



## President's Report

Patti Haberer, MA, BSN, RN, CWOCN  
President  
[president@serwocn.org](mailto:president@serwocn.org)



Dear Members,

Greetings! Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President for the past two years. As Past-President, I will serve on the Board of SER WOCN Society as a non-voting member, assisting Martha Davidson as she transitions

from President-Elect to President. In total, I served on the Board for five years, starting as the Chair of the Communications Committee which quickly turned into a Director position. If you are reading my message and are thinking "I'd like to become involved," please reach out to me; we are always looking for members to serve in all capacities. Serving on the Board has allowed me to grow professionally and personally and most of all I've been able to meet so many of you - the wonderful WOC nurses of the SER WOCN Society!

**Say good-bye to Sweet Home Alabama:** Jennifer Anderson, Michael Byars and Karen Eubank, 2014 Conference co-chairs and the entire Alabama team did an exceptional job with their conference in Montgomery, Alabama. Having Mayor Strange, the Mayor of Montgomery join me in cutting the ribbon to open our exhibit hall was a real treat.



### Bring on the Sunshine State:

Join us in Orlando, Florida, September 10 - 12, 2015 for Experience the Magic: Blending the Art & Science of WOC Nursing. Charlene Demers, Conference Chair has been hard at work assembling committee members and appointing committee chairs.



**September 10 - 12, 2015**

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

If you have any questions about SER WOCN Society please feel free to email me at: [president@serwocn.org](mailto:president@serwocn.org).

*"Never say goodbye because goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting."*

~ JM Barrie, Peter Pan

### Breaking News ~ literally

After what she said were 3 long nights, our President, Patti Haberer was released from Mease Countryside Hospital. Playing with the dogs in the backyard, Patti slipped and



fell onto the air conditioner compressor. The result was a spiral fracture of the left humerus. She is back home and on short term disability. Her arm is immobilized with 7 screws and a plate. Patti is not worried about the pain or the rehabilitation ahead of her, but more about the long term side effect of getting through airport security without additional screening due to her new hardware accessories.



## Southeast Region WOCN 2014 Board of Directors

### **President**

Patti Haberer  
[president@serwocn.org](mailto:president@serwocn.org)

### **President-Elect**

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### **Director - Conference Planning**

Trudy Huey  
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### **Director - Communications**

Jennifer Anderson  
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### **Director - Special Projects**

Renee Epting  
[projects@serwocn.org](mailto:projects@serwocn.org)

### **Nominations Committee Chair**

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[nominations@serwocn.org](mailto:nominations@serwocn.org)

### **2014 Conference Co-Chairs**

Jennifer Anderson  
Michael Byars  
Karen Eubank  
[2014conference@serwocn.org](mailto:2014conference@serwocn.org)

### **Association Management Company**

Ian L. Cordes  
Corecare Associates, Inc.  
[icordes@serwocn.org](mailto:icordes@serwocn.org)  
561-659-5581

## Communications Report

by Jennifer Anderson, MBA, MSN, RN, CWCN, CFCN  
Director of Communications  
[news@serwocn.org](mailto:news@serwocn.org)



### Hello Colleagues and Friends!

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](mailto:al.reporter@serwocn.org)

Florida – Linda Ravenhorst – [fl.reporter@serwocn.org](mailto:fl.reporter@serwocn.org)

Georgia – Angela Dye – [ga.reporter@serwocn.org](mailto:ga.reporter@serwocn.org)

North Carolina – Colleen Spiller – [nc.reporter@serwocn.org](mailto:nc.reporter@serwocn.org)

South Carolina – Joan Jackson-Meekins – [sc.reporter@serwocn.org](mailto:sc.reporter@serwocn.org)

Tennessee – Barbara Dale – [tn.reporter@serwocn.org](mailto:tn.reporter@serwocn.org)

I want to encourage anyone who is thinking about serving at a regional level to become a state reporter. 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. If you are interested in becoming involved in your SER WOCN Society, this is a great way to start! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at: [news@serwocn.org](mailto:news@serwocn.org).

I want to let all of you know how much I have enjoyed serving our region for the past year in the Director of Communications role. I have learned so much (Thanks Bernie)! I am so happy to pass the reins on to the very capable hands of Nadine Mulligan as she begins her journey as Director of Communications for the SER WOCN Society January 1, 2015. I will continue to serve our membership as President-Elect. I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season!

In response to our President's recent accident and subsequent short-term disability, Martha Davidson and I are going to cover some of the presidential duties for Patti while she is recovering. In this plan, Nadine Mulligan has volunteered to step into the Director of Communications role 6 weeks early to facilitate this process. Thank you Nadine for your willingness to serve and your dedication to the SER WOCN Society!



### SER WOCN Society 2014 Conference

by Trudy Huey, MSN, RN, CWOCN  
Director of Conference Planning  
[conf.plan@serwocn.org](mailto:conf.plan@serwocn.org)

#### Happy Fall to Everyone!

I am so sorry if you were unable to attend the 2014 SER WOCN Conference in Montgomery, Alabama this September...you missed a great conference! The educational sessions were so fantastic that the very last session on the very last day, looked like the opening session on Thursday afternoon!!!! From the keynote speaker, Deb DiSandro, helping us identify our MYG and handle our stress to ending with David Crumbley's, Traumatic Wound Care, the conference was filled with useful information everyone could take home and implement in their practice.

There are so many people to thank and this list will be a little long but please indulge an old woman:

Our **ATTENDEES**, were up early attending all the vendor sponsored symposia and stayed for the last meeting each day. Even more heartwarming, there were a large number of first time attendees and they were fresh, new young faces eager to learn and grow our organization!! What was even nicer was seeing all the more seasoned members, welcoming all the new WOC nurses. It made me think back to my first SER WOCN Society Conference and being welcomed to the group by the ever gracious Cathy Bratton and how special she made me feel at that very moment!

The wonderful team of **WOC nurses from the great state of Alabama** led by the **Co-Chairs Jennifer Anderson, Michael Byars and Karen Eubank**.

The Education Committee Chair, **Deborah Thedford** did a stellar job with a well-rounded program covering all areas of our practice. She and her team were masters at proofreading and processing the review of all the PowerPoint presentations you saw at conference. So it was no surprise to me that Deborah was the State of Alabama Honoree winner...well deserved I must say!



**Cheryl Lane**, Poster Chair, worked with **Reneé Epting** to deliver 18 posters to conference this year.

**Catrice Potts**, Silent Auction Chair, worked hard to display a bounty of items and made a lot of money for our Scholarship Committee.

**Ramona Reed-Chism's** Tote Bag Committee worked hard to fill those bags with treats, products, coupons and information. They were a busy group on Wednesday night!

**Sarah Streety**, Exhibitor Chair, did a great job filling the exhibit hall with 70 vendors! Unfortunately, she was unable to attend but we appreciate all the work you did Sarah!

Superstar Volunteers **Susan Byars**, lovely wife of Michael and **Quinn Anderson**, handsome husband of Jennifer worked many long, hard hours to help make our conference a big success and I want to give them a big THANK YOU!

Our **Vendors**, as always, help us have a successful conference from year to year. Our Sponsors are listed on a separate page in the newsletter. Please thank them and all our vendors, as they come to call on you in the months ahead. Without them, we could not have the low cost for conference at such nice venues with meals included.

The City of Montgomery represented by **His Honor, Mayor Strange** deserves a huge thanks from the SER WOCN Society for coming to the Grand Opening of the Exhibits and declaring September 18 as our official day! And the Tourist Bureau's efforts, led by **Courtney Williams** did a great job in providing free transportation for our members to and from the airport!

The **SER WOCN Society Board of Directors** strives to serve our membership all year long. Their work for you is often behind the scenes and often receives no thanks so I

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want to let them know that I appreciate all their efforts at working together at conference, doing whatever needed to be done at that moment in time and for making the conference successful!

We thank our **speakers** at conference, after conference and soon they will get a final thanks from me when all the evaluations are tallied and sent to the speakers to review. They were thoughtful, entertaining and we appreciate them sharing their time and talents with us.

Thanks to **Matt Reese, Cindy Taylor and Ian Cordes** - our management group for all their hard work before, during and after conference. Conference for them is also a year-long ongoing process.

And for a sneak peak, 2016 will be in the **Great State of North Carolina...**  
nothing could be finer!!!

Many of you have heard the news that Michael Byars, Co-Chair of the Alabama Conference, had an MI that required surgical intervention as well as stents. He is home now recovering with his sweet Susan nursing him back to health. I am including a note I received from them when asking if it was okay to share his illness as I know many will want to write and send notes of encouragement:

"Michael gives permission wanting all to learn from his experience not to ignore symptoms of health problems. Nurses can't help others when they are sick themselves (or dead)!  
Thank you for prayers!"

You can write to Michael at:  
5070 London Rd  
Montgomery, Alabama 36109

Update: Happy News! Michael has been cleared to return to work November 10. We are so glad to hear you are recovering nicely!

## Conference Co-Chairs Report

by Jennifer Anderson, MBA, MSN, RN, CWCN, CFCN



I served as Co-Chair for the 2014 SER WOCN Conference in Montgomery with Michael Byars and Karen Eubank. I want to thank you everyone who attended "The Future of WOC Nursing in the Capital of Dreams!" We were happy to share some Alabama hospitality in the Capital of Dreams - Montgomery, Alabama! We had 147 participants attend conference this year along with 70 exhibitors. We want to also thank all of the Alabama WOC nurses who helped make this conference possible.

Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange, The Montgomery Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the Renaissance Hotel and Spa went above and beyond to make our conference site comfortable and welcoming. The Montgomery Convention and Visitor's Bureau provided support, free airport shuttle and tote bag stuffers. Mayor Strange proclaimed September 18, 2014 as WOC Nurses Day and participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony at the opening night of exhibits. I think he also provided some entertainment as well!

Deborah Thedford-Zimmerman, the Education Committee Chair, provided participants with a well-rounded program covering all areas of WOC nurse practice. She and her committee (Amy Armstrong, Cynthia Hill, Kelly Suttle, Opal Watson and Sharon White) were charged with proofreading and processing the review of all the PowerPoint presentations you saw at conference which was no small task! Deborah was awarded the 2014 State of Alabama Honoree Award during the Awards Luncheon. Congrats!

We would like to thank all of the speakers who worked hard to provide our Society members meaningful topics to enhance our WOC nurse practice. There is a lot of work that goes into making a presentation beyond the delivery of the topic. We appreciate your willingness to work hard with us!

The poster committee lead by Cheryl Lane, Poster Chair, worked with Renee Epting, Director of Special Projects, to present 18 posters at conference this year. Karen Edwards, Sarah Streety, Najla Washington and Vicki Williamson served on the poster committee with Cheryl. We

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want to thank all of the participants that submitted a poster. Your hard work was appreciated by our membership!

Catrice Potts, Silent Auction Chair, led the Silent Auction Committee (Pat Blakely, Randy Broach, Cynthia Cunningham, Linda Howard, Nancy Lee and Nancy Strunk) to raise money for our scholarship fund. We appreciate your commitment and want to thank all of the participants who donated items and purchased items at the auction!

Ramona Reed-Chism, Tote Bag Committee Chair, along with the Tote Bag Committee (Montgomery Area WOC nurses) worked hard to gather all of the awesome information and fun "stuff" you found in your bag at conference. They were a busy group on Wednesday night stuffing all 150 bags!

Sarah Streety, Exhibitor Chair, along with Trudy Huey, Director of Conference Planning, did an awesome job of filling our HUGE exhibit hall with 70 exhibitors. The exhibitor fees are what pay the majority of our conference costs. Thanks for helping pay our bills and keeping the participant cost low!

Speaking of exhibitors – We want to thank all of the vendors who participated in conference this year! They help us have a fiscally successful conference and provide new industry information every year. I am providing a list of those vendors that exhibited with us this year. Please thank them and all our vendors, as they come to call on you at your agencies and facilities. Without them, we could not have maintained the low cost for conference at such nice venues with meals included. I want to give an extra thank you to our Silver Sponsors (Hollister, Sage, Smith & Nephew and southwest technologies); Gold Sponsors (BSN medical and Mölnlycke Healthcare) and Diamond Sponsors (Coloplast and ConvaTec).

*See page 11 for complete list of sponsors.*

We would like to give a great BIG thank you to Susan Byars, wife of Michael Byars and Quinn Anderson, my husband, for the support they provided in the weeks leading to conference and then during conference. They were on the ready to lend a hand whenever or wherever it was needed. Thanks for being willing to volunteer your time (and patience) to the SER WOCN Society!

We want to thank the SER Board of Directors for providing leadership and direction.

Thanks to Corecare Associate employees Matt Reese and Cindy Taylor lead by Ian Cordes. Corecare Associates is the conference management group for the SER WOCN Society providing support before, during and after conference.

We want to thank Bernie Haberer, our SER WOCN Society webmaster. He spends countless hours behind the scenes to make our conferences easy to access and technologically advanced through website maintenance, email blasts, online conference registration, handouts and evaluations; just to name a few. Thanks for all you do, Bernie!

Last, but certainly not least, we would like to thank Trudy Huey, Director of Conference Planning. She spent many late nights and weekends working tirelessly to provide our membership with a quality conference. Thank you Trudy for your superb leadership!

We fully enjoyed chairing the 2014 SER WOCN Conference in the Capital of Dreams. We proudly hand the baton over to the Florida WOC nurses in preparation for next year's conference. Charlene Demers, 2015 SER WOCN Society Conference Chair, and her committee chairs have already begun the process of providing another great conference for our membership. I look forward to seeing everyone in Orlando, September 10-12, 2015 to "Experience the Magic: Blending the Art & Science of WOC Nursing!"



*Jennifer Anderson, Michael Byars and Karen Eubank*





## SER WOCN SOCIETY ELECTIONS

by Terry Barton, BSN, RN, CWOCN

Nominations Committee Chair

[nominations@serwocn.org](mailto:nominations@serwocn.org)



### 2014 Election Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in voting for the SER WOCN Board of Directors. The following candidates were elected for a two year term which will begin on January 1, 2015.

- **President:** Martha Davidson (Nashville, Tennessee)
- **President-Elect:** Jennifer Anderson (Prattville, Alabama)
- **Director of Awards:** Nancy Scott (Brandon, Florida)
- **Director of Communications:** Nadine Mulligan (Pickens, South Carolina)

**Congratulations!!** Please join us in welcoming our newest Board members!

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

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Director of Conference Planning
- Director of Special Projects
- Nominations Committee (one from each state)

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.

Please contact me if you have any questions at:  
[nominations@serwocn.org](mailto:nominations@serwocn.org)

Terry Barton BSN, RN, CWOCN  
Nominations Committee Chair

### Duties:

#### **Secretary**

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

#### **Treasurer**

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

#### **Conference Planning Director**

The Director of Conference Planning, the Conference Planning Chair, the President and the association management company will work together to determine a site for the meeting and recruiting committee members as needed. The Conference Planning Director, will assist the committee in facilitating the planning process.

#### **Special Projects Director**

This director shall develop products for sale to supplement professional practice of SER WOCN Society members, such as slides or other educational support materials.

#### **Nomination Committee Members (6)**

One from each State in the SER WOCN Society. Committee members shall be responsible for soliciting nominations for all elected positions. They shall also support the Nominations chairperson with the voting process.

### Top Six Reasons to Serve on the Board

1. Your support allows for SER WOCN Society to continue promoting high standards for all WOC nurses
2. Each Board member receives a stipend to cover expenses for Spring Board meeting and Regional Conference
3. PGP re-certification allows for leadership roles
4. Regional offices can help you to prepare for National Office
5. Great networking
6. Become a valued member of SER WOCN Society



### Awards Report

by Cindy Jones Norris, BSN, RN, CWOCN

Director of Awards

[awards@serwocn.org](mailto:awards@serwocn.org)



#### **Congratulations to the very deserving Award and Scholarship Recipients!**

It was evident much hard work, team effort and planning were involved in this great conference. Thank you Alabama for your hospitality and the extra mile you took to make sure everyone's needs were accommodated to include airport transportation and the pleasure of meeting the Montgomery Mayor.

There were no applicants for the Dorothy Doughty Research Grant. No one nominated a Rookie of the Year applicant. I encourage everyone to take the time to recognize a colleague who has been a member of the SER Region less than two years and engaged in clinical practice as a WOC nurse for less than two years and certified by the WOCNCB in one of the following: Wound, Ostomy or Continence.

We donated \$2000 to the Youth Rally Camp held in July 2014 at San Diego State University. It was distributed according to need. Next year, the Youth Rally Camp will be at University of Colorado, July 13-18-2015.

\$2000 was donated to the WOCN® Society for scholarships.

I want to thank everyone for allowing me to serve on the SER WOCN Board for four years. This has been an exciting and educational experience working with dedicated, professionals who are assets to our profession. Nancy Scott will fill this position January 2015.

#### **Five \$1200 Fall Conference Scholarships were available. We received nine applications and five were selected with blinded voting.**

##### **Misty Edwards, BS, BSN, RN, CWOCN**

- Princeton Baptist Medical Center
- Resides in Calera, Alabama



Receiving one of the SER WOC Nursing Scholarships meant a great deal to me. Like so many facilities right now, my hospital is striving to be cost efficient and cost conscious in as many areas as possible. Unfortunately, they are unable to provide financial assistance for continuing education at this time. The scholarship allowed me to go to conference and be exposed to multiple educational opportunities, as well as network with other nurses within the WOC nursing discipline.

First and foremost, I was grateful to be able to go to conference and present our poster, *Head Over Heels for Prevention: Use of a silicone bordered foam dressing in the prevention of heel pressure ulcers*. This was a project our department had worked extremely hard on from the research, to gaining staff nurse participation and finally putting together the results. We were very excited about the results we obtained through the clinical trial, as well as the implications for pressure prevention in nursing practice. This is the only nursing research project at our facility to have been accepted and presented via poster at a conference this year.

Although there were a multitude of educational topics presented at conference that were pertinent to my practice setting, one of the main topics that interested me was the Wound Treatment Associate Program. I was fortunate to be able to attend preconference with Dr. Bonham and learn about the logistics of setting up at WTA program, as well as get a refresher during the skills portion. My facility is a 292 bed acute care facility and there are only two WOC nurses for the entire hospital. The two of us do really well making sure all of our patients are seen and taken care of. However, when one is off, it is a bit more difficult for one person to take care of the entire facility. Although our facility does provide us with a staff nurse to assist when this happens, they are limited in both knowledge and skills when it comes to wound care. I see the WTA program as an affordable option to

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train the staff nurses who assist us and work with us when one is off. It will also provide those nurses with additional education and perhaps even motivate one of them to continue on and seek his WOC nursing education. In the near future, I plan on using the materials provided by the WTA program to present a proposal to our director and administration. There are actually four hospitals in our system, two of which have no formally trained wound care staff so this is a cost efficient option that could benefit the entire system. In addition to Dr. Bonham's session, I also appreciated Angela Graham's presentation that allowed us to see how the program was implemented.

This is the second year I was able to attend conference and I can honestly say I have taken away pearls from each presentation I have heard. Again, I am so grateful to have been afforded the opportunity to go to conference this year and have once again, taken away many lessons that will help me to improve both my practice and patient care in my facility.

**Candi Haggard, BSN, RN, CWOCN**

Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Resides in Goodlettsville, TN



Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to attend the SER WOCN Society conference this year in my home state of Alabama. I have attended conference in the past but there was something special in being able to go back to the state where my WOC nurse career began. The presentations were phenomenal! Each included a nugget of information I can use on a day to day basis in my practice, albeit by refreshing my memory on things I don't do on a routine basis, seeing different nurses' perspective on wound/ostomy concerns or listening to the patient's viewpoint (the ostomy panel was my favorite!). Another benefit of being able to attend conference is the networking opportunities with other WOC nurses. It is invaluable to have a network of colleagues from all backgrounds and environments. Having these resources at your disposal is essential for any WOC nurse. Being able to tap into this vast knowledge helps me attain my career goals and hopefully by me sharing with others, will help other WOC nurses do the same. As I've always heard, "The sum of the whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

**Karen Sanders, BSN, RN, CWON**

- Cone Healthcare
- Resides in Asheboro, NC



I would like to thank the Southeast Region WOCN Society for granting me a Scholarship this year. The conference was fantastic. I found the lectures to be interesting and pertinent to my day to day job. In addition, I found Alabama to be hospitable and accommodating. It was very apparent to me that lectures as well as the speakers had been carefully chosen. The conference was very organized and user friendly to the attendee.

When I applied for the scholarship, I was practicing in a different setting and by the time I attended this conference, I was in an acute care setting for the first time. I knew I had a lot to learn about WOC nursing in a hospital that home health just had not provided me. Each lecture I attended offered a caveat of information that I will take back with me to my new setting. The trauma lectures offered me a glimpse into wounds I will now encounter that I would have seen later in the healing process in home health. The class on the WTA program was beneficial to me as I will be an instructor soon in our own WTA program. I learned a great deal on ostomy care as well as the bariatric patient. It was re-assuring to see other professionals in WOC nursing have many of the same struggles I do with pouching and skin integrity on their patients! The conference as a whole balanced the wound/ostomy/continence topics well and I know I enhanced my knowledge base on each. The Great Comebacks dinner is always such an inspirational evening. It reinforces my passion to come back home and strive to make a difference for every ostomy patient.

As I return home, I know the knowledge I gained at conference will be incorporated into staff education, patient care and my own self confidence in practice. Without the scholarship, that would not have been possible. Thank you and I am proud to be a part of such a caring, cohesive group.





### Leah Coulter, BSN, RN, CWOCN

- Venice Regional Bayfront Health
- Resides in Arcadia, Florida

I recently completed the WOCNE program at Emory University. I had never attended a conference in the past and would not have been able to attend without receiving the scholarship. The conference introduced me to my "ever changing world" as I enter into the journey of wound, ostomy and continence. I attended the SER WOCN annual conference for the first time this year. I have to say that I didn't know what to expect, not sure if that was a good thing or not. I had been certified for only a week when conference began so I had little experience to lean on when talking to and listening to my fellow wound and ostomy enthusiasts. I went to multiple lectures and found the speakers to be interesting and informative. I have already utilized some of the principles for ostomy care in my clinical setting since returning to practice. My intention is to attend the 2015 SER WOCN conference, as it will be in my home state! I am overwhelmed knowing that I work in a field of specialty nursing surrounded by 'birds of a feather' who are willing to come alongside to troubleshoot, educate and encourage me.



### Beverly Higbea, BS, ADN, RN, CWON

- Hillsborough Community College Nursing Program
- Resides in Odessa, Florida

How I benefited from the conference:

1. I met other WOC nurses from other states. We have exchanged business cards and I plan to go to one of the WOC nurse's hospital in the near future and spend time shadowing them in their ostomy clinic.
2. My passion has been reignited and now that I am feeling much better I am now on the prowl for a new wound position.
3. My interest in continence has been peaked again and I plan to study continence more to help the patients who have these issues.
4. I also have an interest in a SER WOCN Society position in the future too.

How will it impact my practice:

I will be conducting more surveys/polls with staff more frequently on dressing orders and the types of dressings being used and how we can improve the processes.

I plan to encourage my colleagues to start a WTA program. As soon as I am employed again as a WOC nurse I hope to start a WTA program and also continue to educate the nurses who are willing to learn about wounds and ostomies.

I will be more aggressive in pursuing outpatient wound care for indigent patients and learn how to procure supplies for patients who are not insured.

Overall, I believe I learned how much I loved the profession of wound and ostomy. I want nurses to understand that wounds are not gross once you understand them. I have been asked to speak at a rehab conference this week, another college in 2 weeks. I hope with my presentations the physical therapist and nurses will walk away with the feeling that they can handle wounds and not be afraid of them.





## 2014 WOC Nurse of the Year

### Vicky Bryan, BSN, RN, CWON

- Works at Wellstar Health System in Marietta, GA
- Resides in Woodstock, GA
- Graduated from Georgia Southern University
- Attended Emory WOCNEC



Vicky Bryan was nominated for 2014 WOC Nurse of the Year Award by Vi Poteete.

Here is an excerpt from her nomination:



*Vicky's expertise and clinical expertise are respected by all who know her. She is a model of the caring, empathetic nurse who achieves the best outcomes for her patients. She is a team player, mentor, and patient advocate who strives for personal excellence. She focuses on creating a healthcare team that functions seamlessly for the best patient care and outcome.*

Here are a few words Vicky shared after accepting the award:

*I am truly amazed at all the time, effort and preparation all contributed over the past 2 months. What a surprise. I was in shock. My myg was definitely triggered.*

*My family was as excited as I and boy, I had no idea all the emails, calls or planning that had occurred. However, they told a lot of good stories.*

*What an honor. Whew, I still can't believe it. Being the recipient of this award never even crossed my mind. So, to hear my name and then see my picture (baby picture at that) on the screen, I was overwhelmed.*

*I am so proud to go to work and have the opportunity to provide care as a WOC nurse. I get inspiration from my patients and hopefully bring a bit of humor into their lives. The conference provided me with quite a few new one-liners to bring back home.*



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### 2014 Alabama State Recognition Award

#### **Deborah Thedford-Zimmerman, MSN, RN, CWOCN**

- Employed by UAB Hospital as Bariatric Surgery Coordinator
- Attended Lawson State Community College, UAB School of Nursing and Troy University at Montgomery
- 2014 SER WOCN Conference Education Committee Chair
- President of Birmingham Area WOC Nurses Association

Deborah has been a WOC nurse for 30 years. She is known by her colleagues as a leader, mover and shaker, family matriarch, socialite, fashionista, mentor, instructor, clinician, friend and co-worker and WOC nurse. Congratulations Deborah!



### 2014 Conference Sponsors

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Calmoseptine	Integrated Healing	Ri-Med/Wound-Coach
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CHG Hospital Beds	KCI	Slightly Off-On Purpose
Coloplast	Kreg Therapeutics	Sizewise
Convatec	Linet Americas	Skil-Care
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Edgepark Medical Supplies	Products	UHS
EHOB	Mölnlycke Healthcare	UOAA
Ferris Manufacturing	The Morel Company	Youth Rally
	National Rehab	





## Special Projects Report

by Reneé Epting, MN, RN, CWOCN  
Director of Special Projects  
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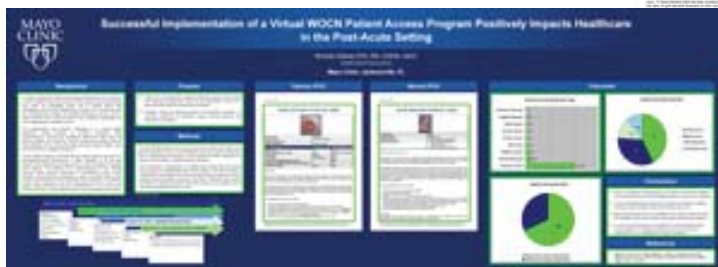
Happy Fall y'all from South Carolina where the weather has been spectacular for the past couple of weeks. I hope you were able to attend the SER WOCN Annual Conference in Montgomery. I hear it was a great conference and the Alabama WOC nurses (as usual) put on a fantastic conference. A big thanks to Cheryl Lane, Chair of the Poster Committee, along with her committee members for doing an awesome job with recruiting poster presenters, reading abstracts and choosing eighteen outstanding posters for presentation at conference. The authors of these posters gave us eighteen good reasons to be proud of all of the work and research that is going on out there in the WOC nursing arena. If you were unable to attend conference, you can still view the posters. All eighteen are available for viewing under the 2014 Conference Information and Evaluations Link (look for "Posters") on the SER WOCN Society website. Congratulations to following folks who earned cash prizes for placing in the top three spots:

- **First Place** and winner of **\$1,000**: Rhonda Sullivan for ***Successful Implementation of a Virtual WOCN Patient Access Program Positively Impacts Healthcare in the Post-Acute Setting***
- **Second Place** and winner of **\$500**: Karen Edwards, Kimberly LeBlanc, Sharon Baranoski, Dawn Christensen, Mary Gloeckner, Samantha Holloway, Diane Langemo, Mary Regan, Mary Ann Sammon, Gary Sibbald, and Ann Williams for ***International Skin Tear Advisory Panel: Evidence Based Prediction, Prevention, Assessment, and Management of Skin Tears***
- **Third Place** and winner of **\$250**: Dawn Engels, Melody Austin, Laurie McNichol, Jennifer Zinn, Sat Gupta, and Dr. Haseeb Kazi for ***What's Going On Under the OR Drapes? A Closer Look at Pressure Ulcers Acquired in the Perioperative Period***

If you have never presented a poster at conference, now is the time to start preparing for the 2015 conference. We are always looking to add to the body of WOC nursing knowledge and I know there are many more of you out there with excellent research questions floating around in your busy heads. For those authors who presented in Montgomery, please consider going one step further and submit your research for publication. Your topics were excellent and I'm sure conference participants learned much from reading the details of each one....I know I did!

So long for now....and enjoy the upcoming holidays with your families. ~ Renee'

### First Place



View all the amazing Posters at:  
<http://www.serwocn.org/2014Conference/2014-PosterPresentations.html>



Finally, don't forget that we still have a free 0.5 CEU available under the E-Learning section of the SER WOCN Society webpage. The module currently available is, "Tips for Abstract Writing and Poster Design/Display." Now there are more of you out there with spectacular PowerPoints you've created for classes, posters you've presented or projects that you've done as part of your job. Have you presented an interesting program on deep tissue injuries, figured out a new spin on pressure ulcer prevention, devised a new method of pouching fistulas or have a desire to explore any other topic that might be of interest to your fellow WOC nurses? If so, then share it with us and allow us to consider it for future E-Learning activities. We will help to secure the CEU hours if you just provide the content.

### International Skin Tear Advisory Panel: Evidence Based Prediction, Prevention, Assessment, and Management of Skin Tears



### Second Place



### Third Place





## Greetings from the Great State of Alabama

by Amy Armstrong, BSN, RN, CWOCN

Alabama State Reporter

[al.reporter@serwocn.org](mailto:al.reporter@serwocn.org)

*Influencing Nursing Practice through Education: Pressure Ulcer Prevention, Wound and Ostomy Management*, was presented in a pre-conference workshop in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by Dr. Cheryl Lane, Deborah Thedford-Zimmerman and Sharon D. White on August 5, 2014 at the 42nd



*Cheryl Lane, Deborah Thedford-Zimmerman and Sharon White at the NBNA conference*

Annual Institute and Conference of the National Black Nurses Association, Inc. This pre-conference workshop was made possible through an educational grant from Smith & Nephew, Hollister, Coloplast and Drexel University On-Line.

Dr. Cheryl Lane was a speaker on her clinical project, *The Impact of Smoking and Smoking Cessation on Wound Healing in Spinal Cord Injured Patients with Pressure Ulcer*, at the Paralyzed Veterans of America Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada on August 28, 2014. Audience members included physicians, nurses, therapists and social workers. The speaker selection was made from poster abstract submissions.



In July, the Birmingham Area WOC Nurses Association was able to sponsor and send Minleigh Gates from Enterprise, Alabama to the 2014 Youth Rally in San Diego, California. The Youth Rally is a 5-night camp for kids and teens living with conditions of the bowel and/or bladder staffed by specialty RNs and volunteer counselors who live with the same sorts of conditions.

The 2014 SER WOCN Society Conference Co-Chairs, Jennifer Anderson, Michael Byars and Karen Eubank, hosted a great conference in Montgomery.

Congratulations to Jennifer Anderson as the new President-Elect of SER WOCN Society.

A very special THANK YOU to everyone on the poster committee from Cheryl Lane. She said everyone did such a marvelous job!!

Several posters from Alabama WOC nurses were presented by: Misty Edwards, Joy Lynch, Najla Washington, Sharon White, Catrice Potts, Karen Edwards, Kelly Suttle, Amy Armstrong, Ramona Reed-Chism, Saralyn McDade, Kay Raxter, David Crumbley and Mary Hopper.

Congratulations to Karen Edwards for winning second place with her poster. Kudos to Karen for giving a fantastic pre-conference session too!

Congratulations to Misty Edwards for receiving one of the SER WOCN Society Conference Scholarships.

Great job by Catrice Potts and Angela Graham for their presentations at the conference which were both awesome!

Pat Blakely received a scholarship in memory of Hattie Stokes presented by Deborah Thedford-Zimmerman.

Big THANK YOU to Catrice Potts and her team for the awesome Silent Auction at conference.

Congratulations to the Birmingham Area WOC Nurses Association President, Deborah Thedford-Zimmerman, who received the 2014 SER WOCN Society Alabama Honoree Award!

Karen Edwards traveled to Las Vegas at the end of September for the Clinical Symposium on Advances in Skin and Wound Care where she presented, *Creative Pouching Techniques: The Arts and Crafts of Fistulas, Drains, and Ostomies*.



*Birmingham Area Conference Attendees enjoyed their time in Montgomery: Cynthia Cunningham, Michelle Crocker, Angela Graham, Misty Edwards, Sharon White, Pat Blakely, Karen Edwards, Catrice Potts, Jennifer Bishop, Melanie Owens and Deborah Thedford-Zimmerman*



## Florida - The Sunshine State

by Linda Ravenhorst, MBA, BSN, RN, CWON

Florida State Reporter

[fl.reporter@serwocn.org](mailto:fl.reporter@serwocn.org)

### Daytona Beach Area News

The photo below is from our recent Orlando WTA class in July. Debbie Ritter and I teach WTA classes for our company, which was acquired by Kindred this year. We have graduated over 120 WTAs in our Louisiana and Florida locations.



### Our Florida July attendees were:

Mary Ellen Costello, Tampa  
Katie Sheldon, Tampa  
Johnna Maynard, Naples  
Scott Dornfeld, Villages  
Erin Brown, Villages  
Mandy Barker, Ocala  
Tanya Holmes, Ocala

Carolann Carr, Clearwater  
Staci Shimp, Port Charlotte  
Ellen Hitt, Gainesville  
Kathleen Prater, Orlando  
Julie Tupper, Orlando  
Raymond Garcia, Orlando  
Lisa Barrows, Melbourne

### Class Coordinators

Sue Kennedy, Daytona Beach, FL

Debbie Ritter, Hammond, LA

Thirteen of the attendees are clinicians with Senior Home Care (affiliate of Kindred at Home) and Lisa Barrows is an RN Wound Care Coordinator for Melbourne Kindred Hospital.

Debbie and I enjoyed working with the group and it was interesting to see the positive interactions between hospital-based nurses and homecare nurses. Implementing "Transitional Care Interventions" was a topic discussed daily!

### Tampa Bay Area News

Debbie Crum won the Daisy Nursing Excellence Award. That was a shock to her. "I was very touched by it. Actually, I didn't know what it was until I won it." There is a video on the internet you can watch that explains it. It is quite touching. That is it for me. Had a short summer. - Debbie Crum, Baycare Health System

At Moffitt Cancer Center, we are coordinating VAC classes so our new grad nurses develop competency in NPWT skills. - Nancy Scott

Ellie Hofer will be traveling to Australia on October 1, 2014. It is a place I have always wanted to see and now have the opportunity to do so. I am excited and also a little apprehensive because of the length of the trip, but hopefully all will go well. I will take pictures. This trip became a reality for me when my brother asked me to join him in Australia for a totally expense paid adventure, as this is a company paid trip for him and unfortunately, his wife doesn't fly! Ellie—have fun and come back with a great Australian accent.

Doug Rye has resigned from the board of the FAET as membership chair. My wife and I have been dealing with her breast cancer since 2010. At this time, it is important for her to be closer to her family, so I have accepted a wound care position at the VA in Temple, Texas. My last day at James A. Haley VA was September 5th. I have enjoyed being a member of the FAET, but regret not being able to fulfill my term as Director of Membership. I will miss the Tampa Bay area. Sincere best wishes to all members of the FAET and SER WOCN Society. - Douglas Rye

My news is: I will be moving back to Pittsburgh, PA to be closer to family. I started my new job with UPMC North Hills Passavant Hospital October 6th. I will miss my Florida friends but it is time to spend some time with my family. I have been here 18 years! - Sheryl Fulmer

The above two nurses will be greatly missed from the Tampa Bay Area. Sheryl has been the coordinator for the Tampabay quarterly dinner meeting and Conference Chair for the FAET when it was in Tampa.

*Florida news continued on next page*



### Florida News continued

Christine Bennett - I am almost melted with this hot summer we have had! Next summer will be my last one in Florida! In 2016, I retire and we will be spending summers in the mountains of Costa Rica in the cabin we purchased! Good for you Christine!

Linda Ravenhorst spent her vacation in the Denver area with her five grandchildren plus her sister's two grandchildren climbing in Rocky Mountain National Park. Yes, it was busy with ages from 4 to 9 years old, but fun.



The Hernando County Ostomy Association is going to have a table at one of the local Health Fairs to promote awareness of what an ostomy is all about. Linda is the ostomy nurse for ASG through UOAA.

Barbara Bagby is excited about welcoming her first granddaughter Eleanor Grace on Sep 20.

Beverly Higbea was chosen to receive a scholarship from the SER WOCN Society this fall in Alabama.

Jane Nichols participated in a research study that has been accepted for publication in the journal, *Medical Hypotheses*. This study was conducted at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. The purpose of this study is to examine the preliminary hypothesis that there are biological and/or psychosocial factors that increase or reduce vulnerability to PrUs among persons with Spinal Cord Injury. "Spinal Cord Injury Survey to Determine Pressure Ulcer Vulnerability in the Outpatient Population." Lisa J. Gould, Christine M. Olney, Jane S. Nichols, Aaron Block, Ross M. Simon and Marylou Guihan.

Nancy Scott's summer fun days were spent at Typhoon Lagoon, Magic Kingdom & Blizzard Beach on her birthday with fiancé, Javier Alvarado.

Nancy Scott was elected as Director of Awards for the SER WOCN Society. She and Carolyn Hewett attended the informative conference held September 18-20, in Montgomery, AL. Please visit [www.serwocn.org](http://www.serwocn.org) for details related to your submission of scholarship application for next year's conference. Also, since you must be a SER WOCN Society member for at least one year to be eligible for a scholarship, please do not delay paying your dues to join the WOCN® Society and select Southeast Region as your affiliate / region.



### South East Florida Area News

Well, I have a beautiful new grandson name Preston. I presented a poster at the last National WOCN® Society Conference. I am also in school pursuing my PhD at University of Phoenix. Thank you so much. - Donna Byfield

I just renewed my CWOCN by PGP and was notified it was accepted! Yea, all set for another 5 years. - Cathy Phillips, St Mary's Medical Center, West Palm Beach

Several Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Agents at the Ft Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport were given a presentation on practical tips when interacting with passengers with ostomies. On August 5th, 2014, Wendy Lueder, President of the Broward Ostomy Association of Fort Lauderdale, presented a 40 slide PowerPoint presentation on "How to relate to Someone Living with an Ostomy," to TSA agents. Wendy's lecture was part of a series of lectures

regarding multicultural sensitivity and disability issues. Wendy educated TSA personnel about ostomy concepts and the differences between types of ostomies. She reviewed anatomy noting the differences between colostomies, ileostomies and urostomies; their locations and pouching options. She spoke about ostomies myths, hints and tips.

A review of the Travel Communication Card was done. This notifies TSA agents that the traveler has an ostomy appliance during screening or at pat- down procedures at airport security checkpoints. She spoke about the Travel Card as not being a certificate to pass or avoid screening. The Travel Card is available for download from UOAA's website [http://www.ostomy.org/ostomy\\_info/pubs/travel\\_card\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ostomy.org/ostomy_info/pubs/travel_card_2011.pdf). As of January 2011, ostomates may always have a travel companion with them during a private screening. TSA agents were taught they are not allowed to ask ostomates to actually show or expose their pouches but that they may

*Florida news continued on next page*





### *Florida News continued*

be examined only by gently patting over pouches outside of clothing so they can rule out explosive residue. Wendy urged TSA agents to use extreme caution at pat-downs, as pouches may accidentally detach and strongly recommended to agents to offer privacy if preferred by the ostomate. The main message conveyed to TSA agents was ostomate's live normal lives as much as anyone else. In her own words, "ostomates look at ostomy surgery not as a sunset but a sunrise into better health." Wendy is a fantastic speaker and ostomate advocate. She is passionate about educating not only other ostomates and WOC nurses, but the general public. In this occasion, TSA agents had a real treat!



*Wendy Lueder*

### **North East Florida-Jacksonville Area News**

I have finished the Cleveland Clinic School of WOC Nursing Education for ostomy care. My certification exam is in scheduled in November. - Diana Rickard. We wish you all the best in your exam Diana!

Donna Geiger presented a poster at the SER WOCN Society Conference in Montgomery, Alabama titled, *Implementation of the Wound Treatment Associate Program in the ICU to Reduce Pressure Ulcers*.

"Implementation of the Wound Treatment Associate Program in the ICU to Reduce Pressure Ulcers" abstract was accepted by the SAWC in Las Vegas and will be presented by Amy Meyer.

"Implementation of the Wound Treatment Associate Program in the ICU to Reduce Pressure Ulcers" abstract was accepted as a Podium presentation by the 2015 American Nurses Association Quality Conference in Orlando, Florida, February 2015.

I renewed my Wound Certification by PGP July 2014. UF Health began a new WTA class started on September 4th, 2014. I have one more year to complete the Family Nurse Practitioner tract with Chamberlain College of Nursing. I am counting down the months... Thanks for allowing me to brag – Donna Geiger

### **Orlando Area News**

At ORMC we have vacancies due to various reasons. We have recently added Patricia Hemlinger to our ranks, who comes with a vast wealth of experience as a WOC nurse in critical care. We still have 2 vacancies we would like to fill. Contact Kathryn Dere for further information [Kathryn.Dere@orlandohealth.com](mailto:Kathryn.Dere@orlandohealth.com).

On a fun note, Suzanne Lumpkin is going on a cruise with Georgene Hadley and Pam Skaggs. Kathryn Dere went on a cruise also, a well-needed escape with my 2 children. Had a blast, just what we needed before the onslaught of school activities. - Kathryn Dere



*Kathryn Dere;  
Kaylyn, HS senior;  
Bryce, HS sophomore*

Charlene Demers has been appointed Vice-Chair of the Orlando VA Medical Center Institutional Review Board (IRB) which is responsible for the protection of human subjects in research by approving or disapproving proposed research projects or suspending or terminating research if not being conducted in accordance with regulations or has been associated with unexpected serious harm to subjects.

### **North West Florida Area News**

How many areas in the country can boast they have their own homegrown Healthcare System that now ranks as one of the best plans in the nation? Additionally, according to the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), Capital Health Plan (CHP) has been honored as the best health plan in Florida for the ninth year in a row. Capital Health Plan has been in established since 1982, covers 7 counties in the panhandle and today has over 125,000 members. Additionally, how many Healthcare Systems have a Skin & Wound Center? CHP opened the Skin & Wound Center opened its doors about a year and a half ago under the direction of D.J. Underwood, MD, Adekunle Omotayo, MD, Tony James, Jan Simmons, Wilson Enfinger and Jennifer Storms. The center is having great success and provides a more seamless continuum of care for their members. I will be looking forward to more news as the center grows. - Thanks, Lorraine Bittinger, Tallahassee





### *Florida News continued*

Mary Theresa Bruno, 53 of Beverly Hills, Florida died on Tuesday, September 30, 2014. She was born on Friday, December 23, 1960 in New Brunswick, New Jersey to Philip and Mary (Misacavage) Iosso. Mary Theresa was a registered nurse and specialized in wound care and was a legal nurse consultant. She loved her patients and they loved her and was known to be a workaholic. Mary Theresa was a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, enjoyed cruising and trips to Las Vegas. Survivors include her husband of 27 years, Robert Bruno of Beverly Hills, Florida; daughters, Mary Ann Bruno of Beverly Hills, Florida and Nikki Bruno of Lakeland, Florida and her mother, Mary Iosso of Beverly Hills, Florida. Memorial contributions may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org)



or [kkehoe@medline.com](mailto:kkehoe@medline.com). Kim will also be working with the 2015 SER WOCN Society Conference Committee for next year's "Experience the Magic, Blending the Art & Science of WOC Nursing," in Orlando, Florida, September 10-12.

### **Brevard County Area News**

The Brevard WOC nurses meet usually every other month at a vendor sponsored educational dinner. However, the Brevard WOC nurses are busy planning the 2015 FAET Conference on March 6 - 7, 2015 at the Cocoa Beach Hilton.

Of note, there will be a new outpatient wound care center in Port St. John. The expected opening will be November 3, 2014. The wound center will be managed by Healogics, under the Parrish Medical Center. Katie Schmidt, will be the Clinical Coordinator at the new center.

Please welcome Joy Parent from New York. She has relocated to Brevard County and has taken the position of Clinical Coordinator at the Parrish Wound Care Center in Titusville. - Katie Schmidt

### **Southwest Florida Area News**

The NCH Healthcare System in Naples, Florida now has a new WOC nurse - Debra Percher. We now have three WOC nurses covering our two-hospital, 700 bed system. - Joan McInerney, WOC Nurse Coordinator, NCH Healthcare System.

### **Central East Coast Area News**

I have just re-certified by testing for the 4th time in June. I am back home at my new, old job at Health First since April. I am loving every second of it! Health First has a full-time opening for a WOC nurse. - Thanks, Jana Rochette, Melbourne

Kathy Jowers at Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach reports, "I will be attending the SAWC Conference in Las Vegas. I finally have help! I have 2 RNs that work part-time with me to assist with assessment of wounds and ostomies. My biggest project presently is working on Pressure Ulcer Prevention."

Kim Kehoe traded "vacation" this summer to remodel a kitchen which included 4+ weeks without a sink, oven, stove or dishwasher. The outcome was well worth "roughing it." She had the opportunity to attend SER WOCN Society Conference in the Capital of Dreams - Montgomery, Alabama and enjoyed both the program and networking with many colleagues. Kim is also working on broadening the WOCN® Society image library with a focus on skin tears. If anyone has images for Type I, II or III skin tears and would like to help with this project, please contact Kim at [kimkrn84@gmail.com](mailto:kimkrn84@gmail.com)

### **2015 FAET CONFERENCE March 6 & 7, 2015**

#### **Lower Extremity Ulcers**

If you need a refresher on the assessment and management of lower extremity ulcers then the 2015 FAET conference has just what you need. 3M will sponsor a workshop on compression from the inside out, not the outside in. One CE will be provided in addition to a hands-on workshop. Come and join us for the informative and interactive pre-conference offering. Space will be limited so sign up early.



#### **Back By Popular Demand**

"Pouching the Challenging Patient," presented by Nu-Hope. If you didn't get the opportunity to attend this dynamic and informative pre-conference in 2012, please don't miss the opportunity at the 2015 FAET conference. Management of difficult stomas with pouching strategies to extend the life of the appliance. Hernia belts management as well as a hands on workshop will be provided. If you have ever had that impossible stoma, we are providing you with the opportunity to learn as well as share your own experiences. Again space is limited and the workshop will fill up quickly.

**\*\*\*Pre-Registration Is a Must for Both Pre-Conference Workshops**

*Florida news continued on next page*



## North Florida continued

### New to the FAET Conference: POSTER PRESENTATIONS

This year the conference committee will provide the opportunity for the membership to exhibit your hard work. We will have the space to showcase 10 poster presentations. If you would like to exhibit your work, please submit an abstract to the conference chair for consideration. We only have 10 spots, so please submit early.

We are looking forward to having a wonderful time with colleagues from across the state. Come and join us!

Jacqueline Wiseman, 2015 FAET Conference Chair  
Jwiseman5@gmail.com



Hilton Cocoa Beach  
Oceanfront  
1550 North Atlantic Ave  
Cocoa Beach FL 32931  
[www.faet.org](http://www.faet.org)

**"Ride the Waves of Change "**  
at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Florida Association of Enterostomal Therapists  
March 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2015

**Friday Pre-Conference: Workshops:**  
Lower Extremity Compression presented by  
3M-1 CE  
Pouching the Challenging Patient presented  
by Nu Hope

**Fun on the Beach**  
Vendor Fair  
Networking Luau under the stars  
Poster exhibits  
Informative Wound /Ostomy/ Continence  
offerings  
"5 Contact Hours will be provided under FBN  
Provider Number 50-10240

Pre-registration required due to  
limited space

Registration opens  
December 1, 2014





## News from Georgia

by Angela Dye, BSN, RN, CWOCN

Georgia State Reporter

[ga.reporter@serwocn.org](mailto:ga.reporter@serwocn.org)

### Festive Fall greetings from Georgia!

The crisp Fall air brings new excitement and activity and I am happy to share that we had an overwhelming response of news updates from many facilities across GA!



#### Group Updates and Announcements:

- **Cartersville Medical Center** and Jamie Parker have been working very hard and proudly announce that their new HAPU rate is 1.9%! Jamie is also working on her MSN in Health Systems Leadership from University of West Georgia. She will graduate in April 2015. Look for more about Jamie and her facility's incredible accomplishments in our Winter newsletter.
- **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta** welcomes Madelyn McGuire as their newest wound & ostomy nurse. She has completed her Wound and Ostomy certification exams and will be taking her Continence test soon.
- **Emory University Hospital (EUH)** is excited to welcome Nancy Wade and Dorothy Doughty to the EUH team!!! Nancy works between EUH, and inpatient and outpatient at EUHM. Dorothy works at EUH. Angela, Aileen, Cynthia and Martha are grateful and proud to work with such talented ladies.
- **Emory University Hospital Midtown (EUHM)** would like to announce Christina Palau has passed the certification board exams for wound and ostomy. Lois Millsap also passed re-certification board exams for wound, ostomy and foot/nail. Lauren Flook Brown shares, "We are very proud of both of them!"
- **Rockdale Medical Center** announces that Katy Stafford is working full time as the inpatient WOC nurse at Rockdale Medical Center! She recently volunteered for Lazarus Ministries Health Day doing foot care for the homeless. She shares she "was thrilled to find Dorothy Doughty, Lynette Franklin and Merrill Frasier there too."
- **Southern Regional** announces Lillie Farmer went to SER WOCN Society Regional Conference in Montgomery and in

June Frances Ferron attended

the National WOCN® conference in Nashville. Lillie recently visited the ConvaTec plant in Greensboro, North Carolina with about 15 other WOC nurses and shares her experience. There she met with ConvaTec representatives, marketing group and regional director and toured the plant. There was extensive discussion on how to improve patient outcomes as well as how the company could support the WOC nurse moving forward. She comments the arranged commute and tour "were flawless."

- **The Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Education Center (WOCNEC)** Rose Murphree, Director, just returned from Seoul, Korea, where she spoke to the attendees at the Inaugural International Colorectal Research Summit sponsored by the Korean Society of Coloproctology Surgeons. She spoke at the conference on September 20.
- **University Hospital Augusta** welcomes Maria Hughes this year as she works on the wound, ostomy and continence modules via Emory's WOCNEC program. Maria joins University's team members, Patti Ashmore and Wendy Wiggins, both who have been WOC nurses for 21 years.
- **Wellstar Cobb** would like to welcome two new additions to their inpatient staff: Funmi Sonubi and Amy Glaze. Vicky Bryan attended conference in Montgomery and received an award (see photo below). Vicky is in her second semester at Georgia State working towards a FNP degree. Jenny Solohub, from inpatient is in her third semester for Clinical Nurse Education (CNE) at Mercer. Danielle Byrd from outpatient is expecting a baby boy! She attended the National WOCN® Conference in Nashville this past summer.

#### General News:

- The WOCNEC hosted a catered event for preceptors: Rose Murphree, Director, thanks all preceptors in her September letter and invited all preceptors to an Open House/Faculty Meeting October 16, 6-8:30. Topics on the meeting agenda included updates on payment of precepting funds, ongoing plans for precepting students and the results from the recent questionnaire sent out to preceptors.
- Jamie Parker, from Cartersville Medical Center, has been voted "Cartersville Medical Center Best Nurse Educator 2014!" Congratulations, Jamie!
- Vicky Bryan, from Wellstar Cobb, was selected as the 2014 SER WOCN Nurse of the Year!!! Her family surprised her at the 2014 SER WOCN Society Conference Award ceremony in Montgomery, Alabama. Congratulations, Vicky!!!

*Georgia news continued on next page*





## GA news continued

- Aileen Ankrom, SER WOCN Nomination's Committee Member for Georgia, would like to remind everyone of the upcoming positions available on the 2015 SER WOCN Society Board. Send nominations to Terry Barton, Nominations Committee Chair at [terry.barton@nominations.org](mailto:terry.barton@nominations.org), or to Aileen Ankrom at [aileen.ankrom@emoryhealthcare.org](mailto:aileen.ankrom@emoryhealthcare.org)
- Upcoming positions: 1) Secretary, 2) Treasurer, 3) Director of Conference Planning, 4) Director of Special Projects, and 5) Nominations Committee Member from Georgia.

## Consortium Announcements:

- We would like to thank Amy Johnson, Account Manager, and Smith & Nephew (Advanced Wound Management) for hosting our October consortium at Morton's Steakhouse, "The Drive to Zero; Contemporary Issues in Pressure Ulcer Prevention," presented by Cynthia Fernandez.
- EHOB, Inc is hosting a WOC Nurse Dinner Discussion and live pressure mapping demonstration on November 5, 2014 at 6pm at the Sheraton Atlanta Perimeter North, 800 Hammond Dr., Atlanta GA 30328. Please RSVP and contact Aileen Ankrom with questions.
- If you know of a company who would like to sponsor an educational consortium, please contact Aileen Ankrom [aileen.ankrom@emoryhealthcare.org](mailto:aileen.ankrom@emoryhealthcare.org).

Emory Healthcare WOC Nurses Christina Palau, Aileen Ankrom and Cynthia Timms and WOCNEC's Merrill Fraser (left to right) in class at SER WOCN Conference in Montgomery.



Emory Healthcare WOC nurses at the river front in Montgomery (left to right): Christina Palau, Cynthia Timms & Aileen Ankrom



Vicky with her family and SER WOCN Society President Patti Haberer

## Volunteer Opportunities:

**Lazarus Ministries' Annual Health Day for the Homeless update:** Held in downtown Atlanta on September 21. Nancy Wade volunteered along with Dorothy Doughty, Merrill Fraser, Judy Burnham, Lynette Franklin, Katy Stafford and several others. Nancy shares: "I think we saw about 50 people, more men than women. Dorothy had the "winning feet" with a girl that had matching toenail polish, flip flops, and dress! It was a rewarding experience and our group was the last to leave."



Emory Healthcare WOC nurses and RNs (left to right) in Montgomery: Christina Palau, Cynthia Timms, Aileen Ankrom, Perla Swindall (RN), Merrill Fraser, & Tracy Lee (RN).

Many thanks to those who shared their news!





## North Carolina News

by Colleen Spiller, MA, BSN, RN, CWOCN

North Carolina State Reporter

[nc.reporter@serwocn.org](mailto:nc.reporter@serwocn.org)

## North Carolina News "The Tar Heel State"

### Professional News...

What a great conference at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa in Alabama. There was lots of great feedback regarding the sessions and a well-supported silent auction. The 2014 Southeast Region (SER) WOCN Society Conference, "The Future of WOC Nursing in the Capital of Dreams," was one of the funniest conferences I have been to as I got to see and speak to so many people and make some new friends! ...And Trudy Huey was right; the spa was to die for! If we have a conference there in the future, I would highly recommend it. The 2015 SER WOCN Society Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida and is also in the process of being planned. And if the convention is in Florida, you know that means 2016 is North Carolina! Never too early to start planning and dreaming of a Carolina experience! Further information can be viewed at [www.serwocn.org](http://www.serwocn.org).



WOCN® President, Phyllis Kupsick



Leanne Richbourg and Nancy Payne



Dawn Engel, Laurie McNichol and Melody Austin; nurses at Cone Health, had a poster presentation at the SER WOCN Society Conference. The title was: *What factors may contribute towards the development of pressure ulcers in patients that have been in the OR setting?* Congratulations on a 3rd place award! The poster was also presented at The Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Symposium in North Carolina, where it received 2nd place.



Dawn also delivered a podium presentation, "Healthcare Challenges: Prevention of Hospital-Acquired Pressure Ulcers in an Operating Room Setting" at the International Conference on Advances in Interdisciplinary Statistics and Combinatorics.

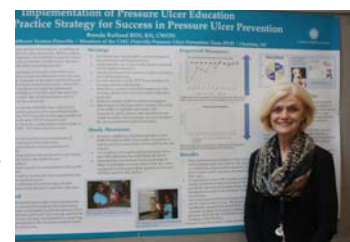
Jacqueline Clarke of Camden Place Health and Rehab received her wound certification in June. We are also proud to say she is the NC WOC Nurses group secretary. Way to go Jackie!

Karen Sanders has left Advanced Home Care and joined Cone Health at Alamance Regional Hospital.

Congratulations Karen and good luck in your new endeavor. You may reach Karen at [karensanders037@gmail.com](mailto:karensanders037@gmail.com).

Congratulations to Krys Dixon who graduated from Duke University School of Nursing with her MSN. Very well done!

Brenda Rutland at Carolinas Healthcare System-Pineville, had a poster presentation entitled, *Implementation of a pressure ulcer education as a best practice strategy for success in pressure ulcer prevention.*



### Family News...

Barbara Koruda has just had her first grandchild. Congratulations on your new baby granddaughter, Cecelia! Stephanie Stokes at Duke University Hospital welcomes her new baby boy, Brody Cole Stokes. Brody was born on 7/19/14 and both Mom and baby are doing well. What a blessing!

Krys Dixon at Duke Raleigh Hospital has a stepson, Graham Dixon, who has received his PhD in Communications from Cornell University. That is awesome; we know you are very proud of him.

*continued on next page*



*NC news continued*

### UOAA Ostomy Awareness Day

October 4th, 2014 was UOAA Ostomy Awareness Day. Two of our members, Lara Leininger from UNC Health Care and Angela Richardson of Duke University Health system, arranged the 1st Annual WannaWearOne Ostomy AWEARness 5K. And let me tell you, it was a great time! I have even had questions about it from as far away as England! Lara and Angela are proud to say that they had almost 250 people register for the inaugural event. Of that 250, approximately 30 people from 25 different states participated in their own 5k on the same day in their home towns in honor of National Ostomy Awareness Day. They had 180 participants run or walk the event in Durham on Saturday. Race participants from as far as California, New York, Boston, Florida, Connecticut and Maryland drove or flew into North Carolina to celebrate the day. Their gross profit is expected to be over \$20,000, with net proceeds somewhere around \$15,000 for The United Ostomy Associations of America. More than the money raised, they are thrilled to have raised heightened awareness and understanding that ostomy surgery saves lives. Their hope is those facing or having undergone ostomy surgery don't feel the need to hide or be ashamed. Having an ostomy does not define or label an individual, but can improve or even save their life!



*Meredith Foscue, a Duke University nursing student and Susan Dunzweiler's future daughter-in-law, Susan Dunzweiler and Colleen Spiller.*

Hours after the event ended on Saturday, Angela and Lara began planning for October 5, 2015. Next year they will be celebrating World Ostomy Awareness Day and hope to have an even greater turn out and bigger event! They want to reach further into our communities and let people know that having an ostomy is nothing to be ashamed of and their inspiring stories should be shared!



*North Carolina WOC nurse participants and volunteers.*

This was great fun...thanks for your passion and commitment Angela and Lara.

### Open Positions...

There is an open position for a WOC nurse at Advanced Home Care in the Triad region/ High Point area. To apply, please go to [advhomecare.org](http://advhomecare.org) or call me at Brenda Emmerth at 704-616-9522 or Peggy McCracken at 423-612-2234.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your North Carolina reporter for SER WOCN Society.



*Keeping it all in the family and "wearing one", Lara and Angela!*



## News from the Palmetto State

by Joan Jackson Meekins, BSN, RN, CWOCN

South Carolina State Reporter

[sc.reporter@serwocn.org](mailto:sc.reporter@serwocn.org)



Roper St. Francis has some exciting news. Ellen Moore has joined Stephanie Murray at RSFH Home Care, a 2013 PRC Excellence in Health Care Award Winner. Jacqui Streeter has completed her BSN and is preparing for her December 31st wedding.

Mary Arnold Long has joined the National WOCN® Board as regional Director #4 and remains on the National Conference Planning Committee sharing wound track responsibilities with Tod Brindle.

MUSC WOC nursing is expanding!! Over the past 6 months they have grown from 3 WOC nurses to a staff of 6 full-time WOC nurses and a 7th position in the final hiring stages. Strong support from our administration is recognizing the benefits of their practice. New staff and positions include:

Glenda Brunette

Emily Pelegrini

Jennifer O'Brien

Phill Botham accepted Coordinator role upon Pam Sriniva's retirement.

MUSC is looking forward to an expanded outpatient role, leading the way in ostomy, continence and wound care practices, outreach and education within their Medical and Nursing colleges and participating in research initiatives.

Nadine Mulligan is the new Director of Communications starting January 1, 2015. She is from South Carolina and works for the Greenville Health System in the LTACH as the Wound Care Nurse.

Kathy Decho just completed her recertification by test in wound, ostomy and continence. She is so relieved it is over.

Joan Jackson-Meekins is still the administrator of Florence Visiting Nurses. The census has increased by approximately 40% since last year.

Mary Arnold-Long authored an article for Advance Healthcare Network for Nurses titled, "The Adaptable Experts." Link for the article:

<http://nursing.advanceweb.com/Archives/Article-Archives/The-Adaptable-Experts.aspx>





## Greetings from Tennessee!

by Barbara Dale, BSN, RN, CHHN, CWOCN  
Tennessee State Reporter  
[tn.reporter@serwocn.org](mailto:tn.reporter@serwocn.org)

### Hello everyone!

This new wet fall weather has been a welcomed change from our hot dry summer!  
What a welcome change!

I had one of the many interesting encounters of my WOC nurse career recently. If any of you were at the National WOCN® Conference and went to the general session on gang violence you may have wondered, as I did, why WOC nurses needed this session. Well I attended the session thankfully, because I had an opportunity to use much of the information from the session when I saw a patient who had been “bagged” in a gang initiation. In hindsight, our Regional and National WOCN® Society leadership are obviously really thinking out of the box and pushing our profession in the right directions.

Kim Greer will be a guest lecturer for the junior year BSN students at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville covering wounds and ostomy fundamentals. I think this is such a great opportunity to reach out to students and market our profession, but most of all give those students the basic information they need to provide great care to their future WOC patients. It would be great if each one of the 133 WOCNCB® certified nurses in Tennessee could reach out to their local nursing school and do a fundamentals lecture! I would love to hear from others who are already doing this! We could make it a challenge!

Congratulations to Martha Davidson as she transitions from President-Elect to President of the SER WOCN Society.

I really don't have much news to share with the region right now but did come across a poem the other day that I thought was worth sharing and would like to use it to sum up the Tennessee section.

With all the veterans coming back from deployment with wounds, ostomies and continence issues they have really been on my mind. I have been thinking about what they do and how we take care of them when they return. Sometimes how we help them physically is only the beginning of what we do for them. This poem will make you think of all the survivors and overcomers out there we see every day in our WOC practices. Whether our patients' issues are related to military service, gang violence, dreaded diseases or just life in general; what we do every day makes a lasting impact on those lives we touch.

Take time to pat yourself on the back every once in a while for a job well done.



### Survivor Psalm©

*By Frank Ochberg, MD  
and Gift From Within*

I have been victimized.  
I was in a fight that was  
not a fair fight.  
I did not ask for the fight.  
I lost.  
There is no shame in losing  
such fights, only in winning.  
I have reached the stage of  
survivor and am no longer a  
slave of victim status.  
I look back with sadness  
rather than hate.  
I look forward with hope  
rather than despair.  
I may never forget, but I need  
not constantly remember.  
I was a victim.  
I am a survivor.

*From <http://giftfromwithin.org/>*