



May/June 2006
Volume 6, Issue 3
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Memorial Day

"Our Flag" by Mary Howliston



There are many flags in many lands,
There are flags of every hue;
But there is no flag, however grand,
Like our own Red, White, and Blue.

THE LIGHTHOUSE

The official publication of the Maine Association Medical Staff Services, published by and for the MeAMSS membership

President's Message

By Ron Lambert, CPCS

We held a Board meeting April 28 in York and discussed future projects and how we might accomplish them. Our primary discussion was geared toward our biennial conference and the upcoming elections.

Once again, Team MaryCarol has done a great job putting together this year's conference. It will be two days of dynamic speakers and timely topics. Registrations have exceeded our expectations. If you would like more information about the conference, I direct you to our website, meamss.org.

Also, as many of you know, the Board has decided to revert back to two-year terms for President-Elect, President, and Past-President. We experimented with one-year terms, and all involved felt the time was too short to accomplish our goals. Revisions were made to the bylaws to reflect this change and were approved at the March educational meeting.

Elections will be held this fall and our Past President, Freddie Jackson, is heading up our Nominating Committee. This year all positions are up for election including that of President. Kim Pelletier stepped into the role of President-elect, after having served your Board for eight years to ensure continuity of leadership when there was an absence of candidates for the position. Because of prior commitments that have taken her out of this great State of Maine, Kim will not be able to accede to President of MeAMSS. But that is not the whole story; however, as it was the opinion of the Board that the President of MeAMSS should be physically in the State of Maine to be able to attend Board and Association meetings, as well as to be available to the membership.

I would like our membership to know that Kim has given me, in my role as President, much appreciated leadership advice and historical perspective about MeAMSS so that I could represent you as you would expect. I cannot thank her enough for her ears, voice, and heart. Though away on assignment now, Kim continues to play an active role on the Board. I hope that some day Kim can once again serve on the Board, as this Association would be better for it.

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KUDOS KORNER!



**Congratulations to:
All Members of MeAMSS
We're Celebrating 10 Years!**

Please Join us in Welcoming the Following New Members!

Sharilyn Gasparrelli, CPCS, Regence Blueshield, Portsmouth, NH
Bonnie Wilson, The Acadia Hospital, Bangor, ME

President's Message Continued

Contained within the newsletter are brief job descriptions of Board positions. If you have any questions regarding these positions, please feel free to contact any of the Board members. I would like to remind you that being a Board member is not just fun, [and it is fun], but it is a great way to give back to an association that we all get a lot from. In addition, as you all have heard me say before, it is a great way to hone your skills and acquire new leadership skills with very little risk to your paycheck.

The President's message wouldn't be complete without some pearls of wisdom. As many of you know, in June I leave for Wichita for four days to learn to ride bulls from one of the best coaches in the country. I have to share with you that this is something I have wanted to do on and off over the years but never quite made the leap to "get-r-done." Yeah, I get asked "doesn't riding bulls scare you?" Well, of course, the answer is 'yes'; however, what scares me more is the specter of being 80, lying in a nursing home bed, and wishing I had done it. Someone once said "many things will catch your eye, few will catch your heart; pursue those." Well, there it is, my pearl of wisdom, don't hesitate to jump right in and follow your heart because life doesn't have a rewind button!

*Happy Trails Everyone!
Your President, Ron*

Upcoming Board Meetings
June 16, Caribou
August 4, Waterville
October 13, Bangor

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
JUNE 23, 2006

Good instincts usually tell you what to do before your head has figured it out
by Michael Burke

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES



By Kim Pelletier, CPMSM, CPCS

(Note: the text in italics is from the Essene Book of Days by Danaan Parry, 1994)

As you may remember, last year we found no candidates for the position of president-elect; so, I agreed to assume that office with the support of our membership. At that time, I was concerned that leaving the position empty would be detrimental to the Association. Although I have spent 8 years as a Board member in almost every position and was more than ready to let someone else lead our wonderful group, apparently my time was not yet up. A vote of the membership confirmed that. *(Sometimes I feel that my life is a series of trapeze swings. I am either hanging on to a trapeze bar swinging along or, for a few moments in my life, I'm hurtling across space in between trapeze bars.)*

However, late last year I made a decision to leave my full-time position at Acadia Hospital to venture out into the consulting world. This was not a decision made in haste or one that was on my current radar when agreeing to serve as president-elect. I have remained available and active in my position on the Board, however remotely. *(But, once in a while, as I'm merrily (or not so merrily) swinging along, I look ahead of me into the distance, and what do I see? I see another trapeze bar swinging toward me. It's empty, and I know, in that place in me that knows, that this new trapeze bar has my name on it. It is my next step, my growth, my aliveness coming to get me. In my heart-of-hearts, I know that for me to grow, I must release my grip on the present, well-known bar to move to the new one.)*

At first, it did not turn out as planned, but I now find myself in Fort Worth consulting for the second largest hospital in a large system (approximately 1200 providers). The respect of the client is immeasurable and the experience invaluable. What started as a 60-90 day assignment has turned into the "never-ending" assignment. *[No guarantees, no net, no insurance policy, but you do it anyway because somehow to keep hanging on to that old bar is no longer on the list of alternatives. I have a sneaking suspicion that the transition zone is the only real thing, and that the bars are illusions we dream up to avoid the void, where the real change, the real growth occurs for us. Whether or not my hunch is true, it remains that the transition zones in our lives are incredibly rich places. They should be honored, even savored. Yes, with all the pain and fear and feelings of being out-of-control that can (but not necessarily) accompany transitions, they are still the most alive, most growth-filled, passionate, expansive moments in our lives.]*

So now with an election year in front of us, I was asked whether or not I could fulfill my role as president with such an unpredictable schedule. This took an immense amount of soul searching on my part. My dedication and loyalty to our Association, and each one of you, is so strong that it has been a very difficult decision - one that was made jointly by the Board and me, and that was to not accede to the presidency. This decision was made with the Association's best interests at heart. I am in total agreement that the MeAMSS president would better serve everyone by being in-state and more readily available to one and all. I am truly honored to have been of service to you and am thankful beyond measure for the experience and knowledge gained throughout my tenure. Most of all, I am thankful for each relationship encountered along the way. *(And so, transformation of fear may have nothing to do with making fear go away, but rather with giving ourselves permission to "hang out" in the transition between trapeze bars. Transforming our need to grab that new bar, any bar, is allowing ourselves to dwell in the only place where change really happens. It can be terrifying. It can also be enlightening, in the true sense of the word. Hurtling through the void, we just may learn how to fly.)*

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

Kim

*****ALERT*****

A physician who was involved in more medical malpractice suits than any physician in West Virginia history (and who was featured in the October/November issue of *The Lighthouse*) has legally changed his name. In a March 13, 2006, petition before an Alabama probate judge, John Anderson King changed his name to Christopher Wallace Martin, citing a former coworker's attempt to steal his identity. King was involved in more than 100 medical malpractice suits stemming from his seven months of practice at a West Virginia hospital. Many of the suits alleged improper recruitment, credentialing and hiring practices on the part of the hospital. We cannot stress enough the importance of ensuring proper identification of all medical staff and allied health professional applicants and obtaining primary source verification of all past education, work, licensure and malpractice history for each applicant as delineated in the DHHS regulations.

Source: ECRI. A NONPROFIT AGENCY

Editor's Note: This article was a very timely submission as we have a speaker at the biennial conference discussing background checks:

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

By Debbie Hall, CPCS

Before instituting criminal background checks on physicians, one should try to address certain unanswered questions and concerns: These include Medical Staff buy-in, guidelines for evaluation and use of information, necessary changes to the credentialing manual and fair hearing plan to include the requirements of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, development of an administrative policy for sharing of reports for employed physicians with HR and funding of cost of obtaining the reports.

Medical Staff Buy-in

While the rationale for consistency between the employment process and the credentialing process is clear, the majority of the members of the Medical Staff are not hospital employees and are not subject to the same rules, standards, and regulations as employees. JCAHO standard HR.1.20 requires criminal background checks *only* if required by law or hospital policy. There are concerns about the effect of an administrative decision to mandate criminal background checks on all applicants without Medical Staff endorsement or input.

It may be a hard sell as Medical Staff credentialing and privileging regulations do not require criminal background checks. Primary source verification (PSV) of all education, training, licensure, malpractice history, and hospital affiliations is conducted, and the application asks very specific questions about any type of convictions or sanctions. We obtain written references including questions regarding sanctions and discipline. We also query the National Practitioner Data Bank, which gives us information about not only malpractice history, but licensure actions and other sanctions. The Chiefs and the Credentials Committee have a great deal of information at hand when they consider an applicant for Medical Staff membership and/or privileges. A recent Horthy-Springer audio conference indicated that when criminal background checks are done, previously-unknown information was discovered in approximately one to two percent of physicians, but cautioned that this information is often unlikely to make the applicant ineligible.

In short, according to Horthy & Springer, criminal background checks are, at this time, not part of the duty of credentialing, because a good, strong credentialing program will fulfill this duty.

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Guidelines for Use of Information

Once buy-in has been accomplished, guidelines for use of criminal background check information should be developed. In the past, we have had applicants who have revealed arrests and convictions for a variety of offenses and the Chiefs struggled with how to evaluate this information. Some were youthful mistakes made many years ago; some were serious crimes committed before life alterations and medical school. The Medical Staff would need to develop criteria for how this information would be used so that it would be applied consistently from Department to Department and Chief to Chief.

Questions would have to be considered, and guidelines established - would certain offences be grounds for automatic denial? How would we determine if a criminal history would impact on practitioners' clinical abilities? Chiefs would have to be educated on how to incorporate criminal background checks into their assessment of applicants, and how to do this equally for all applicants. If criminal background checks are not to be done at reappointment, do we need to develop criteria to do a check if issues or concerns arise with a particular practitioner? If reports are obtained on current staff members and information not previously reported by the staff member comes to light, what action will be taken regarding their membership?

Policy Changes

Criminal background checks would require revision of the Credentialing Procedures manual, and may also impact the Bylaws and Fair Hearing manual as well. If adverse action was being considered based on the criminal background check, the Fair Credit Reporting Act would require that we provide the practitioner with a copy of the report, and provide the physician with information regarding his or her right to appeal and corrections of erroneous information. This special notice would need to be incorporated into the Fair Hearing process as a first step. Legal Affairs would need to weigh in on this issue.

An administrative policy would need to be developed to outline the mechanism for sharing information on employed practitioners with the HR department identifying which applicants' background checks would be done by the Medical Staff Office and which by HR, and how, and at what stage of the process, and how this information would be shared.

Funding

A key consideration is how this would be paid for as quotes for the average cost per physician could be \$100. This is probably on the low side as physicians have generally resided in more than one legal jurisdiction requiring multiple state and county court record searches.

There are three potential sources for funding.

- the hospital absorbs the additional fee

- the Medical Staff will be asked to pay the fee - would require MEC, and perhaps Medical Staff, vote and approval.

- the applicant pays an additional assessment to cover the cost. If Medical Staff current application fees go to the Medical Staff account, the fee would need to be a separate payment directly to the hospital.

Once these issues are resolved, implementing criminal background checks is simply a matter of contracting with an appropriate vendor to do this work. It may be possible to use the same vendor that HR uses or it may be preferable to use a firm which specializes in medical staff background checks and has international sources for checking on foreign-born or foreign-trained physicians.

ELECTIONS

By Frederica Jackson, CPMSM and Patricia O'Connor, MS

Are you ready to step up into a leadership role?

The MeAMSS Nominating Committee will soon begin its work to prepare a slate of candidates for a new Board of Directors that will take office on January 1, 2007. Elections will take place in September of this year.

MeAMSS is an invaluable resource in our profession. The educational opportunities, networking, available media resources and strong professional relationships we've developed are worth their weight in gold. But this organization can't function without leadership.

Serving on the MeAMSS Board provides a chance to give voice to your thoughts and ideas and hone your leadership skills. It also presents an opportunity to shape the future of the profession to which you are dedicated.

To assist you in considering which positions might best suit your skills and interest, here's a brief synopsis about each of them. All are two-year terms:

PRESIDENT

As noted elsewhere in the newsletter, we are holding a special election for the office of President. The President serves as Chief Executive Officer of the State Association and as Chairperson of the Board of Directors. The President's main responsibilities are to provide leadership to the Board of Directors and the Association as a whole and to assure that the Board fulfills its responsibilities to the Association. The President works with other Board members as necessary to prepare an agenda and other meeting documents, keeps meeting discussion and debate focused on issues, and leads the Board to decisions on key issues. The President's authority is derived from the Bylaws of the Association. The President is informed about the Association's mission, policies, programs and services. The President contributes skills, knowledge and experience when appropriate by keeping current on developments in the Medical Staff Services field and serving as a technical resource for the Association as requested.

In order to be eligible to run for the President-elect position, you will need previous Board experience, preferably on the MeAMSS Board. You will also need to be an Active member of MeAMSS as well as NAMSS. It is preferred that you are NAMSS certified or at least pursuing certification.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Do you aspire to be the chief executive of a statewide organization? If so, you might want to consider the position of President-elect.

The President-elect plays an important role in the leadership of MeAMSS. He or she hones leadership skills in preparation for taking over as President of the Association. As part of that, he or she provides support to the President to ensure continuity of leadership and provides support to the other members of the Board of Directors in their projects and committee work.

The President-elect acts in the role of the Chairperson of the Board in the President's absence and also serves as Bylaws Chair.

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Elections Continued:

In order to be eligible to run for the President-elect position, you will need previous Board experience, preferably on the MeAMSS Board. You will also need to be an Active member of MeAMSS as well as NAMSS. It is preferred that you are NAMSS certified or at least pursuing certification.

TREASURER

Are you good at the numbers game? If so, you might be interested in running for Treasurer. The Treasurer maintains all the financial records of the Association (budget, income statement and balance sheet), maintains the checking account, collects and deposits dues and other revenues and also pays bills.

In order to be eligible to run for the Treasurer position, you will need to be an Active member of MeAMSS and it is preferred that you are certified by NAMSS or at least pursuing certification.

SECRETARY

Are you a detail-oriented individual who likes to keep track of things? If so, you might be interested in being the Board Secretary. The Secretary is responsible for recording the proceedings of all Board and Association meetings, distributing minutes and maintaining an orderly record of them.

In order to be eligible to run for the Secretary position, you will need to be an Active member of MeAMSS and it is preferred that you are certified by NAMSS or at least pursuing certification.

EDUCATION CHAIR

If you have skills or an interest in coordinating educational programs, think about the position of Education Chair. This Board member plays a key role in planning and organizing the MeAMSS educational programs. He or she works with a committee of fellow Board and Association members that he or she appoints. The individual elected to this position has the advantage of carrying on and further developing a program that already claims an excellent reputation.

In order to be eligible to run for the Education Chair, you will need to be an Active member of MeAMSS and it is preferred that you be certified by NAMSS or at least pursuing certification.

LIGHTHOUSE EDITOR

If you have an inquiring mind, an interest in writing and editing, and have an ear for newsworthy topics, this might be the job for you. Drawing on contributions from the MeAMSS membership and other professional sources, *The Lighthouse* Editor plays an essential role in the Association by keeping the membership informed of current developments in the field and sharing topics of interest. He or she compiles items and articles to be considered for inclusion in the *Lighthouse* and sees that it is published six times a year.

In order to be eligible to run for *The Lighthouse* Editor, you will need to be an Active member of MeAMSS and it is preferred that you are certified by NAMSS or at least pursuing certification.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

If you're into being the center of information, this position might be just the one for you. The Membership chair works closely with the Treasurer to maintain the membership roster. Other duties

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involve the dissemination of dues notes and acting as the point person for the email query process.

In order to be eligible to run for the Membership Chair, you will need to be an Active member of MeAMSS and it is preferred that you are certified by NAMSS or at least pursuing certification.

MEDIA SPECIALIST

If you are good at keeping current on developments in the Medical Staff Services field and have an interest in learning more about the technical aspects of a website, you might want to consider this position. The Media Specialist plays a key role in promoting the organization and serves as a collection site in order to provide the members with information regarding media sources available to them. This person acts as liaison between the Board the website developer.

In order to be eligible to run for the Media Specialist, you will need to be an Active member of MeAMSS and it is preferred that you are certified by NAMSS or at least pursuing certification.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

The Member-at-Large provides an opportunity to “make history”. This Board member serves as Association historian and as such works with the Past President and Secretary in collecting and archiving Association historical information. He or she also serves as a resource to individuals pursuing NAMSS certification.

In order to be eligible to run for the Member-at-Large, you will need to be an Active member of MeAMSS and it is preferred that you are certified by NAMSS or at least pursuing certification.

The Nominating Committee will soon begin active recruitment of these Board positions, but don't wait for us to call you. Be one step ahead to step up! If you have interest in any of the above positions, contact Frederica Jackson, Past President and nominating Committee Chair at jacksonf@mercyme.com.

MeAMSS Board

President

Ron Lambert, CPCS
rlambert@yorkhospital.com

President Elect

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Past-President

Frederica Jackson, CPMSM
jacksonf@mercyme.com

Secretary

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Membership Chair

Jamie Mark, CPCS
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Member –at-Large

Rebecca West
bwest@carymed.org

Upcoming Education Sessions

May 18 and 19, 2006

Biennial Conference

Village by the Sea, Wells, Maine

August 18, 2006*

Penobscot Bay Medical Center
Rockport, ME

November 3, 2006*

St. Joseph Hospital, Bangor, ME

**We're on the Web!
Check us out!
meamss.org**

Shamanic Practice: How Does It Fit Into Today's Healthcare Picture?

By Patricia O'Connor, MS, CSP

CSP, the initials after my name stand for Certified Shamanic Practitioner. Yes, that's what I am, in addition to being a medical staff services professional. Although Maine does not yet offer certification for shamanic practitioners, I attained this credential while living in Colorado.

I found myself on a shamanic path over 25 years ago and have studied with a variety of indigenous teachers as well as core shamanism teachers. I am in the process of completing a graduate program in shamanic studies.

Just prior to relocating to Colorado 3 ½ years ago, I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Within a few days of arriving there, I found I also had renal cell carcinoma. This meant I would be dealing with the most serious illnesses of my life in a medical community totally unknown to me. This situation put my belief and trust in my shamanic practice to the ultimate test. My spiritual practice, combined with scientific medicine, allowed me to be healed with a minimal amount of stress, pain and side effects. Although I have been doing spiritual work with others for many years, it was my own healing that prompted me to write this article.

What is shamanism?

Over tens of thousands of years ago, our ancient ancestors all over the world discovered how to maximize human abilities of mind and spirit for healing and problem solving. The remarkable system of methods they developed is today known as "shamanism."

Shamanism is the earliest spiritual practice known to humankind, dating back tens of thousands of years. Although the word "shaman" is a Siberian word for a spiritual healer, shamanism has been practiced in parts of Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia, Greenland, and native North and South America throughout history. The fact that the practice has survived and thrived for thousands of years speaks to the potency of the work.

"Shamanism teaches us that everything that exists is alive and has a spirit and that we are joined with the earth and all of life via our spiritual interconnectedness."

From Sandra Ingerman's book, [Shamanic Journeying: A Beginners Guide](#)

As anthropologists began to study these cultures throughout the world, they began to discover similarities in the various practices. While there were differences specific to culture, removing the cultural references revealed a core system of practice. The core practices are called "core shamanism", a phrase coined by Michael Harner.

"Shamanism is a path of knowledge, not of faith, and that knowledge cannot come from me or anyone else in this reality. To acquire that knowledge, including the knowledge of the reality of the spirits, it is necessary to step through the shaman's doorway and acquire empirical evidence." (Michael Harner, PhD, Founder and President of the Foundation for Shamanic Studies)

Put simply, shamanism is an ancient, global spiritual practice in which all of nature is understood as living and filled with spirit. From a shamanic perspective, the spirit or power of any living being may be wounded or partially lost from the effects of trauma, grief, injuring or disease.

What do shamans do?

The shaman's role is to search out the lost fragments of the spirit (also referred to as self or soul) and retrieve them safely back to the individual, restoring wholeness and the ability to move through life with full power.

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Shamanic Practice Continued

Since Nature abhors a vacuum, free-floating spiritual energy, that is not our own, may enter to fill the space left by our own spirit's loss. Energy workers may feel this as a "block" in the body. This intrusive energy is removed by the shaman to make way for the returning spirit.

All work is strictly determined by the teachers that work with the shaman in the spirit realms. This is because it is the Spirit that actually has the power to heal. The shaman is simply the humble intermediary between this visible world and the unseen world of Spirit.

A shaman then is a man or woman who attains direct interaction with the spirit world to address the spiritual aspects of emotional and physical illness, stress and imbalance.

In our modern, rational society there is a tendency to scoff at the possibility of spirit guides and spirit teachers; however, there was a time when humanity recognized itself as part of nature and nature as part of itself. Dreaming and waking were inseparable realities; the natural and the supernatural merged and blended.

Spirit beings, no matter what form they take, fill our ancient myths and scriptures. When beliefs are as universal as these, some credence should be given them. Spirit beings help to empower and protect us; they help us to recognize our own innate abilities.

How do shamans find their spirit teachers?

The reality we live in every day, the things that we see, touch, hear and feel is what is referred to in shamanic terms as "ordinary reality." There is, however, another reality - "nonordinary reality." Nonordinary reality is the place where the spiritual energy of all things and a tremendous wealth of untapped knowledge exists. It is in this reality that shamans or shamanic practitioners find their teachers and do their work.

Shamans learn basic methods to connect with the spirit world or "nonordinary reality" for problem solving, well-being and healing. This is done by shamanic journeying or entering into a state of altered consciousness. A slow monotonous rhythm utilizing a drum or rattle and played at the rate of four to five beats or shakes per second is often used to enter into a state of altered consciousness. This frequency corresponds to what neurophysiologists call the theta brain-wave rhythm. Clear intention and trust are key when undertaking a shamanic journey.

The journey provides a tool for gaining spiritual knowledge. The shamanic journey can take place in the upper world, middle world or lower world. Many start their journey in a place that is familiar and comfortable to them in ordinary reality - a favorite place in nature. A journey destination can exist in ordinary or nonordinary reality because the destination is not bound by rules of gravity but the rules of energy. The purpose and intention of the journey determines what places will be visited.

Once in non-ordinary reality, and with the intention of meeting the entities in the spirit world that are their spirit helpers, the shaman meets with his or her "cosmic committee." This committee is composed of entities that the shaman has become familiar with through several shamanic journeys. They can be ancestors, real or mythical beings, power animals, elementals, plants or sentient beings from other worlds. It is through interaction with these spirit helpers that the shaman does the work. The shaman uses a variety of practices to achieve the spiritual healing.

"Our reality is affected by the world of spirit and the invisible realms produce all that is physical in nature. It is therefore possible to see how, by working within the realm of spirit, the shamanic

Shamanic Practice Continued

practitioner's work is capable of affecting a healing for the entire person." (Evelyn Rysdyk, Shamanic Teacher, Healer and Artist, Author of Modern Shamanic Living)

Anyone can learn to journey. As a matter of fact, teaching this process is one of the most gratifying aspects of my shamanic work. Once we invite our spirit helpers and teachers into our lives, asking them to provide us with guidance and wisdom, power and protection, information and support, the whole game of life changes. It can become an immeasurably enriched adventure.

How does all this fit in with healthcare today?

There is a trend in our society today to combine conventional medical care with complementary therapies. Studies have shown that the American public willingly pays millions of non-reimbursed dollars for alternative or complementary health care resources. I believe that there are many paths to healing and that the integration of these resources leads to the most effective and satisfying outcomes. Shamanism is one of these resources.

There are many types of shamanism and many traditions of shamanic healing, but the core of all shamanic practice is about helping and healing.

If you have an interest in learning more about the processes used by shamanic practitioners, contact me at poconnor62@msn.com. If there is enough response, I will write another article.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

jcaho.org
namss.org
dochboard.org
msleader.com
msspnextus.com
qualityforum.org
credentialinfo.com

www.npdb-hipdb.com/npdb/html/00010_frameset.htm
www.npdb-hipdb.com/hipdb/html/00010_frameset.htm

(The last two are interactive quiz sites)

Editor's Note

Just a reminder to all of you... Anyone who submits an article or tidbit that is published in the newsletter will have his/her name included in the drawing at the November meeting for a free 2007 MeAMSS membership.

Contributors to Date

Joyce Allen, CPMSM
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Mary Gifford, CPMSM
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Ron Lambert, CPCS
Jamie Mark, CPCS
Kim Pelletier, CPMSM, CPCS
MaryCarol Rumsey, CPMSM
Rebecca West

Submitted by Rebecca West, Cary Medical Center: On-Line Verification of AANA certification. Go to www.aana.com. You will need the last 4 digits of applicant's social security and the AANA #. Then you need to click on "Credentialing". If you are checking for the initial certification date, you then click on "Certification", then "Verify Certification". If you need to get the recertification expiration date, you need to click on "Recertification", then "Verify Recertification."

Edna York, CPCS, A Former President of MeAMSS

Hi Mary Carol & Claudia,

How are you all doing? I am here in Longview Texas and doing okay... GSMC has 412 licensed beds and is a Trauma II hospital in a small city. Longview has 77,000 population. We are also the CVO for the ambulatory surgery center, managed care and another hospital we just purchased (only 25 beds). It has been a challenge. I have been here almost 2 years.

Unfortunately, I am not going to be in Maine in May. I am there in August, not May. I also may be there in June. It would have been great to see everyone. I saw the flyer (the program looks great) and it made me homesick. I look at the logo and remember the choice samples Pat O'Connor presented. I think of the friendship and bonds that were made and the fact that I am still in contact with several friends. Everyone worked hard and the benefits were beyond our expectations, at least mine anyway.

I realize how far MeAMSS has come over the last 10 years and how much it has grown. The membership should be proud of everything that has been accomplished. It has taken a lot of work and the dedication of its members to be where it is today! I belong to the East Texas Chapter of TSMSS and am very comfortable being a member! The President of the Chapter does everything - sends the notices to the meetings, schedules the conferences and the speakers. The membership attends the meetings and is involved, but I saw more passion in Maine or maybe I am just prejudiced! I enjoy it, but was more involved in Maine.

Is anyone going to NAMSS conference in Atlanta? I am going this year. I will go every other since TSMSS is huge, I alternate between the two each year. The program for TSMSS is usually very, very good!

Feel free to give out my number and e-mail address. My personal e-mail address is emymaine@yahoo.com.
