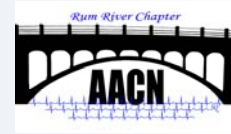


# THE CURRENT

SEPTEMBER 2010



## IN THIS ISSUE

SEPTEMBER MEETING	2
COMMUNITY SERVICE	3
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE	3
NOVEMBER MINI-CONFERENCE	4
WEBSITE UPDATE	4
BOARD PROFILES	4 5
BEACON UPDATE	5

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 28  
1600-1800  
Chapter Picnic  
Park Shelter #2  
Lion's
- November 12  
0945-1415  
Conference—4 CEU  
Mercy LL  
HC 1 & 2  
Con-
- January—Community  
Service Project  
TBD
- February—Certification  
Study Group  
Dates/Times  
TBD
- March 19  
Certification Dinner
- April TBD  
Certification Review  
Debra Tuggle
- April 30-May 5  
NTI Chicago

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY LOUISE JACOBS

Welcome to the Rum River Chapter newsletter "The Current" and my first Presidential message. I am so excited to be the Sixth President of the chapter. I was one of the founding members of the chapter and my first role was Secretary. Over the years I have seen great change and growth in our chapter. The chapter has over 80 members and that number continues to increase. The education has been high caliber and to top it off the chapter makes money. Very few chapters have done as much as we have in such a short period of time.

What more could a President ask for? To Stand Tall.

According to our AACN National President, Kristine Peterson, the AACN theme for this year is to

have all members Stand Tall in everything that we do. We as nurses need to be proud and enjoy what we do everyday. We need to speak up. We need to work together because together we can do anything that we want. We need to recognize the unique and indispensable role we play in our patients' lives. Another key piece of standing tall is to celebrate our work and successes.

In July I held a four hour retreat with chapter board members and past presidents. It was very energizing and we came up with lots of new ideas on how to incorporate the Stand Tall theme into our chapter. We took a stab at setting goals for our upcoming year.



Louise Jacobs  
President  
Rum River Chapter AACN  
2010-2011

The first goal is to have the education fit the needs of the chapter members. We are going to be doing a switch this fall and not have the late afternoon education and chapter meetings but to have a four hour education session during

## STAND TALL NATIONAL AACN PRESIDENT'S THEME

**Stand Tall** is the AACN president's theme for 2010-2011. The theme was unveiled at the NTI in Washington, D.C., on May 19.

**Stand Tall** means to recognize the unique and indispensable role nurses play. Recognize it, understand it, articulate it, own it, accept responsibility for it, and celebrate it.

**Stand Tall** — be proud of what you do.

**Stand Tall** — speak up.

**Stand Tall** — together we can do more.

**Stand Tall** — own the outcomes of your work.

**Stand Tall** — enjoy what you do.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED



Rum River Chapter Board posing with Stan Tall at the August retreat.

the day in November. More information will be coming out about this education.

The second goal is to increase our work in community service. Sheila Micka has agreed to be our Outreach coordinator and she will focus her time on how the chapter can move forward on this goal.

The third goal is to integrate the AACN initiatives into our chapter work. The initiatives are the Beacon Award, Certification and Healthy Work Environment.

And lastly, the fourth goal is chapter recognition through AACN. The board would like to apply for one of the AACN

Circle of Excellence awards. Those of you who have attended NTI will be familiar with these awards. We need to toot our horn and be proud of our work and celebrate.

The board will continue to work on these goals but we need all members to participate. Your feedback is essential, this is your chapter. I invite all chapter members to our first all member chapter meeting scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at a new location – Lions Park in Coon Rapids, shelter #2. The board wanted to try something new with this meeting. We wanted to make it fun. No education will be provided just a chapter meeting with planned activities. April Lenzmeier will be coordinating the fun activities. April has taken on the role of Activity Coordinator for our chapter. More details for this meeting will be coming from April and me.

I want to thank two outgoing board members, Theresa Anderson, Webmaster and pay pal guru and Lisa Iverson, Past President. Both have contributed a

tremendous amount of time and energy to our chapter – Thank you so much.

Welcome to our newest board members this year. Mischa Adams will be taking on a new role to the chapter– Treasurer Elect. Pam Madrid will be taking over as our newsletter editor from April Lenzmeier. April has wanted to focus on coordinating the Certification Study Sessions planned for this winter along with being the chapter's Activity Coordinator. Jeanne Boespflug is our new President Elect, Jeanne was a prior Secretary for our chapter. Karen Schulz will be taking over as Webmaster from Theresa Anderson. A new role was developed to oversee our community outreach efforts, thank you to Sheila Micka for agreeing to take it on.

In closing I want to please encourage you to attend the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. I and the rest of the board need your input. Without you we can't Stand Tall.

Louise

## SEPTEMBER 28TH CHAPTER MEETING: COME AND HEAR THE NEW PLAN

Mark your calendars for September 28<sup>th</sup>! There will be an all chapter meeting at Coon Rapids Lion's Park from 1600-1800. This is a rain or shine event held in a covered shelter.

A box supper will be provided. Outdoor games will be available.

The Rum River Chapter Board will present the annual work plan for the year, including presentation of the education

plan for the year. This is a great opportunity to learn more about your local chapter and meet Stan Tall.

Please bring a colleague who is interested in AACN. For every person you bring, your name will go into a prize drawing.

RSVP via Rum River Chapter on Facebook or email e-vite you received.

See **YOU** there!!



Stan Tall

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**SHEILA MICKA—COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

Rum River Chapter is dedicated to the ideal of giving back to our community. To facilitate and support community based activities a new committee, Community Outreach, has been added to our chapter. Sheila Micka will be leading this committee for the first two years.

Here is a summary of potential activities this year. If you would like to volunteer for any of these, please let Sheila know.

- December - Christmas family
- January - TBD (possibly Feed My Starving Children)
- May - Stroke Screening

Summer of 2011 - Bike Safety Camps

Chapter Meetings - \$\$ to food shelf

Come to the September meeting to hear more about these activities and the potential for assisting at a Wellness Clinic.

**Service to others is the payment you make for your space here on earth.**

*Mohammed Ali*

**SUMMER VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY: BIKE SAFETY CAMP**

**SHEILA MICKA—COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

Mercy Hospital Trauma Services presents brain injury prevention and bike helmet safety at 6 local community safety camps, including Andover, Coon Rapids, Blaine, Ramsey, Fridley and New Brighton/Mounds View each summer. The camps are held for two days for 8-10 year olds. Mercy has been presenting at these camps for 10+ years and it is always a great success. Rum River Chapter has assisted at these camps the past three years as one of our community service pro-

jects. This past summer our chapter was represented by:

- Ruth and Larry Bachmeier
- Mary Hendricks
- Mary Swander
- Melissa Soderquist
- Sheila Micka

This is a four hour volunteer activity that goes very quickly and is very rewarding. This year, "Stan Tall", the AACN theme mascot made an appearance at the New Brighton camp.



Stan Tall attended Bike Safety Camp, dressed appropriately in bike safety gear. Notice him in the front of the crowd. GO STAN!!



**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

**DEB FERGUSON—SECRETARY**

**WELCOME** to the new members!

- Natasha Cook—3W
- Cindy Lehman—4H
- Shannon Mooney—4H
- Janelle Jorde—4H
- Shannon Beck—4H

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the recently certified chapter members:

- Shannon Beck CCRN
- Teri Rennaker PCCN
- Miranda Foy PCCN

We are growing! RRC currently has a total of 79 members in the chapter.

**Local membership:** Annual renewal will occur this fall. There is no local member fee, but you must indicate that you wish to renew. More info to come.

**National membership:** If you need to renew your national membership, you can purchase a bulk membership from the chapter for \$69 for a savings of \$9.

## STAND TALL: ESSENTIALS IN CRITICAL CARE MINI-CONFERENCE

The Rum River Chapter is sponsoring a half-day mini-conference this fall. Brochures will be coming out soon so look for them on your units and in your email.

The mini-conference will offer 4.0 CEU. The cost will be \$25 for local Rum River Chapter members and \$50 for any other participants. Lunch is included. It will be held at Mercy Hospital in the Lower Level Heart Center Conference Room 1 and 2.

The following is a tentative agenda for the conference.

- 0945 Registration
- 1000 Severe Alcohol Withdrawal- John Tomlin, MD
- 1100 Tako-tsubo Cardiomyopathy—Ken Olsen, MD
- 1150 Break- Lunch
- 1215 Pneumonia: How Do We Know?—Brad Chmielewski, MD
- 1315 Pitfalls in Hemodynamic Monitoring—Paul Youngquist, MD
- 1405 Conference evaluation

Registration will soon be available at:

[www.rumriverchapteraacn.com](http://www.rumriverchapteraacn.com)



## WEBSITE UPDATE

### KAREN SCHULZ-WEBMASTER



The Chapter website is under construction! Theresa Anderson, former Webmaster, developed a great website platform on which to build. The goal is for the website to be the 'one stop' place to find information about chapter activities with full-service functionality fea-

tures including course registration, payment, and RSVP. The website will also provide links to other professional organizations and websites of clinical interest. Please visit the website frequently!

[www.rumriverchapteraacn.com](http://www.rumriverchapteraacn.com)

## BOARD MEMBER PROFILE—LOUISE JACOBS

### PRESIDENT

**Tell us about your life outside of Mercy Hospital.**

I am almost an empty nester, my youngest is going to be a senior in high school this year and I have two in college. I enjoy exercising, knitting and reading. My latest book I read was *The Girl Who Played with Fire* by Stieg Larsson. Awesome read! I have a puppy named Scout who likes to cause me a little trouble at home, for some reason he likes to play in my knitting bag and get tangled up in the yarn. He is so darn cute, I can't be mad at him for long.

**What would you be doing if you weren't a nurse?**

I wanted to be the forensic coroner at a large metropolitan hospital. I love books and movies about those roles.

**Describe your position in the chapter.**

I am the President which is a great honor and privilege. As President I over-see a lot of the work going on in the chapter. I along with other board members develop the budget and goals for the year. I am the liaison between the national office and the Rum River Chapter. My goal is to continue to have the chapter move forward and not become stagnant and to have active members.

**Why did you volunteer to be active in the Rum River Chapter?**



I love critical care nursing and love to be involved. I have seen what AACN can offer to its members and I want to be a part of that. It is our professional organization and I want to continue to grow.

## BEACON UPDATE-WHAT'S NEW?

This year, the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) is updating criteria for the Beacon Award for Excellence. While the application looks different, most of the information and/or data required are the same. The new information can be found in the Application Handbook, the Executive Summary and the Beacon Audit tool.

The Beacon Award for Excellence will continue to incorporate: Leadership Structures and Systems; Appropriate Staffing and Staff Engagement; Effective Communication, Knowledge Management and Best Practices; Evidence-based Practice and Processes; and Patient Outcomes. **Open to all units:**

Any hospital unit (wherever a patient receives principal nursing care after hospital admission) that cares for high acuity and critically ill patients and meets evidence-based standards of excellence and patient safety can apply. In the past, only adult and pediatric critical care units and progressive care units were eligible.

**Status Change:** The Beacon Award will include three levels so that a unit can chart its excellence journey over time. Bronze, silver and gold recipients receive a three-year designation.

**Multiple program criteria:** New criteria align closely with those of other making

it easier when a hospital applies for multiple national recognition programs.

**Linked to nursing-sensitive outcomes:** Nursing-sensitive patient benchmark data will be required.

**Simpler to apply:** A streamlined one-time review process will provide timely feedback. Every application will receive a summary review with recommendations. Eligible applications will receive the Beacon Award designation.

Online award application will be available starting Nov. 1, 2010.

For more info, go to:

[www.aacn.org/Beacon](http://www.aacn.org/Beacon)



## BOARD MEMBER PROFILE—JEANNE BOESPFLUG PRESIDENT-ELECT

**Tell us about your life outside of Mercy Hospital.**

I enjoy traveling and golfing with my husband, working in the yard, and sewing. I have three children, a son and twin girls. My son just got married, so I have a wonderful daughter-in-law now. And one of my daughters is engaged.

**What would you be doing if you weren't a nurse?**

Probably be an elementary teacher.

**Describe your position in the chapter.**

I am the President-elect. So, during this year I'm going to learn as much as I can about

the presidency, so next year when I take over as President, I hopefully will know what I'm doing! I have also held the position of Secretary/Membership in the chapter.

**Why did you volunteer to be active in the Rum River Chapter?**

I have been with the chapter since it started and have enjoyed being active with the chapter. You are able to interact with other critical care nurses and learn evidence-based best practices.



# Contact Us

## RUM RIVER CHAPTER AACN

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Website: [www.rumriverchapter.com](http://www.rumriverchapter.com)

Facebook: Rum River Chapter AACN

### 2010-2011 Chapter Officers

President: Louise Jacobs

President-elect: Jeanne Boespflug

Past President: Sue Willoughby

Secretary: Debra Ferguson

Treasurer: Lori Weaver

Treasurer-elect: Mischa Adams

Education Chair: Angelina Buerck

Webmaster: Karen Schulz

Newsletter: Pam Madrid

Community Service: Sheila Micka

Activities Coordinator: April Lenzmeier

Certification Study Group: April Lenzmeier



### Our Mission Statement

The Rum River Chapter of AACN provides and inspires leadership to establish work and care environments that are respectful and healing. The key to Rum River Chapter's success is through its members. Therefore, Rum River Chapter is committed to providing the highest quality resources to maximize nurses' contribution to improving the healthcare of acutely and critically ill patients and families. As a community based association, the Rum River Chapter is committed to involvement in improving the health of the community through service projects and education. The Rum River Chapter strives to empower students to increase their knowledge of the critical care nursing environment.

### Our Vision Statement

The Rum River Chapter is dedicated to supporting a healthcare system driven by the needs of patients and families where acute and critical care nurses make their optimal contribution.

## RUM RIVER CHAPTER REPRESENTED: NATIONAL TEACHING INSTITUTE (NTI)



Some members of the Rum River Chapter attended National Teaching Institute (NTI) in Washington DC in May. They attended the President's reception and had this picture taken with AACN President Kristine Peterson.



Karen Schulz and Theresa Anderson presented a Chapter Creative Solutions poster entitled "Testing With Intention: Providing Structured Study Groups to Increase Certification Exam Success".

*The Current is looking for articles and pictures of members. If you have something you wish published in this newsletter, please forward to [Pamela.Madrid@Allina.com](mailto:Pamela.Madrid@Allina.com).*