



ELIZA'S NOTES

President's Message

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Stroke Awareness	2
Members in the News	2
February Update	3
Convention Info	3
Funding our Finances	3
Editor's Note	3

Greetings, Eliza's Sisters and Brothers:

Welcome to Eliza Pillars 26th Annual Convention on the beautiful water and beaches of our fair state. This is our first return since Hurricane Katrina. It is a wonderful setting for our fabulous convention. Our theme this year, "Facing New Challenges in Healthcare Disparities" signifies the importance of continuing our efforts to transform healthcare in our individual communities and our state. Healthcare disparities are alive and thriving. As I reflect over the last two years of my administration, I am extremely proud of Eliza's members who have demonstrated commitment and dedication to excellence in healthcare. Our members throughout the state have labored relentlessly to make a difference in healthcare delivery in their various specialties and communities. Eliza continues to provide care with compassion and professionalism; we give vital service and support to patients and families who have limited resources in healthcare. The men and women of this organization have been catalyst in the Nursing profession facilitating positive changes to promote wellness, save lives, promote health education and strengthen mechanisms to ensure equality in healthcare for all Mississippians.

Yet, despite the significant progress we have made, healthcare disparities still exist for African Americans. This past year Eliza spearheaded a statewide project, The PEARL initiative to improve community health status by educating, mentoring and cultivating nurses who committed to help reduce these disparities. We provided group education sessions on the key healthcare issues that we deemed urgent for the state of Mississippi. These were Diabetes, Obesity, Hypertension/Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke. As we come together to network, share ideas and transform nursing practice, I pray you will take pride in this most prestigious organization and your recent efforts, the PEARL Project that ignited powerful collaboration in an effort to move our state toward a healthier future in reducing healthcare disparities in the state of Mississippi. I am reminded of the hard work, diligence and outstanding leadership of our past Presidents that has led Eliza Pillars to many successes and triumphs. Our organization has a

Facing New Challenges in Healthcare Disparities



positive track record of accomplishments and many successes because of you. You are a force to be reckoned with. It is with gratitude, I say thank you.

To our first time attendees, we are honored by your presence and hop your experiences will be memorable, enjoyable and productive. To our Golden Nurses and Past Presidents, it is with humility, I salute you!

To Mrs. Kaye Killings Mayfield, I wish you well in your upcoming administration.

It is my sincere prayer that every attendee will fully embrace each educational opportunity, share your nursing stories and totally enjoy our 26th Annual Convention.

"Out of the best and most productive years of each man's life, he should carve a segment in which he puts his private career aside to serve his community and his Country, and thereby serve his children, his neighbors, his fellow men, and the Cause of freedom." - David Lilienthal

Respectively submitted,
Betty Young-Cryer RN, MSN, CNA-BC, CRRN,
President



May is Stroke Awareness Month

Stroke is an Emergency

Every minute counts

ACT F.A.S.T.

FACE Facial droop-Uneven smile

ARM Arm numbness and/or weakness

SPEECH Slurred speech, difficulty speaking or understanding

TIME Call 911 and get to the hospital immediately

Members in the News !



It is not how much you do, but how much love you put in the doing."

-Mother Theresa

Sharon W. Catledge (I) was inducted as a Board Member to the State Board of Nursing on April 8th.

Tawana Tucker, (IV) was promoted to Nurse Educator at Veteran Administration Medical Center in Jackson.

Stella Harris, (IV) earned a Masters of Science in Nursing degree in January.

Dr. Rosie Calvin, (IV) currently serves as an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate Health Services Administration Program at Mississippi College.

Delores Johnson (V) Certified Dean of Christian Education for the East MS Baptist Association and the 2nd New Hope District for the State.

Sandra Jones, (V) organized an Indigent Health Care program at New Beginning Church in Meridian, to provide assistance for medications and insurance premiums for indigent patients.

Betty Cryer & Sandra Jones (V) have set up the 1st Outpatient Infusion Unit South and an 8-bed Inpatient Hospice Unit at Anderson Hospital South.

Melanie Jones Anderson, (V) will head up a new computer implementation at Anderson Hospital South.

Bridgette Smith, (V) continues to provide current Modalities in Diabetes Management

Gloria McAlpine (V) completed a series of education sessions on "Awareness of Women for Sale, Sex slaves".

Rita Wray (V) is a candidate for President of National Black Nurses Association, election is in July.

2011 February Educational Update

Our annual February Update was held on February 29th at the Delta Regional Medical Center Pavilion in Greenville. The event began with inspirational prayer and was followed by an update from State Representative John W. Hines, Sr (District 50) who encouraged members to come to the political table and express our concerns about healthcare legislature as it affects us. Also on the agenda, was Greenville's Mayor, Heather McTeer Hudson, who shared her views on being politically active.

The speaker for the Update was Ezell Landrum, RN, BSN. Although a member of District II, Mr. Landrum manages his own business, HMI located in Southhaven, MS. The speaker delivered an eye-opening awareness on Depression and the African American Community while stressing causes of and treatment for this mental illness.

After a delicious catered lunch and committee meetings, the board met to finalize our convention plans. This year the Membership Committee Spirit Award Trophy went to District IV for the most (17) attendees of all districts. Thanks again to District II and her members for a excellent February Update!

Continue to Fund Our Finances

In 2010, the **Funding Our Finances Committee** was established to provide financial security and to strengthen Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi's financial development efforts.

Again this year, each district will be responsible for an agreed upon amount of tickets. And once again, another winner will walk away with half of the monies raised. Remaining funds will help to fund our finances. The winner will be announced during the annual Scholarship and Awards Luncheon on Saturday April 30th. See any district President to purchase your winning ticket!

26th Annual Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses Convention
"A New Decade: Facing New Challenges"

April 28-May 1, 2011

Treasure Bay Casino and Hotel
Biloxi, MS



Editor's Note

As I conclude my years of public relations commitment to our beloved organization, it is with much humility that I extend my gratitude to EPRNM; for allowing me this opportunity to give back to my peers. I appreciate the cooperation that each district president provided me. Thanks President, Betty Young-Cryer for your confidence in me. I thank my predecessor, Dr. P. Renee Williams for her direction and her continuous support. Drs. Meg Brown and Sonja Fuqua, thanks for keeping such great records. Thanks Rita Wray for always having an encouraging word. And last but not least thanks Julius Rainey, Jr. for always making our website your priority.

Congratulations

and welcome aboard new officers and committee chairpersons!

Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi

"An Organization Dedicated to Excellence in Health Care"

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Or visit us at www.elizapillars.org

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