center in PCU. I am also an adjunct faculty for St Luke's College.

SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR: Nancy Haynes, RN, PhD, CCRN [*Professor, St. Luke's College of Nursing*]

"I graduated from the University of MO (go Tigers!) with my BSN in 1973 (yes I am old!), MN from KU in 1984, and PhD in Nursing from UMKC in 2007. My work experience includes University of Missouri Medical Center, Thoracic ICU as staff nurse and Nurse Manager from 1973-1977. From 1977 to the present, I have been at Saint Luke's Nursing program (both the diploma and BSN programs) and at Saint Luke's Hospital - first in the ED and then in the MICU until I begin my research for my PhD. My research was on 'A Phenomenological Study of Family Members of Long-Term Critically Ill Adult Patients and Their Perceived Needs.'

I am married to my super husband Larry since 1977 with 2 children; Amy who lives here in the Waldo area and my son Andrew, a patent attorney who lives in Charlotte, NC (who is finally getting married in November to his high school sweetheart). I have 2 black and white kitties that are very spoiled and sweet at the same time.

I have been active on the board and Visions committee of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of AACN for many years. I have been a member of AACN since 1974. I have had my CCRN for about 30 years and I am very proud of that. I love teaching students in the critical care setting and am very proud when I see my former students blossom and grow to become the experienced nurses I knew that they could."

2011-2012 BOARD MEMBERS

President > Kay Luft

President Elect > Akiko Kubo

Secretary > Laura Sanders

Treasurer > Cheryl Rader

Treasurer Elect > Brad Strecker

Education Chair > Tammy Carroll

Education Co-Chair Elects > Caryl Goodyear-Bruch & Heather Nelson

Communications Chair > Cheryl Buntz & Jessica Judy

Communications Chair Elect > Jennifer McNiel

Membership > Barb Meyers

Scholarships > Nancy Haynes

Historian > Angelia Foster