



ELIZA'S NOTES

SUMMER / FALL 2009

VOLUME I

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
- Mark Your Calendar 2
- District News 3
- Members on the move! 3
- Convention Update 4
- Editor's Note 4

President's Message

I pray that all is well and you are having a wonderful summer! Eliza's 2009 Convention was one of the best ever! It reflected, cohesiveness, teamwork and collegiate collaboration. The atmosphere was filled with a sense of positive energy and professionalism throughout the convention. Everyone enjoyed it immensely. I commend each of you for your hard work and a job well done! Each chairperson demonstrated Excellence in his or her designated area. A special salute to our immediate Past President, Mrs. Barbara Field, you were outstanding. You mastered your role well. Thank you for paving the way for my transition as President. Also, to Dr. Fletcher and Dr. Fuqua, you are a force to be reckon with. Your professionalism, talents, skills and ability to organize and orchestrate this event set the tone for a wonderful convention.

It is with much humility I serve you for the next two years, in the office as president of Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi. I consider this to be a most prestigious honor. Elizas has been a love of mine for more than 23 years. We have experienced adversities, but with God's Grace we are standing tall.

This year in January 2009 marked a significant change in the history of our country. The United States of America elected its first African American President, President Barak Obama. This was a defining moment in history; a change had come to America. The American people exercised their right to make a change. They spoke loud and clear....."The old status quo won't do, we want change".



"The time has come for us to make a difference."

As your newly elected Eliza's President, I endorse the need for change in America, our state and communities. The time has come for us to make a difference. We can no longer sit on the sidelines and hope someone else will take care of our social and health care issues. We must become catalysts for those changes. Remember, "Who is going to do more for you, than you are willing to do for yourself". We must create Allegiances and Partnerships with other professional organizations to make a difference in the delivery of quality healthcare. Strategies must be developed to address the growing healthcare disparities

Mark Your Calendar !

EPRNM State Executive Board Meetings

July 18, 2009
October 17, 2009
January 16, 2010

11:00 Committee meetings
12:00 Board meeting

February Update

February 20, 2010
10:30 am
Natchez, MS

EPRNM 25th Annual Education Conference
Natchez Grand Hotel
April 29-May 3, 2010

(Continued from page 1)

experienced by African Americans. A growing body of scientific evidence suggests, that Racism is a Pathogen with biological consequences. The detrimental affects are reflected in long-standing healthcare Disparities. The statistics are alarming as Dr. Evada Lyons shared at our February Update in Meridian, and other presenters recently shared these statistics at our 2009 Convention in Tunica, MS. As Africans American nurses we must accept our role, responsibility and accountability in making a difference related to these HealthCare Disparities. We must improve healthcare out-comes. These initiatives need to start with us now. If not now, then when?

Eliza's agenda for the next two years is before us. It will not be easy; there will be setbacks and hindrances. Our climb will be steep and difficult. We may not accomplish our goals in one year, not even in two years, but I believe with God's divine guidance and direction we will not be defeated. I have never been more hopeful than I am now. I am asking every Eliza's member to join me in these challenges of reducing the health-care Disparities in our community, state and nation. The premises of our profession are that we are owners and leaders. We have the clinical exper-tise, knowledge and skills to ignite a world. We can do what ever we desire to do. We Can, Yes We Can. We can change healthcare outcomes in our community, state and nation, Yes We can, Yes We Can. Philippians 4:13 States, "We can do all things through Christ who strengthened us". Yes We Can, Yes We can. Our people deserve the best and a chance to live pro-ductive healthy lives.

I believe we can lead with our hearts, while holding fast to a strategic vision and mission to impact HealthCare Disparities in our commu-nity. Eliza's is full of movers and shakers that can help facilitate these changes. Our individual members and chapters are strong, but collectively as a State Organization we are stronger. As an organization we stand tall-est and strongest on our knees. The time spent praying each day not only draws us closer to the Father, but it encourage us to do his work. James 5:16 tells us, that the effective prayers of a righteous man can accomplish much". We have come so far. We have seen and done so much, but there is much more to be done. This is our time to reclaim the dream and re-affirm that fundamental truth: that, we are one. And when we are met with criticisms and, doubts and when those that will tell us we can't: We will respond loudly! Yes we can, yes we will!

Thank you Eliza, for trusting me to serve and lead you during a pivotal time in history. You, my fellow Eliza's members and friends are truly the wind beneath my wings. You are the ones that will make the differ-ence.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. Betty Young, RN, MSN, CNA-BC, CRRN

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

District I	Ms. Jean Finley
District II	Ms. Patricia Kirksey
District III	Inactive
District IV	Ms. Eulanda Armstrong
District V	Ms. Bridget Smith
District VI	Ms. Norma West
District VI	Inactive

2009-2011 EPRNM STATE OFFICERS

President.....	Ms. Betty Young
President-Elect.....	Ms. Kaye Killings Mayfield
Recording Secretary.....	Ms. Sandra Jones
Assistant Recording Secretary.....	Dr. Renee Williams
Financial Secretary.....	Ms. Shana Cummings
Treasurer.....	Ms. Meg Brown
Chaplain.....	Ms. Bess Blackwell
Sergeant-At-Arms.....	Ms. Linda Hodges
Parliamentarian.....	Dr. Rosie Lee Calvin
Member-At-Large.....	Ms. Verna Topps
President Emeritus.....	Ms. Margaret Johnson

2009-2011 EPRNM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bylaws.....	Dr. Rosie Lee Calvin
Convention.....	Dr. Sonja Fuqua
	Co-Chair, Dr. Audwin Fletcher
Courtesy.....	Ms. Margaret Johnson
Education.....	Dr. Renée Williams
Finance.....	Ms. Bridget Smith
History.....	Ms. Mable Smith
	Co-Chair, Ms. Hattie Young
Membership.....	Ms. Stella Harris
	Co-Chair, Ms. Linda Hodges
Nominations & Credentials.....	Ms. Bess Blackwell
Program.....	Ms. Lynda Cox
	Co-Chair, Ms. Clara Hurd
Project.....	Ms. Frances Morris
Public Relations.....	Ms. Bernice Moore
Scholarships & Awards.....	Ms. Dzifa Johnson
Social.....	Ms. Jean Finley

District News!!



District I-TUPELO

- Barbara Field, along with District members, conducted a health fair at Beckley Chapel CME Church providing BP, bone density screenings, flexibility training and educational activities.
- Several members have offered a series of health fairs at local churches throughout the summer. Participants received information on diabetes, heart disease and stroke prevention.
- Also worked with the United Blood Services with blood drives.
- Bernice Moore coordinated a 12 week Diabesity (Power to Prevent) Study in collaboration with Miss State Dept. of Health and Jackson State University's Minority Health Center at White Hill Church. The curriculum focused on educating African-Americans on prevention and control of Diabetes

District II-GREENVILLE

- Continues to provide and participate in community health fairs.

District IV -Jackson

- Tremendous Membership growth with 85 members strong and growing
- Community outreach educational presentation done on HTN by district President at Anderson UMC to their senior members
- Members attended "Dancing With the Nurses" event sponsored by MS Nurses Foundation; Mariah Lane was the featured dancer
- First scholarship pageant held; this event was a success. Purpose was to raise money to provide additional scholarships next year.
- Eleven members served as mentors to nursing students to at UMC and attended the "Tribute to Seniors" program for the mentees.

- District sponsored and Members attended "Surviving With Style" event hosted by MNF.
- Hostess committee sponsored an end-of-year "food and fellowship reception after monthly meeting.

District V—Meridian

- Continuing to participate in joint efforts with Kemper County/Lauderdale Health Department.
- Provided numerous volunteer hours at Wesley Clinic for indigent patients.

District VI- Natchez

- Members participated in 4th St. COG's "Back to school" Health Fair.
- Continuing to participate in every 5th Sunday Stew-pot serving the homeless in Adams
- Members offered health information in their local church throughout the summer.

Members on the move!!!



District I—TUPELO

- *Clara Hurd* retired after 25 years as an Nursing instructor at Northeast Community College.
- *Shana Cummings* will begin University Medical Center 's Masters of Science Nursing program in August.
- *Bernice Moore* has been accepted in the BSN program at University of Northern Alabama
- *Sharon Catledge* will start Mississippi University for Women's Nurse Practitioner's Track in August.
- *Clara Hurd* was chosen to participate in The Linda Morgante Multiple Sclerosis Leadership Program. She received an all expense paid trip to attend the Consortium of MS Center's 23rd Annual meeting in Atlanta.
- *Elizabeth Denson*, received the Excellence in Community Service Award at NMMC

District IV-JACKSON

- *Eulanda Armstrong* served as presenter at UMC SON Honor's Day program
- *Rita Wray, FAAN* was honored as a Trailblazer during the 2009 National Black Nurses Convention in Ontario, Canada.
- *Dr. Renée Williams* was elected Vice-President of the Association of Black Nursing Faculty in June 2009.
- *Dr. Rosie Calvin* was elected Parliamentarian of the Association of Black Nursing Faculty in June 2009.

District V-MERIDIAN

- *Betty Young* was married July 31st. Pillars are invited to attend the wedding reception on Saturday, September 18th.
- *Erica Clark* is enrolled in USM in the MSN/FNP track.

- *Wanda Lloyd* successfully passed her FNP Certification and is currently employed at East Mississippi State Hospital.
- *Celeste Watson* recently received her FNP certification.

District VI-NATCHEZ

- *Meg Brown* was recently appointed chairperson of the Department of Baccalaureate Nursing at Alcorn State University.
- *Norma West, Patsy Wiley and Ursula Brooks-Moore* participated in a health fair at the Fourth Street Church of God. They provided information on stroke, hypertension, dementia and Alzheimer's.
- *Josephine Hawkins* received a grant from The Department of Social Services for The Children's Defense Fund's Freedom School".-a six week summer reading camp that employed 6 intern students from various college & universities.

2009 February Educational Update

This year's annual update was hosted by District V in Meridian, Mississippi. I must say the members showed up and showed out! The hospitality was second to none; and the speaker, Dr. Evadna Lyons,



was electrifying as she addressed the statistical impact, causes of death, and contributing factors of health care disparities of African Americans (AA). She discussed the

trends in morbidity and mortality relative to AA; described issues and challenges resulting in excess of the disease; and explained the gap in practice, education, research, and policy relative to health promotion and disease prevention among AA. Dr. Lyons concluded by identifying opportunities in which we as nurses can institute programs to help reduce disparities among our people. If you weren't able to attend, you missed an informative presentation!



We adjourned for a working lunch focusing on finalizing convention plans. The day ended with a brief business meeting, and a really fun time competing for all those door prizes provided by the District! Thanks District V, you really did a fabulous job!



Reported by Dr. P. Renée Williams, RN
P.R. Committee member

2009 24th Annual Convention Highlights!!

Wonderful! Exciting! Awesome! Fabulous! Just a few of the heartfelt expressions shared by members describing this year's annual State Convention held April 30, - May 3, 2009. This year marked our 24th Annual State Convention held at HARRAH's Hotel and Casino/ Veranda Hotel in Tunica., MS. Our theme, "**Promoting Healthy Lifestyles: YES WE CAN!**" was used to guide the Education, Program, and Convention committee in putting together the diverse educational sessions that offered something for each participant.



The social activities were enjoyed by all and the daily activities were a hit, starting with the Thursday evening hospitality hour that celebrated Sonya Pippin's, District I, birthday, to the Friday evening UMC School of Nursing's Alumni reception featuring Archie and the Archettes!! (See Photo Gallery, page 5!!)

The annual Scholarships and Awards Luncheon was very empowering as Dr. LaDonna Northington discussed "Scholarship and Practice: The Role of Nursing in Influencing Healthy Lifestyles." This year's award recipients: Dr. Sonja Fuqua, District IV, - President's Award! and



Bernice Moore, District I -Nurse of the Year! Congratulations Ladies!



The convention closed with an inspirational message by Ms Delores Johnson , Past State President, and the annual prayer breakfast and installation of officers.

We were all delightfully surprised by the newly formed Eliza Pillars Ensemble, filling our hearts with a soulful rendition of "I Need You to Survive".



The officers installed this year:

President: Betty Young, District VI

President-Elect—Ms Kaye Killings Mayfield, District IV

Secretary—Ms Sandra Jones, District V

Financial Secretary—Ms Shana Cummings, District I

Reported by Dr. P. Renée Williams

2009 CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



2009 CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi

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

Bernice M. Moore, RN
Editor

Betty Young, RN, MSN, CNA-BC, CRRN
President
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We're on the web!

Editor's Note



What an exciting convention! There was something for everybody; empowering educational sessions, enchanting entertainment, sensational sponsors, jaw-dropping shopping (vendors galore) and show stopping speakers. Yes, we had it all. This year's 24th annual education convention was absolutely fantastic. If you were unable to attend, you don't want to miss our 25th. Plans are currently underway to commemorate our 25 years of existence as a statewide organization in a big way. If this was your first convention, "you ain't seen nothing yet"!

As we look toward the future, expect exciting changes. We have a new State President, Betty Young. As we offer Betty our support; let's also offer our time, our talent, our resources and our knowledge. Betty is encouraging us to put our efforts behind our gifts and strive to change our nation's healthcare disparities, one person, one town, one county, one state (our state) at a time. Start today! We can do this, Yes we can!

Finally, www.elizapillars.org is currently under construction; as upgrades are being made to add a fresh, new look to our website. You'll be notified by email when construction is complete!

-Bernice

I invite your ideas, suggestions and comments, so contact me at: bernmoore54@comcast.net

"It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived"!

-Helen Walton

