

Massachusetts Association of Occupational Health Nurses Awards

It is my honor and pleasure to nominate Christine Pontus, MS, RN, COHN-S/CCM for the **Dorothy Reid Lifetime Achievement Award**. Throughout Christine's long-standing career she embraced many leadership roles, including her service as past Director for the Greater Boston Association, and currently as a Board of Director for MaAOHN. Christine is recognized for exemplary work on MA and RI Public Health advisory boards and taskforces. Her dedication to the advancement of occupational and environmental health nursing is unparalleled.

Christine began her Occupational Health Nurse journey accepting a staffing assignment in 1979 at A.T. Cross Company in Rhode Island. Her primary role was employee injury triage, prevention and disability management. She fondly recalls her first Occupational Health nurse mentor. This amazing relationship led to her commitment to worker safety and health.

Soon after, Christine became an Occupational Health Nurse Manager at B.A. Ballou Company, Inc. for twenty years, ending in 1999. Her focus was injury and risk reduction, and management of the employers' Workers' Compensation Insurance program. Additional responsibilities included management of occupational and non-occupational disease and wellness management programs. She also managed Federal compliance programs such as OSHA and Hazard Communication, and served as the City Emergency Planning district representative. In this role, she managed the Hazard Substance Tracking system requiring a comprehensive employee training program. Christine's next chapter was in employee safety and protection at Beacon Mutual insurance Company as a Loss Prevention Consultant. She worked with many industry sectors including hospitals and human service organizations; culminating in 2003.

Christine launched a distinguished career at the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) as the Associate Director of Health and Safety, and remains in this position today. She is a valued Occupational Health and Safety Nurse Educator responsible for the planning, development and presentation of educational programs to registered nurses and health professionals. She is frequent presenter in the United States (US) and in Canada. As a trusted liaison, she represents the MNA membership on advisory boards, groups and collations in collaboration with diverse organizations and professionals providing direction for nurses related to health and safety employment issues. Christine supports the MNA's position in Congress on Health and Safety, Emergency Preparedness Task Force, and is a participant on the Safe Patient Handling Task Force. In her expanded role, Christine develops online education programs and authors MNA Newsletter articles. She also testifies at Senate hearings on proposed legislation involving health and safety issues.

Christine exemplifies professionalism and enthusiasm in her commitment to MaAOHN; she is truly deserving of our Life Time Achievement Award.