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In our next newsletter . . .

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receives 2012 ANA Honorary
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COPP Committee L-R: Susan Weaver, Chair; Jamie Smith, Florence Jennes, Eleanor Dietrich, Vidette Todora-Franceschi, Mary Ellen Jacobs, past chair, Grace Reilly and Karla Tramutola.

Congress on Policy and Practice (COPP)

by Susan H. Weaver MSN, RN,
NEA-BC, CRNI, Chair
NJSNA Congress on Policy and Practice

So what are the plans for COPP—The Congress on Policy and Practice in 2012? COPP is focusing on practice issues in NJ, using the expertise of the COPP membership to develop, review and revise NJSNA Position Statements. A practice issue that COPP is researching concerns the use of shackles and restraints with pregnant women who are incarcerated. Is it cruel and inhumane or is it appropriate that shackles be used for prisoners who are in labor?

One of the NJSNA position statements currently under review was developed in 1991 and is entitled, Re-Education of Professional Nurses for Reassignment. This position statement can be found on the NJSNA website and explains that it is the responsibility of the nurse to maintain competence. Additionally if reassignment is necessary the employer should provide appropriate re-education. The ANA has a 2008 position statement entitled, Professional Role Competence, which explains "Assurance of competence is the shared responsibility of the profession, individual nurses, regulatory bodies, employers, and other key stakeholders." COPP is discussing archiving the NJSNA Re-Education of Professional Nurses for Reassignment Position Statement because the ANA position statement reaffirms the message of maintaining competence. What do you think?

The Congress on Policy and Practice wants to hear from NJSNA members. Please send any practice concerns to COPP: jamie@njsna.org.

References:

American Nurses Association, Professional Role Competence, 2008. <http://nursingworld.org/position/practice/role.aspx>
 Ferszt, G. (2010). Giving birth in shackles. *American Journal of Nursing*, 110(2), 11

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SATURDAY
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April 21, 2012

9 a.m.

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