

3 PP (MED 4) NURSES AIDES, RED CROSS 23/4

OREGON STATE DEFENSE COUNCIL
Salem, Oregon

JOINT STATEMENT

OF

OREGON STATE DEFENSE COUNCIL AND STATE RED CROSS OFFICE

VOLUNTEER NURSES' AIDES

At a meeting of the representatives of the Civilian War Services and the State Emergency Medical Service of the Oregon State Defense Council with the American Red Cross in Oregon, it was decided that it was imperative in view of the growing shortage of nurses in Oregon, to take immediate steps to stimulate the recruitment and training of Volunteer Nurses' Aides in those communities in which there were already adequate training facilities. It was believed that one of the first moves in this direction should be to prepare a joint statement which would answer some of the questions concerning the administration of the Nurses' Aides Program, and at the same time clarify their understanding as to what part each agency is to play in expanding the services of the Volunteer Nurses' Aides.

Accordingly, we wish to make the following statements which we believe will be of assistance to local agencies in building up an effective Volunteer Nurses' Aides Corps in their community. The statements made are based upon already existing agreements and guides which have been issued from the National Offices of the American Red Cross and Civilian Defense.

1. PURPOSE FOR WHICH VOLUNTEER NURSES' AIDES CORPS WAS ORGANIZED

The purpose behind the training of Volunteer Nurses' Aides was to meet the anticipated need for a great expansion of nursing facilities during the period of the national emergency. The American Red Cross was asked by the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense to train 100,000 Volunteer Nurses' Aides during the year. The steady depletion of the nursing services of hospitals, health departments, and clinics, due in part to the requirement of the military establishments, made it necessary to ask for a greatly expanded Volunteer Nurses' Aides Corps.

2. ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH VOLUNTEER NURSES' AIDES CORPS

- a. The American Red Cross. A.R.C. will carry the responsibility to select, train and assign Volunteer Nurses' Aides and will assist in their recruitment.
- b. The Office of Civilian Defense. O.C.D. through its Volunteer Office will assist in recruiting Volunteer Nurses' Aides and through its medical division will make use of the Volunteer Nurses' Aides in the Emergency Medical Service.
- c. The Hospital. Those hospitals acceptable to the representatives designated in O.C.D. memorandum of August 5, 1942, "Modified Ruling for Approval of the Hospitals used for Training Nurses' Aides," may provide training facilities.

3. THE RED CROSS VOLUNTEER NURSES' AIDES COMMITTEE

The Red Cross Volunteer Nurses' Aides Committee, hereinafter designated as Volunteer Nurses' Aides Committee, is a sub-committee of the Red Cross Volunteer Special Services Committee and is a "guiding committee" for the Nurses' Aides Program in its own local community. It is composed of nurses and lay representatives and should include the local Chief of Emergency Medical Service, the local Nurse Deputy, and a representative of the local Volunteer Office.

4. THE CIVILIAN DEFENSE VOLUNTEER OFFICE

The Civilian Defense Volunteer Office, hereinafter designated as Volunteer Office, is an official arm of the Civilian Defense Organization and as such has a basic responsibility in connection with the recruitment of Volunteer Nurses' Aides. It may wish to use a special staff member in charge of recruiting nurses' aides who may, after clearance with the Volunteer Nurses' Aides Committee, call on women's organizations for the purpose of recruiting nurses' aides.

5. RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEER NURSES' AIDES

The matter of recruitment of Volunteer Nurses' Aides is a joint responsibility of the Volunteer Nurses' Aides Committee and the Volunteer Office. All volunteers meeting the requirements of age, education and availability who request the training will be cleared through the local Red Cross Chapter where they will be carefully selected for the intensive training course. The Volunteer Office may invite Red Cross workers through the Volunteer Nurses' Aides Committee to interview prospective nurses' aides in the Volunteer Office. When this arrangement is not made, all prospective nurses' aides should be referred to the Volunteer Nurses' Aides Committee or its representative for interview to determine their suitability.

6. TRAINING VOLUNTEER NURSES' AIDES

The American National Red Cross will carry the responsibility of all training of Nurses' Aides. This will be delegated and executed through the Chapter Volunteer Nurses' Aides Committee of the local Chapter in whose area there is a suitable training hospital. It is recommended that they have two hours training of Gas Defense Aid.

7. ASSIGNMENT OF VOLUNTEER NURSES' AIDES

When the course is satisfactorily completed, the Red Cross will serve as a placement agency for the assignment of the aides to hospitals, clinics, health departments, school health, and visiting nursing services. The local Chief of Emergency Medical Service will assist by advice and guidance as a member of the Nurses' Aides Committee in the placement of these Aides. A member of this committee, usually the local Chief of EMS, will be designated to keep the committee informed of the needs of all local hospitals, health and field nursing organizations.

The local Chief of Emergency Medical Service or his Nurse Deputy is responsible for the assignment of Volunteer Nurses' Aides in preparation for and during an emergency. The Volunteer Nurses' Aides should be prepared during an emergency to serve in local hospitals, casualty stations or medical field units for as long a period of time as needed.

8. CONTINUED TRAINING

After the initial 80-hour course is completed, the Volunteer Nurses' Aide must give 150 hours minimum yearly service to maintain her status. The responsibility for arranging this continued training rests with the Volunteer Nurses' Aides Committee. Nurses' Aides should be encouraged to volunteer as much additional time as possible.

9. REGISTRATION OF VOLUNTEER NURSES' AIDES

Through an arrangement made by the Red Cross and the Office of Civilian Defense all Nurses' Aides enrolled directly by the Volunteer Nurses' Aides Committee are subsequently registered in the Volunteer Office. They must also register at the beginning of the course at the Registration Office of Civilian Defense if benefits are to be secured in case of injury during an emergency.

10. ADMINISTRATION

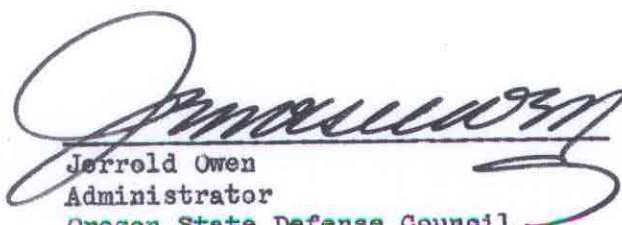
The Red Cross through the Nurses' Aides Committee will be administratively responsible for the Volunteer Nurses' Aides up to the time of an emergency. At this time and during such an emergency the Red Cross Nurses' Aides Committee will be responsible to the Chief of the Emergency Medical Service for availability of Volunteer Nurses' Aides, and Civilian Defense will be responsible for all functions and assignments of the Volunteer Nurses' Aides as members of the United States Citizens Defense Corps.

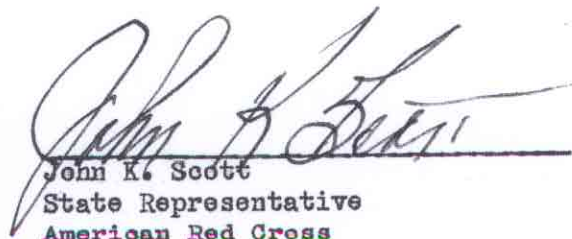
11. IN SUMMARY

In local communities where there are hospital and teaching facilities for training Volunteer Nurses' Aides, the problem of recruitment, training and placement of Volunteer Nurses' Aides becomes a joint responsibility of the Red Cross and Civilian Defense--through the Volunteer Nurses' Aides Committee.

The Volunteer Office should actively put its facilities behind the campaign for Nurses' Aides and the Red Cross should work as a partner with the Volunteer Office.

The Volunteer Nurses' Aides Committee should include, in addition to Red Cross representatives and others, the Chief of Emergency Medical Service, the local Nurse Deputy and a representative of the Volunteer Office.


 Jerrold Owen
 Administrator
 Oregon State Defense Council


 John K. Scott
 State Representative
 American Red Cross

April 27, 1943