Minutes
ONENJ Advocacy Committee
Conference Call
March 5, 2013

**Attended**
Helene Lynch
Anita Skarbek
Joanne Simonetti
Kathy Kaminsky
Kathy Russell Babin
Karen Gruber
Joan Harewood
Rita Smith
Wendy Silverstein
Robyn Begley
Ann Campbell
Chrissy Buteas
Debbie Zayas
Karen Rodemer

**Excused**
Donna Weeks
Pat Steingall
Linda Ambacher

Welcome –1:06 p.m. Kathy Kaminsky opened the meeting.

Minutes –
Correction to attendance was noted, Kathy Kaminsky attended. Motion to approve was made by Anita Skarbek and it was seconded by Joanne Simonetti. All voted in favor to approve. No one abstained and no one objected.

Legislative Update –
Chrissy Buteas reported ONENJ members Deanna Sperling, Karen Gruber and Susan Cholewka met with Senator Singer recently. He expressed concerns with S2354 and S2045. He indicated that he has trouble supporting S2354. Chrissy and Members Anita Skarbek, Ardath Youngblood and Susan recently met with Senator Madden.
Sometime during the next few weeks, the legislature’s committee schedule will be published.
The Governor’s budget plan basically keeps hospital funding the same. The Governor recently signed onto Medicaid expansion.
With the election on the horizon, there will be a lot of politicking from June to November once the budget is passed.

S2354 Consumer Access to Health Care Act –
Kathy Russell Babin reported on communication she received from the APN-NJ Association.
Mila Jasey has signed on to the bill. An official letter went out to Senator Sweeney in opposition from the American Medical Association.
Discussion followed. Kathy added there was a successful meeting of the new Tricouncil. The title of the new council is the New Jersey Nursing Leadership Council. The council was in support of the ONENJ position statement and they agreed to take the discussion from the meeting back to their organizations.

Next steps – Chrissy reported that we have reached out to the NJSNA. A meeting is in the process of being scheduled. Strategy to build support for the bill will be discussed. NJSNA is trying to move this to the lame duck session in the legislature.

S2045 Observation Patients Use of Own Medications – Chrissy reported ONENJ met with the primary supporter, Senator Singer recently. She indicated the bill has passed in the Senate and now the play is on the assembly side. No bill has been introduced in the assembly as yet.

Proposed new rule – breastfeeding practices while mother and infant are in the hospital Discussion followed. Members are in support. The position statement team will work on a letter of support. The draft letter will be sent electronically to the committee for review.

Proposed new rule – licensees holding multiple licenses Discussion followed on the basis for the proposed change. Consensus was reached that the statement is confusing. Chrissy will touch base with the BON and report back to the committee.

Online Degree Programs – Lengthy discussion followed. Nurses need to verify programs can be offered in New Jersey. Recommendation was made to include this in the next newsletter and request that it be included on the next Chief Nursing Officers Constituency Group agenda.

Next steps – Chrissy indicated once the committee agendas are published she will provide possible dates for legislative day.

Schedule another call in 6-8 weeks. Set aside dates on the calendar for the next retreat. We will look at the last week in July.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cholewka