WE ARE SIMPLY A PART OF A LONG RICH HISTORY...

In the past few weeks, ENA moved into its new office in Schaumburg, Illinois. Did you know that this is ENA’s seventh home since its inception in 1970? Our first office was in New York, but moved to Lansing, Michigan in 1972 then relocated to Illinois in 1977. Although ENA has been headquartered in the Chicago area since 1977, we have been in four various locations including downtown Chicago (East Ohio Street and North Lake Shore Drive), Park Ridge (Higgins Road) and of course, most recently in Des Plaines (Lee Street).

This information is just a small sampling of the rich history that Joanne Fadale, ENA’s historian (and 1990 ENA President) has been putting together as she works through the archives of ENA. Although it is essential that we record the history of our association, it seems even more important as we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2020. Anniversaries are traditionally a time to look back at history while simultaneously looking forward to our future.

We can trace our history back to one of our Founders, Anita Dorr, who organized the first meeting of emergency nurses in New York State on January 19, 1970. During that same year, another of our Founders, Judith Kelleher, formed an organization called “The Emergency Department Nurses Association” (EDNA) in California. Although our two founders were initially unaware of the existence of the other, they would learn about each other and join forces in 1970 to become a national association representing emergency nurses across the country.

Sadly, Anita Dorr passed away on October 4, 1972, and was unable to see the incredible journey that ENA has taken since her initial vision in 1970. Judith Kelleher would continue to shepherd the organization for many years, serving as the first titled President from 1973 to 1974. Judy has been followed by 44 Presidents who have overseen the operations of ENA, allowing it to become one of the largest and most influential nursing associations in the world. As I have represented ENA at numerous events around the country this year, I have never ceased to marvel at the respect our organization has amongst peer organizations and how our papers and research are referred to more than any other peer association.

This month, we gather together as an association for our annual General Assembly as well as our Annual Conference. Did you know that this tradition dates to October of 1972 when we held our first Annual Conference in Buffalo, New York? The first General Assembly would occur two years later (1974) in Washington, DC. If you are doing the math, that means this is the 45th time we have gathered together as a profession for Annual Conference and the 43rd time we have assembled a body of emergency nurses to guide our profession in the form of General Assembly.

The Journal you are currently reading is another example of the rich history of ENA. The first Journal was published in January/February of 1975 and has been an important communication tool for our profession ever since. Our other major publication, the Connection magazine, has also been an important part of ENA although it was originally called the Roadrunner magazine when it made its first appearance in 1972. It would be renamed Etcetera in 1976 before being called Connection in 2000.

Then there was the first Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) in 1986, the first Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course (ENPC) in 1993 and the first Course in Advanced Trauma Nursing (CATN) in 1995.

This is just a small example of the rich history that is being put together for our golden anniversary in 2020. The 2018 Board of Directors has appointed a committee to plan a year-long celebration that will capture our rich history but also help us focus on our bright future. It is hard to believe that 48 years ago, we were nothing more than the idea of two women in New York and California, and today we are more than 43,000 members strong. Imagine where we will be at our 100th anniversary in 2070?