News

Fall 2009

President's Report Laura Shafer, BSN, RN, CWON

I was so energized from the recent SER Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. Our Region was so fortunate to



have **Karen Larkan** as the Conference Chairperson. Karen and the Florida WOC nurses had outstanding speakers that everyone enjoyed! We had a large number of first time attendees which was terrific. It shows me that we are recruiting new members every day. **Trudy Huey** presented to the membership the 2010 Conference that will be in Concord, NC next September. It sounds absolutely wonderful!

The SER elected the following new Board Members: Merrill Fraser from Emory University in Atlanta as Secretary, Charlene Demers is returning as Treasurer, Sharon Traylor from Winter Haven Hospital in Florida as Director of Special Projects and Dot **Lawson** will be returning as Director of Conference Planning. Marta Bullard from Chattanooga, Tennessee has accepted the Nominations Committee Chair. I am looking forward to working with each one of these outstanding WOC nurses. Most of all, I really appreciate them volunteering their time and talent to the Southeast Region.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season remember to take time to relax and enjoy your friends and family!

SER WOC Nurse of the Year

Ann Moore, RN, CWON

Ann Moore is the gold standard when it comes to professionalism. She has been working at Atlanta Medical Center for the past 2 ½ years and has been nominated for Nurse of the Year twice. During her short tenure the incidence of hospital acquired pressure ulcers reduced from 9% to 0.9%. Upon arrival to Atlanta Medical Center. Ann was



presented with the difficult task of changing the nursing practice as it related to wound and skin care. The nursing staff was required to have blind faith in Ann. This task was made easy due to Ann's ability to work with the staff and to educate them as to the rationale of the changes. Ann is very honest in her work; she has been faced with the daunting task of doing what is right rather than what is popular. She is committed to researching new products and services and then trialing them to ensure that the hospital is delivering the best care while maintaining fiscal responsibility. She has an incredible rapport with the physician base at the hospital and works hard to maintain that rapport. She is skilled in diffusing difficult situations in a very positive manner. Under her direction, a Skin Team which is comprised of nursing staff from each unit, therapists, pharmacists, nutritionists, and an MD was developed. This team is charged with taking information from the Skin Team to their departments to provide continued updated information. Ann is very determined to further the role of the WOC nurse as she frequently precepts students who are enrolled in the WOCN program. She encourages her hospital staff to participate in WOCN week and celebrates her role. Ann is the happiest, most positive person working at the hospital. She greets everyone with a smile and genuine concern for each individual. She goes the extra step to ensure that each person she comes in contact with is cared for in the best manner. Congratulations **Ann Moore** – SER WOC Nurse of the Year.

Southeast Region WOCN Board of Directors 2010

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mary.mcneil@molnlycke.com

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Director – Communications Patti Haberer uspah@coloplast.com

Director – Special Projects Sharon Traylor sharon.traylor@winterhavenhospital.org

Nominations Committee Chair Marta Bullard marta_bullard@memeorial.org

2010 Conference Chair Trudy Huey thuey@catawbavalleymc.org

Association Management Company Custom Association Management, Inc. Cathy Womack cami@rr.com 919-518-0963

Director—CommunicationsPatti Haberer, BSN, MA, RN, CWOCN

Southeast Region - we are officially "Green" and we have a new and improved website. As a reminder, all future SER Newsletters will be posted on the website. For those visiting the SER website for the first time – Welcome and to those returning – Welcome Back. Please take time to explore the website, begin with the article on the



Home Page entitled
"SER Redesigns
Website" as this article
provides an overview
of many of the website
changes.

2009 Annual Conference photos are posted on the Events

Page. Speaking of the Annual Conference, my hat is off to **Karen Larkan** and her team for hosting a stellar conference, with exceptional speakers. Great job ladies! **Mary McNeil** led the discussion on Bylaws changes

during the Membership Meeting. To view a copy of the revised Bylaws, visit the About Us Page.

Meet the 2009-2010 Board of Directors and view their contact information on the Leadership page. Our job is to serve the membership, we love hearing from you.



Karen Larkan welcomes the attendees to the Southeast Region Conference

Again, I want to thank the members of the Communication Committee for all of their hard work in launching the website. I need to extend one more thankyou, to my loving husband Bernie, who has graciously volunteered his time to help me rebuild the SER website. Team – I could not have done it without you!!

Director—AwardsRegina Holmes, RN, BSN, CWOCN, CFCN

Hello everyone,

We had a great conference in Jacksonville, Florida. Each year the conferences keep on getting better and better. The awards dinner and presentation was wonderful. The food was delicious and the evening was delightful! As the Director of Awards, I always enjoy the part of the conference where we honor the

accomplishments of our fellow WOC nurses across our region.

Ann Moore RN, CWON from Atlanta, Georgia was the recipient of the Outstanding SER WOC Nurse of the Year, Elliott Douglas RN, CWOCN from Nashville, Tennessee was the recipient of the Rookie of the Year and Mary Lou Boyer RN, CWOCN from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida was the recipient of the Honorary Scholarship Award. Ladies - congratulations we are so proud of you and your accomplishments! During the awards dinner each



Mary Lou Boyer is stunned to receive the Honorary Scholarship Award



Charlene Demers with John Hallowell, one of this year's poster winners

of Fall Scholarships recipients were given a few moments to share their thoughts about WOC nursing. It was so moving to hear the responses as they were so honored to be there. As a Region we are planting seeds that will grow and multiply!

As this year's conference is over and planning for the next conference has already begun, I challenge you all to begin thinking about the finest and

brightest WOC nurses and nominate them

next year. There are so many WOC nurses that deserve to be recognized. Also, do not forget about our Research Grant, WOC Nursing Week, Fall Conference Scholarships, Youth Camp and 'oh yea' we need Camp Counselors for the UOAA camp too! As always, it is my pleasure to serve you all!



Regina Holmes, Charlene Demers and Dorothy Lawson judge the posters. It's always a difficult decision!

Smooth Sailing in South Carolina Cindy Norris, RN, BSN, CWOCN



What a great SER annual conference! If you did not attend you must plan to attend next year! Great networking and presentations were such a treat. Our hats are off to the conference planners and **Karen Larkan.** Our next WOCN State meeting will be October 27th at 10am at Lexington Medical Center. Joan Bainer from State Board will be our

guest speaker. If you have any questions for Joan Bainer, please send them to Wnurses@regmed.com prior to our meeting per Joan's request. Palmetto Health Hospital in Columbia welcomes Ashley Taylor as a part of their team. Tanya Pope transferred back to Home Health due to health reasons. Lexington Medical Center has an opening for a WOC nurse. If you are interested, please contact June Schmitt jbschmitt@lexhealth.org or June Bullock, RN, MN, CWOCN at (803) 791-2019. Elaine Rush, RN, CWOCN, Clinical Coordinator for the Wound Healing Institute at Self Regional Healthcare is proud to report their Wound Healing Institute won the Self Excellence award for the top outpatient area in patient satisfaction. They received a beautiful trophy bowl and recognition at the leadership meeting in August. Orangeburg Regional Medical Center is sponsoring their annual "Wound Care Conference" on November 4th & 5th at the Orangeburg Technical College. If you are interested in attending please contact Laura Fogel, RN, BSN, CWON at Wnurses@regmed.com or call (803) 395-4046 or (803) 395-2471. Trena Beckham, RN, BSN, CWOCN has joined the ranks with Dot Lawson, RN, BSN, CWOCN at Palmetto Health. Trena is engaged to be married. She was wearing a beautiful diamond at conference with a huge smile on her face! Letra Davis McDuffy was the Fall Conference Scholarship recipient. She has been accepted and has enrolled in the Emory Distance Program. Cindy Norris has a beautiful 6 week old grandson "Harrison." Cindy continues to work full time in acute care but now has her own contracting business "Southern Wound and Ostomy Consultants, LLC." Joan Jackson RN, BSN from Visiting Nurses is engaged to be married to Leroy Meekins on September 26th. Congratulations to you both. Laree Boyles is now Laura McKee. Her new email address is MCKEELVB@dhec.sc.gov. Last but not least, our famous, hardworking Regina Holmes RN, BSN CWOCN from Loris is scheduled to graduate December 14th from the University of South Carolina Nurse Practitioner Program. She asked that everyone pray that she can "get through it!"

If you have any news for our next newsletter, please send it to me.

Cindy Norris

cnorris@carolinashospital.com or cnorrriscwocn@bellsouth.net

SER WOCN
Educational CDs
Available for
Purchase

Lower Extremity
Ulcers:
Assessment &
Management 2nd
Edition

Ostomy Care

Pressure Ulcers and Fistula Management

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

News from the State of Georgia

Vi Poteete, RN, CWON

Lots of special happenings from around the state of Georgia:

News from the Emory University Hospital system, kudos to Dorothy Doughty, Rose Murphree, Bonnie Sparks-DeFriese, Cynthia Timms, Merrill Fraser, and Marion Dawe. These WOC nurses donated their time and talent to the Third Annual Lazarus Health Day. This is a service for the homeless population in Atlanta and features many different offerings. The Emory gang provided wound and foot / nail services. Special thanks to Dorothy's husband, Mac, Rose's daughter Ashley, and Stacey Cowan, a PA student who joined their group. Also, HAPPY 50th Birthday wishes to Bonnie Sparks-DeFriese on 09/30!

Susan Steele reports that she was lucky enough to attend the Rocky Mountain fall conference in Albuquerque, NM as a speaker. Susan's topic was Clostridium difficile. Susan is also serving on a WOCN task force regarding the use of the title WOCN. Finally, this busy woman participated in a week of mission work over the summer repairing homes for low income families in Washington County, GA.

Lynne Woods provides us with some thoughtful insight. "Have you ever considered a position in LTC (skilled nursing facility)? If someone had asked me that question back in 1985 when I completed my



training in
Wound,
Ostomy, and
Continence
(then known as
ET Nursing) I
would have said
'No, why would
I ever want to
do that'. Well,
never say

never. I have been working in this care setting for the past 10 years and love it. It has provided me with a wealth of opportunities to help develop programs for patients with complex needs. I am fortunate to have 2 colleagues, both



hired without WOCN education, but willing to work with me while at the same time completing the WOCN program, one on-line and one distance learning. Both have successfully completed their education and have achieved their national certification. It has been a win-win for all. I am thankful for my partners: Cheryl Perigard and Angel Sutton".

News from Gwinnett Medical Center: **Amanda Shepherd** just had a 4th child: Tucker! **Amanda** is already back at work and both Mom and baby are doing well. Congratulations to **Ann Moore** at Atlanta Medical. **Ann** was awarded the Outstanding SER WOCN award at the annual fall conference.

Finally, congratulations to **Linda Dickerson** at Kennestone Wellstar's Wound Treatment Center, who just found out she will be a grandmother again in April of 2010! **Marlies Niehuser**, also from Kennestone Wellstar, was awarded the Nursing Excellence award for her role in developing multiple system wide educational programs related to pressure ulcer prevention and the CMS guidelines! Wellstar bids a sad farewell to **Moji Duval** who will be returning to Boston in mid October.

Vi Poteete vipoteete @bellsouth.net

Director—Special ProjectsElaine Rush, MSN, RN, CWOCN



I enjoyed seeing those of you who attended the SER conference in Jacksonville. The topics were new, timely and diverse in content. Since many employers are now limiting conferences and support for their CWOCNs to attend conferences, we as a profession need to seek out alternative methods of keeping up with changes in our practice as well as having an opportunity to acquire PGP points toward recertification. Please consider reading the following are articles. Contact hours are available at little or minimal cost.

WOUND:

Advances in Skin and Wound Care, Volume 22, Number 6, June 2009. Pressure Ulcers in Pediatric Patients with Spinal Cord Injuries: A Review of Assessment, Prevention and Topical Management, pages 273-286.

Advances in Skin and Wound Care, Volume 22, Number 7, July 2009. *Prevention and Management of Skin Tears*, pages 325-234.

Advances in Skin and Wound Care, Volume 22, Number 8, August 2009. *Acute Wound Pain: Gaining a Better Understanding*, pages 373-384.

Advances in Skin and Wound Care, Volume 22 Number 9, September 2009. Skin Care and Pressure Ulcers, pages 421-430.

www.nursingceportal.com - online courses in pressure ulcer prevention - FREE

OSTOMY:

Journal of WOCN, Volume 36, Number 5, September/October 2009, Postoperative Complications of Ostomy Surgery, pages 513-521.

CONTINENCE:

Journal of WOCN, Volume 35, Number 4, July/August 2009, Current Trends in Bladder Cancer Management, pages 413-423.

Check the WOCN website frequently for online programs offered at the Global Learning Center.

The on-going changes in our practice make keeping up with the newest research, case studies and modalities challenging for us who are on the front line practicing daily as WOC nurses. Try to take a few minutes each week to read an article, look at case studies or better yet, network with each other so that we can offer to our patients the best care available.

Have a great fall and take a moment each day to reflect on all the patients whose lives you have impacted. To a great group of people, I am so proud to be a part of this practice.

A Beautiful Fall from the Volunteer State of Tennessee!

Mona Hector, BSN, RN, CWOCN

Sheila Carter from Jackson was awarded a \$1500 scholarship from the SER WOCN Scholarship Fund. Way to go Sheila. Speaking of the SER, Marta **Bullard** attended the SER Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. She reports it was a wonderful conference and knows the Florida nurses worked very hard to present such a great conference. Marta will be representing Tennessee as the **Nominations Committee** Chair. She looks forward to becoming more involved in our chapter and encouraging others to do the same. Marta plans to seek individuals who are leaders in our field and promote the mission of WOC nursing. We wish her the best of luck. Suzy Scott has been busy, besides presenting a very informative Webinar on Aug. 20th entitled "Heel Ulcers - Best Practices for Prevention", she was one of the presenters at the SER Conference

Sheleagh Hickie from
Holston Valley Medical Center
in Kingsport is very happy as
Robert Summey, a new
WOC nurse who has joined
her at the hospital. Robert
finished the program at Emory
in May will be taking the
certification test this fall.
Carmen Jenkins works at the
Maury Regional Medical
Center which covers an eight
county region. Due to the
large number of chronic

wounds, they have opened up Mid-south Tennessee's first wound center on the Maury campus. The wound center's staff comprises of three vascular surgeons, an infectious disease MD, podiatry, dietetics and social services. Carmen reports that during their last P&I study the Medical Center had ZERO incidence of pressure ulcers with an average LOS of 3.5 days, even though their prevalence rates had been climbing over the past 3 years up to 16%! Carmen also reports that their local ostomy group continues to grow under the leadership of fellow WOC nurse. Rita Hillis. Still in the eastern part of the State, Lennis Floyd is again looking for a part time Enterostomal/ Wound care nurse at UT Hospital in Knoxville. If anyone is interested give **Lennis** a call at 865-305-9810. Lennis and **Dottie Cetta** just attended a wonderful 4-day conference with **Dorothy Doughty** at Emory, "Current Concepts in Wound Care".

Amy Bandelier has left Encompass TSS to take a position as the Clinical Manager at the Advanced Wound Center located at Southern Hills Hospital in Nashville. I know they will benefit from her expertise.

Sheree Lee sends this news from Vanderbilt: We wish Judy Grier good luck in her transfer to St. Louis, MO and we are very excited to have Brittany



Swor join us. Also, Leslie Modena, CWOCN, has moved from Atlanta to Nashville and is now employed by Vanderbilt Home Care as part of the Vanderbilt-Walgreens joint venture for Infusion and Respiratory Services. (Now that sounds very interesting!) We are so proud of **Robin** Brannon, a "new" WOC nurse working at Methodist in Memphis; she recently achieved certification in all three areas! And lastly from the Memphis area, Jennifer **Hurlow** will be presenting a webcast with ConvaTec. "Wound Healing in Today's HealthCare Environment - How Can Advanced Dressing Technology Help Ease the Strain?" It will be coming out later in October.

Finally, the WOC nurses of Tennessee want to congratulate our very own, **Elliott Douglas**, the SER Rookie of the Year!

Closing for now, knowing fall is a busy season and looking forward to reporting new activities for the next newsletter. Again, I am asking for e-mail addresses from everybody for better communication.

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

North Carolina News

Judy Plemmons, RN, CWOCN

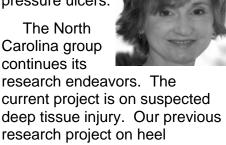
Every year, North Carolina selects 100 nurses from all areas of nursing practice settings for Nursing Excellence. This year, three WOC nurses were selected. Congratulations to Melody Austin, Advanced Home Care; Judy Bell, Forsyth Medical: and Jane Fellows. Duke University Health System.

The North Carolina group has been advocating to be sure Medicaid patients can secure ostomy supplies. A statewide form is being developed by QIO for improved outcomes and continuum of care. The form can be voluntarily used as a

communication tool for nursing facilities and acute care facilities. Our Legislative update was provided by Suzanne **Collins** during the August meeting. She reminded us to visit the WOCN website. "who we are" and click on the "Advocacy and Policy News" tab. Health reform updates will be found there. A free CE is available for working through the Advocacy and Grassroots Toolkit Statements. Regarding Public Policy, Mary Wolfe updated members that the American Hospital Association has not issued a statement on

hospital acquired pressure ulcers.

The North Carolina group continues its



research project on heel pressure ulcers is set for publication in the November/ December issue of JWOCN. Way to go - North Carolina!

> **Judy Plemmons** JDPlemmo@aol.com

2009 Conference Photos

The Awards dinner was a night of socializing, enjoying good food and dancing!



President, Laura Shafer addresses the guests



Going through the buffet line



Dr. Bravo with the Conference Committee

Cynthia Cunningham, Opal Watson and Cordelia Lucas-Sherrod socialize over dinner.



Barbara Righter, Belinda Bradley, and Cheryl Rodgers enjoy the evening





Exhibitors and attendees enjoy time in the exhibit hall





2009 Election ResultsTerry Barton, BSN, RN, CWOCN

Congratulations to our winners! Thank-you to all who ran for an office and for all who voted.

Treasurer: Charlene Demers Secretary: Merrill Fraser

Director of Special Projects: Sharon Traylor

Director of Conference Planning: Dorothy Ann W. Lawson

Nominations Committee Members:

FL: Kim Kehoe GA: Kathy Boyle

AL: Kelly Suttle NC: Cordelia Lucas-Sherrod

SC: Tena Jordan TN: Marta Bullard (Nominations Chair)





Terry Barton swearing in the new Board Members (left to right) Charlene Demers, Dorothy Lawson and Sharon Traylor



Terry Barton welcomes the new Nominations Committee

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

President

Vice President

Director of Awards

Director of Communications

And, I want to thank-you so much for the honor of serving as your Nominations Chair for the past 4 years. It is truly a privilege to be a part of our organization. I encourage you all to experience an active part in our Southeast Region at some point in your career!!

Greetings from the Great State of Alabama

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



The
Alabama
WOC and
WCC nurses
are busy as
usual as they
gear up for
the upcoming
holiday
season. We

are currently working on plans for an outstanding innovative wound care workshop scheduled for the Spring of 2010. Stay tuned...you will hear more about this exciting workshop in future newsletters.

The WOC nurses are looking forward to relaxing and enjoying a Christmas gala sponsored by Byram Healthcare and Karen Colbert, Company Representative. This event is scheduled to take place on Thursday, December 3, 2009 at Nabeel's Imported Food, 1706 Oxmoor Road, Homewood, AL; starting at

4:30pm. For directions call Nabeel's at 205-879-9292. You are requested to confirm your attendance at this fun filled event by contacting Cynthia Cunningham via email:

CunninghamC@JCCAL.org.

Your prayers and well wishes are solicited for Hattie Stokes and Sharon McKinney as they continue to recover at home from surgery. Gayle Moore, Jeannine MacKnight and Jackie Doubleman are fully recovered and back to work. However, we extend to Jackie Doubleman our heartfelt condolences in the recent loss of her brother.

Patricia Blakely, WOCN is requesting that all local WOC nurses update their contact information for UOAA if it is not correct.

Congratulations and Welcome Aboard!

We extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to our newest WOC nurse to complete the Emory University Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Program and to join our Alabama group. She is none other than: Najla Washington, RN, WOCN. Naila is employed as a WOC nurse at Mid-South/Gentiva Home Health Care Agency out of Bessemer, AL. Contact info: NWashington79@Yahoo.co m.

The Alabama WOC and WCC Nurses want to take this opportunity to wish the entire Southeast Region WOC nurses a blessed and bountiful holiday season!

Respectfully submitted,

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



Hello from Sunny Florida Kathryn Dere, MSN, RN, CWOCN



It's hard to believe
October is here. Only 2
months left before the
holiday rush begins. We
are still enjoying beautiful
weather. Sunshine, dry
days, and temperatures
less than 90 signal fall
season has arrived!

The SER WOCN meeting held in Jacksonville was HUGE success. Congratulations **Karen Larkan** and team on a wonderful conference.

Nancy Scott participates in the WOCN Public Policy (PP) committee. She, along with other members of the committee, is able to enlightened our members on proposed healthcare reform information planned on the

Southeast Region WOCN 2010 Annual Conference

WOC Nurses... Closing the Gap

September 30—October 3, 2010 Concord, North Carolina (outside Charlotte)

More details soon!
Watch the web site—Events Page
www.serwocn.org

HILL. It's a hard job, and I'm glad Nancy enjoys the political scene.

Patti Haberer has been busy lecturing across the nation. This October she will be speaking at the Denver WOCN Meeting and the Northwest WOCN Regional Meeting in Spokane, Washington. Most recently, she presented at the Central Florida WOC dinner meeting on the topic "Incontinence- Moisture Matters". This was an excellent presentation and highly recommended.

The Florida Associated Enterostomal Therapists (FAET) will be cruising on the high seas March 4-7, 2010 for their annual conference. **Karen Durigan**, as chair, states "The Winds Have Changed: Adjust Your Sails is the title of the conference. The agenda includes **Kathy Smith**, **RN**, **ARNP** and **Terry Rogers**, **RN**, **MEd** focusing on infection;

Dot Weir, RN, CWOCN will update us on our professional practice; Virginia McNaughton RN, CETN from Canada will speak on enterocutaneous fistula management; Nancy Scott, RN, CWOCN will give an update on pressure ulcer staging and avoidable versus unavoidable ulcers; S. Jankauskas, MD will provide a debridement workshop and validate our debridement skills. No additional charge for this workshop. Our **Vendors** will present case studies on their one product that makes the most impact on the WOC nurse practice. This is really a fantastic opportunity for top notch education in a fun-filled atmosphere." For more information contact Georgene Hadley @ 321-841-1159 or Karen Durigan @ 321-841-1698.

It is important for the members to read about your accomplishments. Don't be shy in sharing your news. **PLEASE** send me your information, and I'll post it with the next newsletter. Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

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