



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES

The Spirit of Care

The Heart of Nursing

February, 2010 - News for Member LPNs

Check back often at www.nflpn.org to stay in the loop!

State News

Alabama News

Alabama is proud to announce the election of Sharon Pugh LPN, as Secretary of the Alabama Board of Nursing for the year 2010. President Greg Howard (former NFLPN President), and the Alabama Federation of LPNs, wishes to cordially invite every LPN, LPN Student, and LPN Educators to the 61st Annual Convention of the National Federation of Licensed practical Nurses on October 20th-25th, 2010. AFLPN will greet you with "Southern Hospitality in the Magic City of Birmingham, Alabama. Mark your calendars NOW, and invite a fellow LPN. This is an event you should NOT miss!!!

Colorado News

The President of the Colorado Federation of LPNs, Mary Kathryn James, is proud to announce that on January 8th, 2010, she has retired from over 45 years of Licensed Practical Nursing. Mary Kathryn also serves as a Director for the NFLPN.

She pledges to continue to be an active member of NFLPN/CFLPN, and ask long as the Heavenly Father blesses her with good health, she will be a strong voice for the LPN.

Kentucky News

Peggy Fishburn is going strong in Kentucky. This lady is a ball of energy and has gone to Bowling Green Technical College. At the Practical Nurses Graduation, she was honored to present the Pharmacology Award to a student with the highest grade point average. This is an event that Peggy does each year, to show her support to the graduating LPNs.

Wisconsin News

The Wisconsin Association of LPNs will be holding its 60th Annual Convention May 5th-6th, 2010 at the Fairfield Inn, Weston, WI. Thursday will be geared toward introducing LPN Students to their professional organization, packed with hours of Continuing Education, and a Quest Speaker, June Bahr, from the Wisconsin State Board of Nursing. There will be a Fund raising Bazaar Table (pick up lots of deals), Exhibitors, Election of Officers, and Updates on the State level concerning LPNs. WALPN invites ALL LPNs, LPN Students, and LPN Educators to attend, this special event. For more information, contact JoAnn Shaw jslpn@sbcglobal.net, or call 1-920-684-1613.

Wisconsin Association of LPNs is happy to announce that JoAnn Shaw (WALPN President) has been asked to serve on the Advisory Committee for Rasmussen College in Green Bay, WI. Affiliate Member, Deb Presl, has also been asked to serve on this committee, and both have accepted this challenge. Rasmussen College will be opening a NEW Nursing program within the next 2 years, which will include the Practical Nurse, Associate Degree registered Nurse, and Bachelor of Science for Registered Nurses.

Membership Committee

Remember that the NFLPN Membership Committee has an ongoing opportunity for YOU to win a **FREE** 1 year membership to NFLPN. Recruit a new member to NFLPN, and have them add your name to their membership application. Your name will go into a drawing for a free 1 year membership to NFLPN, which will be picked at the 61st Annual Convention in Alabama. This drawing will run from October to October of the next year. The more members you recruit the more times your name can be entered into the drawing.

Education Committee

Are you aware that one of the benefits of being a NFLPN Member is FREE online CEUs??? The National Federation of LPNs has purchased a program for you to tap into, and learn in the comforts of your own home, at NO cost to you. It is called "Growing Up With Us". You need to have your access number, which was provided on the page with your membership card. If you discarded it, not to worry, just email or call Anjeanette at the National office for your number, and your learning can begin.

Speakers are available through the NFLPN for your State Conferences/Convention/Seminars. Just contact the NFLPN Office for more information.

National Convention Information:

Save the Date!

The NFLPN 61st Annual Convention will be held Oct 21-25, 2010 at the Sheraton Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama.

More details will be available online, emailed, and mailed to you in the coming months regarding the event.

Honor Society Recognition Program:

NFLPN would like to recognize the following PN students and schools for their support of the Student Honor Society recognition program in the last quarter. Each student was recognized by NFLPN for their efforts in maintaining a 3.0 or better GPA while attending the PN program at the supporting schools. NFLPN would also like to praise the PN schools that promote the only national organization for LPN/LVNs and an additional nod of appreciation to those who have become student chapters of NFLPN. Our success begins with our students, so let us praise the exceptional effort these students have made. Congratulations on your success and receipt of the NFLPN Student Honor Society certificate and lapel pin! For more information on the NFLPN Student Honor Society recognition program, visit www.nflpn.org.

Reserve Medics Train Next to Civilian Counterparts

Story and photos by Maj. William D. Ritter, Army Reserve Medical Command Public Affairs Office.



NASHUA, N.H. - A new training program brought Army Reserve medical Soldiers to the Radisson Nashua Convention Center for their combat medic sustainment training.

Held in conjunction with the National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses' (NFLPN) convention, healthcare specialists (68W) and licensed vocational nurses (LVNs, 68W-M6) gathered to receive part of their mandatory, bi-annual medical training.

The 2009 68W sustainment conference is the second iteration of a new program to train medics with 28 hours of continuing education units (CEUs) during their four-day event. By condensing the training into one conference, commanders get re-certified Soldiers without losing multiple battle assemble training periods.

"Our main goal is to re-certify as many Army Reserve medics as we can," said Sgt. Maj. Michael Robinson, the event organizer. "But one of the added benefits that we are providing is time. Time for commanders to utilize their Soldiers for other mission requirements," he added.

According to Staff Sgt. Joellan Schroeder, the conference is also benefiting first line leaders.

"I'm a platoon sergeant, so I have a lot of administrative things to do (at battle assemble)," she said. "My time is valuable. This conference is an excellent way for me to get my CEUs done without effecting my weekend drill time," she said.

The inaugural 68W sustainment conference was held in October 2008. It was first the time Army Reserve medical personnel attended the NFLPN convention while receiving their medical training.

Robinson, part of the Army Reserve Medical Command's Medical Readiness Training Command, organized the conference to coincided NFLPN event.

"Enlisted medical Soldiers never had their own training conference, like officers do, to pass on information and network," he said. "This event lets them mingle with their fellow medics and their contempo-

raries in the civilian field."

Spc. Barbara Snow, a civilian emergency room medical technician at Nellis Air force base in Nevada, personally benefited from a joint conference with the NFLPN.

"They (the nurses) are a wealth of knowledge for us," she said. They can give me information on injury trends that I wouldn't think to look for."

Combat medics are required 72-hours of refresher training bi-annually. The training is a continuing education requirement for



TOP: Master Sgt. Richard Archie, 100th Training Division, assesses a patient at the 68W combat medic sustainment training conference in Nashua, N.H. LEFT: Sgt 1st. Class Leon Fletcher (center), 1st Medical Training Brigade, leads the posting of the colors as the 68W combat medic sustainment training conference kicks off in Nashua, N.H., in conjunction with the National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses convention.

the Emergency Medical Training Basic (EMT-B) course they initially qualified in for the Army.

The Nashua sustainment conference featured training focused on tactical medical care, medical education and individual competence testing.

Soldiers trained on a wide variety of tasks including bleeding control, tourniquet application, emergency bandaging, amputation treatment and applying splints amongst others.

They used Advanced Life Support (ALS) simulators to practice many of the tasks they trained on. These technological advanced mannequins emulate many body functions vital for realistic training.

The conference attracted others from the Army medical community who wanted to mirror its set up.

Mr. Luciano "Lucky" Valero from the

Regional Training Site Medical (RTS-MED), Camp Parks, was one of those in attendance.

"Our goal in the RTS Camp Parks, and all RTS-MED, is to establish a sustainment program for the LVNs," he said. "This is the only conference that I know of that offers the LVN sustainment training," he added. "I am excited to witness

this program so I can see where I can help."

The conference also offered attendees the opportunity to test their skills against one another in competition. The 1st annual medical simulation warrior competition was set up in the convention center parking lot. Planners utilized the ALS simulators to present competitors with various medical traumas.

Soldiers were judged on their expertise dealing with care under fire and tactical field care.

"We do not have any competitions at the RST," said Valero. "It is a good morale booster within the LVN, combat medic community to get the Soldiers more recognition

(amongst their peers)," he added.

At the end of the conference, event winners walked away with trophies and bragging rights among their fellow medics. But the real winners were the medical commanders around the country who are getting their Soldiers back, with half of their bi-annual sustainment training completed at no cost to them.

The Human Resource Command picked up the tab for Soldiers to attend the five-day event.

For information on the next conference, contact Sgt. Maj. Michael Robinson at michael.w.robinson1@us.army.mil or 269-598-5384.

Editor's Note: Also contributing to this article was Sgt. Kirk Bell.

NFLPN's "Honor's Society" Nurse Educator's Recognition Award

My name is Erica Couture; I am in the graduating class of Practical Nurses at Central Florida Community College for 2009. As the president of our "newly" chartered Student Practical Nurses Association, I have had the honor of working very closely with Mrs. Kathy Dismuke, who serves as our *fearless* advisor as well as one of three professors' for our practical nursing program. She has been a mentor to many of us and exudes confidence and composure as a leader, as well as a love for humanity and nursing.

As advisor for our newly chartered and first student practical nurses association at CFCC, she taught us about fundraising and led us to earn enough money to travel to the NFLPN Convention in Nashua, New Hampshire where we won three out of four trophies in the skills competition as well as first place in the "College Bowl" competition! So basked in the glory of our winnings, but also made our instructors' very proud! After all, without the devotion and "drilling" from our fearless leaders, we could not have felt those moments of glory! Our fundraising efforts will also pay for class pins for our entire class, and leave start up money for next year's student practical nurses association. Through her leadership, she has taught us to be leaders; through her perseverance, she has taught us to persevere; through community service efforts and projects, she has shown us the joy of giving back to the community; through her devotion and drive as a professor, she has played a tremendous role in creating the nurses we are going to be. She truly embraces the art of teaching and shares her passion with us in hopes to help us grow to be future humanitarians in the nursing profession.

Her accomplishments are as such:

Graduating with Honors in all programs:

Augusta Technical School (LPN) Military Schooling - 1982

Hawaii Loa College (BSN) RN Program - 1991

Central Michigan University (MSA) Health Services Administration - 2001

Worked 27 years in many nursing clinical/community roles including the US Army with 7 years Honorable Service as a Combat Medic/LPN. During the last 6 years has been employed as an assistant professor at Central Florida Community College's LPN Faculty and recently serving as Advisor to the Practical Nurse Student Association.

Affiliations and Memberships:

Florida Association of Community Colleges
National League of Nursing
Association of Practical Nurse Educators of Florida
along with serving on numerous CFCC committees

She said it herself: "My greatest joys besides my family is working in the LPN Program and educating students for their careers in nursing."

I would like to nominate Mrs. Kathy Dismuke, for the Nurse Educator's Recognition Award for 2009. Her devotion, drive and commitment to us and our success truly deserves recognition, as well as her lifelong journey to be where she is today, always serving her community, her fellow nurses, and most importantly the **PRACTICAL NURSING CLASS OF 2009!**

Sincerely

Erica Couture, President, Student Practical Nurses Association

Central Florida Community College, Practical Nursing Program of 2009