

HISTORY OF DISTRICT NUMBER 1,
OREGON STATE GRADUATE NURSES' ASSOCIATION

With Preliminary History of the Gold Samaritan Alumnae Association

XI.

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Where we find people living in groups, whatever the group basis upon which they live, we find habitual, set and highly concentrated behavior. The more complex the group organization becomes, the more significant routinized behavior becomes.

Thus the graduate nurse, being sent out from the hospital into a chaotic group of trained, semi-trained and untrained workers all struggling for employment found that in order to maintain her identity, she must in some way have a recognized group as her advisor. As more and more nurses were graduated and many migrated to fresher fields, the need of some authorized group as counsel was felt. It began to seem that the standards of the nurse herself would be jeopardized if she was to depend upon those from other professions to advise her. After leaving her hospital she must cope unaided with many new and difficult situations. Furthermore the untrained person very soon attempted to pose as trained nurses at the expense of the public and to the detriment of the qualified trained nurse.

These two problems were matters of much discussion and English nurses attempted to cope with them first. Many felt that the problem of registering graduate nurses was an employment agency problem and was the sole problem of the hospital. Such strong opinions were aired that two groups were formed so that today there are two separate British organizations.

The objectives of the British Nurses Association, officially organized in 1888 by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, are fundamental in every nurses organization, although drastic strides have been made since that time. These three objectives were:

1. To unite all qualified British Nurses in membership of a recognized profession.
2. To provide for their registration on terms satisfactory to physicians and surgeons as evidence of their having received systematic training.
3. To associate them for mutual help and protection and for the advancement in every way of their professional work.

When less than ten years later there was formed in our own country, the "Nurse's Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada", which later divided and the American branch became the American Nurses Association, many difficulties encountered by the formation of the British Nurses Association were avoided. This organization was a logical step forward for the nurses of that day, even though more than two hundred years after the first hospital was built on American soil. Our national organization came into being as an answer to a professional need vital to the protection and growth of nursing and nursing standards in the United States. So rapidly did standards and needs change that in 1909 the Nurses Associated Alumnae was changed to the American Nurses Association.

As is true in the rapid growth of any professional organization vitally interested in rendering a service to humanity, the Am-

erican Nurse's Association has had to change many technical details in its organization from time to time to keep apace with the times. Thus in 1916 drastic changes were made wherein nurses became members of this group by payment of their dues through their alumnae. The alumnae in turn to pay to the local district which pays to the State organization and then to the National. A history of one Alumnae Association is given so that the growth of a basic group can be understood.

Although the Good Samaritan Hospital was in existence many years prior to the period of its development of a training school, it took an Eastern nurse with a vision of the possibilities of our beautiful western county to really begin the education of nurses. Miss Emily L. Loveridge, a recent graduate from Bellevue hospital of New York City, was brought out herefor that purpose. She was the third graduate nurse to arrive in Oregon and it was with some difficulty that she located the hospital which was situated six blocks beyond the end of the horse car trolley. Thus in 1890 a training school for nurses was opened with twelve students. After working twelve and fourteen hours in the hospital, the drudgery of classes were willingly attended under the inspiring leadership of their beloved instructress. Since that time students from this school have traveled far and many have distinguished themselves in various manners.

It was not until 1915 that a need was felt for a local Alumnae organization and again this need was pointed out by Miss Loveridge. There seems to be something peculiarly interesting about the minutes of a new organization. The carefulness of detail in their composition sets the reader to day dreaming about the enthusiasm that has voiced their need. Many

subsequent meetings call for considerable ingenuity on the part of their leaders to maintain any enthusiasm whatever but not so with the first meeting. Those of us who come after sometimes read those "First minutes" with envy and wonder just what has been lost during the intervening years that has killed this spontaneous response.

It might be interesting to quote from the minutes of the first meeting of this Alumnae Association. They are self explanatory and form a good picture of the proceedings:

"On the afternoon of March 25th (1915) at the Nurses Home the graduates of the Good Samaritan Hospital assembled to organize an Alumnae Association.

The meeting was called to order by Miss Loveridge and was opened with an informal address wherein she stated the purpose and advantages of such an organization.

Miss Welch was elected President and took charge of the meeting and Miss Hume was elected temporary secretary.

Miss Loveridge and Miss Jolly were elected Honorary members.

Two committees were then voted upon and passed, namely, a Committee of Parliamentary Laws and an Executive Committee.

The meeting was followed by a tea."

It is interesting to note that this move was taken just a year prior to the convention of the American Nurse's Association, held in New Orleans in 1916, when a plan was proposed for the re-organization of the A.N.A., changing the form of membership from direct payment^{of dues} to the A.N.A. to its present form. Now a member must pay thru their

Alumnae and automatically ^{she} becomes a member of ^{her} ~~their~~ District, State and National organizations, by the inclusion of these dues in one payment.

The next meeting was held in May and By-laws accepted which have been in use and but recently changed. Further the membership was so small at first that roll call was a process of every meeting. Meetings were not held again until in the fall. It seems as though the main interest of the Association besides meeting routinely was the philanthropic work which they very quickly became engaged in. Sewing after the adjournment of the meetings as well as extra evenings. At the end of the first year there was a well organized group with very definite objectives of rendering a Community Service.

May 1916, Carrie Alice Joseph was elected President. She very ably survived two terms during which time it was decided to vote upon the membership qualifications of each graduating class and invite them to join the Association. The roll rapidly grew until according to a notation of October, 1916, there were 150 members. A very commendable achievement during this time was the joining of the Oregon State Graduate Nurse's Association by the Alumnae in a body, on July 6, 1917.

Along about January 1918 the question of fees came up and this question was referred to their board and executive committee for a study with the suggestion that a report be made at the next meeting. In February 1918, the following list of fees were presented and accepted by the group:

\$5 per day for all hospital cases except obstetrics.

If the baby was included \$1 extra was charged.

\$4 per day in the home

\$5 per day for obstetrics in the home

\$5 per day for quarantine

Hourly-\$1 for the first hour and 50¢ for each additional hour.

\$6 per day for delerium tremens and isolated tubefculosis

\$5 for the same in the home.

The two latter fees were decided upon at the March meeting. It is interesting to note that the Association at this time assumed more power to legislate in the matters of fees etc. than it does at present. Probably because the organizations were not as strong as they are now and therefore it was not noted that they were legislating in matters only delegated to a State Association.

May 1918, Edna Pohle was elected to the Presidency. By this time the majority of members were enlisted in the World War and with the influenza epidemic raging it was thought best to postpone meetings indefinitely as everyone was working unusually long hours and were too fatigued to attend meetings. Besides the matter of sewing for the poor, everyone was engaged in Red Cross sewing for the soldiers. So that April and May 1919 were the only meetings over which Miss Pohle presided.

With the return of nurses from the war, it was again felt that organization activities might be taken up. In the spring of 1919 Miss Duke was elected President. Meetings were changed from afternoon to evening and an entertainment for the graduation class was held for the class of 1920. This has since become an annual event.

May 1920 Miss Ruby Emery (Buckle) was elected President and served until January 1924. During 1920 the question of shorter hours for nurses was discussed and there was much talk of 12 hour duty. This also led to

discussion regarding the Central Registry. At this time the registry operated by Mrs. Genevieve Kidd was the only one in existence in Portland. In January 1922 the fiscal year was changed to that of the calendar year. In May 1922, after District #1 had been organized, it was explained to the group that the Oregon State Graduate Nurse's Association would only hold annual meetings but that the district would hold monthly meetings which would be well to attend. Also three delegates were elected to attend the American Nurse's Association convention which met in Seattle that year.

January 1924, Miss Alvilda Barnes, Superintendent of Nurses, was elected President. During this time the discussion of fees consumed considerable time. An educational lecture given this year is particularly interesting. Dr. Harold C. Bean gave a lecture on "Insulin" a startlingly new discovery which has since meant the lives of thousands of people.

January 1925, Miss Cecelia Bast, Night Supervisor, was elected President and apparently served an eventful term.

January 1926, Miss Hazel Isakson was elected to serve one term. In the fall of this year subjects were discussed which could be used as educational material for meetings such as lectures etc.

January 1927, Mrs. Margaret Richardson was elected President. This honor was peculiarly fitting as she was among those of the first graduating class of 1902. The grading committee had begun work and the Association voted to give the sum of five dollars annually for five years toward this work.

January 1928, Miss Helen Muzzy, Anesthetist, was elected but left very shortly for San Francisco and her term was finished by the Vice-President, Mrs. Blossom Price. During the past three years considerable discussion

had been held about endowing a bed for sick nurses to be called the Emily L. Loveridge Endowed Bed. At this time it was reported that \$1000 had been put into the treasury of this fund and \$1490 pledged. Nothing further has been done about this. Miss Loveridge was made an active member of the Association this year also. The Board of Trustees gave her a diploma from the training school in recognition of her long years of service. It was with a great deal of pleasure that the Alumnae was able to claim her as an active member. Late in the year, thru a misunderstanding of the value of a re-registration law, the association moved to advise the O.S.G.N.A. of their disapproval of this legislation.

January 1929, Miss Mayme Kubi, Assistant Superintendent of the Hospital, was elected President. One meeting this year was held at the Hung Far Low restaurant, the hostess Miss Lillian Leong, has since gone to China and distinguished herself for service there. A history of the Alumnae Association was given by an early graduate, Miss Rourke. Unfortunately this paper cannot be found for there must be much of interest that is not in the early minutes. Early in this year Miss Kubi married and left the city and her term was finished by Miss Julia McFadden, the Vice-President.

January 1930, Mrs Bell G. Badley, Superintendent of the Training School, was elected to the Presidency. Standard uniforms were discussed by a minority so never were adopted. Our beloved Miss Loveridge retired and a beautiful fox scarf was given her by the Association. During her forty-five years of service she had built the institution from a small frame building of a few beds to a modern hospital with a four hundred bed capacity, and a training school of one hundred twenty-five nurses. Miss Carolyn Davis,

the new Superintendent, was introduced to our group and a motion was made to invite her to attend meetings as a guest whenever it were possible. During this year a treat was in store for this group. Miss York, an elderly English nurse residing Portland, who had know Florence Nightingale talked to us and showed us letters that she had received from her when a child. A new venture of the state organization, the Oregon Nurse, was discussed and its support uegently asked.

January 1931, Miss Lillian Tracy, supervisor, was elected and served two terms. In the beginning of this year discussion was brought regarding an award to be given to a member of the graduating class of the training school. It was decided to give twenty-five dollars to the Nurse representing the best qualifications and ideals a nurse should possess, the nurse to be chosen by her classmates. This gift has been given annually since that time. The demand for private duty nurses became lessened with the depression and eight hour duty was being discussed as a means of more distibution of work. A relief fund was created to provide work for the nurse who needed employment as well as to give care to the patient who needed special nursing care very badly and could not afford it. The following year the discussion of eight hour duty reached the point where optional shortened hours was approved which of course was never done.

January 1933, Mrs. Aileen Moreland, X-ray technician of the hospital was elected and still remains in the chair. Much has been done to revive the organization in this time and it has been build up to the extent that its members are active in local as well as state activities. During the early part of this year the death of a beloved physcian shocked the entire organization. Dr. J.O.C. Wiley who was ever ready to befriend a nurse passed away and his loss was deeply felt. Another staff physcian,

Dr. Guy Strohm, who was a patient in the hospital for some time, pledged the sum of seventy-five dollars monthly to be used for the care of any sick graduate nurse. This gesture was in appreciation of the care which he received while in the hospital. While this was carried on for the period of two years and not many demands were made for this courtesy, still the spirit in which it was given was greatly appreciated.

In 1933 an official delegate was sent to Medford to attend the annual Oregon State Graduate Nurses Association convention. Then next spring the president was sent to Washington D.C. to attend the biennial convention of the American Nurses Association.

May 1934, a plaque was dedicated to our beloved Miss Emily L. Loveridge with the following inscription:

To

Emily Lemoine Loveridge

Our lining inspiration, guide and counsellor,
We, the Good Samaritan Alumnae Association,
dedicate this token with love and devotion.

"God set upon her lips a song

And placed a lamp in her hand."

This plaque was placed in a prominent place in the hospital. A beautiful guest book was given her which she promptly had everyone write in who were present. The majority of the physicians and surgeons who had worked with her many years were present as well as many of her "children", and many, many personal friends.

In the fall of 1934, eight hour duty seemed paramount in discussion. This program had been approved and promoted by the district and

the difficulties in its workability were greatly discussed.

In the spring of 1935 a card party was held to replenish the funds of the Good Samaritan Alumnae Relief Fund. The prizes were donated by leading merchants in town, a style show was given by Charles F. Berghs and the party very well attended.

In organization the next step is the local district to which the Alumnae Associations are responsible for approval of activities and guidance. The District in turn becomes responsible to the Oregon State Graduate Nurses Association, the latter to the American Nurses Association and the officers of this and other national organizations comprise the International Congress of Nurses. In the American Nurses Association the State association becomes the legislative body.

For many years in Oregon, nurses seemed to be concentrated in and around Portland so it seemed that all state activities were carried on here. However with additional training schools all over the state and problems arising regarding these nurses it was found that district activities were being carried on by the state association.

Thus in 1922 District Number One was organized and Jane Allen was elected President. The next year, 1923-1924, Rufina McDonald served as president and the following year, 1924-1925, Miss Elizabeth Freeman served. From 1925 to 1926 Miss Nannie Munson acted as president and from 1926 to 1927 Mrs. Ruby Emery Buckle was president. During these terms much was developed which made the organization permanent and the identity of the district was established.

May 1927, Mrs. Helen Jackson Banghart was elected and served as President for two terms. During this time the Nurses Official Registry was moved from the American Apartments to the Mayer Building and stenographic

service was partially paid for by the district, to the amount of \$15 per month. Also equipment which was necessary for the development of our own organization as well as that of the O.S.G.N.A. was purchased and the district paid fifty dollars toward the purchase of a multograph.

The membership of the organization was built up and interest awakened as to the need for it. Educational programs were given at every meeting and were well attended. The district alternated with the League of Nursing Education as to programs.

In 1929 Mrs. Martha Sheridan Benedict was elected and served two terms. There was still much confusion as to the activities of the district and the state organization. The Nurses Official Registry was felt to be purely a local project and this was to be turned over to the district. It was one of the first duties of the Oregon State Graduate Nurses Association's newly elected Executive Secretary to re-organize the registry and turn it over to the district. Financially it was running behind constantly and needed to be put on a business basis. Much credit was given to those who took this worthy project into their homes to start this service in the first place. It was necessary that it be organized so that it might be expanded and a new personell was selected. In order to accept the responsibility of such a project the district had to become incorporated under the laws of Oregon which was done in January 1930.

In 1931 the first delegates were sent to the American Nurses Association Convention which was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mrs. Benedict and Mrs. Banghart were sent.

May 1931, Miss Mary C. Campbell was elected President and served two terms. The by-laws were amended during this time. One outstanding event was the institute which was sponsored by the district. Miss Mae

Kennedy conducted the Institute. Another important event was the organization of a Private Duty Section. The President was sent to the American Nurses Convention held at San Antonio, Texas in 1932.

May 1933 to May 1935 Miss Hope A. Brady served as President. During this time an institute was sponsored annually for educational purposes. Nurses were feeling the effects of the depression more and more and it was felt that the organization should do something for these nurses. The subjects submitted were very general in their field but were very well and ably given and proved of vast educational value. The second year the institute was divided up among the Private Duty Section, the Public Health Nurses and the League of Nursing Education. Thus there was something of interest for all concerned. The Presidents of each district in Oregon have each year received an invitation for themselves and members to be the guest of District #1 whenever they might be in Portland on any of these dates.

The president was sent to the A.N.A. Biennial Convention in Washington D.C. in 1934.

At the beginning of the summer of 1934, eight hour duty was worked upon by an able committee. These persons met individually and collectively with nurses, physicians, hospital and training directors. Much time and effort was spent on this program and in the late summer, eight hour duty for private duty nurses was installed in the hospitals. However it took several months of persistent effort before this program was effective and suitable to patient, physician and nurse. Nurses seemed to think that a few officers were the organization and it was not until it was made clear to them that only through their desire and co-operation could this program be made a success did it eventually become workable and the discussion gradually stopped.

The district has at all times endeavored to meet the standards of the American Nurses Association in developing whatever phases of nursing were advantageous to the profession. This last year there has been a growing dissention in the ranks of the general staff duty group. The hospitals in an effort to cut down their training school and raise educational standards of their students found the need for additional nursing care for their patients. Further nurses found that patients were not able to afford the services of a private duty nurse. They therefore found it mutually advantageous to meet the need of the hospital for whatever salary the hospital could pay. They gave generously of their time and skill. However they began to feel after some time, the need for more adequate remuneration so that planned recreation and education might again be resumed. There was no place to discuss these questions and District #1 with the approval of the Oregon State Graduate Association formed a Staff Duty Nursing Section. We find now that this is the only section of its kind within the American Nurses Association.

At present there are four Alumnae Associations within District Number One; St. Vincents, Good Samaritan, Multnomah County and Emanuel. The territory includes five counties, Clackamas, Columbia, Washington, Yamhill and Multnomah.

In the past this organization has endeavored to meet the needs of graduate nurses locally in whatever manner was necessary. The future district will, I am sure, do the same with an ever increasing program. It is to be hoped that the long hoped for integration into community service be developed and recognized as the goal for which we are now striving. Each of us who have served have attempted to make our link in this chain firm and secure so that

those who follow will not have to retrace and rebuild that which it has been our duty to permanently construct.

So long as each leader maintains the standard that the founder of our own United States kept we are safe. To quote from Geroge Washington, "If to please the people, we offer what we ourselves disapprove, how can we afterwards defend our work? Let us raise a standard to which the wise and the just can repair. The event is in the hand of God." The beginning of our noble profession was in the hand of God and let us strive to uphold the standards and ideals of its founders.

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