

## New York State Council Receives National Award

By Mickey Forness

Each year the National organization of ENA recognizes state councils who implement a diverse strategic plan. For 2011, New York State demonstrated many of the criteria used to bestow this honor. Some of the criteria include a well run and organized Council. This includes proper and timely submission of all reports and preparation of officers at the state and chapter level for the roles they will fill in the organization. Education is another area that is evaluated. We hold our annual conference, Setting the Pace with input obtained from our members regarding the topics and lecturers they would like to see included. Meeting member needs and recruitment and retention activities also have a high priority. This past year we did a survey of all our state members and based on their input have changed 3 of our operating objectives. These changes include rotating the annual conference on a three year plan between Saratoga, Rochester and Tarrytown. Workplace violence was also a topic requiring some further work. Data is being collected about what the outcomes or problems are once the event occurs and is placed in the judicial system. The third was to gather and post on our website places where ED nurses can refer to get free CEU's, this is still in the process of implementation. We have had a strong link with student nurses and continue this by offering scholarships to our conference and discounted rates. Our state membership has grown to about 2600 members. To retain members, each year during Emergency Nurses Weeks we provide each of 14 chapters with a year renewal for one of our current members. The final area of consideration is legislative activity. At 2 of our quarterly meetings we had Senator Larkin and Assemblyman Crouch address the Council and discuss issues of importance for ED nurses. This was also a special year as the tenth anniversary of 9/11. The Council has undertaken the project of raising funds to endow our scholarship which is awarded annually to a first responder who is entering the nursing profession. By endowing the scholarship it will continue in perpetuity. We have successfully raised over \$38,500. The year of 2011 was a busy and fruitful year, and our National organization has recognized and rewarded our efforts.

This achievement award was presented to the New York State Council at the annual leadership Conference in New Orleans.

