

Stephen J. Stapleton, RN, PhD(c), MS, MSN, BS, BSN, CEN

2009-2011 President Elect Illinois ENA

ENA Member for 5 years.

My involvement with Illinois ENA began with an interest in joining a professional organization where I would have a voice benefitting the nursing profession. I have attended many state quarterly business meetings, for a brief time worked with the Evidence Based Practice Committee, and served as a delegate to the 2007 and 2008 National Conventions. On the national level, I am a member of the Institute for Emergency Nursing Research (INER) and an item writer for the BCEN. I have also co-authored a case study published in JEN.

Current Employment: Assistant Professor at West Suburban College of Nursing

I began my nursing career in 1982 graduating from the Accelerated Nursing Program at Saint Louis University. I returned to Chicago to work in the ICU at Michael Reese Medical Center. In February 1983 I answered an ad for a part time position in the Emergency Department at Illinois Masonic Medical Center where I eventually transitioned into a full time position. Except for a brief stint as the Nursing Supervisor at Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital, I worked at Masonic for 7 years. I left Masonic to be the EMS System Coordinator at Highland Park hospital 6 ½ years. During that time I was an officer of the Northern Illinois EMS Association (NIEMSCA) serving as Secretary, Vice-President, and President. I left Highland Park to be a research nurse for the Department of Emergency Medicine in the College of Medicine at University of Illinois at Chicago. I eventually returned to Illinois Masonic Medical Center in November 1997 holding positions as the manager of the SICU (4 ½ years) and staff nurse in the operating room (18 months), before returning to the Emergency Department in August, 2003.

I am a strong proponent of life-long learning. I have a BS and MS in Health Education from Western Illinois University, BSN from Saint Louis University and MSN from Aurora University. I decided to pursue the PhD degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing in 2005. I completed the course work on a full time basis while working 36 hours a week in the ED at Advocate-Illinois Masonic Medical Center. To fulfill the teaching requirements for the PhD, I resigned the ED staff nurse position and transitioned into academia as an Assistant Professor at West Suburban College of Nursing in August 2007.

I am looking forward serving at the state level as the Illinois ENA president-elect and president as well as continuing my involvement at the national level.