

President's Report

Mary McNeil, RN, BSN, CWOCN

How exciting it is for me to share with the SER

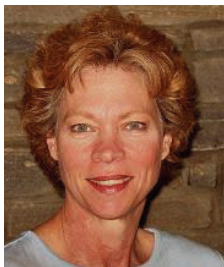
membership in this newsletter. If you were not able to attend the WOCN meeting in Orlando last month, we

certainly missed you! We might have had to pour out into the hallway had you been there, but that would have been fine - the energy among the members present was palpable!

Not knowing what our attendance would be, and trying to be cautious with the region's dollars, I WAY underestimated how many would arrive for our breakout meeting. As the host of the meeting, I was a bit embarrassed... enough food for possibly half and many "took to the floor" as chairs were at a premium! As I took a moment to sit back and count, I realized about 70 SER members had joined together for the event. I want to share some of the meeting's highlights:

- We were honored to have Alvin Word (TN) with us as we ended our "scholarship challenge" having raised \$22,500.00 (combined funds). Outstanding!! And, while at the meeting, we collected another \$400.00. These monies have been sent to the national WOCN office to be awarded through the scholarship committee.

- We had a great report from Dot Lawson (SC), Director of Conference Planning, as she offered a summary of our upcoming SER Fall conference that will be held in



Huntsville, AL, September 11-14. This will undoubtedly be a great conference!

- Regina Holmes provided an update on Youth Rally Camper Scholarships – we have assisted with sending 2 campers from AL and 7 campers and 2 pediatric nurses from GA - a total of \$2000.00.

During the meeting, I spoke with the membership about reducing the newsletters to 3x annually: one after the Winter board meeting, one after national conference and one after Fall conference. This will provide readership with updates following significant events of the region as well as save approximately \$4-500 – one mailing cost. The members present then started talking about potentially "going green" and placing our newsletter on line with a blast email that would link the membership to the newsletter for download. We will continue to evaluate this and move toward environmental responsibility... as we are all trying to do!

Special thanks go to Dot Lawson, Regina Holmes, other board members and those recruited to man the SER booth within the exhibit hall. During this time the region raised approximately \$1000 in educational CD sales!

Lastly, let me say that standing "elbow to elbow" with the 70 members present at the breakout meeting in Orlando was a very proud moment for me. We are growing, learning, shaping, changing... SER you are the very BEST!!

See you in Huntsville!!

Spotlight on a Mentor

Outstanding Mentor of the Quarter
Jeanenne MacKnight
By Karen Edwards

Jeanenne has been an active member of the Birmingham Area WOC Nurses Association for many years. She has her own consulting business and has practiced WOC nursing in multiple settings within the Birmingham area.

Jeanenne is always willing to precept WOCN students and offer clinical insights to colleagues when complex cases present themselves. One of her most valuable contributions to the Birmingham WOCN group is that she propelled them into the new millennium by having the vision to build a web site for easier dissemination of information and resources. On this site you can find pictures, upcoming events, a directory of area WOCNs and advertisements. She is the "web master" now and keeps it up to date.

Jeanenne is also on the planning committee for the 2008 SER meeting in Huntsville and her touch has already been recognized through the establishment of the conference theme. Through her research of the NASA aspect of achieving excellence, the Alabama program "Achievement through Excellence" became the theme for the 2008 conference. Her "behind the scenes" work for this conference and her outstanding creativity are so appreciated. Her creative touch is felt throughout the program with the establishment of some very amusing program titles... stay tuned!

Thank you, Jeanenne for being this quarter's outstanding mentor. Your "yes" attitude and willingness to jump in and help your colleagues with projects and complex cases is greatly appreciated!

**Southeast Region
Board of Directors 2008**

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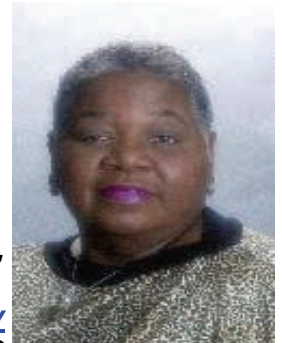
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cami@nc.rr.com
919-518-0963

**Visit our Website at
www.serwocn.org**

Greetings from the Great State of Alabama

Congratulations to Deborah S. Thedford, RN, MSN, CWOCN who won the election to the National Nominations Committee for Area 4. She is at University of Alabama Birmingham Medical Center.



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

**Jessie.Dickerson@va.gov
205-933-8101 Ext. 6158**



*To instill within ourselves these qualities
essential for professional excellence:*

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| ★ DISCIPLINE | ★ RESPONSIBILITY |
| ★ COMPETENCE | ★ TOUGHNESS |
| ★ CONFIDENCE | ★ TEAMWORK |

Hello from Tennessee!

Mona Hector, BSN, RN, CWOCN

Earlier in the spring **Amy Bandelier** learned that her abstract for a poster, "Clinical Evaluation of a Bedridden Patient in an Extended Care Facility on a Non-Powered Pressure Redistribution Support Surface" had been accepted for presentation at the SAWC. This came from a 30 day trial she conducted in an extended care facility. Taking the time, effort and sharing is what contributes to our research knowledge base. Good going!

Karen Huskey is welcoming **Nancy Crisler RN, WOCN** at Memorial Hospital. She just completed the course at Emory in May. We all welcome you to a great specialty area. In Memphis I learned that **Kathleen Chambers** has just returned from Texas

where she conducted two 8 hour workshops on wound prevention to Dallas and Fort Worth health care facilities who are trying to get their programs up to par to prevent nosocomial ulcers. She had also conducted the same workshop in Houston in April. The "bottom line" definitely is putting our specialty in the spotlight.

The wound/ostomy nurses in the Methodist-LeBoneur Health Care System are focusing a lot of their attention on high risk patients admitted free of pressure ulcers in an attempt to be proactive and prevent pressure ulcers from developing.

UT Hospital in Knoxville has just hired a new FTE. Her name is Jeannie Downing. She will be starting with us August 3, 2008. We are very grateful to have Jeannie as

part of the team.

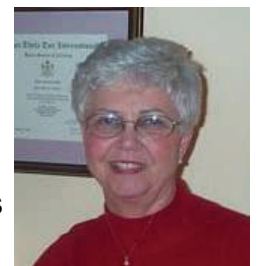
I am asking all WOC nurses in Tennessee to forward their current e-mail addresses to me. I promise only a request for news four times a year or so. My list from national seems to be outdated. The deadline notification for this newsletter was sent to my old e-mail address and I found out only the day before news was due. Needless to say I was doing some fast phone calls and e-mails and I know we are missing some great news. Submit to me anytime: monahector@bellsouth.net or call my home phone (901) 358-2667. See you at conference in Huntsville!

Mona Hector
monahector@bellsouth.net
(901) 358-2667

Keeping Up with Georgia

Vi Poteete, RN, CWOCN

Patrina Taylor was the recipient of the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses. She works at Grady Memorial Hospital. **Laura Shafer** was honored at the AJC Nurses Luncheon at the Cobb Energy Center as one of the 300 nurses throughout Georgia who went above and beyond the call of duty in 2007. Laura was nominated by two different patients! Congratulations to Patrina and Laura!

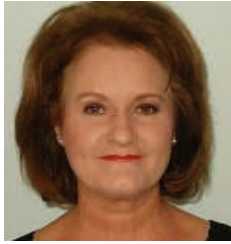


Wellstar News: **Malries Niehuser** will be attending the National WOCN conference in Florida and will have two poster presentations on exhibit. **Andrea MacCorkle** will be moving to Wichita, Kansas in early July as her husband is being transferred. She will be greatly missed!

Vi Poteete ♦ vipoteete@bllsouth.net

News from South Carolina

Cindy Norris, RN, CWOCN



Dr. Teresa Kelechi, PhD, RN, Associate Professor and Nurse

Researcher at the College of Nursing, Medical University of South Carolina, is a pioneer in the use of infrared thermometers to measure skin temperature of the legs affected by chronic venous disorders. Through her studies, she has found that the temperature of the lower legs damaged by poor skin circulation from chronic venous disorders is higher than normal. When the temperature gets too high, the skin may ulcerate. Prevention of high skin temperature by slowing the skin microcirculation is the focus of this research. In a recently funded study by the National Institute of Nursing Research, Dr. Kelechi is testing different treatments on skin temperature and skin circulation in hopes that the treatment, in the long-term, will prevent ulcers. Dr. Kelechi, a Certified Wound Care Nurse, teaches patients how to monitor the skin temperature with a hand-held infrared thermometer (TempTouch by Diabetica Solutions, San Antonio, TX), how to properly elevate the legs, and when to use a special cool gel wrap applied to the damaged skin. "This is

a very unique approach to the care of the patient because it allows patients to measure and monitor temperature, a skin "vital sign", stated Dr. Kelechi. Changes in the temperature could be an early warning sign of an impending ulcer and patients could take rapid action to prevent it". The study is being conducted at the Wound Center at The Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. There are no costs to participate in the study and compensation is available for travel. For more information about the study, contact Dr. Teresa Kelechi at 843-792-4602 at the College of Nursing, Medical University of South Carolina.

Thought for the day:

"Just remember, YOU can make a difference in someone's life today. It will take a little of your precious time and caring and will always be treasured and remembered." Pass it on.

South Carolina had an excellent representation for the 40th WOCN Conference in Orlando. It was great! Please try to attend next year if you can!

Please send me information for the next newsletter!

Cindy Norris, BSN CWOCN
cnoorriswocn@bellsouth.net

SER WOCN
 Educational CDs
 Available for
 Purchase

Lower Extremity
 Ulcers:
 Assessment &
 Management 2nd
 Edition

Ostomy Care

Coming Fall 2008
 Pressure Ulcers
 and Fistula
 Management

Order form
 available on the
 website
www.serwocn.org
 or by calling the
 office at
 919-518-0963

North Carolina News

Judy Plemmons, RN, CWOCN

The NC group met May 2, 2008 at Wesley Long Hospital in Greensboro, NC, featuring a program by the Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence which is a Quality Improvement Organization for NC and SC. One strategy of the organization is to “create communities of practice for hospitals and nursing homes.” They reported that CMS is funding this initiative at no charge. Visit the website at www.thecarolinascenter.org for more information. KCI provided lunch with education on the new Info VAC.

We applaud **Lori Yearse** and Westcare Health System in Sylva, NC, on being selected to receive the first annual WOCNCB “Employer of the Year” award.

Pam Whitley will be leaving Stanly Regional Medical Center this month to join Novant Health/Presbyterian. Her position will be with Wassel Wound Care in

Concord, NC, but she will also be establishing a satellite wound and ostomy care practice in Locust, NC.

Southeastern Wound Center is another recently opened wound center. The Southeastern Regional Medical Center CWOCN’s are **Anita Thurman, RN, BSN**, and **Barbara Saunders, RN, BSN**. Congratulations to Barbara on her new certification!

Our member of the National Public Policy Committee, **Suzanne Collins**, enlightened us all with her update on this important committee.

Julie Brackett, FNP, CWOCN, is back into WOC nursing. She has assumed a part time position at Cleveland Regional Medical Center. She continues to work full time as a FNP school nurse.

Several NC WOCN’s, along with friends and families,

participated in the “angels Among Us Walk” to raise money for Robert Preston Tiesh Brain

Tumor Center at Duke. The team is “WOC Nurses 4 Chris” in memory of **Chris Johnson**.

Additional details can be obtained by contacting **Jan Johnson** at johns115@mc.duke.edu.

We’re very proud of our website and if you have visited it, we encourage you to at www.ncwocn.org.



Judy Plemmons
JDPllemmo@aol.com

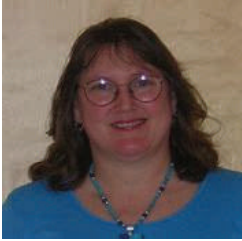
Call for Poster/Abstracts and Case Presentations:

2008 Annual Conference

The committee for posters/presentations encourage you to “**blast off**” your ideas, new and innovative practices, and research projects at the SERWOCN conference in Huntsville, AL. Deadline for abstracts is June 31, 2008. For additional information, please contact Karen Edwards, CWOCN at 205-934-6903 or e-mail kedwards@uabmc.edu

Hello from Sunny Florida

Kathryn Dere, RN, CWOCN



Wow, it's hard to believe summer is here. What happened to the first 6

months of the year? WOCN conference is nearly upon us and it's here in the Sunshine State of Florida. Welcome to all who are coming.

I know of 4 posters that will be there from the central region. From the Tampa area, **Janet Hill** and **Nancy Scott** will present their poster entitled: "Using Convexity in the Management of Complex Clinical Challenges". From Orlando area, **Anna Alvarez** and **Georgene Hadley** will present their poster on "Case studies of Head and Neck Wounds". **Sally Matson** and **Teri Robinson** will present their poster entitled: "Pediatric Two-Piece Pouching Procedure With High Output Jejunostomy." **Donna Sellers** and **Sally Matson** will present their poster: "Clinical Experiences with a New Flat Moldable Skin Barrier."

The Florida Association of Enterostomal therapists (FAET) had a successful conference with over 170 attendees. "The combination of the 30 Anniversary and an outstanding roster of speakers was the big

attraction", says **Terry Barton**, Co Chair of the conference. During the annual conference, new Board members were elected. They are the following: **Charlene Demers** President, **Terry Barton**, Vice President, **Barbara Bagby**, Membership. Congratulations, ladies.

Janet Hill and **Nancy Scott** report they were part of the interdisciplinary team for a Moffitt Cancer Center community event during March Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Nancy was the Spanish spokesperson and spoke on the Spanish radio station WGES to announce to Hispanic listeners about the importance of colon screening and re this event.

Connie Davis is the inventor of a wonderful, affordable compression stocking which she is wanting to share with colleagues across the state. "Over the years, I notice there was a gap in stocking treatment for those patients that can not put on or tolerate standard compression. I decided to fill the gap with a new product that would provide an alternative to standard compression stockings. I met with a retired engineer and in two years a viable product was born. It's called the STRETCH and LOCK Compression Wrap and made for those patients with edema of the lower extremity that have difficulty applying regular

stockings." For more information, visit the web site www.mycompressionstockings.net. Or contact Connie Davis, ARNP, CWON at cjdavis1@mindspring.com.

I know there is more news to share. Please send me anything that comes up. Don't wait to send it. I have a file that I keep for all SER news from around the state. Have a great summer. I hope to see you at WOCN conference.

*Kathryn Dere, RN, MSN, CWOCN
Kathryn.dere@orlandohealth.com*

CEU Opportunities

Elaine Rush, MSN, CWOCN

We are getting closer to the SER WOCN conference in September and this is an excellent opportunity to get your professional practice points as well as enhance your knowledge base in our specialty. The program that the Alabama team has planned is varied and provides for all of us new information that we can implement as we "solve the latest puzzles" that we face.

It will also be the debut of the third CD program offered by our region "**Pressure Ulcers and Fistula Management**" and you will have the first opportunity to purchase this program for your use. In the five years that we have been offering these programs, the price has not gone up (unlike anything else in our economy) and it will not for this one - so for \$15 you can get an expansive program on these topics.



The available publications offering CEU are:

WOUND:

Advances in Skin and Wound Care, May 2008, Volume 21, Number 5, page 227 "Smoking the Bane of Wound Healing: Biomedical Interventions and Social Influences."

Advances in Skin and Wound Care, June 2008, Volume 21, Number 6, page 282, "Heel Pressure Ulcers: Stand Guard."

CONTINENCE

Journal of WOCN, May/June 2008, Volume 35, Number 3, page 323, "Urology Care of the Spinal Cord-Injured Patient."

Hope to see all of you in Huntsville, Alabama September 11-14!

2008 Award Information

Regina Holmes, CWOCN

Hello everyone,

I hope all is well with you all. The conference in Fla. was wonderful and I am looking forward to the Ala conference as well. We will recognize those who have excelled in WOC practice at that time as always, but I need your help: Last year we started the Free Fall Conference scholarships for those with a BS who are interested in the WOC field. One of the recipients of this scholarship assisted with a preconference workshop on compression therapy at the National Conference! What a success story! I did not get any applications for this conference. Therefore we are extending the application deadline in hopes of sending someone with a

BS who is interested in the WOC nursing to our Fall Conference. You may submit an application by going to our website www.serwocn.org and under AWARD Nominations you will see the form: Fall Conference Scholarship. The SE Region also paid the airfare for 2 Alabama children and 7 Georgia children that attended Youth Rally Camp as well as 2 Pediatric Nurses from GA. I hope to hear from you all soon and I will see you at conference.



SER 2008 Elections—Seeking Board Members

Terry Barton, RN, CWOCN



Open for election are (3) Board positions. There is still time to add your name to the slate! Any active member of the SER WOCN one year prior to election is qualified to run for office. 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:

President

The President shall serve as the chief executive officer of the SER WOCN. The President shall also serve as a member ex-officio, with the right to vote on all committees except the Nominations Committee. The President shall make all required appointments of standing committee chairpersons and special committees with the approval of the SER Board of Directors. The President shall perform other duties as are necessary to the office of president or as may be described by the SER Board of Directors. The President shall serve one year as a non-voting member of the SER Board of Directors upon completion of the term of office.

Vice-President

The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or incapacity of the President. The Vice-President shall serve as the official representative to the WOCN National Public Policy Committee. The Vice-President shall serve as bylaws chairperson and is responsible for maintaining the bylaws and the policy/procedure manual.

Director of Awards

Serves as coordinator of Youth Rally Sponsorship, Celebrate WOC Nursing Day, Rookie of the Year, Dorothy Doughy Research Scholarship and Nurse of the Year Award.

Voting

Active members can vote during the SER WOC Conference in Huntsville, Alabama, September 11–13, 2008. Information will be posted to familiarize yourself with the candidates. Members are strongly encouraged to view profiles for each candidate that will be located by the SER booth.

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 your name, complete address and phone number. Request for a ballot should be made by August 18 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 any 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	704-984-4388	pam.whitley@stanly.org
SC – Tena Jordan	864-725-5018	tjordan@selfregional.org
TN - Denise Goodwin	423-208-0959	douganddenise1@msn.com

2008 Candidates

Your Name Could Be Here Too!!

Candidate for President:



Laura Shafer

Presently serving as Communications Director for SER WOCN. CWOCN since 1989. Conference Chairperson SER WOCN in 1994. Scholarship honoree for SER WOCN in 1994. SER WOCN Director 1994-1996. Director of wound treatment Center and WOCN at Gwinnett Medical Center

Candidate for Vice-President:



Mary McNeil

Presently serving as SER WOCN President. Active member of SER WOCN since 1996. Director of Special Projects 2001-2005. WOCN Professional Practice Committee member. FAET Board and committee member. Membership and marketing committee member for NC WOCN. Represented WOCN through participation in NIWI, 2002.

Candidate for Director of Awards:



Regina Holmes

Presently serving as SER WOCN Director of Awards

ON-LINE VOTING

Many organizations have converted to an on-line voting process. To better serve you, the SER Board would like to ask the membership your thoughts regarding converting to on-line voting. As with anything, there are advantages and disadvantages. Some items to consider are:

1. Is it less personal?
2. There would be no opportunity to have nominations from the floor.
3. There would be no opportunity to campaign and meet the candidates in person.
4. Would it be more effective for absentee voting?
5. Would it be a quicker more efficient process?
6. Would it improve voter response?

Please help us serve you better by giving this some thought and responding online at www.serwocn.org "talk to the board" on the leadership page. Thank you.

SER WOCN
P O Box 98073
Raleigh, NC 27624
919-518-0963

Spanish Translation
Ostomy Teaching Booklets
Revised and Reprinted in 2002

The Birmingham Area ET (WOC) Nurses were awarded an educational grant from Carrington Laboratories, Inc. *in honor of Dr. Sheri Smith*, from Alabama. The grant was written to translate, print and disseminate the Ostomy teaching booklets into Spanish. Revenue from these booklets will be used to print more booklets, help sponsor children to attend the Youth Rally and send sets to all WOC Educations Programs.

The following booklets are available for \$3.50 each in Spanish or English

- Living with your Colostomy
- Living with your Ileostomy
- Living with your Urostomy

Order Form

Fill in the quality for the number of booklets you want. Send a check or money order payable to

The Birmingham Area ET Nurses Association, include postage and handling at the following rates:

Number of booklets:	1—10 \$3.00	11—20 \$6.00	21—40 \$12.00
	41—60 \$18.00	61—80 \$24.00	81—100 \$30.00

Please indicate which booklet(s) you want (Spanish or English) and send your name, address, phone number & e-mail address to: **Birmingham Area ET Nurses Association, P O Box 55358, Birmingham, AL 35255**, Please call 205-934-6903 for additional information Please allow 4—6 weeks for delivery.