



# What's Tapaning

Texas Association of Perianesthesia Nurses District 9 Volume I, Number I

## Transforming Care Through Knowledge

### Special points of interest:

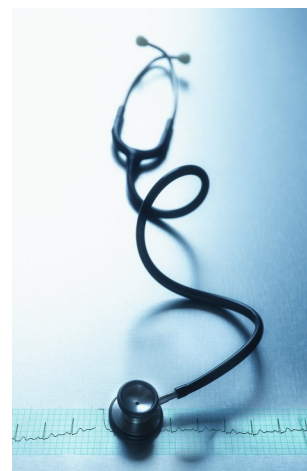
- \* District 9 celebrates PANAW
- \* A community of nurses who care
- \* Winkler County Nurse trial
- \* TAPAN 2010
- \* Professional resolutions
- \* What's for supper!

### Inside this issue:

A Community of Caring	2
Not Guilty!	2
District 9 in Overdrive	3
What's for Supper	3
Editors Message	4

In typical District 9 fashion, the new year was kicked off in style. February 6th marked the celebration of Perianesthesia Nurses Awareness Week with our first seminar: Transforming Care Through Knowledge; Improving Patient Outcomes in the Perianesthesia Patient. A huge success, nearly 50 nurses and nursing students attended the half day seminar hosted by Hendrick Medical Center and Abilene Regional Medical Center. Breakfast, lunch, door prizes and 4 CEU's were offered for a bargain price. Melody Cusson, MA, RRT, RCP kicked off the morning with Using ABG's to Make Ventilator Changes. After a quick review of acid base balance, ABG's and the compensated patient, we were off to ventilator land. If you ever wondered, or knew once but had forgotten, what all those buttons were for on your ventilated patient, you had a

better idea at the end of Melody's review. A quick break and Maria Victoria Yoes RN MSN, CCRN, NP-C began her portion of the seminar, Cardiovascular Medications in the Perianesthesia Setting. Once again we were treated to a comprehensive review of sympathetic and parasympathetic receptors, determinants of cardiac output, and common cardiovascular medications used in the perianesthesia patient. Gayle Stegall RN BSN, CAPN wrapped up the morning with her segment Tips on Getting Certified. For all of us who envy those who are certified, and long to join them, Gayle showed the detailed steps to achieving those coveted letters after your name. So if you are wishing you had not missed this seminar, let not your heart be troubled. District 9 has much more to come in 2010. Stay tuned!



The place to improve the world is first in one's own heart and head and hands. Robert M. Pirsig

## Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week

Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week was honored in a special way this year when Abilene Mayor Norm Archibald issued a special proclamation for the city, proclaiming February 1-7, 2010 as "Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week".

The proclamation included perianesthesia nurses practicing in all phases of perianesthesia, post anesthesia, ambulatory care, pain management and special procedure areas.

The proclamation honored and celebrated the accomplishments and

efforts of perianesthesia nurses, as well as their efforts to improve the quality of nursing practices and patient care for the citizens of Abilene and the nation.

## A Community of Nurses Who Care

Tapn District 9 nurses aren't confined to the hospital setting in their care for their community. 2009 provided many opportunities to give back to the community and TAPAN nurses answered the call.

Spring 2009 was kicked off with the American Heart Association Heart walk at Nelson Park. Abilene Regional Medical Center perianesthesia nurses gathered up their tennies, family members and dogs and hit the trail in support of heart health.

The 2009 holiday season experienced an even greater need than usual due to the tough economic conditions. Serenity House of Abilene and Abilene Food Bank were supported through the efforts of Hendrick Medical Center and Abilene Regional Medical Center perianesthesia nurses who collected

food donations for both organizations through the 2009 holiday season.

Mission Thanksgiving was also supported with collections of food, clothing, household items and monetary donations by Abilene Regional Surgery Center perianesthesia nurses.



## NOT GUILTY! The Winkler County Nurse Trial

It took the jury less than an hour to end what has come to be known as the "Winkler County Nurses trial" on February 11, 2010. Anne Mitchell RN faced third degree felony charges for "misuse of official information" for reporting a physician to the Texas Medical Board (TMB) for what she believed to be unsafe patient care.

The saga began June 2009 when Anne Mitchell and co-defendant Vicki Galle RN reported to the TMB concerns they had regarding the standard of care provided by a physician practicing at Winkler County Memorial Hospital and Winkler County Rural Health Clinic. In a separate trial Galle's case was dismissed February 1st.

When the TMB notified the physician that he had been reported, the physician filed a harassment complaint with the sheriff's office. Vicki and Anne were identified as filing the report, and the sheriff was able to obtain a warrant to seize their work computers, finding a copy of the letter sent to the TMB. Indictments ensued against both nurses for misuse of official information, charging that they took non-public information namely to harm the physician by forwarding it to the TMB. Supposedly this information contained

patient information, including patient case numbers. Under the Texas Penal Code, misuse of information is a third-degree felony that carries the potential for two-to-ten years imprisonment and upwards of a \$10,000 fine.

Both nurses had been employed by Winkler County Memorial hospital for over 20 years. Vicki was in charge of Quality Improvement/Utilization Management, and Anne was the hospital's Compliance Officer until they were terminated. It is the Texas Nurses Association (TNA) understanding that concerns raised within the facility were not being sufficiently addressed to assure patient safety, which prompted the letter to the TMB.

This was the first case in Texas in which nurses have been criminally charged for acting as patient advocates. The TNA became involved and established the TNA Legal Defense Fund to support Vicki and Anne and other nurses who are retaliated

against because they advocated for patients. Over \$45,000 was donated by individuals and organizations across the country to the fund.

"I was just doing my job...this whole ordeal was really about patient care," relayed a jubilant Anne Mitchell in a phone conversation with TNA immediately following the verdict.

On hearing the not guilty verdict Susy Sportsman, PhD, RN president of TNA stated "If anything was to be gained from the absurdity of this criminal trial, it is the reaffirmation that a nurse's duty to advocate for the health and safety of patients supersedes all else."

**A nurses duty to  
advocate for the  
health and safety  
of patients  
supersedes all  
else**

## DISTRICT 9 IN OVERDRIVE

Because of the lack of a newsletter of late many members have wondered what, if anything, our district is up to. With declining participation in districts much larger than ours, it is good to know that we are still going strong.

Plans in the works for 2010 include the coming of a new TAPAN District 9 website. Currently under construction, the web address will be Tapandistrict9.org. This will be frequently updated, with the most current information on our district happenings just a click away. A go-live date is forthcoming.

Mark the date June 5th on your calendar and plan to attend the summer seminar. Still in the planning stages, the hosting

hospital is Hendrick Medical Center. We will have updates on information for hotels and restaurants for those planning to attend from out of town. And as always, students are welcome!

Following the seminar we will hold a meeting to discuss nomination of district officers. What a wonderful time to contribute to your organization. You are encouraged to start thinking now about how you can get involved in TAPAN. Remember, many hands make for light work.

An exciting addition to District 9 coming this fall is a review for the CAPA/CPAN exam. We plan to schedule this right before the fall certification exams. More details will be published on this as they become available.

As many of you know we are in the midst of a redistricting. TAPAN on the road will be arriving in Abilene June 5th. We will be applying for 4 CEU's for this seminar. State officers will be coming and a board meeting will follow.

September 17th to the 19th marks our 34th annual state conference. Seeds for Growth, Harvesting Knowledge is being hosted at the Hilton DFW Lakes Conference Center in Grapevine. See you there!



**Twenty years  
from now you will  
be more  
disappointed by  
the things you  
didn't do than by  
the ones you did.**

**Mark Twain**

## What's for Supper??? Santa Fe Soup

2 lbs ground turkey or beef  
Onion, chopped  
2 pkg ranch salad dressing  
2 pkg taco seasoning mix  
1 can each: black beans,  
kidney beans,  
pinto beans,  
diced tomatoes with/chilies,  
stewed tomatoes,  
white corn

2 cups water  
Sour cream  
Cheddar cheese, shredded  
Green onion, sliced

Saute ground turkey (or lean beef) until browned. Add onions & cook for 5 minutes. Drain fat—if any. Add remaining ingredients undrained, and water. Simmer for 2 hours. Serve with tortilla chips, garnish with sour cream, cheese, and green onions

Serving size 10 to 12

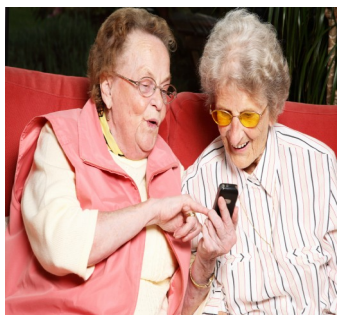
Per serving (excluding unknown items) 407 calories, 14g Protein; 41g Carbohydrate; 7mg Cholesterol; 890mg Sodium



## Abilene/San Angelo/Midland District Contacts

### *Executive Members*

President	Elena Abaquin	Abilene, TX 79606 <a href="mailto:manang@suddenlink.net">manang@suddenlink.net</a>
Vice-President	Tonya Green	Anson, TX 79501 <a href="mailto:tonya092053@gmail.com">tonya092053@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Kimberly Malone	Abilene, TX 79606 <a href="mailto:Kimi.k@scglobal.net">Kimi.k@scglobal.net</a>
Treasurer	Ann Floyd	Abilene, TX 79606 <a href="mailto:annscabin@bellsouth.net">annscabin@bellsouth.net</a>
Historian	Charon Howell	Abilene, TX 79602 <a href="mailto:charsmare@clearwire.net">charsmare@clearwire.net</a>



Abilene Regional Medical Center  
Abilene Regional Surgery Center  
Hendrick Medical Center  
San Angelo

Vicky Lessing	325-428-1550
Jackie Clinkinbeard	325-794-5450
Edna Pabruada	325-670-2274
Susan Elftman	
Susan Hinson	325-486-5823

### **A Quick Note from Charon**

Hi Guys!

It's been a privilege to revive the newsletter. There are so many exciting things happening in our organization. But TAPAN is about you, your gifts, accomplishments, growth, and contributions to your profession.

Although this newsletter seemed to mainly focus on Abilene, I know there are lots of things going on in other cities. Please keep me informed of what you are doing so that I may use this medium to toot your horn, promote your event and encourage participation.

Especially with the expansion of

our district, there are many hospitals that are not currently active in TAPAN and we would like to reach out to them and include them as well. But I can't do this without your input. Please contact me on the web at [charsmare@clearwire.net](mailto:charsmare@clearwire.net) with anything you would like mentioned in the newsletter.

We're coming to the web!!!  
[Tapandistrict9.org](http://Tapandistrict9.org)

Happy Spring!!!!

