

COPP UPDATE

**Susan H. Weaver, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CRNI—
Chair**

**Karla Tramutola, MSN, RN, CAPA—
Member-at-Large**

Congratulations to Karla Tramutola, MSN, RN CAPA and Vidette Todaro-Franceschi, RN, PhD, FT who have been re-elected to the New Jersey State Nurses Association's Congress on Policy and Practice (COPP).



Karla Tramutola



**Vidette Todaro-
Franceschi**

Position Statements and Resolutions

The members of the COPP work passionately guiding trends in nursing practice, education and healthcare policy. This is done through the development and review, of New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA) position statements. When important topics or issues arise, the COPP may address each concern by way of a position statement. Position statements are an explanation, a justification, or a recommendation for a course of action that reflects NJSNA's stance regarding the concern based on the latest research, evidence based practice and nursing expertise. The American Nurses Association (ANA) also has many position statements and the COPP will often refer to an ANA position statement. The ANA position statements cover the following areas: Bloodborne and Airborne Diseases; Consumer Advocacy; Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Environmental Health; Ethics and Human Rights; Nursing Practice; Social Causes and Health Care; Unlicensed Personnel; and, Workplace Advocacy.

A second method used to guide practice is in the form of a resolution. A resolution is a main motion on a subject of great importance expressed in formal wording. Within the NJSNA, resolutions serve to recognize matters of national and statewide significance affecting nurses, nursing and the health care needs of the public. Two of the more recent resolutions are endorsing the Institute of Medicine

(IOM) Report: The Future of Nursing, Leading Change and Advancing Health, and supporting workplace safety.

So what is the difference between a position statement and a resolution? Position statements provide more detailed information on topic or issue. For instance the NJSNA position statement entitled, "The Nurse's Role in the End of Life Decision Making" provides an explanation of NJSNA's position, why it is important, and concludes with recommending education and legislation. A resolution simply identifies NJSNA's recognition and support of issues such as the IOM report, workplace safety, and support of legal access to medically recommended marijuana.

Beyond the Position Statement: The Issue of Elder Abuse

As you may recall, in the last issue of the *New Jersey Nurse* (July 2012), COPP had focused on the important issue of prevention and recognition of elder abuse. To continue the conversation on this issue, the COPP has compiled a list of online elder abuse resources.

There are many types of elder abuse and each one can be catastrophic to the victim. It is paramount that nurses know what elder abuse is, recognize its signs, and take appropriate action if suspected. New Jersey and nationwide elder abuse information can be obtained by visiting the following websites:

Elder Abuse Reporting: <http://www.elder-abuseca.com/stateResources/new-jersey.html>

New Jersey Department of Health and Adult Protective Services: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/senior/aps.shtml>

National Center on Elder Abuse: http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main_Site/index.aspx

National Institute of Justice: <http://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/elder-abuse/other.htm>

These web sites discuss types of abuse, prevalence, ways to prevent, phone numbers to call depending on the living situation of the abused elder, etc. Seniors are often a vulnerable population; they deserve our care and attention. The COPP members hope you will visit these online resources and learn about protecting seniors.

Special thanks to Vidette Todaro-Franceschi, RN, PhD, FT of the COPP for this list of invaluable resources.

The Congress on Policy and Practice wants to hear from NJSNA members. Please send any practice concerns to COPP via Jamie Smith, MSN, RN at Jamie@njsna.org



AND

