



President's Report

Patti Haberer, MA, BSN, RN, CWOCN
President
president@serwocn.org



Dear Members,

At the beginning of every year, I often wonder how the previous year flew by so quickly. 2013 was a very exciting year for SER WOCN

Society. The South Carolina WOC nurses hosted an exceptional conference that broke many conference records. Thank you, South Carolina Conference Planning Committee; you put your hearts and souls into making this past conference - an incredible conference!

The SER WOCN Board met just a few weeks ago. We welcomed several new members to the SER WOCN Board. Trena Beckham from South Carolina is Secretary. Also from South Carolina is Reneé Epting as the Director of Special Projects. Jennifer Anderson of Alabama will be extremely busy this year as both a Conference Co-Chair and as Director of Communications. Terry Barton from Florida, our Nominations Committee Chair, also attended the meeting.

Jennifer Anderson, Michael Byars and Karen Eubank, 2014 Conference Co-Chairs have their work cut out for them to make this year's conference – bigger, better and bolder. During the board meeting, Jennifer Anderson presented Alabama's conference plans. Save the date: September 18th, 19th and 20th for

The Future of WOC Nursing in the Capital of Dreams. Understanding we're all watching our pocketbook, the Board voted to keep early bird conference registration at \$225. By doing so, SER WOCN Society continues to offer our membership quality education at a reasonable price.

The board also recognizes an increasing number of employers are not funding their WOC nurses to attend conference. To that end, I'm thrilled to announce the Board approved five (5) \$1200.00 scholarships for the 2014 SER WOCN Conference. Check the website for more information: www.serwocn.org.

There has been an upswing in the number of posters presented at our conference over the past few years. It is time poster presenters are rewarded for all of their hard work. The Board approved to increase the number of poster winners from one (\$200) award to three (1st place \$1000; 2nd place \$500; and 3rd place \$250) awards. I look forward to seeing even more poster presentations this year.

If you are attending this year's National WOCN Conference in Nashville, please join us for our Regional Meeting on Monday, June 23rd from 5:45 PM to 7:30 PM. Stay tuned for more information.

Thank you WOC nurses for all you do to serve your patients, your communities, your colleagues and your families.



Southeast Region WOCN 2014 Board of Directors

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Michael Byars
Karen Eubank
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Communications Report

by Jennifer Anderson, MBA, MSN, RN, CWCN
Director of Communications
news@serwocn.org



Hello Colleagues and Friends!

I want to thank everyone for allowing me to serve the SER WOCN Society membership as Director of Communications. I especially want to thank Patti Haberer, President; Martha Davidson, President-Elect and Bernie Haberer our webmaster for making the transition from member to board member easy. I attended my first board meeting in January. I really enjoyed the behind the scenes action of the SER WOCN Society. I would encourage any active member who wants to get involved to complete and send in a consent to serve. I have found the experience challenging and very rewarding. The PGP points are just a bonus!

I want to extend a great big thank you to our State Reporters for bringing their local news to our region.

- Alabama – Amy Armstrong - al.reporter@serwocn.org
- Florida – Linda Ravenhorst – fl.reporter@serwocn.org
- Georgia – Kathie Fuller – ga.reporter@serwocn.org
- North Carolina – Colleen Spiller – nc.reporter@serwocn.org
- South Carolina – Joan Jackson-Meekins – sc.reporter@serwocn.org
- Tennessee – Amy Bandelier – tn.reporter@serwocn.org

State Reporters are SER WOCN Society active members who volunteer to serve a term of 2 years with the option of a second term with the approval of the Director of Communications. The State Reporter is responsible for gathering information pertinent to his or her state membership and composing an article to share with our southeast community through this newsletter. We currently are looking for 2 State Reporters. Amy Bandelier has completed her term as Tennessee State Reporter and Kathie Fuller has decided to step down from her Georgia State Reporter post to return to school. I want to thank Amy and Kathie for their service and dedication to SER WOCN Society. If you are interested in becoming the next State Reporter for Georgia or Tennessee, I encourage you to contact me at news@serwocn.org. I will help you get started and you will earn PGP points toward recertification!



SER WOCN 2014 Conference

by Trudy Huey, MSN, RN, CWOCN
Director of Conference Planning
conf.plan@serwocn.org

Without a doubt, one of the best jobs on the Board of Directors for the SER WOCN Society is Director of Conference Planning. I get to witness the birth of an idea for a theme of the conference and see it bloom into our annual fall conference. Last year the South Carolina WOC nurses, choreographed us into new steps in WOC Nursing. What a great conference we had in Charleston, courtesy of Dot Lawson and Elizabeth Jones' superb team of talented WOC nurses, taking an idea and leading us around the dance floor with finesse. The conference delivered an abundance of pearls of wisdom to enhance our practice. We saw our first online conference evaluation that mirrored national WOCN conference.

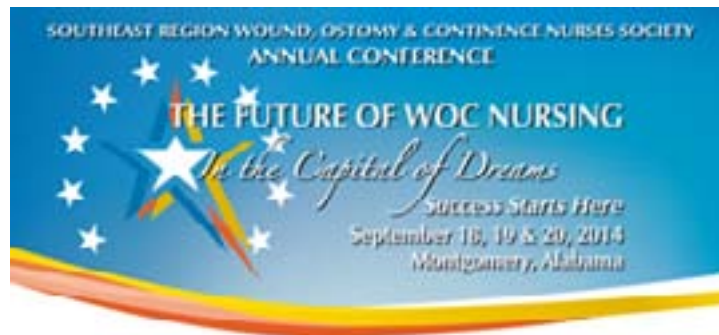
They set the bar at a high standard and the Alabama group has accepted the challenge to continue and create a conference you will not want to miss!

A big part of conference planning is taking the comments, written and verbal, from our membership to enhance the conference or the process the following year. Many of the building blocks of our conference emerged from your suggestions: developing into a green conference by online forms, PowerPoint, evaluations and a conference booklet that will not require the need for a chiropractic adjustment at the end of conference. This year the Alabama group is striving to incorporate ideas from the attendees' evaluations in Charleston. There will be a free night on Friday to explore, dine with friends, or indulge in an exquisite

hotel spa. Pre-conference will be not one but two concurrent offerings and a keynote speaker who practices a "slightly off philosophy" with great ideas on how to manage stress (if you have any) in your life.

The SER WOCN Board is acutely aware of the financial crunch many of our members face with attending conference. We strive to keep our fees low and the quality of contact hours and content high. The majority of your meals are included in the conference fee. Poster winners can earn

some serious cash this year in Alabama so think seriously about presenting a poster. Check out the conference logo in this newsletter for a hint of things to expect in Montgomery.



"The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all, the world needs dreamers who do" - Sarah Breathnach.

Come to Alabama and see what the dreamers and doers have in store for you. The Alabama WOC nurses and the SER WOCN Society want to welcome you to Montgomery, The Capital of Dreams!

Trudy Huey MSN, RN, CWOCN

Stay current with the latest Conference Information at:

<http://www.serwocn.org>





2014 Conference



Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center

The SER WOCN \$132 / Night room rate will be available until August 27th or until the group block is sold-out, whichever comes first. A registration link is now available on the SER WOCN website.

Online Attendee Registration Will Open in May.

Attendee Registration (Early Bird thru 7/31/14)	Thru Jul. 31st	Starting Aug. 1st
Member with WTA Pre-Conference	\$ 300	\$ 375
Member with Complex Pouching- Pre-Conference	\$ 275	\$ 350
Member - Conference Only	\$ 225	\$ 275
Member - WTA Pre-Conference Only	\$ 75	\$ 100
Member - Complex Pouching Pre-Conference Only	\$ 50	\$ 75
Non-Member with WTA Pre-Conference	\$ 375	\$ 450
Non-Member with Complex Pouching- Pre-Conference	\$ 350	\$ 425
Non-Member - Conference Only	\$ 275	\$ 325
Non-Member - WTA Pre-Conference Only	\$ 100	\$ 125
Non-Member - Complex Pouching Pre-Conference Only	\$ 75	\$ 100
1 Day Attendance Only: (no Pre- Conf)	\$ 125	\$ 125

Target Audience:

Professionals involved in the care of patients with wound, ostomy and continence issues.

Contact Hours:

There will be 15 contact hours available for the conference. Two pre-conference concurrent sessions will be available Thursday morning: "Wound Treatment Associate: Train the Trainer and Skills Workshop" presented by Phyllis Bonham, PhD, MSN, RN, CWOCN, DPNAP, FAAN (3 contact hours) and "The Aftermath of GI Surgery: The Art and Crafts of Ostomies, Fistulas, Drains and Wounds" presented by Karen Edwards, MSS, BSN, RN, CWOCN (2 contact hours). For more information, please visit our website: www.serwocn.org.

Accreditation:

This continuing nursing education activity is being applied through the Alabama State Nurses Association, and accredited approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Attendees are responsible to self-report their earned contact hours to each individual state of licensure.

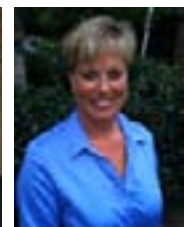
Conference Objectives:

1. Discuss advances in theoretical and clinical knowledge impacting individuals affected by wound, ostomy or continence issues.
2. Describe examples of evidence-based practice and multidisciplinary approaches to enhance outcomes in various health care settings.
3. Describe examples of evidence-based practice as it pertains to WOC nursing specialties.

Conference Co-Chairs:

I am serving as Co-Chair for the 2014 SER WOCN Conference in Montgomery with Michael Byars and Karen Eubank. I want to encourage you to attend The Future of WOC Nursing in the Capital of Dreams! The Keynote Speaker is promising humor and stress management. The City of Montgomery is so happy to host our conference they are providing free shuttle from the airport to the hotel for our members and speakers. We are providing a link on the website for any member who wishes to share a room or a ride to the conference. Please visit the website www.serwocn.org for more details. The conference will be held in the beautiful new Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa. It is within walking distance from the river front which has a very pretty park and a working river boat. The City of Montgomery has been revitalizing downtown and there are plenty of interesting restaurants close to the hotel. You will have no trouble finding something fun to do with your free Friday night! I look forward to seeing you all in the Capital of Dreams, Montgomery, Alabama!

Jennifer Anderson, Michael Byars and Karen Eubank





SER WOCN ELECTIONS

by Terry Barton, BSN, RN, CWOCN
Nominations Committee Chair
nominations@serwocn.org



*****Seeking COMMITTED Board Members*****

TOP SIX REASONS TO SERVE ON THE SER WOCN SOCIETY BOARD

1. Your support allows for SER WOCN Society to continue promoting high standards of care for all WOC nurses.
2. Each Board member receives a stipend to cover expenses for Winter Board Meeting and annual SER WOCN Regional Conference.
3. SER WOCN Board Leadership Roles provide PGP points towards recertification.
4. Regional Offices can help you to prepare for National Office.
5. Great networking opportunities.
6. Become a valued member of SER WOCN Society.

2014 ELECTION INFORMATION

The SER WOCN Board of Directors manages the SER WOCN Society and all of its interests and affairs. It also sets the SER WOCN Society's direction, goals and priorities. Board Members have two mandatory Board meetings a year, one in the winter and one before the annual SER WOCN Conference. The term of each position is two years with a two term limit.

Open for election are three Board positions:

1. **President-Elect**

The President-Elect shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or incapacity of the President. The President-Elect shall succeed to the office of the President in the event it shall become vacant. The President-Elect shall perform such duties as may be delegated by the President or the SER Board of Directors. The President-Elect shall serve as the SER WOCN Society liaison to the WOCN Public Policy Subcommittee. The President-Elect shall be responsible for maintaining the SER WOCN Society Bylaws and the policy/procedure manual.

2. **Director of Awards**

The Director of Awards serves as the coordinator of the Youth Rally Sponsorship, SER WOC Nurse of the Year, Rookie of the Year Award, Dorothy Doughty Research Grant and the Fall Conference Scholarships.

3. **Director of Communications**

The Director of Communications shall serve as the editor of the SER WOCN Society Newsletter and as webmaster for the SER WOCN Society website. The candidate must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications and basic computer skills.

continued on next page



Election News continued

CRITERIA TO RUN FOR A SER WOCN SOCIETY BOARD POSITION

1. Must be an **active** member of SER WOCN Society for one year immediately prior to election.
2. A dedicated commitment to serve your fellow SER WOCN Society colleagues.

PROCEDURE FOR RUNNING FOR A SER WOCN SOCIETY BOARD POSITION

1. Verify and confirm your membership is **active** and current.
2. Obtain a copy of the position description to review from www.serwocn.org.
3. Complete and submit the 2014 Consent to Serve Form online by **June 1, 2014**.
(available on www.serwocn.org)
4. Prepare a candidate biography and submit with a picture to be available for member review on the SER WOCN Society website by **June 1, 2014** and remit to nominations@serwocn.org.

Please contact me if you have any questions at: nominations@serwocn.org.

Thank you for your consideration in serving on the SER WOCN Society Board of Directors this year!

Terry Barton - Nominations Committee Chair

Important Dates to Remember:



June 15: Candidate's Bios Available Online



July 15: Online Voting Opens



August 15: Online Voting Closes



September:
Election Results Will be Announced During the Membership Meeting

Remember to Keep Your WOCN® Membership Current



Awards Report

by Cindy Jones Norris, BSN, RN, CWOCN
Director of Awards
awards@serwocn.org



Award and Scholarship Recognition Time

The Award and Scholarship time is fast approaching for our prospective recipients to be recognized at our annual Fall SER WOCN Society Conference presentation in Alabama. We have many deserving nurses who have dedicated their lives to our WOC nurse profession. These nurses strive consistently to deliver expert care to our trusting patients, families and significant others who have embarked on a journey that may seem hopeless; challenging and devastating physically, financially and emotionally. The expertise, compassion and tender loving care of the WOC nurse offers hope and light at the end of the tunnel for our often challenging patients. By promoting patient education and involvement in clinical and research opportunities, the interdisciplinary team promotes positive behavior and change essential in healing. Are you that nurse or do you know a nurse who fills these shoes? Please take time to nominate yourself or a colleague who deserves to be recognized for their contribution to our patients and SER WOCN Society. I read an article in a nursing journal about twenty years ago comparing patients who enter the hospital to a person traveling to a foreign country without a passport; as "helpless, dependent and anxious" from the unknown and trusting someone will be available to guide and provide security. We as WOC nurses guide and provide security during the wound, ostomy and continence storm. The criteria and qualifications are listed for each award and scholarship on the SER WOCN Society website. During the Winter Board Meeting, the Board made updates to clarify and improve the efficacy of the awards and scholarships. (The *WOC Nurse Week Award* was discontinued due to lack of applicants.)

These awards include:

- **WOC Nurse of the Year**
- **Rookie of the Year**
- **Host State Recognition Award** (State Honoree)
- **Dorothy Doughty Research Grant**

- **SER Annual Fall Conference Scholarships** - The revision for this scholarship has changed from six (6) \$750 scholarships to five (5) \$1200 scholarships for SER WOCN Society members. All expenses to include conference registration, meals, hotel and travel are the responsibility of the recipient. The \$1200 scholarship award will be presented at conference to offset conference expenses. Winners must be present to receive the award.
A recipient cannot receive SER WOCN Conference scholarship / award assistance 2 consecutive years.
- **Youth Rally Scholarship for Camp** - SER WOCN Society donated \$2000. "The Youth Rally is a community for adolescents with bowel or bladder diseases. Young people with diagnoses like these often feel alienated because they do not know of anyone who shares their medical or emotional experiences. Young people learn independence, gain confidence, and find understanding and support through the camp." This is for campers' 11-17 years of age and is an annual summer event held at a different college campus each year. This year it will be at San Diego State University, July 7-12. If you are interested in becoming a counselor, or know an interested youth, please refer to the web site at <http://rally4youth.org/tocamperapp.php>.
- **National WOCN Scholarship Fund** - SER WOCN Society donated \$2000.

I encourage and challenge you as a WOC nurses to become involved in our SER WOCN Society. I welcome any comments or suggestions regarding any future scholarships and awards at:
awards@serwocn.org.



Special Projects Report

by Reneé Epting, MN, RN, CWOCN
Director of Special Projects
projects@serwocn.org

Greetings from South Carolina and thank you for allowing me to serve SER WOCN Society as Director of Special Projects for the next two years. I am so excited about this opportunity to grow with our organization! I would like to advise you about some additional responsibilities recently added to the Director of Special Projects.

As part of the 2013 SER WOCN Conference in Charleston, we provided an opportunity to earn a free 0.5 contact hour via the SER WOCN E-learn Program. A big thank you, again, to Leanne Richbourg (North Carolina) for sharing; "Tips for Abstract Writing and Poster Design/Display" as the first of what we hope will be many educational opportunities for our membership in the E-learn Program. You can access Leanne's presentation at:
<http://serwocn.org/eLearn/PosterProgram/index.html>.

Now, I'm sure there are many more of you out there with great presentations such as Leanne's. Please consider sharing them with us. I will be glad to review any submissions as potential postings to the E-learn Program. I will also apply for the contact hours; all you have to do is share your presentation. This is a win-win for you (the presenter) as well as those who choose to view your presentation (Professional Practice PGP Points). Please send submissions for consideration to me at:
projects@serwocn.org.



I will also serve as a mentor for 2014 Poster Presentation Chairperson, Cheryl Lane, and her committee for the Montgomery Conference. I had the pleasure of serving as Poster Presentation Chair for the 2013 Conference in Charleston and learned so much in the process. I am looking forward to working with this great group of Alabama WOC nurses and making the 2014 Poster Presentations even better than last year.

Speaking of posters, now is the time to consider entering poster presentations for the 2014 conference. Posters are an awesome way of communicating your research to a large group while earning PGP points for your poster display. As part of giving back to our membership, we have increased the awards for the winning posters significantly! Poster Presentation winners at the 2014 SER WOCN Conference in Montgomery will receive **\$1000 for first place**, **\$500 for second place** and **\$250 for third place**. So write up an abstract highlighting research you recently conducted and have it ready for submission when the Call for Abstracts goes out.

Kindest regards,
Reneé.



2013 1st Place Poster



Greetings from the Great State of Alabama

by Amy Armstrong, BSN, RN, CWOCN
Alabama State Reporter
al.reporter@serwocn.org

Throughout the holiday season and beginning of the New Year, the Alabama WOC Nurses have been busy!

Karen Edwards escaped the unusual cold Alabama weather for a meeting in sunny (but still cold!) Orlando, Florida as part of her continued work with the International Skin Tear Panel.

Kelly Suttle traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii to present her poster *Using Shared Governance to Evaluate Appropriate Use of Underpads for Pressure Ulcer Prevention* at the Transforming Healthcare Nursing Conference in January.

Amy Armstrong presented Geriatric Skin Care and Pressure Ulcer Prevention at the 5th Annual Interprofessional Geriatric Education Conference in January.

The Birmingham Area WOCN Group had a wonderful Christmas celebration dinner at Todd English Pub and exchanged ornaments as part of a great night out.



Congratulations to Jennifer Anderson on her appointment to the SER WOCN Board as Director of Communications.

Congratulations to the new officers of the Birmingham Area WOCN group: Chairman - Deborah Thedford-Zimmerman, Chairman-Elect - Misty Edwards, Treasurer - Sharon White and returning Secretary - Cheryl Lane. At their January meeting, the group presented the YWCA with a donation in honor of Hattie Stokes.

Jennifer Anderson, Michael Byars and Karen Eubank are steering us towards success as cochairmen of the next SER WOCN Conference: The Future of WOC Nursing in the Capital of Dreams, September 18-20, Montgomery, AL.



Sharon White, Amy Armstrong and Deborah Thedford-Zimmerman



Joy Lynch, Misty Edwards, Najla Washington and Bonnie Keisler



Alabama News continued...

Hattie Reasor Stokes (November 6, 1958-November 17, 2013)



Hattie Stokes passed away on November 17, 2013. She graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) with a BSN in 1985. While a nurse at UAB, Hattie served in many roles: staff nurse, charge nurse and as WOC nurse. She was a mentor, friend and sister to so many people. Hattie retired from UAB in 2010 and embarked on a new journey at the Birmingham VA Hospital where she served as a WOC nurse until the time of her passing. Hattie was a faithful member of the Birmingham Area WOCN group, serving as Treasurer for many years. She also was a member of the Black Nurses Association, American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Nurses and Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates. Her smile and positive attitude will be missed. Her legacy of the countless lives she touched-both patients and colleagues- will continue for many years to come.



Florida - The Sunshine State

by Linda Ravenhorst, MBA, BSN, RN, CWON
Florida State Reporter
fl.reporter@serwocn.org



TAMPA BAY AREA

From Molly Holt at Tampa General Hospital (TGH):

The TGH team welcomed the addition of Sheryl Fulmer in November 2013 and we are so fortunate to have her with us – she is hard working and lots of fun too. What a great combination and we have been REALLY busy since she arrived.

Several of us at TGH are planning to attend the FAET Conference in Gainesville later this month.

I am happy to announce the birth of our 4th grandchild - Nolan Benjamin arrived in a big hurry on Jan 21st my daughter-in-law made it to the hospital just in time.

I have been a WOC nurse 10yrs now (how time flies) and was audited both times when I renewed with PGP.

From Nancy Scott at Moffitt Hospital:

Nancy Scott's son Captain Daniel Scott achieved the 2013 USAF 5 Mission Support Group Company Grade Officer of the Year award at Minot AFB, ND.

From Terry McVey:

I am new to WOC Nursing. I am working on my certification right now. I joined as a student member. I am taking the WICKS Educational Course. I am currently working at a wound care center in Tarpon Springs, Florida. I live in New Port Richey, Florida. I love my new job in wound care and very excited to get my certification. I am going to apply for a scholarship with WOCN. Wish me luck!

From Beverly Higbea at Florida Hospital Tampa (FHT):

The inpatient wound care team was out-sourced to Innovative Healing Systems which is an outpatient wound care center company that also is starting to manage inpatient wound care in the Tampa Bay area. Howard Utra and Bev Higbea are still the wound care nurses at FHT and will be adding a third wound care nurse in the future.

The new entrance to the Women's Hospital has opened which allows the focus to be on completing the new and improved Emergency Department. Whew! A lot of things going on at FHT.

From Rhonda Jackson:

In September, I became the only recognized CWOCN-AP in the state of FLORIDA. Check the WOCN website to confirm. I want to do more for our organization. I am willing to work in any way you think I am useful.

From Christine Bennett at James Haley VAMC:

Sharon George just finished her preceptorship here in wound and ostomy and will be taking the exams in the near future.

Barbara Bagby retired. Doug and I went to her party at Moffitt Hospital - it was very nice.

From Ana M. Bodnurak:

As always, I wanted to keep you all posted on where I am. After a long search and researching on my behalf to find a good home care agency that truly cares about the patient, I am happy to inform you I finally found one. It is very important to me to find people that truly care for patients as we all do.

I have begun my new position as the WOC nurse for Amedisys Home Care full time; therefore I see most, if not all of the wound and ostomy patients. As in the past when I was at Senior Home Care, it will be a pleasure to care for patients.

You may always reach me at 352-263-6812 or by email at ana.bodnaruk@amedisys.com.



Tampa News continued...

Regarding Barbara Bagby's Retirement:

Barbara (Thrasher) Bagby graduated from University of South Florida (USF) in 1975 with the charter nursing class with her BSN. She worked one year at James A Haley VA Hospital, Tampa before commissioning as an officer in the US Air Force Nurse Corp. She was in the service for 4 years stationed at Washington DC and Torrejon, Spain. She met and married her husband Larry while in Spain in 1980. She received an honorable discharge from the USAF as a Captain after her first child Randy was born and she became a military wife.

After coming back to Tampa and working at Brandon Hospital, she became a CWOCN in 1992 from WICKS Education Associates. She worked at Florida Hospital Wound Care Centers and started working with her best friend, Nancy Scott at H Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in 2011. Her nursing career of over 40 years was very fulfilling. During her years, she has provided excellent guidance to ostomates at various ostomy support groups.

Barbara has been an active Board Member of FAET serving as Membership Director and Projects Director. Her dedication and service as Chair of the 2013 National UOAA Conference's Ostomy Clinic was a huge success for over 200 ostomates.

Her son Randy and his wife, Lisa have their only grandchildren, William and Benjamin. She has a daughter Rachael married to Joe and a son Rusty and a step-daughter Becky.

Barbara plans to take some trips with her family while enjoying retirement.

Scenes from Barbara's Retirement Party





Florida News continued...

FAET Conference, 2014



The Florida Association of Enterostomal Therapists, Inc. (FAET) conference was held in Gainesville, Florida February 28 – March 1, at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center. FAET Mardi Gras 2014, “Unmask Your Most Extraordinary WOC Practice!”

See more on our website at www.faet.org.

North Florida Area

From Cathy Wogamon:

My name is Cathy Wogamon and I live in North Florida between Tallahassee and Jacksonville. I am working part-time as a wound care consultant for a nursing home in the area. I am finishing up on my FNP and DNP degree from Florida State University (FSU) this May so I have been pretty busy for the past 3 years. I went to the SER WOCN Conference for the first time last year and really enjoyed it. I would like to become more involved in SER WOCN Society and the National WOCN Society as well after I graduate.

From Donna Geiger:

My name is Donna Geiger. I am the manager for the Wound/Ostomy department at UF Health in Jacksonville, Florida. Currently, the department is in the process of a three month project. We are assessing all patients in the MISU/SICU daily for presence of pressure ulcers. Data is collected by RNs who have completed the Wound Treatment Associate (WTA) course. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of having a WTA (expert) in the ICU. WTAs will assess patients daily for present on admission pressure ulcers and/or hospital acquired pressure ulcers, complete accurate documentation (staging, description, etc.)

and accurately place an order to the wound care team. The project’s date of completion is March 31, 2014.

I am currently attending Chamberlain College of Nursing for FNP. I hope to complete the program in October 2015. A new ostomy support group has been implemented in Fernandina Beach, Florida. The meetings will be held the last Monday of every month.

North Florida Area

Theresa Pineda was the proud recipient of the Nurse of the Year Award in the Geriatric/Home Health category from the March of Dimes. She was presented an award, certificate and gift at the “Celebrate the Caring Spirit” event.



Employee Recognition

Congratulations to Theresa for her dedication and compassionate care to our patients for the past 23 years. She always goes above and beyond and continues to bring the mission into the community of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ.



Florida News continued...



Gainesville Area

Our partner, Lillian Ortiz, retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs on December 27, 2013 after 32 years of VA service.

To the Wound Care Specialist (upon your retirement)

You wanted to be a Nurse because you wanted to help people. So you became a Nurse. You worked with IVs, calculated drip factors, handled bedpans, Foleys. You worked swing shifts, overtime, gave medications, trained nurses (and doctors), turned patients, bathed patients. You were a charge nurse, nurse manager...Then you became a **Wound Care Specialist**.

Pressure ulcers, venous leg ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers, surgical wounds...with your assessment, education, and care planning you helped patients and caregivers gain an understanding of wound care and wound healing. But more than that, you empowered them to take control of their own healing.

Think of the complicated wounds you took care of and some of the wound dressings you performed. I bet you never thought you could dress a wound while bending nearly upside down! **But you did!** It probably wasn't mentioned in nursing school that "to be a Nurse" also meant being a biochemist, an engineer, an architect, and an acrobat...but as a **Wound Care Specialist** your practice required all those roles!

But most of all, Lillian Ortiz, RN, MSN, CWCN you helped people...thousands of people. You made a DIFFERENCE! Thank you for starting the inpatient and outpatient Wound service at the VA Gainesville. "Time will never lessen the glory of your deeds."

Written by J. Shirl Nix Rogers



Florida News continued...

Broward County

The prestigious award for Lifetime Achievement in Nursing Excellence was granted by the Cleveland Clinic Zelony Nursing Institute on September 19th, 2013 to Mary Lou Boyer. This recognition honors nurses who exemplify the values of quality, innovation, teamwork, service, integrity and compassion. Mary Lou was chosen from among eleven thousand nurses within the Cleveland Clinic Healthcare System.

In the course of her amazing ET/WOC nurse career, Mary Lou authored numerous patient and nursing educational materials, journal articles, online courses, poster presentations as well as authoring chapters in nursing and medical textbooks. Her other significant focus has been teaching. She has lectured at national and regional Wound, Ostomy and Continence Symposiums. Some of the apogees of her career were to speak at the 2010 Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons in Washington, DC, at the 2012 American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons Annual Scientific

Meeting, at the South Florida Chapters of the UOAA and at the Singapore Cancer Society Ostomy Association while serving as guest instructor for the Singapore Ministry of Health Stoma Nursing Course.



Mary Lou, now retired, served thirty years in nursing, twenty-eight of which were as an accomplished WOC nurse. During the last eleven years, Mary Lou worked at the outpatient colorectal clinic providing her extensive expertise to a large team of colorectal surgeons. But primarily she has been intent in improving the lives of her WOC patients.

Her colleagues say that as a clinician and as a mentor, Mary Lou is an inspiring influence.



Argelia Welber, recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Service Award from the Broward County Chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America:

The United Nations Associations of the USA, an organization which focuses in informing, inspiring, and mobilizing the American people in support of the ideals and vital work awarded the 2013 Distinguished Service Award to Argelia Welber.

Argelia has been a CWOCN since 1994 practicing in many WOC nurse settings, but for the past four years, her WOC nurse practice has been dedicated to wounds to the lower extremities at the Outpatient Vascular Medicine Wound Clinic part of Cleveland Clinic in Weston Florida. Argelia was nominated for this important award by one of the many patients she has cared and motivated.



News from Georgia

by Kathie Fuller, BS, RN, CWOCN
Georgia State Reporter
ga.reporter@serwocn.org

What a winter this has been! Nurses of many specialties have recently told stories of stepping outside their roles to provide care to patients during a time of severe weather. Many WOC nurses reported sleeping on floors, cots and air mattresses to make sure patients could get the care they needed. It certainly beats sleeping in your car!

Several Georgia nurses have joined the ranks of WOC nursing. Kira Parfitt joined the WellStar Kennestone Hospital WOC nurse team in September, 2013. Kira worked as an educator in the cardiac step down unit and recently obtained her certification as a Progressive Care Nurse. She has completed the WOC nurse

program at Emory and is studying for the WOC nurse certification exams. Julie Murray also joined the WellStar Kennestone team in November, 2013 and is enrolled in the Emory WOC nurse program for ostomy and continence certifications. Julie worked in Boca Raton, Florida as an outpatient HBO/wound care nurse for eight years. Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA)-Scottish Rite is happy to announce the addition of two WOC nurses—Lauren Fetters completed the Emory WOC nurse program in November, 2013 and has passed her certification exams. Madelyn McGuire has transferred from CHOA's Ortho-Trauma Unit and is currently attending the Emory WOC nurse program.



Congratulations

The Emory University Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Education Center is excited to welcome Merrill Fraser to their staff. Merrill began working with the program on January 6, 2014. Sadly, Dorothy Doughty will be officially retiring from the program on March 31, 2014. Rose Murphree will be leading the program in addition to her many other activities!

The Atlanta Area Journal Club will continue to meet at Emory from 9 AM – 11 AM on the following dates: March 8, April 26, June 7, August 10, October 18 and December 6, 2014. Mark your calendars also for the Lazarus Ministries' Annual Health Day for the Homeless/Foot Care for the Homeless on Sunday, September 21 from 2 PM – 7 PM.

Thank you for letting me serve you as your Georgia reporter.

Please forward your news to me at:
ga.statereporter@serwocn.org

Kathie Fuller



North Carolina News

by Colleen Spiller, MA, BSN, RN, CWOCN
North Carolina State Reporter
nc.reporter@serwocn.org

North Carolina News "The Tar Heel State"

By the time you are all reading this, spring should be just around the corner. What a chilly winter we have had...I have SER and WOCN on my mind as I entertain warmer weather and fun places! Whilst it is great being able to keep up with our various peers and groups via this newsletter; it is always fun to see each other, learn about and discuss the latest innovations in our field. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at those conferences! Please remember to save the date for the 2014 SER WOCN Conference in Montgomery, Alabama; September 18-20, at the Renaissance (they have a spa you will so want to experience). The Alabama WOC nurses have put together a superb conference with some new twists you do not want to miss!



Professional news...

The BIG news in our state is Jan Johnson officially retired on November 27, 2013. We wish Jan all the best in her retirement. She has assured us she will be staying "in the mix" which we were very glad to hear as we rely on her experience and advice tremendously. Jan has been, and will continue to be, a valuable member of the North Carolina WOC Nurses' group. A big "Thank you!" from our group to you Jan...have fun!

The North Carolina WOC Nurse Group is happy to announce their new officers. Our new President is Laurie Crookenden. Karen Sanders is our President-Elect and Cordelia Lucas-Sherrod is our Treasurer. Congratulations to our leaders and we look forward to working with all of you.

Leanne Richbourg and Jane Fellows, Ostomy/Wound CNS's at Duke will be doing a podium and a poster presentation at the WCET Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden in June. They are looking forward to a little sightseeing in Denmark and Sweden while they are there. Good luck and have fun ladies!

Laurie McNichol recently sat for WOCNCB-AP Examinations and now boasts new credentials: Laurie McNichol, MSN, RN, GNP, CWOCN, CWON-AP.

In addition, Laurie and two other colleagues from Cone Health have had a poster accepted for the 46th Annual WOCN Conference in June entitled, *Not Just Sheets...Therapeutic Linen--The Impact of Synthetic Silk-Like Fabric on Pressure Ulcers*. Congratulations Laurie!

Lisa Floyd will be leaving her current position at Southeastern Regional Medical Center for a position at the VA Hospital in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Lisa will be the Wound Care Coordinator. This is a new department and she will be developing the entire WOC program at the facility. Additionally, Lisa will be completing her MSN in Education in October of 2014. Good luck Lisa!

Trudy Huey is happy to report Brenda Emmerth has been appointed by the SER WOCN Board to serve on Nominations Committee for North Carolina. We look forward to her serving and representing our state. Congratulations Brenda!

Peggy McCracken, Brenda Emmerth and Karen Sanders, WOC nurses at Advanced Home Care, have had an abstract accepted for presentation at the 46th Annual WOCN Conference in June. The abstract is entitled, *Clinical Case Series to Evaluate a Silver Foam Dressing*. Well done; we are looking forward to seeing the poster!

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A hearty congratulations is extended to Shawn Hogan, Pam Brown and Joyce Lewis of the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville. Their hard work in their facility won them a VA Office of Nursing Service Award in 2013. Shawn, Pam and Joyce developed a "Prevention & Assessment of Wounds and Skin (PAWS) Pressure Ulcer Prevention Awareness Campaign." Not only is there a financial reward for this honor, their achievement will be recognized in multiple venues; including the VHA Hotline Call, the National Nursing Service Conference Call and the selected teams will have the opportunity to present their work on a national conference call during fiscal year 2014. Excellent work!

Congratulations to Patricia Moore, with Advanced Home Care, who just became wound certified. She is now working on completing her ostomy module through Emory University Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurse Education Center. Good luck!

Joanna Burgess was featured on the Bladder Cancer Advisory Network website and wrote an article on how urostomy patients can find support once they leave the hospital. We know many patients have benefited from your work Joanna, thank you!

Nancy Scozzari is on the Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel for The Carolinas Center of Medical Excellence. She will present at the hands-on class for the North Carolina/Virginia learning session for Pressure Ulcers and Falls on March 18 and 19. Her presentation is "Bedside Process Mapping for Hospital Acquired Pressure Ulcers." Good luck for your presentation, Nancy!

In our last news, we reported that the Cone Health WOC nurses were teaching their first Wound Treatment Associate (WTA) class, created by the WOCN Society. They are pleased to announce their inaugural class was successful and they have just graduated 20 WTA's! Congratulations!

Charlotte Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is sponsoring a wound care conference for Charlotte and the surrounding areas. The 2014 Conference; "Interdisciplinary Wound Care –Joining Forces for Best Practice" will be held at Carolinas Medical Center Pineville on March 21st for nurses and physical therapists across patient care settings. Our very own North Carolina WOC nurses Jan Johnson, Stephanie Yates, Carla Mellon and Debbie Woodard will be speakers along with experts from physical therapy. See the Charlotte AHEC website for more details.

New position announcements for Carolinas Healthcare System (CHS):

Stephanie Steimer is now at Carolinas Rehabilitation working with Laurie Crookenden. Maria Kotula has completed the program at Emory University Wound, Ostomy and Continence Education Center and is in a PRN position at CHS. Their group welcomes Cresta Nicola to the CHS WOC nurse team! Debbie Woodard is facilitating the WTA program at Carolinas College of Health Sciences, along with her current part time position with CHS. Mary French Hutt recently retired and will be greatly missed for all her gifts to the practice of WOC nursing!

Laurie Crookenden is happy to report she survived speaking at the National Association of Rehab Nurses Conference in October. Good job Laurie, that first lecture is a killer! Laurie and Stephanie Steimer have also opened two new facilities at Carolinas Rehabilitation. The first facility is located at Northeast and the second is at Pineville. Great job, ladies.

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“Wanna Wear One”

To show support for their ostomy patients, UNC Hospitals recently held their “Wanna Wear One” campaign. Headed up by Lara Leininger, the three day event brings participants out to support ostomy patients and to heighten awareness. This year 180 employees participated in the campaign. On the first day of the campaign, participants woke up in the morning, found a good spot on their stomach to wear the bag and applied it. On day two, they filled the bag with a substance – apple juice, apple sauce, and oatmeal were common selections; vegetable soup and Reese’s Pieces were among the less common. And later on day two, they practiced emptying the bag.



PICU nurse John Bryson won this year’s “Wanna Wear One” photography contest for this photo of his bag and his chicks. Bryson won a Starbucks gift card.

On the final day, they did something active while wearing the bag. For instance, one participant rock climbed at an indoor climbing wall. Leininger took hers with her on a bike race the weekend prior to the campaign. At the end of the three-day campaign, the group held a banquet during which they had “take-down” surgeries to remove the bag, shared photos they took of themselves during the campaign, discussed their experiences and listened to 37-year-old Ironman and ileostomy colon cancer survivor, Ryan Switzer speak about his experience. Lara said that during the campaign, she and her colleagues visited new patients about to have ostomy surgery and pulled up their shirts to reveal their pouches. Patients reported they were uplifted and felt supported. What a great idea, Lara!

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Congratulations to Melody Austin who has officially started her MSN with a CNS focus at Eastern Carolina University. We are so proud of you Melody and we will try not to bother you too much over the next two years! Good luck.

Dawn Engels, Laurie McNichol and Melody Austin had an abstract and poster presentation accepted for the 2014 National WOCN Convention in June. The title is: *What Factors May Contribute towards the Development of Pressure Ulcers in Patients that Have Been in the OR Setting?* Great work Cone Health WOC nurses!

Family news...

In our last news piece, Dawn Engels shared with us that her son Craig, was competing in the PANAM games in Columbia, South America. She is very happy to report back to us that Craig won a gold medal! That is just wonderful; we know you are very proud of him, Dawn!

Stephanie Yates has announced she is going to be a grandmother in the spring! We are so happy for you, Stephanie and know you will enjoy many fun filled hours with your precious bundle of joy.

Lisa Floyd is also joining the ranks of becoming a grandmother as she welcomes her first grandchild in August of this year. Lisa is very excited...have fun Lisa!

Trudy Huey would like to thank all the wonderful WOC nurses in North Carolina who were so supportive during her husband’s recent illness. Your texts, calls and especially your prayers sustained them during some very scary times! He is getting his strength back and has completed his radiation treatments. After the board meeting, they went to Florida to spend a week with their son in West Palm Beach for some much needed R & R!

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Colleen Spiller's son, Kingsley, has been selected to compete in the US Army's "Ranger of the Year" competition. There go Colleen's fingernails again...but she is one very proud Mom!

Brenda Emmerth is happy to report she is moving on to the next phase of her life as a single gal in her new home! Good luck, Brenda and have fun decorating.

Karen Sanders' daughter is graduating from high school and plans on attending Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tennessee in the fall.

Lucky Joanna Burgess and her husband are taking a month long trip to England. Joanna insists this is all about relaxation, but it is really a photography expedition. Hmmm! Have a wonderful time, Joanna; we hope the weather is good for you and we look forward to seeing some of your pics!

That is all folks...until next time! Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your North Carolina Reporter for SER WOCN Sociey.

NATIONAL WOCN NEWS –

As listed on www.wocn.org. March 06, 2014
Posted by: Becky Dryden



WOC NURSE WEEK – APRIL 13-19, 2014

Celebrate with us! This year, we're thanking our WOC nurses for the work they do all year during WOC Nurse Week, April 13-19, 2014.

WOC nursing combines the kind and considerate care that patients suffering from wound, ostomy and incontinence issues need, with the improved patient care results that nurses deliver, lowering costs and changing the lives of patients.

THE IMPACT OF A WOC NURSE

A recent study investigated how WOC nurses affect patient outcomes in home health care settings and found that patients in home health care agencies with a WOC nurse, compared to agencies without a WOC nurse, were:

- Nearly twice as likely to have improvement in pressure ulcers.
- 20% more likely to have improvement in lower extremity ulcers.
- 40% more likely to have improvement in surgical wounds.
- 40% more likely to have improvement in urinary incontinence.
- 14% more likely to have improvement in bowel incontinence.

The goal of WOC Nurse Week 2014 is to spread the word and educate others about the work WOC nurses do every day for patients with wounds, ostomies and incontinence. Only WOC nurses combine Compassionate Care & Results to make this difference.

Please visit the National WOCN website at www.wocn.org for more details.



News from the Palmetto State

by Joan Jackson Meekins, BSN, RN, CWOCN
South Carolina State Reporter
sc.reporter@serwocn.org

Paula Heustess and Tara Dunbar have completed the didactic portion of the Emory WOC nurse distance program and are working on completing their clinical hours. Congratulations to both of them!!!

Congratulations to Michelle Rinauro from Trident Health. She is the recipient of the 2013 Trident / HCA Innovators Award for her Tape Standardization Project.

Kelli Potter welcomed her first baby girl October 31, 2013. Her name is Jane Autumn Potter.

The Upstate WOC nurses have formed an organization that meets monthly and presents case studies and other educational topics related to our field.

Cindy Norris urges SC WOC nurses to begin collecting items for the silent auction for the Fall SER WOCN Conference in Alabama. Catrice Potts is Chair of the Silent Auction Committee. As a prior Silent Auction Chair, it was very helpful to be contacted by the attendees who planned to donate items for the auction. Her email address is: auction@serwocn.org.

Our state is very proud to have a strong representation on the SER WOCN Society Board.

- Cindy Norris from Florence is the Director of Awards.
- Trena Beckham from Irmo is Secretary.
- Reneé Epting from Little Mountain is the Director of Special Projects.

News from AnMed Health:

Valarie Haisley has been invited to speak at the National INS (Intravenous Nurses Society) Conference on Skin Integrity Issues related to infusion therapy. The conference is being held in Phoenix, Arizona in May, 2014.

Jamie Wallace has written and initiated the mobility protocol that will be instituted hospital wide.

Kathy Galofski has "officially" retired after working 27 years as a wound/ostomy nurse. However, she is not fully retired. She still works 2 days a week and is an invaluable resource to the wound and ostomy nurses at AnMed who benefit from her 27 years of experience.



Katrena Beckham, BSN, RN CWOCN



Greetings from South Carolina. First please let me thank you for allowing me to serve you as the Secretary for Southeast Region WOCN for the next 2 years. I am excited to serve our organization and I am committed to do the best job possible.

I will receive a listing monthly from National WOCN Society of our SER WOCN Society members which will include new members as well as current members. I will be sending out a welcome letter to our new members. I will also try to keep up with members whose membership is soon to expire and send those members a letter to remind them to renew.

Kindest Regards,
Trena.



Greetings from Tennessee!

by Amy Bandelier, BSN, RN, CWOCN
Tennessee State Reporter
tn.reporter@serwocn.org

Hello from Tennessee!

I know most of you are looking forward to spring; I know I am! I am not looking forward to the allergies that follow it, but to warmer sunnier days!

I have heard from a few of my colleagues in Tennessee and we have many new WOC nurses in Tennessee. We are fortunate to have skilled nurses to meet the needs of the wound, ostomy and continence needs of the residents' of our state.

From Clarksville, Donna Elkins shared with me that Marilyn Averitt has received a \$2000.00 scholarship from the National WOCN® Society to complete her WOC nurse education. She has completed all her course work and now is studying very hard to start taking the certification tests. We all wish Marilyn the best of luck with her exams!



Lesley Myers from Chattanooga let me know that Catherine "Beth" Tipton and Mechele Merritt are currently enrolled in Emory WOCNEC to obtain their Wound and Ostomy certifications. Lesley also told me Memorial Hospital has a new wound care nurse: Yvonne Hughes. Yvonne joined the hospital's inpatient wound team in August.

Centennial Medical Center in Nashville, where I work with Loretta Sullivan and Lisa Nunn, is getting busier with the growth of the Pediatric Hospital. As this hospital grows, the three of us are finding our WOC nurse roles changing as we face the challenge of the NICU patient population.

Congratulations, to Jessica Gingrey on her new role at Murray Regional Hospital in Columbia. She has taken on a busy hospital. I know they are glad to have you!

*First a howling blizzard woke us,
Then the rain came down to soak us,
And now before the eye can focus —
Crocus.*

~Lilja Rogers

