



NURSE CORPS SOUNDINGS

Vol. 45, New England Navy Nurse Corps Association, Autumn/Fall, 2023

President's Corner

As I sit here writing this newsletter, the summer activities are waning and they will soon be replaced by fall and winter interests. Additionally, the bright colors of summer are slowly being replaced by the beautiful shades of orange, red and gold of autumn. We can also feel the effects of the earth's movement around the sun, as the days are getting shorter, the winds are cooler, as the season begins to transition into autumn upon our beautiful New England states. Additionally, it is time to clean out all the flower boxes and clear the perennial garden beds of debris, in order to get them ready for the winter, in actuality, preparing them for the next years' spring growth. And so, to, we need to transition officers this October within our NENNCA chapter.

This will be my last Nurse Corps Soundings Newsletter. It's been an honor and privilege to be part of this NENNCA Chapter for the last 4 years. I'd like to share some of our accomplishments with you, followed by a summary of our last BOD meeting.

Budget: we have maintained a solid and strong checking, saving's and CD accounts- we've had a growth from \$11,935.89 to the current \$13,801.20; Kim Lyons developed a budget and account spreadsheet along with maintaining the funds accordingly. As a chapter we have taken on D & O insurance to protect our BOD members from any liability. This insurance is currently funded through NNCA. We've had this in effect for the last 2 years and will be covered yearly by NNCA, if we continue to request this coverage.

Membership: we grew our membership from 31 to 42, but now we are in a decline, again with only 37 members. We also have maintained a great relationship with the Chief Nursing Officer, CAPT Eric Gryn, of NMRTC- Newport, where we've enrolled several Active Duty NC Officers, who have now moved on from this Command to other areas in the country.

Thank you to Kim Lyons (current Treasurer) and Anne Mitchell (Treasurer 2017-2021) for keeping both of these tasks in great running order for our chapter!

Scholarship program: we re-established our scholarship award program by revising the application process and distributing this opportunity out to over 50 Universities and Colleges in the New England area. To date we raised over \$1,000.00 in funds in the last 2 years and have given out at least \$4,000.00 in award money in the last 3 years. Thank you to Karen DiRenzo,

past Secretary, and Trish Culver, past President and now Scholarship Committee Chair, for working on this endeavor with me for this chapter.

Policy and NENNCA By-Laws update: We updated and voted on the new NENNCA By-Laws in 2022. We've established a policy for free membership for NENNCA members who are over the age of 90; and for those who volunteer to work on the BOD, beginning with the new BOD in Oct/Nov 2023 time frame, but officially noted in 2024 membership drive. Thank you to Kim Lyons, and Peg Nation for assisting me with seeing this By-Laws project to fruition.

DAISY Awards- NENNCA has partnered with NNCA to co- sponsor funding for the DAISY awards in the past 4+ years. To date we've given out at least 6 awards, 4 at NMRTC – Newport, and 2 at our newest site- The Bristol Veteran's Home in RI. We've had an outlay of about \$2,500.00 (combined) for this worthwhile endeavor.

NNCA BOD Meeting Sponsorship 2021-we were to be hosts for the NNCA BOD Meeting in Maine in 2020-21 time-frame, in which Peg Nation chaired this committee. Unfortunately, the event had to be canceled because of Covid 19, giving way to the Virtual meetings which replaced the in-person meetings. Personally, I can see that these meetings have helped to gather more participants online than those held in person. Because of this epiphany, NENNCA began to use Zoom for our BOD and general membership meetings, along with an in person luncheon later in the month (Spring & Fall), which seems to be very successful. We hope these hybrid meetings continue in the future.

Fund Raisers: We developed NENNCA note cards featuring our beautiful logo, to use as a fund raiser item for purchase. We sold about 15 packets originally. Now we are using these note cards as gifts for members who donate greater than \$50.00 to our chapter scholarship fund. We also developed a WAA fund site where both the Veteran's and the chapter benefit from the purchase of a wreath. This site will continue on, indefinitely, unless something changes.

Oral History- Susan Cuddy was instrumental in getting 9 Oral Histories from our members in the Maine and New Hampshire area. What a great experience for her and a great windfall for NNCA history museum archives.

Outside events: Our own Mary Jo Major's was instrumental in getting two NENNCA chapter members on the USS Constitution Women's Cruise in June, 2023! You can read about this in the upcoming NNCA Newsletter (Nov 2023). Thank you for this opportunity.

Kim Lyon's also recruited several NENNCA Nurse Corps members for the Vietnam Veteran Recognition Day, back in 2019, hosted by the Kraft family at Gillette Stadium, home of the New England Patriots Football Team. This was an awesome event for those in attendance.

Peg Zarek, one of our NENNCA members, took part in the Vietnam Moving Wall, which was hosted here in Newport, RI in 2019. Quite an emotional and memorable event to be had by all Veterans who came to see the replica wall.

Communication: We have tried to communicate with our general membership by email, and postal mail, which seems to be working well. Several of our members have also taken part in visiting those members who are in nursing homes, or living alone. This type of outreach needs to be worked on much more, by all members of the chapter. It's always nice to know there is one of us around to help another.

Additionally, communication of chapter events, etc., have taken place through NNCA's Face Book pages, LinkedIn, and Constant Contact along with the NNCA Newsletter. Thank you to NNCA for all of their support, particularly Dot O'Very and Mary Mahony for all the work they've done to help our chapter stay connected to all of our Nurse Corps family.

Latest project- NENNCA has agreed to work with NNCA by setting up the Fall Foliage Cruise, 2024, out of Boston, MA. We have made great strides with this event. Over 130 rooms have been booked, we are probably up to 150 rooms, as of today (9/18/2023). Lots more information to come out on this cruise as we get closer to the sailing date. Kim Lyons, Mary Mahony and myself have taken the reins on this project, with some of our NENNCA members, who have agreed to help out with tasks prior to, and during the cruise. So, more information will be passed forward when the time is right. Kim and I, although leaving the BOD, will remain on this project until we set sail in September, 2024.

Now, before I finish, let me update you on the BOD activities since the last Nurse Corps Soundings, Vol 44, was put out in May, 2023. There will be some redundancy's here, so bear with me.

IKW



1. Our last Business General Membership Zoom meeting was held on May 4, 2023 (Minutes will be forthcoming, if requested). The luncheon that was planned at my home had to be canceled due to multiple issues, which was unfortunate. The BOD just met via Zoom on Sept 12, 2023 to discuss several items. These included:

a. **Treasury-** NENNCA Financial Report – Sept 12, 2023.

Checking- \$ 4,809.38

Savings- \$ 6,007.25

CD- \$ 2,984.57, renewed for 18 months at 4.4% (apr 4.5%) exp 3/3/2025

Total- \$13,801.20

As you can see we are doing very well with our accounts. In a nut shell our spending is limited to office supplies, scholarship and DAISY awards, and the cost of the luncheons for our scholarship recipients and their guests. So, we are pretty frugal when it comes to expenditures.

b. **Membership**

Statistics-Sept, 2023 - We have 38 Active NENNCA/NNCA; 39 Active NENNCA.

Dec, 2022- 40 members; Dec 31, 2020- 34 members; Dec 31, 2019- 32.

c. **Scholarship Committee-** This year we had 6 BSN and 3 MSN scholarship applications. We just awarded two new \$1,000.00 scholarships for 2023 during our Sept 12 2023 meeting. The one BSN candidate is Michael Sweeney attending the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston, MA; and the one MSN candidate is Laura Apgar from Husson University, Bangor, ME. Congratulations to these two wonderfully qualified individuals! Each year the BOD decides on the amount to give out in award money, which is a fair practice, based on our account details.

d. **Fund raising** -our alliance with WAA takes place year-round. This endeavor helps to support our scholarship fund and the Veteran graves that individuals sponsor. For every wreath you purchase for a veteran, \$5.00 comes back to our chapter's scholarship fund. Thank you to all

who have donated in the past years. Here is the site to use. Please pass this on to your family and friends, as well. www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/NENNCA

Also, for anyone who directly makes an individual donation to NENNCA in the amount of \$50.00, or more, a complimentary packet of NENNCA note cards is sent out to the donor. To all who have donated this amount in 2023, you should have received these beautiful note cards in the mail with a letter! Thank you again for your generosity.

e. **DAISY Award**- NENNCA/NNCA continues to sponsor the Naval Medical Readiness Training Center, Newport and the Bristol Veteran's Home, in RI.

f. **Oral History volunteers**- Volunteers to do Oral Histories for NENNCA/NNCA in MA, RI, CT, VT and NY areas are still needed.

g. **Fall Foliage Cruise 2024**- Yes, this cruise is happening next September, 2024! We have over 130 rooms booked on this cruise, through the travel agent we used, Cruise One and probably another 10-15+ rooms were booked with NCL directly, after the sign-up date closed. We never expected this amount of interest. Thank you! Please **keep track** of what's happening with this event via the **WhatsApp Messenger**, or through the **Constant Contact** used by NNCA. Kim Lyons, Mary Mahony and I, will keep you abreast of everything you need to know about the cruise. Right now, we are asking those who booked through Cruise One, to complete the ID Me process for an additional military discount; we will then be putting out a blast asking several questions- how many of you will require hotel rooms and transportation to the port. We have several NENNCA chapter members who have agreed to work with us on data gathering, and on several at-sea ship events. Thank you!

h. **NENNCA BOD Officer openings**-. **We are still looking for a new PRESIDENT candidate to take over my position in Oct/Nov 2023!** Several emails searching for a candidate, as well as a few calls have been made to possible candidates, but to no avail. This is very concerning to me, but I still have hope.

The nominee for the Treasurer position will be Deborah Brigadier, from New York. Thank you for agreeing to this position.

Note: If there is no President nominated, or elected, on Oct 18, 2023, during the Zoom meeting, then the chapter members in attendance will have to discuss the future of NENNCA. Options- 1. VP/Secretary moves up to this role, with agreement from the current member holding office. 2. Look for a new VP/Secretary to fill the open position. 3. Is it time to merge this chapter with another? This is a talk we will need to have if no one steps up to role of President. We will also have to ask another chapter if they would be willing to take our New England group into their chapter. This topic has not been broached, as yet.

As mentioned before, to help with this quest for volunteers, a BOD incentive was just passed on March 10, 2023, which notes- “starting the 2024 cycle, NENNCA BOD officers and members will have their NENNCA dues waived (\$15.00) for their time in office.

Additionally: Any NENNCA member who has received as specific award from NNCA where the recipient’s National dues are covered for a period of time by NNCA, the local NENNCA dues will be waived for the same specified period of time”.

2. IMPORTANT! NENNCA 2023 Autumn/Fall Gathering!

There are 2 separate events that will be happening during October 2023! One event is a Board/member meeting and the other is a social brunch event, giving us time to share our friendship and camaraderie, during the luncheon. Hope you can attend at least one, or both, of these events.

- a. Oct, 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM, there will be a Zoom meeting for ALL interested members. This will be our Business meeting where we will go over a short agenda, have a short discussion of what’s on member’s minds, followed by a Vote for new Officers- President and Treasurer.**
- b. Oct 22, 2023- Luncheon at The Publick House Historic Inn, 277 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA at 12:00. I have a seating for 12, at this time. Please RSVP if you are planning on attending this event. Email: Iweaver108@gmail.com
Call: 401-835-3413 (Cell)**

It is now time for me to move on to begin another chapter in my life; and for new growth to take place in the NENNCA chapter. I want to thank all of the BOD officer’s and members for working with me during these four years. You have been very instrumental in keeping this chapter alive and growing, something which I hope will continue on in the future. I wish everyone all the best for a safe and quiet winter. This is the time to rest and enjoy the indoor activities and Holiday’s that will be forth coming.

Wishing you a wonderful Fall/Winter 2023!

Respectfully submitted- Irene K. Weaver, President, NENNCA- Sept 20, 2023