



ELIZA'S NOTES

WINTER / SPRING 2010

VOLUME 2

MISSION

EPRNM is committed to promoting distinguished community leadership and partnering with other organizations to provide health care education and other community services.

EPRNM mentors student nurses, awards nursing scholarship, and supports continuing education needs of its members and recognize their professional achievements

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President's Message

Can you believe it? It is 2010, another great year that God has allowed us to see. We will be faced with new adventures and challenges, but believe, "we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength". Let us continue to pray for our country and the critical decisions that are being made related to health care reform. It's not okay to go back to the status quo; there are 46 Million Americans that are uninsured. The statistics are alarming. The mortality rate continues to climb. Our present healthcare system is broken. Americans are desperate for change to ensure quality health care for all Americans.

We offer our prayers and support to those who are ill and have experienced losses; especially to the people of Haiti.



We must make a difference!

We are praying for God's continue love and mercy upon them. Our organization has a rich history of making a difference in the community and the lives we touch. Eliza's members have demonstrated a strong sense of cohesiveness and professionalism when addressing healthcare issues and the needs of our communities.

Mark Your Calendar !

EPRNM State Executive Board Meeting
April 17, 2010
Jackson Medical Mall
11:00 Committee Meetings
12:00 Board Meeting
Members encouraged to attend!

EPRNM 25th Annual Education Conference
Natchez Grand Hotel
April 29-May 3, 2010
 For Reservations
 601-446-9994

District News!!



District I-Tupelo

- Clara Hurd RN, MSN and Sheba Price RN, MSN served as faculty speakers at North Mississippi Medical Center's annual Medical-Surgical Conference.
- Elizabeth Denson RN, MSN and Shellie Burk RN, FNP have been nominated for the Nightingale Award's Community Service Nurse of the year.
- Members assisted with Dr. Norris Crump's Annual Women's Health Fair in November.
- During the recent State Department of Health Awareness Week, Teresa Roberts provided BP Screening at Dr. Norris Crump's Aberdeen office.

District IV -Jackson

- Dr. Karen Winters presented a 1 hr CE session on health care disparities during the district's annual Thanksgiving dinner.
- Hosted a two-day Holiday Shoe Drive as their Community outreach project during Christmas. Donated shoes to Dress for Success and Community Stewpot.
- Hosted their annual Christmas luncheon at the Alex Waites Senior Citizens Complex; provided residents with a gift bag.

District V-Meridian

- Participated in Breast Awareness education campaign in October.
- Sandra Jones coordinated a breast cancer focus each Saturday in October at New Beginning M.B. Church
- Linda Hodges participated in Women Health Forum on Cardiovascular disease in African American women
- Bridget Smith presented a prevention and early detection seminar on Cardiovascular Disease in African Americans at Friendship M. B. Church in October.
- Members continue to work with Mississippi Mobilization Against Diabetes (M MAD) educating under-served areas in Kemper County.
- Adopted two soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan at Christmas.
- During the districts' Christmas Tea, Melanie Jones coordinated fundraiser for the quarter, raising over \$1,000.00.

Members on the move!!!



District I—TUPELO

- Shana Cummings made her media debut recently in a commercial for a local dentist.
- Shellie Burks, MSN, RN FNP-BC is campaigning for Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nurses (MOADN) as Treasurer.
- Dr. LaDonna Northington has been nominated for the 2010 Nightingale award for Faculty of the Year
- Rita Wray, RN, MBA, FAAN served as guest speaker during the Gulfcoast Black Nurses' Leadership conference in Biloxi, MS

District IV-JACKSON

- Eulanda Armstrong attended the Regional REACH US (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health across the US).
- Dr. Rowena Elliott earned the credential of Certified Nurse Educator.
- Monifa Beal graduated from the University of South Alabama as MSN-FNP.
- Dr. Rowena Elliott was elected National President-Elect of the American Nephrology Nurses Association. She is the first African-American to serve in this office.
- Dr. P. Renée Williams has been nominated for the 2010 Nightingale award for Nurse Educator of the Year

District V-MERIDIAN

- Major Sandra Hardaway completed a tour of duty at Fort Gordon Georgia.
- Gloria McAlpine in conjunction with Zeta Phi Beta sorority offered a health fair at Wesley Methodist Church in December.
- Betty Young-Cryer was re-appointed to the East Mississippi Business Corp (EMBDC) Education Board for 2010-2012.
- Delores Johnson attended the SSB Sunday School Board Conference in Nashville in December.



The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

..Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

President's Message..... continued from page 1

I commend each of you for your hard work and excellence in 2009. Each chairperson demonstrated excellence in his or her specific area of responsibility. A special thank-you to our immediate past President, Mrs. Barbara Field for your outstanding leadership over the last two years.

Eliza needs your talents and skills to make a difference in our organization and community. The following offices are open for election this year: Treasurer, Assistant Recording Secretary, Chaplain and Sergeant-At-Arms. I appeal to each member to search your heart and consider running for one of these positions. We need your knowledge, skills and expertise. As President of this most prestigious organization, I consider it a pleasure to serve you and have great hope for the continued success of our organization.

Our **Mission** is to increase the awareness of Eliza Pillars vision and our outreach community programs. There is strength in **Unity**. The power of membership allows nurses to speak in a strong voice. We can't sit on the sidelines, we must exercise our right to be heard and be willing to get in the trenches and make a difference. We must formulate **Partnerships** to address healthcare disparities. This partnership must grow and be sustainable to move the delivery of health care in a positive direction.

As I continue to interact with the community, I see the tremendous health care needs of our people. I am currently serving on the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation Education Board and active with our

newly formed Chapter, Parents for Public Schools of Meridian. I recently spoke to approx 400 high school students on "Maximizing Your Academic Potential through A Positive High School Experience". It is apparent, that we as nurses are needed on every level. We can make a difference by partnering with other organizations to provide health education within our local communities. I plan to continue to collaborate with other nursing organizations to address the current healthcare crisis. I strongly believe we as ethnic minority nurses can make a difference.

Our challenges are great for this new year, but as you stop and reflect on this past year, you might have stumbled on unexpected obstacles or been battered by the economy. Remember, it is not our circumstances that define us, but it's how we respond to them. We must turn those stumbling blocks into stepping-stones. The choice is yours... finish strong!

I am looking forward to seeing you at our Annual February Update on February 20th at Alcorn State University. Our Topic: A Call to Action: Making A Positive Difference in Healthcare Disparities in Mississippi. I pray that God will continue and richly bless each one of you and Bless Eliza Pillars Nursing Organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Young-Cryer

2010 February Educational Update Call to Action!!!

This year's annual update was hosted by District VI in Natchez, Mississippi. The hospitality was second to none. The speakers this year were members of the AdHoc committee charged with developing an action plan to decrease health disparities among African-Americans in Mississippi. Pictured below are:



Karen Winters, Betty Young –Cryer, Renée Williams, and Bridget Smith. The other two members are Norma West and Bernice Moore

The update was a continuation of the discussion last year in Meridian by Dr. Evelyn Lyons. The speakers designed this session to serve as an interactive discussion to provide updated information and to get input from the membership on strategies to implement the action plan.

A survey was mailed a few months earlier to gather data on the members' impressions on health care reform, illnesses they found to be prevalent among African-Americans, and specific strategies to make an impact on health disparities. It was a very productive and engaging seminar thanks to the participation of the attendees!

We recessed for a working lunch focusing on finalizing convention plans. The day ended with a brief business meeting, and the awarding of the new Membership committee trophy to Natchez



for the most members in attendance! Congratulations and Thanks District VI, you did a fabulous job!

Photo Gallery on page 5

Reported by Dr. Renée Williams, RN

P.R. Committee member

Site of 2010 25th Annual Convention !!



Natchez Grand Hotel

Natchez, MS

You don't want to miss this year's fantastic education conference!

Make your Reservations today 601-446-9994.
(mention Eliza Pillars to receive group rates)

www.natchezgrandhotel.com

How can you help to Fund Our Finances?

The Funding Our Finances Committee is a newly established committee within the EPRNM Presidents' Council. The Presidents' Council is composed of all past state presidents, current district presidents, the current State president-elect and the current State president. Committee members include Renée Williams, Co-Chairperson, Betty Young, Barbara Field, Cheryl Rainey, Bridgett Smith, Delores Johnson, Kaye Killings Mayfield and Meg Brown. Our purpose is to provide financial security and strengthen EPRNM's fund development efforts. Our goals are to obtain a tax exempt status and secure funds in excess of \$25,000.00 annually.



One initiative to that end is the 50-50 raffle. Each of the five active districts is asked to be responsible for twenty tickets. There are total of 100 tickets; each numbered ticket sales for \$100.00. During the annual Scholarship and Awards Luncheon on Saturday, May 1, 2010, one lucky winner will walk away with 50% of the pot; the other 50% remains with the organization. More later from Funding Our Finances.

Rita Wray, Chairperson

2010 February Educational Update

Call to Action!!!!

Photo Gallery





Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi

**“An Organization Dedicated to
Excellence in Health Care”**

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Editor's Note



I hear the challenge set before us and as I commit to make a difference in my community, I encourage everyone to remember why we've spent years of commitment to our profession and how blessed we are as nurses. We can not rest on our laurels and expect change to simply happen. I'm reminded of the scripture that says, "To whom much is given, much is expected." (Luke 12:48)

We will celebrate our 25th year as Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi. Our history includes many years of struggles and ever evolving names. What began in Jackson Mississippi in 1945 as the Black Registered Nurses Club has emerged as a source of courage, endurance and strength, since being organized statewide in 1984. Eleven state presidents later, EPRNM has evolved as an organization that is recognized throughout the state and soon, throughout the nation, as her members serve in Governor appointed positions, president of national organizations, academia, administration and many other venues. Pillars, you've raised the bar!

Make plans today to join us April 29-May 3rd in Natchez for our 25th Annual Convention at the Natchez Grand Hotel. This year's agenda is shaping up to be dynamic. Plans are underway to gather the greatest minds in medicine and nursing. Hear phenomenal and engaging speakers, be informed, and leave empowered! Come see what Natchez has to offer!

*Finally, I hope that you have had taken the time to look at our newly designed website. I invite your ideas, suggestions and comments, so contact me at:
bmmooren2@gmail.com*

Bernice M. Moore, RN

Editor



"We must become the change we want to see in the world."

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)