



# Southeast Region News

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE— BY SUSAN STEELE, MS, RN, CWOCN

### A Swan Song

Nearly four years ago, I wrote my first message for this column about the changing of the guard. In it, I shared my goals for SER WOCN and a little bit about who I am. Now, as I end two terms as your President, I suppose it is time for my swan song. Unfortunately, the “swan song” phrase comes from an old myth that the Mute swan makes no sound during its life, but sings a lovely, haunting song just before its death. There are just two problems with this analogy. First, we now know that Mute swans are not mute, and they make sounds throughout life; there is no special song or sound to herald the end of life. Second, if you were to listen in as I sing my way along interstate 75 alone in my car, you would quickly discover that the only “haunting” sounds my vocal cords are capable of producing are the background screams in a very low budget horror movie.

So what profundity shall I share for this last column? Do I have some particular pearls about leadership? Shall I predict the state of WOC nursing in the future? I think not. Because this column, this newsletter, and this association are not about the one person who happens to be the President, it is about *you*, the many who are the reason for the existence of this society. The only thing of value that I have to offer is my deepest gratitude to the members of the SER WOCN for these things:

- You elected me as your President, so that I could have this amazing experience
- Your re-elected me, even after you knew what you were getting



- You elected a diverse and energetic Board, bringing many talents to the table
- You supported our annual conference by attending, volunteering to help, or both
- You served as preceptors and mentors to other nurses seeking to learn about WOC nursing, so that we have new colleagues to share the load
- You took the time to nominate colleagues for awards and recognition by the SER WOCN
- You expressed your viewpoints about key issues affecting the organization, and most importantly,
- You joined or maintained membership in the larger WOCN, enabling us to remain a vital specialty practice within the health care arena

If I *were* to sing a final parting song to you, it would probably be James Brown’s “I Got You”. I do indeed feel very positive about the accomplishments of the SER WOCN and the future of this society. Your new President, Mary McNeil will be leading a wonderful Board. The finances of the region are sound, and we continue to be a training ground for national WOCN leadership. We have a terrific partnership with Custom Association Management, providing critical support for our educational and communication programs. I feel good!

*“Whoa! I feel good, I knew that I would, now I feel good, I knew that I would So good, so good, 'cause I got you”*

- James Brown

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## SHARING THE SUNSHINE FROM FLORIDA...



The Florida WOC group has been busy. As I had expected, there is a lot of news to share. Starting with the west coast, Tampa is preparing to host the next Florida Association of Enterostomal Therapist spring conference, slated for March 24 and 25. It will be held at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and is still in the planning stage. I did hear, though, that an awesome agenda is being developed and will be full scope with some advanced practice. If you live in the Tampa-St Petersburg area and would like to help with the conference please contact Chairman **Nancy Scott** at (813) 745-4507.

Continuing with the west coast, **Nancy Scott** played hostess to an international ET nurse from Serbia in the USA on a scholarship from the Union International Contre Cancer (UICC). The nurse from Serbia visited for a month, and learned updated oncology and ET nursing skills at Moffitt Cancer Center. The visiting ET encourages more USA ET nurses to attend the World ET Congress in Salzburg, Austria, June 2007.

**Susan Steele** is wowing everyone! She has been invited to speak at the national WOCN conference in Salt Lake City in June, 2007, and she is thrilled! Susan served as a "hand model" for a few of the photographs in the upcoming Ostomy CD program developed by **Mary Roberts** and **Elaine Rush** for SER. So she can only hope that the paparazzi will leave her alone once it is launched. For those times when relaxation is a MUST, Susan will be in the midst of her recently purchased 30-acre farmette in Deepstep, Georgia. It certainly sounds wonderful. Congratulations, Susan!

There is an exciting new position being created at the Tampa VAMC. This is one of 3 centers set up across the country to do special rehab for the Iraq/Afghanistan soldiers with blast injuries. The job is for an RN certified in Wound and Ostomy. It pays well and has fantastic benefits. If the applicant is also an ARNP, the pay scale would be higher. If anyone is interested, he or she should apply now! Contact Veronica Vega, Nurse Recruiter, (813) 972-7559.

From the Central East coast region, **Jackie Wiseman** is now the acute care CWON at Parrish Medical Center in Titusville. She is presently working on developing an interdisciplinary Wound and Ostomy team within the hospital. **Donna Crossland** at Cape Canaveral Hospital has presented a poster at the Symposium on Wound Care in Orlando this Sept./Oct. Donna also presented her poster at the WOCN Conference in June. Congratulations, Donna.

**Kathy Kwiatkowski** has relocated to Grand Junction, CO this past June. She and her husband decided to "go west" after living in Florida for over 20-some years. Her son, Kerry, who graduated in December from USF, has also moved to CO. She is working as an WOC/ET in acute care. Also, new WOCNs at Halifax are **Sue Dematteo** and **Polina Shvets**. Sue finished WOCN school in January, having worked in the OR for many years. Polina is originally from Russia, received her RN and CWCN from NY and currently resides in Palm Coast.

I know that the Pan Handle group has been very busy with wound seminars and dinner meetings. I also know that the Orlando area WOCs have been busy, but haven't heard specifics to share. Hopefully I will hear from these areas as well as the southeast and southwest regions of this great state of Florida.

Have a great Thanksgiving and Holiday season. Please send me your NEWS to share. I want to hear from the entire state for the next newsletter slated for January/February.

Kathryn Dere

kathryn.dere@orhs.org

## GREETINGS FROM TENNESSEE

Our WOC nurses are being recognized and called upon to lend their expertise across the state. Five of the Knoxville area nurses, **Anne Rogers, Lennis Floyd, Jan Ore, Beryl Evans and Pam Cox** are facilitators for the 36th Annual Oncology Conference for nursing education related to ostomy care. They will be part of the colorectal trends survivor panel and will be addressing issues of colon cancers, ostomies, stomas, nutrition and pouches on October 27. How great is that!

Here in Memphis our own **Jenny Hurlow**, GNP, CWOCN, is joining Dr. Robert Burns also from Memphis and Dr. Courtney Lyder at the American Medical Directors Association in Hollywood, Florida at the end of March. Topics will address the medical director's role on implementing the Medicare F315 and F314 relating to continence issues.

I also was pleased to hear from **Kimberly Hackney** who wants all to know that she is no longer "MIA" but is back working at Healthways. (You can only take so much education) She also is looking forward to again starting back to her local WOCN meetings.

Across the state I am told of very active local WOC groups with great educational meetings, sharing and

networking. If you are not a part of one of these groups, consider making the extra effort to squeeze them into your overloaded schedule. This will be one area where you will be receiving instead of giving.



Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee is looking for a dynamic and energetic pediatric WOCN to develop and implement a new WOCN service. This position requires a minimum Bachelors Degree in Nursing and a minimum of 24 months of pediatric nursing. (Position number 207210) Apply online at: Vanderbilt University Medical Center web site:

<http://hr.vanderbilt.edu/jobs/index.htm>  
For questions you can also contact: Laurel Roberts, Asst. Adm. Dir., Acute Care Nursing  
[laurel.l.roberts@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:laurel.l.roberts@vanderbilt.edu) or Sheree Lee, WOCN Manger  
[sheree.lee@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sheree.lee@vanderbilt.edu) (615) 322-28365

Bye for now,  
Mona Hector, BSN, RN, CWOCN  
[monahector@aol.com](mailto:monahector@aol.com)

## CEU OPPORTUNITIES

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS—ELAINE RUSH, RN, CWOCN

The following articles are available for CEU hours:

### WOUND CARE:

Journal of WOCN, July/August 2006, Volume 33, Number 4 "Role of Topical Silver Preparation in Wound Healing" page 367.

Advances in Skin & Wound Care, September 2006, Volume 19, Number 7, "Raising Awareness of Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Treatment." Page 398.

Advances in Skin & Wound Care, June 2006, Volume 19 Number 5. "Pressure Redistribution Strategies for the Diabetic or At Risk Foot: Part II" Page 270.

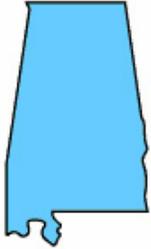
### OSTOMY:

Journal of WOCN, September/October 2006, Volume 33. Number 5. "When Trauma Means a Stoma" page 491. This article is written by our own Susan Steele MS, RN, CWOCN, SER President.

I hope you have all had a chance to buy your "OSTOMY CARE" power point program that was available at the SER conference. If you wish to order one—contact: [cami@nc.rr.com](mailto:cami@nc.rr.com) or go to the SER website [www.serwocn.org](http://www.serwocn.org).

Plans are beginning for our next power point program that will be on pressure ulcers. If you would like to make any suggestions or have CEU programs you wish to share with the region - contact me at: [elainewr@bellsouth.net](mailto:elainewr@bellsouth.net).

## GREETINGS FROM THE GREAT STATE OF ALABAMA



It was so great seeing so many of our fellow WOC Nurses at the outstanding SER WOCN Conference held at Augusta GA in September. We were inspired to roll up our sleeves and start planning for the 2008 SER WOCN Conference to be held in the great State of Alabama. You will hear more about this in the months to come....so stay tuned.

We are very proud to report that **Melanie Owens**, CWOCN won free registration to the SER WOCN 2006 conference

for submitting what she did for WOC Nursing Day 2006. Melanie took the time out of her busy schedule to share with the RN students at Snead State Community College in Boaz, AL, the many facets of our nursing specialty. In addition to showing them some of the "tools of the trade", she shared with them some professional organizations that we participate in and some journals and educational materials that we have available. During her presentation to the students, Melanie was able to illustrate to the students how the many roles that WOC Nurses practice can help them in their clinical

roles as well. What a way to go Melanie, we applaud you for your superb efforts in bringing more awareness to our great nursing profession.

**Joy Lynch**, RN at Princeton Baptist Hospital, is currently enrolled in the WOC Nursing Program at Emory University in Atlanta. We are anxiously awaiting her successful completion of the program very soon. We take this time to wish her well as she nears the finishing line.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessie Dickerson, RN

### **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.

## NEWS FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA



The WOC nurses from Georgia want to thank all of their SER peers who attended the recent Southeast Region Conference in Augusta. You all helped make the conference the success that it was. We salute all of the committee chairpersons and committee members for their hard work and commitment to a successful educational opportunity for the SER. Special thanks to **Rhonda Holbrook** and **Lea Crestadina** for their leadership as co-chairpersons of the conference.

Georgia WOC nurses had additional reasons to celebrate at Conference as the SER outstanding WOC Nurse of the year award was presented to **Prebble Smith**. Prebble has been a mentor and a model for many WOC nurses. Her caring ways have impacted so many lives and she exemplifies the professional image of an excellent WOC nurse. The annual Scholarship honoree award was presented to **Vi Poteete**. This means that a scholarship supported by the SER will be awarded to a member of our region in Vi's name. Congratulations to both Prebble and Vi.

*Family news:* **Linda Dickerson** became a first time grandmother in September when Riley Ramsey made her debut. **Vi Poteete** became a grandmother for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time and welcomed Chloe Poteete to her family. Vi will have another granddaughter, Julia, by the time this newsletter is published. **Vicky Bryan** and family have sold their house and are looking forward to moving into a larger home to better accommodate their cute twins.

*Vacation news:* World Travelers abound at Kennestone hospital: **Marlies Niehuser** visited her family in Germany; **Kathy Owen** attended a cooking school in Italy; and **Vi Poteete** enjoyed a two week vacation touring Italy.

I apologize for the limited newsletter input for this issue. My computer is down and I am using my husband's to get basic stuff accomplished. However, it lacks all of my e-mail addresses and so I could not contact everyone for news. Please contact me and keep the GA news flowing.

Vi Poteete (vipoteete@bellsouth.net)

## ELECTIONS RESULTS

Congratulations! And thank you to all who ran for an office and for all who voted. Our winners are:

President:	Mary McNeil
Vice President:	Ruth Gordon
Director #2:	Regina Holmes

It is not too early to think about running for next year's available positions:

Treasurer  
Secretary  
Director, Special Projects  
Director, Conference Planning  
Nomination's Committee (one from each state)



Susan Steele congratulates new president Mary McNeil

Please contact your nomination committee state member if you are interested in running for a position or if you have questions:

AL – Jan Hale Stevens	256-494-4116	Janstevens@gadsenregional.com
FL – Terry Barton	407-646-7523	terry.barton@flhosp.org
GA – Aileen Ankrom	404-712-5621	aileenankrom@emoryhealthcare.org
NC – Pam Whitley	704-984-4595	pam.whitley@stanly.org
SC – Dorothy Lawson	803-434-7127	dotmike86@yahoo.com
TN – Alvin Word	423-339-5698	etwoundnurse@charter.net

Terry Barton – Nominations Committee Chair

## NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA



**Nancy Hammer**  
from  
Hickory

has just completed her boards and is now a CWOCN! She appreciates the help from her preceptor **Amy Dunbar** and **Debra Baker** at Moses Cone in Greensboro and **Jan Johnson** at Duke. She is working part time at Catawba Valley Medical Center in Hickory with **Trudy Huey**.

**Jane Fellows** graduated with an MSN from Duke University and will be a certified Oncology CNS.

**Judy Plemmons** from Roanoke, VA is the new newsletter contact. She works at Lewis-Gale Medical Center as a CWOCN and CDE. She also works part-time with Gentiva and their wound program. In addition she works with Eli Lilly teaching Byetta and insulin as part of their Diabetes Interactive Network.

Medical Treatment Systems, the

distributor for KCI's Wound V.A.C., is looking for a Clinical Consultant to provide home health agency education, home visits with nurses and oversight of the clinical aspect of patients receiving Wound V.A.C. Therapy in the Triad and surrounding areas. Wound and HHA experience preferred but is not required. If anyone is interested, please contact Tracie at [tracieb@mtxs.com](mailto:tracieb@mtxs.com)

Judy Plemmons

## GREAT NEWS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA!



**Regina Holmes, RN, CWOCN** from Loris was elected as the Awards and Recognition Director at Southeast Region Conference in Augusta. She is returning to school part-time, working towards a degree as a FNP. **Cindy Norris RN, CWOCN** at Carolinas Hospital System in Florence, has a full-time WOCN position available. If interested, please contact her at (843) 674-5645. **Patsy Fulghum, RN, CWOCN** is working part time and baby sitting her infant grand-child the rest of the time! This will keep her young! South Carolina is diligently working on our

Southeast Region Conference plans for next year in Greenville, SC. We will have to work long hours to compete with the success of the one we all enjoyed in Augusta! Great job, Georgia! JCAHO is at Carolinas Hospital System the week of October 30th. If anyone needs to know how the WOCNs were involved, just call Cindy Norris.

I read an article recently: "How much the general public knows about what an 'ostomy' is." One man replied, I think it has to do with "farming" because he heard them talking about irrigation. There are a few terms we as nurses are familiar with, but others are not. Some

people think as artery is to study of fine paintings, barium is what you do when CPR fails. Also, colic is a sheep dog, coma is a punctuation mark, and congenital means friendly. Medical staff is a doctor's cane, morbid is a higher offer, nitrate is a lower than day rate, node means was aware of, outpatient is a person who fainted, urine is opposite of you're out, tablet is a small table and last but not least, to dilate is to live longer.

Many clinicians use laughter and positive thinking in aiding problems like insomnia, migraine headaches, ulcers, colitis, and high blood pressure. Everyone needs a good laugh. Just think, the next time you laugh, you might have helped your physical well-being. Laugh and be healthy because our world needs WOCs and Wound Nurses!

Have a great Day!

Cindy Norris, RN CWOCN.

[cnorris@carolinashospital.com](mailto:cnorris@carolinashospital.com)

2007 SER WOCN Annual Conference  
WOC'N on the River  
Hyatt Regency Greenville  
Greenville, South Carolina  
September 27—30, 2007

## AWARDS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR MARIE THOMPSON, RN, CWON

This will be the last article I will write as Director of Awards. Your new Director is **Regina Holmes** from Lorris SC. While I am somewhat sad, I know I am leaving SER in very capable hands. I know you will give Regina the same support you gave me. This position depends largely on the response of the entire region with nominations for Nurse of the year, Rookie of the year and also the Youth Rally. This year we were able to assist with registration for six youths and one counselor. There were three youth from the state of Georgia and three from the state of Alabama. Judging from letters I have received, they all had a great time. Here are comments taken from a letter I received from Marie Oren-Sosebee, who served as counselor for the second time.

"Several of my ostomy "kids" from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta were able to attend the Rally as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year campers. To the SER WOCN Society for sponsoring these campers, "Thank You!" For many of these kids, camp is the first time they have met another person with an ostomy, and for others, it is a chance to re-connect each year with good friends. I am already getting requests from new patients who have learned about the Rally and from some of my other patients who attended this summer. I did this last year. No difference. Yet, once again, I went to camp with an expectation and returned home with so much more."

Comments from Lindsey Bloom, one of the youths. "Thank you so much for helping me attend this year's Youth Rally. I had a wonderful time. This was the first time I have met others with my same birth defect. I always knew there were others like me, but getting to talk with them was something I always wanted to do. I made lots of friends and cannot wait to attend next year. I even want to be a counselor at Youth Rally when I get old enough."

*The Scholarship Award* was awarded to **Vi Poteete** RN, CWON from Wellstar Healthcare System in Marietta, Ga. She is so deserving and was so surprised. She was nominated by the conference planning committee from her state.

*WOC Nurse of the Year* was awarded to **Prebble Smith** RN, CWON from DeKalb Medical Center in Atlanta. She too, was very surprised. Thanks to **Fran Perrin and Laura Shafer** for assisting and to Fran for putting together a great slide presentation of Prebble's work experience.



Vi Poteete showing her scholarship Award and her award for 20+ years as a WOC Nurse

Both recipients were awarded a beautiful Plaque, and Prebble received the Nurse of the Year pin. Congratulations to both ladies. I understand Prebble may be retiring after this year. Good luck, Prebble, on retirement. Have fun and enjoy the rest of your life. Retirement is great!

*Special Honorable Mention.* In my excitement on Awards Night, I unintentionally neglected to make good on a promise I made to a patient of **Bonnie Sparks-Defriese** RN, CWOCN, who works at the Emory Clinic.

The patient, a Mr. Frank Taylor, wrote a beautiful letter complimenting Bonnie on the special care he has received while being her patient. In his letter he made several positive comments about Bonnie, and how she had nearly healed his venous stasis ulcers. I sincerely apologize to both Bonnie and Mr. Taylor. Bonnie, keep up the good work.

I wish all of you the best and look forward to seeing each of you at either the next National or Regional conference. Thanks for all the support you have given me while I served in this position. It has been fun.



Marie Thompson and WOC Nurse of the Year Prebble Smith



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## 2006 SER WOCN Conference Pictures



Bobbie Brewer and Jane Walker at the Ostomy History Booth



Rhonda Holbrook, Lea Crestodina and Rose Murphree celebrate a successful conference



Getting a History Lesson at the Ostomy History Booth



Pam Whitney and Dot Lawson from the Elections Committee get ready for the crowd of voters!



Roses and paperweights were presented to over 18 WOC Nurses for their 20+ years of service!



WOC President Margaret Goldberg and SER President Susan Steele