

WHEN Did COPP Start and WHO IS COPP?

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

One of my first questions as a newly elected member of COPP (NJSNA's **Congress on Policy and Practice**) was WHEN did it start and what happened to the Cabinet on Practice? The answer was in the archives at NJSNA Headquarters; so I journeyed there for a look into the past.

If you remember our 100th Anniversary celebration in 2002, then you know that NJSNA was incorporated in 1902. Yet, the first mention I could find about something similar to COPP was in 1963; there was a Committee on Professional Nursing Practice. The October 1967 *New Jersey Nurse* stated the following about the work of this Committee:

"During the year the major concern of the Committee on Professional Practice has been the establishment of policies, procedures and definitions of role, authority and responsibility of the nurse in cardiac resuscitation. A joint statement by the New Jersey Nurses Association, the New Jersey Hospital Association and the New Jersey Medical Society seems imperative. The joint statement was drafted and entitled: *External Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (including Defibrillation) and the Registered Professional Nurse.*"

Basically it was a position statement on CPR! At the 1969 NJSNA Annual Meeting, a Bylaws amendment was adopted, forming the Council on Nursing Practice, and it is interesting to note that Dr. Lucille Joel was a District #2 member on the Council. At that time, five Divisions of Practice were also formed:

1. Community Health Nursing
2. Geriatric Nursing
3. Maternal and Child Nursing
4. Medical-Surgical Nursing
5. Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing

The Council on Nursing Practice was renamed the Council on Practice in 1976 with the same five Divisions of Practice. In the archives, there is a wonderful document entitled *A Primer on Implementing Standards of Practice*, which was prepared by the NJSNA Council on Practice. It contains a resolution on primary nursing, along with tools for nursing history, patient care plan and teaching.

At the 1984 NJSNA Annual Meeting, it was proposed that the Council on Practice and their Divisions of Practices would transition to Four Cabinets:

1. Cabinet on Education
2. Cabinet on Practice
3. Cabinet on Continuing Education
4. Cabinet on Nursing Research

Also in 1984, a column was started in the *New Jersey Nurse* entitled, "Ask the Council." In 2011, more than 25 years later, we are attempting to achieve this goal with this **Council on Policy and Practice** column.

In 1988 the Goals for the Cabinet on Practice were:

- Monitor the Legislative Committee, Board of Nursing, *New Jersey Register*, and *Capital Update*.

- Maintain a current packet of position statements.
- Identify current nursing practice issues and implement plans to address them.
- Increase communication with Legislative Committee.
- Educate RNs about nursing practice issues through publication in *New Jersey Nurse* and continuing education programs.

At the 1992 NJSNA Annual Meeting, a Bylaws amendment was adopted to form the Congress on Policy and the Congress on Practice: "There shall be a Congress on Policy and a Congress on Practice to promote comprehensive, integrated analysis of issues affecting nursing for presentation to the Board of Directors and to guide the organization." (*New Jersey Nurse*, October, 1992). The Legislation Committee and the Ethical Practice Committee were now part of the Congress on Policy, whereas the Cabinet on Practice and Cabinet on Education were combined to form the Congress on Practice. Sue Hart was chair of the Cabinet on Practice at that time and led the transition to the Congress on Practice.

In 2000, joint meetings were held with the Congress on Policy and the Congress on Practice. Then, in 2001, a Bylaws amendment to combine the two Congresses was adopted. The minutes reflected that since the managed care model has become well established, it was time to combine the Congresses, which would strengthen our ability to meet the needs of the members and the organization.

So that brings us to 2011 and the work of the **Congress on Policy and Practice (COPP)**. Today, COPP focuses on practice issues in NJ, using the expertise of dynamic members of the COPP to develop Position Statements on issues, such as Medication Administration by Unlicensed Personnel, and Nurses Role in End of Life Decision Making. The **Congress on Policy and Practice** members are elected by NJSNA and those interested are encouraged to run for open positions. COPP will provide regular updates about its work in the *New Jersey Nurse*. Please send any practice issues/questions to the COPP addressed to: Jamie@njsna.org

COPP

Should NJSNA support legislation stating first responders may administer Narcan, Naloxone, in patients who have overdosed? Is it appropriate that shackles be used for prisoners who are in labor? What nurse residency programs are available to new graduate nurses in New Jersey? These are just some of the topics being investigated by the Congress on Policy and Practice, also known as COPP. For almost 45 years COPP has focused on professional nursing practice issues in New Jersey. For instance, in the October 1967 edition of *New Jersey Nurse* the following was written about the work of this Committee:

"During the year the major concern of the Committee on Professional Practice has been the establishment of policies, procedures and definitions of role, authority and responsibility of the nurse in cardiac resuscitation. A joint statement by the New Jersey Nurses Association, the New Jersey Hospital Association and the New Jersey Medical Society seems imperative."

The joint statement was drafted and entitled "External Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (including Defibrillation) and the Registered Professional Nurse," which is basically a position statement on CPR!

Today COPP ensures that the NJSNA Position Statements are current and has recently revised the position statements on medication administration for unlicensed personnel and nurses role in end of life decision making. COPP members are also planning and developing a March 2012 educational program for NJSNA members on End of Life Care.

The Congress on Policy and Practice encourages NJSNA members to send any practice issues, concerns, or questions to the COPP by emailing Jamie@njsna.org

Lisa DeMary, BA, RN, CLNC, MSHC
Region 5 Representative COPP

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

Save the Date!
State of Nursing in NJ & NJSNA Annual Meeting
April 12, 2012



This educational program will provide an opportunity for nurses in NJ to learn about issues affecting their practice with NJ Board of Nursing Executive Director George Hebert, MA, RN and the Commissioner of the Department of Health & Senior Services Mary O'Dowd (invited). Following the program, the NJSNA will hold its annual meeting. This meeting will provide members with an update on the events of the past year and the plans for the future. All are welcome. Breakfast & lunch included.

Visit www.NJSNA.org for more information.

American Nurses Association Announces CE Conference: Hospital-Based First Receivers: Teaching the Caring Professional to Take Care

This one day course provides 6.74 hours of continuing education for registered nurses.

Perfect for any RN needing information on:

- Personal Protection Equipment and Respiratory Protection
- Incident Command System
- Hazard Vulnerability Assessments
- Decontaminating chemically contaminated patients
- OSHA's Best Practices for Hospital-Based First Receivers of Victims from Mass Casualty Incidents Involving the Release of Hazardous Substances document



Reserve your spot today at www.NJSNA.org — participation is limited to 30 attendees!

Date: February 23, 2012

Time: 8:30 am

Location: NJSNA HQ
1479 Pennington Road | Trenton | NJ | 08618

Cost: \$10

Funded by an educational grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences through the International Chemical Workers Union Council consortium

