

## President's Report

Laura Shafer, BSN, RN, CWOCN



I want to thank you all for the opportunity of serving as your President for the next 2 years. After our Board meeting in Charlotte, NC on February 20-21, I realized how lucky I am to work with

such a dynamic outstanding team – the Southeast Region Board! There was a tremendous amount of positive energy and invaluable feedback on how we can enhance the Southeast Region.

We are all trying to be good stewards of the SER money especially in this time of economic uncertainty. For the last 3 months I have come to realize how important it is to work in a happy / joyful workplace where everyone works as a team.

My first grandchild was born 7 weeks early and my daughter-in-law was in the ICU on a ventilator. She was discharged from the hospital with an ileostomy and a VAC. Luckily, she was just reconnected last week. We never know how much we impact the families until you are in the role of the family member. My team at Gwinnett is truly outstanding and I feel fortunate to work with so many caring nurses. I hope you will enjoy the poem Melanie Johnson wrote, I thoroughly enjoyed it and I think it sums up everything we do. Remember "life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain."

I hope to see you at the SER Meeting in St. Louis on Saturday June 6th from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Renaissance.

## Spotlight on a Mentor

Marie Gehling is my (**Laura Fogle**) mentor. Just out of high school in June 1992, I joined our local hospital's Summer Enrichment Program (program for students interested in a medical career). It was here in the Health Education and Promotion Department where I first met Marie. She had just returned from the Emory ET Nurse Program. The doctors were not ready for the "new era" of moist wound healing. Marie fought a battle each and every day against betadine and iodine dressings. Her love for nursing is why I am a nurse today.

Marie is a wonderful nurse, who is well respected among her peers and by the medical community of Orangeburg, SC. She is known for meeting the needs of the patient before the needs of her family and friends. Marie was instrumental in starting what is now the largest outpatient wound center in South Carolina. She is an excellent speaker who has spoken at national and regional wound care conferences. Marie has a wealth of knowledge that she is willing to share with everyone. She has published several articles on wound care and is involved in ongoing research projects. The world of wound care has grown because of her. She also mentored and precepted 5 nurses who all are now wound care certified. Marie always believed in me, she would encourage me when I was struggling with teaching projects and papers. She was so proud when I became certified! Marie taught me to follow my instincts; she never tired when I asked her the same questions and she molded me into a caring and trustworthy nurse.

There is so much more that I could say about Marie, but I will stop here. I want to thank her for being my teacher and mentor, but most of all for being my friend! She is an inspiration not only to me, but to everyone that she meets!



**Marie Gehling**

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**Visit our Website at  
[www.serwocn.org](http://www.serwocn.org)**

## Communications Committee Report

Patti Haberer, BSN, MA, RN, CWOCN

The newly recreated Communications Committee has been very active since the Fall Conference in Huntsville, AL. Our #1 project for 2009 is to “go green”. By the end of the year the newsletter will no longer be delivered to you by the postal service. Instead three times a year you will be directed to a PDF link on the SER website. Here you will be able to read the newsletter on your computer or print it out to read later. Did you know you can read past full-color issues of the newsletter on the SER website? ([www.serwocn.org](http://www.serwocn.org))



Our #2 project for 2009 is to enhance the SER website. It is more than putting “lipstick” on it or making it pretty, we want the website to be your home for the SER. To do this the Communications Committee has been surfing the internet in search of what we want and don’t want on the SER website. We have studied the National WOCN website, other Regional websites and State / Affiliate websites. Over the next several months a website design company will be re-designing our website. The plan is to re-launch the SER website at the 2009 SER Conference in Jacksonville.

Thank-you members of the Communications Committee for all of your help! If you would like to be part of this committee or if you have any suggestions or ideas for the website, please contact me at 678-799-2056 or email me at [phaberer@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:phaberer@tampabay.rr.com).

### Communication Committee Members

Barbara Dale  
Kathryn Dere  
Nancy Gunther  
Jeannene MacKnight  
Sharon McKinney  
Vi Poteete  
Laura Shafer  
Bobbie Stallings

## Hello from Tennessee!

### Mona Hector, BSN, RN, CWOCN

News from Parkridge Medical Center in Chattanooga - the Wound/Ostomy staff looks forward to the arrival of **Lisa Switter** BSN, RN, WOCN. Lisa has completed the WOCN course at Emory and recently obtained her Wound Care Certification. Congratulations Lisa!

In Memphis, **Jenny Hurlow** GNP, CWOCN, had a "View From Here" article in the Jan/Feb 2009 JWOCN detailing her successful efforts in pursuit of developing the Functional Urinary Incontinence ICD-9 code. Jenny is passionate about continence especially related to the elderly and she makes continence exciting!

**Hope Voegeli**, RN, CWON, reports that she, along with **Patricia Moore** and **Pam Damron**, have initiated CEU education sessions they call

Nursing Rounds on the new POA guidelines as well as on incontinence care. Sessions are open to nurses and physicians. They also have monthly "Hot Topics" that go out as a Screensaver on computers at the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. **Hope** and **Patricia** have recently recertified in wound and ostomy using the PGP format and recommend this route. Just remember to keep things organized and prepared beforehand.

**Bonnie Thompson** at Vanderbilt will be assisting with the WOCN National Conference Pre-Session Workshop about Fistulas. **Elliott Douglass**, the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital WOCN, will be presenting "Ostomy Care: Challenges in Pediatric Practice" at National Conference. **Elliott** is involved in the development of a new clinic, "The Short Gut Clinic".

The clinic will offer the services of a nutritionist, gastroenterologist, surgeon and WOCN. **Judy Grier** at Vanderbilt has developed a prevention only program for pressure ulcers called "PREVENT". She presented a poster and presentation at Southeast conference last Fall. **Carolyn Watts** at Vanderbilt is again the WOCN National Conference Planning Committee Chair. She and her committee did a wonderful job last year and we wish her and her committee great success again this year.

Remember you can send news at anytime for the next newsletter. Thanks to those who sent updated e-mail addresses but more would be greatly appreciated. Phone contacts often get put aside.

**Mona Hector**  
[monahector@bellsouth.net](mailto:monahector@bellsouth.net)  
 (901) 358-2667

## News from Sunny Florida

### Kathryn Dere, MSN, RN, CWOCN

It's hard to believe that March Madness is upon us. From spring breaks to basketball fever, to conferences, Florida is busy as ever.

The first weekend in March, over 100 WOCNs attended the Florida Association of Enterostomal Therapy (FAET) annual conference held in Gainesville, home of the University of Florida Gators. Susan Scott presented on "Perioperative Pressure Ulcers", Mikel Gray on "Incontinence Associated Dermatitis", Gregory Schultz on "Biofilms and Wound Healing", Kristine Donovan on "Sexual Intimacy after Ostomy Placement", and Rosaline El-Rady on "Palliative Care in Patients with Wounds." All topics and presenters were top notch. It's amazing how such a small association is able to present year after year such high caliber conferences. Well done **Shirl Rogers**, Conference Chair, and Committee!

During the annual conference, new board members were elected to join **Charlene Demers**, President, and

**Terry Barton**, Vice President. They are **Nancy Scott** as Secretary, **Eula Fahie-Romero** as Director of Awards, **Kathy Kwiatkowski** as Treasurer, and **Linda Ravenhorst** as Nominations chair. The additional Nomination Committee members are **Patricia Muse** and **Kathy Murray**.

The SER WOCN conference will be in Jacksonville in September. The committees are hard at work. **Karen Larkin** is the chair for the conference and will be sharing more details for you. Look for her article.

Please send me your news. Who is going to WOCN conference in June? How about the Symposium on Advanced Wound Care in April in Texas? Is anyone presenting posters or lectures? Let me know so I can share the news!

**Kathryn Dere**  
[Kathryn.dere@orlandohealth.com](mailto:Kathryn.dere@orlandohealth.com)

## News from South Carolina

Cindy Norris, RN, BSN, CWOCN



There is great news from the nurses from Self Regional Health Care. **Amy Surret** is expecting a baby boy in mid-May. Her 5 year old son "Landon" is very excited about becoming a "big brother." **Tena Jordan's** son "Tanner" is graduating from the Citadel on May 9th. They are excited for **Veronica Hinkle**, a Home Health

Nurse who just completed the WOCN program at Emory. She is scheduled to take her boards soon. **Veronica** will continue in the Home Health arena for Self Regional. **Amy** and **Tena** are elated to have her as a part of their team. **Lynette Franklin** CWOCN from the MUSC Department of Urology-Bladder and Pelvic Health Program reports they have opened a new office in Mount Pleasant. Since she is involved in both offices, she is offering to precept anyone needing continence hours in the WOCN program (based on availability). Her phone number is 843-792-1237 and fax is 843-876-0638. **Jane Mansfield, Cindy Jones Norris, Regina Holmes, Faith Singleton, Renee Epting, Rhonda Antonetti, Carolyn Cuttino, and Sandra Stephenson** serve on the South Carolina Hospital Association's Pressure Ulcer Task Force Committee. The committee has developed a newsletter "TIPPS" (Team Initiative Pressure Ulcer Prevention Strategies). This newsletter is sent to all South Carolina hospitals with pressure ulcer information and updates.

**Regina Holmes** reports she has had a stressful week. Her daughter totaled her car at college. The very next day Regina was at her favorite place "Starbucks" getting jump started with caffeine and rear ended a \$50,000 vehicle. There is more exciting news. My daughter "Rebecca" and son-in-law "Grant" live in Greenville and are having a son in August! When Grant graduates from Bob Jones in May, they will be relocating to Wilmington, NC to start a church.

### Thoughts for the day:

"Always do your best. What you plant now you will harvest later."  
by OG Mandino

"People with goals know where they are going." by Basil S Walsh

**Cindy Norris**

[cnorris@carolinahospital.com](mailto:cnorris@carolinahospital.com) or [cnorriscwocn@bellsouth.net](mailto:cnorriscwocn@bellsouth.net)

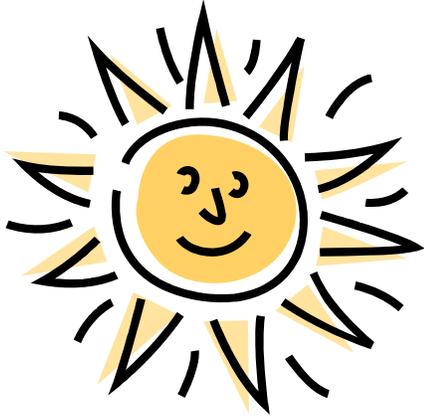
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## What A Great Day

Melanie Johnson RN, BSN, CWOCN

The day may start with a laugh a tear or a prayer, as a close knit team of nurses say good morning and prepare for their day.

The day may progress with comfort care, a gentle monologue of what we are doing as we turn, clean, assess and dress a wound.

The day may provide an opportunity to support a family doing their best or their loved one at home. Praise for their efforts, guidance in their care.

The day has laughter, sometimes with tears as we teach about gas and odor and clothing options, and lifestyle changes and self concept and intimacy with an ostomy.

The day may have frustration and a struggle for understanding when compliance is an issue. But listening to the story and understanding the frustration and the struggle of a chronic disease brings understanding of why compliance is so hard.

The day may bring a challenge of tubes, drains, connectors, and bandages, and how to make all the pieces fit to achieve a level of comfort for the patient and nurse in dealing with a large, uncomfortable, and in the worst possible location wound.

The day may bring a teachable moment when someone says that makes sense and I will apply it to my practice.

The day may bring a smile, when with a hug your patient and family say "goodbye, and thank you so much, I'll always remember you" as they take their belongings and head for home.

The day may bring a phone call, HELP, nothing is working, I am so frustrated, what do I do, and a little problem-solving finds an answer.

The day may end with tired feet from walking, an aching back from turning, and a sense of accomplishment. We leave with a hug, a word of praise, a word of encouragement from coworkers who love each other very much.

What a great day!

*This poem was written by Melanie Johnson to describe the relationships within the WOC Nursing Department at her facility, WakeMed Health and Hospitals in Raleigh, NC. (It was written as a gift for a co-worker.)*



**Save the Date!**  
**Sun, Sea and Science...**  
**The Art and Science of WOC Nursing**  
 Southeast Region Conference 2009  
 September 10-13<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
 Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront  
 Jacksonville, Florida

This year promises a great educational program, a wonderful chance to network and a lot of fun. The location is the beautiful riverfront in Jacksonville, Florida in the heart of the downtown dining and shopping district. Our educational program will be one of the best ever with outstanding speakers in the areas of Wound, Ostomy, Continence and Professional Practice. Come join us for a premier educational event and a chance to get excited again about the Art and Science of WOC Nursing!

Don't forget our **Call for Posters and Case Presentations!** Earn PGP points. Share your knowledge and hard work with your colleagues in our Poster session and during our "Nightmares on WOCN Street". Deadline for submissions is June 31, 2009. For more information, contact Charlene Demers at W-407-599-1536, H-321-348-3143, or [cdemersn@cfl.rr.com](mailto:cdemersn@cfl.rr.com). See the SER Website for the application and further details.

**Enjoy the sun and sea while sharing the science of your practice!**

## Keeping Up With Georgia

### Vi Poteete, RN, CWOCN

To support practice compliance with the new CMS Guidelines, the WOC Nurses at the Emory Healthcare WOC Nursing Department initiated a pilot study to teach the nurses to identify and document pressure ulcers, stages and other wounds present on admission. Nurse champions from each pilot unit were engaged in the process. The WOC Nurses educated the nurse champions. Competency was validated through completion of pre and post tests. Skills validation of correct pressure ulcer staging and identification other types of skin breakdown was measured by conducting check-off of nurses' technical skills at the patient's bedside. The champions then educated their colleagues using the same process over a two week period. The pilot study started Feb 2nd and ended Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. On March 4th, the WOC Nurses and the Pilot Unit Champions congregated and reviewed the results of the study. The process was officially implemented to all the pilot units. The plan is to slowly roll out the process to other units.

The Wound Healing Center at Northeast Georgia Medical Center received a Front Runners Award from their partner company for achieving a 100% or greater volume in wound care and HBO for calendar year 2008. Members of this team that assisted in achieving this award include **Mary Lynn King, Charlene Scott, Tammy Tatum, Anna Carpenter, Rita Herrin, Danielle Simon, and Connie Roland** (HBO tech). The Wound Healing Center at Northeast Georgia Medical Center continues to grow and has received their 3rd monoplace HBO chamber. They are pleased to welcome **Ken Beckner** as an additional HBO Tech. **Laura Shafer** welcomed her first grandchild 7 weeks early on December 7th. His name is Kai Blue Shafer. **Laura** would also like to thank **Marta Link** one of the WOCN's at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville for the awesome care given to her daughter-in-law. **Vi Poteete** just welcomed her 5th grandchild: a baby girl, Peri Claire Poteete. Peri arrived on February 10th and weighed 7 lbs 12 oz and was 19 1/2 inches long. Vi and her husband just returned from a weeklong visit to Dallas, TX to meet Peri and play with her big sister, Chloe.



**Vi Poteete**  
[vipoteete@bellsouth.net](mailto:vipoteete@bellsouth.net)

## From the Desk of Director II—2009 Award Information Regina Holmes, RN, CWOCN



Greetings Fellow WOC Nurses,

I just love springtime don't you? I hope you all are in good health and that happiness abounds. It is time again to begin the process of nominations for our awards. This is when we take the time to contemplate who is deserving of the honors that our society bestows. I believe that each one of you is extra special, but we have to choose who we think are most deserving. Please take the time to nominate someone that you feel shines in the wound, ostomy and/or continence field and whose practice is exceptional and worthy of acknowledgment. Nominations can be made for SER WOCN Outstanding Nurse of the Year and Rookie of the Year. It is also time to request for assistance for campers to go to the UOAA Youth Rally and to submit applications for the Dorothy Doughty Grant for planned research expenses. We are also going to be celebrating WOC Nurse Week from April 12—April 18, 2009. As a reminder - Florida it is time to nominate the person you have chosen to be the honorary scholarship recipient.

We are again this year planning to waive the Fall Conference registration for those nurses with a BS that are interested in wound, ostomy, and continence nursing, so submit your nominees soon. The deadline for all applications and nominations is May 31, 2009. Let me expand on each of these scholarships a little:

### **SER WOCN Outstanding Nurse of the Year and Rookie of the Year**

The SER WOCN recognizes their peers for contributions made to the WOCN Society and to the patients that we serve. Qualifications include excellence in the practice of WOC Nursing, exemplifications of high professional standards, service to the community, and the promotion of pride in the WOCN and SER WOCN.

### **UOAA Youth Rally**

If you work with youths between the ages of 11-17, who have had ostomy or related surgery and would like to assist them in going to camp notify me by May 31, 2009. For more information about the rally go to

[www.rally4youth.org](http://www.rally4youth.org) or for information about arranging for youth to go to camp contact Linda Aukett Secretary/Treasurer, Youth Rally Committee for UOAA at [LAukettRally@snip.net](mailto:LAukettRally@snip.net) or by phone at 856-854-3737.

### **Dorothy Doughty Research Grant**

This grant is available to support planned research expenses, such as supplies, research consultation, med/surg supplies, etc... The maximum research grant amount is \$1,000 per research project.

### **Celebrate WOC Nurse Week April 12—18, 2009**

The SER WOCN is proud to support and sponsor WOC Nurse Week. The SER WOCN will provide one paid registration to the Fall Conference in Florida if your WOC Nurse Week activity is selected. Submissions should include what you and your department did for WOC Nurse Week including photos and written details or a PowerPoint presentation. Just a reminder if you have several WOCNs in your department only one member will get the paid conference registration.

### **Fall Conference Scholarship**

This scholarship to attend the SER WOCN Conference will be given to an RN with a BS who is interested in the care of patients with wounds, ostomies, and continence problems. Those members who are interested in nominating a deserving candidate should briefly (no more than 2 paragraphs) describe why you feel the nominee should be chosen to attend the Fall Conference. You may nominate yourself.

All applications for nominees will be posted on our website [www.serwocn.org](http://www.serwocn.org). Email applications to [rholmes@lorishealthcaresystem.com](mailto:rholmes@lorishealthcaresystem.com). You may contact me, Regina F. Holmes via above email, cell phone 843-602-5732 Or mail applications to Regina F. Holmes ♦ 3655 Mitchell St. ♦ Loris, SC 29569

I look forward to receiving the upcoming nominations. As always I am honored to serve the SER WOCN and thank you for the opportunity! God Bless you all!

## Director of Special Projects: CEU Opportunities

Elaine Rush, MSN, RN, CWOCN



2009 brings challenges and adventures for our practice. With the economy tight and many hospitals and health facilities tightening the budget strings, we find our practice looking for more cost-effective and creative ways to manage our patients. We are also looking at our continuing education money being cut or eliminated and our need to keep up-to-date in our practice. One way we can get continuing education (CE) hours is through on-line or publication opportunities. The following is a list of available opportunities this quarter.

Advances in Skin and Wound Care, Volume 21, Number 11, November 2008. *Chronic Wound Infections and Antimicrobial Use*, page 531.

Advances in Skin and Wound Care, Volume 22, Number 1, January 2009. *Body Image and Facial Burns*, page 39.

Advances in Skin and Wound Care, Volume 22, Number 2, February 2009. *The Nursing Process and Pressure Ulcer Prevention: Making the Connection*, page 83.

Advances in Skin and Wound Care, Volume 22, Number 3, March 2009. *Process for Developing Evidence-Informed Practice Recommendations: Venous Leg Ulcers Example*, page 133.

Journal of WOCN, Volume 36, Number 1, January-February 2009. *Honey-Based Dressings and Wound Care*, page 60.

The WOCN Annual Conference "The Gateway to Knowledge" - June 6-10 in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Southeast WOCN Conference "Sun, Sea, and Science" – September 10-13 in Jacksonville, Florida.

EHOB offers on-line courses at [www.ehob.com](http://www.ehob.com)

WOCN through [www.wocn.org](http://www.wocn.org) – Global Learning Center

Consider all these opportunities for your continuing education hours. We still have limited on-line programs for continence and ostomy and we need people to do research and publish articles – this could be your challenge for the New Year.

## North Carolina News

Judy Plemmons, RN, CWOCN

The NC group met in February and had a sweetheart of a program. The group continues to work on the next research study on Deep Tissue Injury. News of interest is that **Leanne Richbourg** has taken a job as Wound & Ostomy Clinical Nurse Specialist at Duke University Hospital in Durham, NC. Her new email is [leanne.richbourg@duke.edu](mailto:leanne.richbourg@duke.edu). Also, **Mary Kay Wooten** has retired from the Durham VA Hospital after three decades!

Our own **Suzanne Collins** presented a power point presentation on pressure ulcers as well as an

update on public policy. Speaking of politics, the Nurse in Washington Intern for 2009 will be **Suzanne Collins**. Her primary responsibility will be to present the agenda of the WOCN Society to appropriate elected officials. Requests for meetings with Congresswoman Myrick and Senator Burr are in the mix; no word yet on the time and date. In addition, for a great look of a Quality Improvement Organization, **Suzanne** recommends the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's web site: <http://www.ihl.org/ihl>. She notes that "studying it can save a lot of time if

you are in a leadership position, tasked with managing the talent and energy of a department."

The latest reason for celebration by the NC group is that our manuscript for the heel pressure ulcer study has been accepted, pending revisions, to the JWOCN!



**Judy Plemmons**  
[JDPlammo@aol.com](mailto:JDPlammo@aol.com)

## 2009 Election Information

### Terry Barton, BSN, RN, CWOCN

This is your opportunity to serve *your* Southeast Region!! As we continue to evolve and grow SER will continue to need high caliber member volunteers whose backgrounds, skills and experience match the WOCN's mission and its current and future needs. As a valued member we would like to invite you to consider nominating an individual (or yourself) for an open position for election this year. Positions available are (4) Board positions and (6) Nominations committee members, one from each state. If interested in running for an office your name can be added to the slate by contacting any of the Nominations Committee members. You may request to run for office up to and at the Business Meeting at SER Conference in the Fall. The Biographical Data and Consent to Serve Form must be filled out and sent to your state nomination committee member. This form is available on the SER website.



*Offices to be filled:*

#### **Secretary**

The secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings and record decisions of the SER Board of Directors, review minutes and assure distribution to the SER Board of Directors and membership.

#### **Treasurer**

The treasurer shall be in charge of the SER funds and records. The Treasurer shall oversee the accounting procedures for the handling of funds and shall be responsible for monitoring of disbursement and investment of SER WOCN funds as approved by the SER Board of Directors.

#### **Director #1: Special Projects**

This director shall develop products for sale to supplement professional practice of SER members, such as slides or other educational support materials. Coordinate annual fundraising project at National WOCN conference exhibit hall, including arranging for booth display materials.

#### **Director #3: Conference Planning**

This director shall be the liaison to Conference Planning committee, including support and guidance to chairperson.

#### **Nominations Committee Members**

Committee members shall be responsible for soliciting nominations for all elected positions. They shall also support the Nominations chairperson with the voting process.

#### **Voting**

Active members can vote during the conference in Florida. Information will be posted to familiarize you with the candidates. Members are strongly encouraged to view profiles for each candidate that will be located in the exhibit hall.

#### **Absentee Ballot Instructions**

If you wish to vote by absentee ballot you can request a ballot to be mailed to you. Please call 407-646-7523 and leave a message including name, complete address and phone number. Request for a ballot should be made by August 21 and must be postmarked by September 1.

**Please contact a nominating committee member below if you are interested in running for office or if you have questions:**

AL:	Jan Hale Stevens	256-494-4116	jan_stevens@gadsdenregional.com
FL:	Terry Barton	407-646-7523	terry.barton@flhosp.org
GA:	Lorna Buntichai	404-686-8174	lorna.buntichai@emoryhealthcare.org
NC:	Pam Whitley	704-316-3483	pswhitley@novanthealth.org
SC:	Tena Jordan	864-725-5018	tjordan@selfregional.org
TN:	Denise Goodwin	423-902-9667	douganddenise1@msn.com

## Greetings from the Great State of Alabama

Jessie Dickerson, RN, MSN, CWON-AP, CFCN

The Alabama WOCNs are busy as usual with practice issues, State Meeting Planning and individual achievements. Below is just an example of what's happening in the State.



### Nurses at the Alabama State Rally

Several of the Birmingham Area WOCNs (**Deborah Thedford, Patricia Blakely, Cynthia Cunningham** and **Michael Byars**) joined over one thousand (1000) other nurses to rally on the steps of the Capitol in Montgomery on February 12, 2009 in support of the "Nurses At The Capitol Rally 2009". Nurses statewide signed petitions acknowledging the "Health Care Crisis" and recognizing what is at stake as health care providers.

**Deborah Thedford** reported that some of the issues were:

- The nursing shortage is expected to worsen
- Funding is needed for nursing faculty so our schools of nursing can increase class size
- The distress of the State's budget, despite the possibility of Governor Bob Riley's refusal to accept all of the stimulus money
- Nurse Practitioners are trying to change their regulatory requirements to line up with the rest of the country and
- The Alabama Board of Nursing is under "Sunset Review" this year and we have to be careful to avoid any adverse changes that could affect the Nurse Practice Act in Alabama.

The Alabama State University Pep Band and Choir rendered many selections for this event and many renowned speakers were in attendance, such as: Chief Justice, Senators, Congressmen, Alabama Department of Health, Nursing Director and the ASNA President, Dr. Debbie Faulk. The session ended with a press conference to make everyone aware of this ongoing "Health Care Crisis".

### Save the Date

Montgomery will host the State WOCN Meeting on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the Homewood Suites in Interstate Park, Montgomery, Alabama. **Michael Byars**, RN, BSN, CWOCN is the Coordinator of this event and he reports that the Montgomery Area WOCNs promise a very informative and fun filled meeting. They expect to have some of Central Alabama's most influential speakers to present on topics that cover wound, ostomy and continence issues. Breakfast, lunch and CEUs will be provided. Registration will be from 0830 to 0900 with the meeting starting at 0900 and ending at 1500. For those interested, special rates will be provided for Friday night at the Homewood Suites and you are invited for pre-planned festivities to take in the hospitality of local eateries and nightlife. Enter the Story Board Competition: Submit a Story Board to be voted on by your peers and win a \$100.00 cash prize. All Alabama WOCNs or anyone interested in these pertinent issues are invited to attend the State Meeting. According to **Michael**, this event will be an opportunity for Alabama and the SER WOCN to build unity and national strength. For any questions or to express interest—please contact **Michael Byars**, RN, BSN, CWOCN at his email [mrbyars@baptistfirst.org](mailto:mrbyars@baptistfirst.org). Or, call (334) 286-2734.

If coordinating the State Meeting is not enough, **Michael Byars** is going to be very, very busy along with **Kay Baxter**, CWOCN at Baptist South teaching a Wound Resource Nurse Course on April 28, 29 and 30<sup>th</sup> to staff nurses at Baptist Medical Center in Montgomery, Alabama. Course participants can expect a comprehensive increase above and beyond basic knowledge concerning pressure ulcer prevention, wound, ostomy care, and restoration of skin integrity. There is no cost for the course and 24 CEU credits are possible. For more information call (334) 286-2734.

### **Congratulations and Well Wishes**

Dr. **Mardell Davis**, Ph.D., RN, CWOCN, faculty at UAB School of Nursing will retire April 30, 2009, after 47 years of nursing; the last 28 years at UAB. **Dot Tuggle** has also retired officially in January from New Beacon Hospice. Both of these WOC nurses have had a long and successful career in nursing and we certainly extend to them our well wishes and good luck as they embark on a new career called retirement. UAB WOCNs **Karen Edwards, Catrice Potts, Hattie Stokes** and **Kelly Suttles** authored an article entitled "Topical Treatment Protocol for Stevens-Johnson Syndrome". It will be published in the Journal of WOCN, May issue. Great job ladies! **Catrice Potts** recently gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. The Birmingham WOCNs honored her with a surprise baby shower. **Jeannene MacKnight's** daughter Kaylee cancer surgery was successful. Thank God our prayers were answered. Kaylee is reportedly cancer free. During this period of uncertainty, Kaylee got the lead role in her high school play "Thoroughly Modern Millie". It doesn't get any better than this. **Jessie Dickerson** has been discharged from the hospital after an 8 day stay. She is expected to make a full recovery and is very thankful for all the prayers, visits and get well cards. **Jessie** celebrated her birthday in the hospital with plenty of family and friends. Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to **Michele Crocker** in the recent loss of her beloved husband Eddie on January 29, 2009. **Michele** is also grateful for the outpouring of support she received during this most trying time.

### **Job Moves**

**Sharon White** has returned to hospital nursing after many, many years in Industry. She is now working as the CWOCN at Trinity Medical Center. Her email address is [Sharon.White@Trinitymedicalonline.com](mailto:Sharon.White@Trinitymedicalonline.com). **Jan Hale** has left Gadsden Regional Medical Center after more than 30 years of service. She is now working for Amedeysis Home Health Care. **Laura King** is working at the new Shelby Advanced Wound Care Clinic in Shelby County. **Opal Watson** has left Jackson Hospital in Montgomery and is now at the Nolan Center.

### **National News Events**

**Deborah Thedford** was among the Alabama Obama Supporters who made the pilgrimage on a bus to Washington, D.C. on January 21, 2009 to attend the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama. **Deborah** has a picture and article on the web about this historical event. You are invited to visit St. Louis Post Dispatch and STLtoday.com newspaper for more details. Or, you can just type in **Deborah's** name on Internet for more information.

**Jackie Doubleman** is planning another CEU cruise this fall. The price is right – CEU is only \$25.00. Keep this cruise in mind. It is scheduled to take place sometime in October. More information is to follow. Contact: **Jackie Doubleman** at (205) 939-7246.

**Sharon McKinney** attended the NPUAP Conference in Washington D.C. this past week. The EPUAP people were there as well, there was great information on the guidelines, drafts, etc. Look for new guidelines coming in May this year!

You can tell from the length of this report that our Alabama WOCNs are "Movers and Shakers". We love you all - keep up the exceptional work. The Alabama WOCNs invite you to visit our website [www.bhamareawoc.org](http://www.bhamareawoc.org) for information about us.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Jessie L. Dickerson**  
*Retiree*

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**Southeast Region Conference 2009**

**Sun, Sea and Science...**  
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