

**AORN Chapter 4406 Business Meeting 10-22-09  
MINUTES**

**Present**

Virginia (Jenny) Cato – President  
Jane Pence – Vice-President  
Nancy Herbein – Past President  
Anne Mattern – Treasurer (2009)  
Kathy Alexander – BOD (2011)  
Mary Wismann – BOD (2011)  
James Tulloh – BOD (2010)  
Joan Javeed – Nominating  
Martha Wallis – Nominating

**Absent**

Krista Johnson – Secretary (2010)  
Katherine Kohout – BOD (2010)  
Ken Breaux – Nominating Chair

**Guest/Ad-Hoc**

\*\*\*\*\*

Connie Clark  
Janet Craun  
Tracey French  
Mary Frost  
William Kirby  
Shaunee Pitman – minutes scribe  
Theresa (Terry) Williams

Jenny Cato called the meeting to order at 1815.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Follow-Up/Action</b>
<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	Read and approved	
<b>Treasurer Report/Budget and Finance Anne Mattern</b>	Read and approved	
<b>Ways &amp; Means Kathy Alexander Anne Mattern</b>	Fund raisers: CNOR Review course which is a work in progress Spring 2010  Seminar in January for WHAM	
<b>Newsletter Mary Wismann</b>	e-mail news items to <a href="mailto:marywismann@texashealth.org">marywismann@texashealth.org</a>	
<b>By – Laws/Policy Krista Johnson, Chair Jenny Cato Kathy Alexander Janet Craun</b>	Proposed by-law changes were voted and accepted for all changes	
<b>Membership Nancy Herbein</b>	Membership 172	
<b>Education/Program Tracey French</b>	Handout for committee meeting in November to address Education for 2010	

Topic	Discussion	Follow-Up/Action
<p><b>Legislative</b> <b>Jane Pence</b></p>	<p>ANA: There are 2 pieces of legislation to protect the RN 2009# 2381 and House bill #2560 S1131 (Medicaid at home).</p> <p>The Texas Senate Bill #476 Hospital Safe Staffing Act passed June 19 and signed into law Sept 1 2009. The bill is supported by both TNA and Texas Hospital Association.</p> <p>The bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Mandates hospital adopt a nurse staffing policy</li> <li>* Policy shall include developing, implementing and enforcing a unit/shift based plan that gives significant consideration to staffing committee recommendations</li> <li>* Membership: CNO &amp; 60% direct care nurses selected by peers (not administration)</li> <li>* Nurses relieved of work duties &amp; compensated during committee meetings</li> <li>* Responsibilities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recommending a staffing plan</li> <li>2. Soliciting input from nurses to develop, monitor and evaluate the staffing plan</li> <li>3. Review, assess, and respond to staffing concerns</li> <li>4. Evaluate effectiveness of the plan (outcomes, variances)</li> <li>5. Submit a report to the hospital</li> <li>6. Nurse staff plan must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*reflect current national standards</li> <li>*set minimal staffing levels for patient care units</li> <li>*include method for adjusting the plan to meet patient needs</li> <li>*include contingency plan in the event patient care needs exceed resources</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. Environment that affects staffing plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* community, nursing shortage, payment systems, population characteristics</li> <li>* hospital mission &amp; values, occupancy levels &amp; fluctuations, programs and services, vacancy &amp; turnover rates, financial condition</li> </ul> </li> <li>8. Patient characteristics effect staffing plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* activity, severity of illness, intensity of care received</li> </ul> </li> <li>9. Scope of services affect staffing plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* variability of patients across the unit</li> <li>* turnover: number of admissions, discharges, length of stay</li> <li>* kinds of treatment/procedures provided on the unit</li> </ul> </li> <li>10. Context of care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* physical environment</li> <li>* unit geography</li> <li>* distribution of patients</li> <li>* availability of technology</li> <li>* unit culture</li> </ul> </li> <li>11. Nurse characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Individual (education/preparation</li> <li>* experience</li> <li>* specific competencies</li> <li>* familiarity of the unit (new grads, floaters, agency, overtime, students, preceptors, orientees</li> </ul> </li> <li>12. Must report to board annually</li> <li>13. Mandatory overtime prohibited unless specific exception is met. Nurses may work voluntary overtime</li> <li>14. Cannot use on-call time as a substitute for mandatory overtime</li> </ol></li></ul>	

Topic	Discussion	Follow-Up/Action
	<p>TNA Member Update</p> <p>A second, pre-trial hearing was held Wed. Oct. 21, in the Winkler County nurses case to hear motions before the court related to criminal charges against the nurses for misuse of information. Three motions by defense attorneys were heard by District Judge James L. Rex:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reconsideration of a motion to suppress certain evidence which the court had previously denied</li> <li>2. A motion for change of venue</li> <li>3. A motion for attorneys to have access to patient records so their medical experts could determine if the nurses' concern about substandard care by the physician was reasonable.</li> </ol> <p>The Texas Department of State Health Services surveyed the Winkler County Memorial Hospital in response to a complaint filed by TNA against the hospital for its policy prohibiting nurses from reporting to outside regulatory agencies and for terminating the two nurses for reporting in "good faith" and that the hospital had retaliated against them for reporting the physician.</p>	
<p><b>President's Announcements</b> <b>Jenny Cato</b></p>	<p>New logon to AORN web site: user name is your Email address!!! password is the same</p>	
<p><b>Nominating Committee</b> <b>Ken Breaux – chair</b> <b>Joan Javeed</b> <b>Martha Wallis</b> <b>Nancy Herbein (Past Pres)</b></p>	<p>Delegates for Congress 2010 announced: Jenny Cato, Chair of Delegation Tracey French Krista Johnson Jane Pence Shaunee Pitman Mary Wismann Joan Javeed - alternate</p>	
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>January 28, 2010</p>	
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>	<p>At 1852</p>	