From the President

Suzanne Stahl
President NEAOHN
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Dear Colleagues:
I am pleased and honored to serve as the president of your organization. As a long-time NEAOHN member and officer of the Board, I have experienced the benefits of membership in both my professional and personal life. I will work to make NEAOHN a vital part of your professional growth and an organization in which you can be proud to belong.

Over the past several months, a great deal of discussion has taken place about the vitality and value of the NorthEast Association of Occupational Health Nurses. Members, directors and officers alike have examined NEAOHN achievements and discussed our potential. This intense scrutiny can only lead to an organization that is more responsive to its members needs. NEAOHN has long fostered professional growth among its members by providing educational opportunities, a forum for networking and a strong communication link between states.

What is exciting about NEAOHN, however, is not what we already are but what we can be in the future:

- A strong agent of change within the legislative and health care arenas;
- A problem-solving instrument for the occupational health nursing practice;
- A champion of professionalism and excellence.

We can effect progress within our professions -- positive growth that cannot be achieved alone.

As the new president of NEAOHN, it will be my challenge to focus these new ideas into a common vision and direction that will strengthen the profession of occupational health nursing. I look forward to working with the NEAOHN Board and you towards that goal.

The State of the States...

Connecticut

Nancy A. Grasso, President
203-285-3338

PROFILE
Membership: 283
Goals: 1. Increase membership by 10 new members.
2. Promote interest in certification and contact hour education.
3. Establish consistent communication through production of a state newsletter.
4. Encourage interest in and the establishment of a Governmental Affairs Committee for all four constituencies.

SPECIAL AWARDS / EVENTS
- Southern hosts the annual Nurse Emeritus banquet for retirees.
- The annual state meeting was sponsored by Western with an all day educational offering, "Considerations in the Management of Occupational Health Services".
- In 1993, a meeting will be hosted by the Hartford Group.
- Upjohn provides a Leadership Award for Connecticut OHNs. The winner this year was Nancy A. Grasso.
- Members of Western attended the CLN Student Day. This is an opportunity for students to discuss the attributes of Occupational Health Nursing.
- In March, the Nurse/Physician/Management Dinner provided many opportunities to network. Jesse Frankel, Commissioner of Labor, discussed the changes in the Workers’ Compensation system.
- Donna Bostwick will be the recipient of the NEAOHN Grant for Emerging Leaders by Mediique.
- CAOHN & the American Lung Association cosponsored an educational program entitled "Occupational Lung Disease Issues in Diagnosis, Management and Compensation".
- The CAOHN is implementing a Speakers Bureau with Anthony DiGiaulio (Advisory Committee for AAOHN) as chair. Anthony is also on the Update Series VI.

Pearls of Wisdom

"A smile is a curve that sets everything straight."

-- Phyllis Diller
The State of the States . . . continued

Delaware

Claudia Griffiths, President
215-255-0462

PROFILE
Membership: 96

We had an exceptional annual conference featuring topics on toxicology and industrial hygiene. Other 1992-1993 programs included: Anxiety and Depression in Occupational Health Setting; Enhancing Your Effectiveness as an OHN; Lessons from Oz: Managing with Wisdom, Benevolence and Courage; Recent Medical Advances in the Treatment of Heart Disease and Health Care Reform in Delaware. Total number of contact hours provided = 10.4.

SPECIAL AWARDS / EVENTS:
- The Governmental Affairs Committee is actively monitoring state legislation. We recently supported two health professional organizations in their effort to pass legislation effecting their respective practices. An informal get-together with legislators is planned and we will show legislators the AAOHN video.
- We started a lending library for members which will enhance accessibility of information and assist preparing for certification.
- A quarter of our membership attended the annual conference in Atlanta; eight members sat for certification.
- The membership adopted a family during Christmas, 1992. Amid the best response ever, we provided a family of five with some lovely Christmas presents and lots of the necessities they needed. All involved agreed to continue to do this each year if possible.
- A special thank you to DAOHN members who served on our Board and committees.

Maine

Florence Aliberti, President
207-770-6014

PROFILE
Membership 86
Goals: 1. Conduct a complete review of the current bylaws to reflect AAOHN changes and meet our current needs.
2. Build on current committees.
3. Improve communications [Newsletter] and opportunities for networking.

SPECIAL AWARDS / EVENTS:
- Chairperson of governmental affairs attended a hearing to change current VDT legislation.
- The "LEP Program" or "Top 200" program was implemented as a pilot project by OSHA.
- Support the Portland "Assist Coalition" whose focus is to bring a variety of groups together to reduce smoking rates through medical, policy and program service activities.
- All Maine nurses who sat for certification in 1993 passed.
- Louise Moranz was the recipient of the Medique-sponsored NEAOHN leadership grant.

Massachusetts

Judith H. Manchester, President
508-750-2380

PROFILE
Membership: 500+

SPECIAL AWARDS / EVENTS:
- MAOHN is comprised of over five hundred members divided into six constituencies: Berkshire, Central, Southeastern, Greater Boston, North of Boston and Western. Central and Southeastern both celebrated their 50th Anniversaries this past year and marked the occasion with special celebrations.
- Our goals over the past year were to: (1) increase the visibility and credibility of occupational health nurses in Massachusetts and (2) to stimulate more active political involvement of our members regarding health care concerns. To accomplish these goals our Education, Public Relations and Governmental Affairs committees have been very active in sponsoring programs, providing information to members, contacting legislators and political action groups, and providing input to the State Nurse Practice Act and other areas of health care reform.
- Two members, Joan McMahon and Judy Manchester, were selected by Senator Edward Kennedy to be part of his information gathering task force. The task force's all day meeting was attended by over 1,500 health care providers and generated many ideas on health care reform that the Senator has shared with the National Committee for Health Care Reform.
- MAOHN established an Award for Excellence in Occupational Health. The first recipient, Pat Urich (North of Boston Constituency), was honored with a plaque and bouquet of roses at our annual meeting last October.
- MAOHN was well represented at the national AOIC, NEAOHN, AAOHN conference of Presidents and our own state conference. Our 1992 annual conference was held in Natick and featured Dr. Bernadine Kuchinsld, Nursing Director of NIOSH and James Campbell, Commissioner/Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents. Plans are underway for this year's conference in Westboro. Conferences are cosponsored by Harvard Educational Resource Center.
- Our association had an especially busy year preparing to host the 1994 NEAOHN Conference in Salem.

New Hampshire

Denise Biron, President
603-225-5077

PROFILE
Membership: 79
Goals: 1. Design a new logo: "NHAOHN -- Your Source for a Healthier New Hampshire".
2. Publish an official newsletter: "Profiles in Granite".
3. Design a brochure to promote awareness of the diverse professional experience of OHNs.
4. Videotape meetings.
The State of the States . . . continued

New Jersey
Karen VanVarick-McGuire, President
908-218-8070

PROFILE
Membership: 495
Educational Programs: Humor in Nursing and Work Site Health Promotion. Also cosponsored "Adult Eye Health", "Reproductive Hazards" and "EOGSH-OHN Institute".

Goals: 1. Develop a mission statement.
   2. Develop a strategic plan based on internal and external needs assessment.
   4. Determine why our membership is declining. Strategic planning is and will be our main focus. This big project has taken most of 1992 and will continue into early 1993. The internal assessment is completed and is being analyzed so it may be used as a tool to determine what we, as an organization, need to do to satisfy membership needs. The external assessment is still in process. This will help us determine what outside factors will change our scope of practice. When these are completed we will have the tools to help our membership prepare for the future.

SPECIAL AWARDS / EVENTS:
▶ Tri-county New Jersey AOHN received the 1993 Constituency of the Year Award.
▶ Ann Dorata received the NJSAOHN Medique Leadership Grant.
▶ Robin Tourgian and Mary Ganz received the 1993 Bell Medical Scholarship.
▶ Patricia Porta received the NJSAOHN Nurse of the Year Award.

New York
Ada Colter, President
516-333-6644

PROFILE
Membership: 750
Educational Programs: Spring Seminar provides a full day offering and our Annual Conference has 1 - 1/2 days of education.

Goals: 1. 5 Year Plan adjusted when necessary with emphasis on cost containment.
   2. Revised bylaws to streamline the Board of Directors, yet maintain representation.
   3. Emphasis retaining / recruiting new members.
   4. Be identified as the professional resource in occupational health within NYS (aligned with NYSNA).
   5. Effective communication with 9 constituent associations enhanced with two printings of meeting "HILITES" and our educational paper, "FORUM".

SPECIAL AWARDS / EVENTS:
▶ Hudson Valley NYAOHN was the Achievement Award winner this year. New York State presented our first Outstanding OHN award. Adaline Caputi received the honor, a certificate and monetary award.
▶ We are working on a corporate sponsor.
▶ Western NY was presented with AAOHN's Education Award.

Pennsylvania
Suzanne Smith, President
216-586-8046

PROFILE
Membership: 667
Educational Programs: PaAOHN has seven constituent associations that provide continuing education programs through the year.

Goals: 1. The promotion of occupational health nurses to business and industry with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
   2. Continuing development of marketing strategy. A brochure and tabletop display were developed and will be available to our membership for use at job fairs and career days.
   3. Educate the public. In order to serve the Commonwealth, the Board decided it was up to PaAOHN to educate the public as to who and what we are.

SPECIAL AWARDS / EVENTS:
▶ Our new state logo is "PaAOHN is the KEYSTONE to HEALTH!".
▶ PaAOHN worked with the OSH Institute, in Des Plaines, to bring course #333 out to the public sector. We were very fortunate to be the first state to provide this timely course for occupational health nurse away from the Institute (where to date it had only been provided to a small number of nurses who could get there). We were awarded 18.8 CE.
▶ Sandra Hall was the recipient of the 2nd annual Dorothy Saller Award.
▶ The Philadelphia Association received the Pennsylvania Achievement Award while the Delaware Valley Association received the Membership Award.
▶ Since the Dorothy Saller Award is for leadership, the Board is developing guidelines and criteria for a clinical excellence award. It will be the Betty Moulder Award.
▶ We are working with the Department of Health to provide information on occupational health nursing and the services they can provide to industry.
The State of the States . . . continued

Rhode Island

Rochelle Watterson, President
401-278-5516

PROFILE
Membership: 90

Educational Programs: "Business Skills" training was gained via a CE program.

Goals:
1. Increase education (CE) opportunities for members above the 9 with 19.9 CE this past year.
2. Increase OHN visibility to business community.
3. Increase political action on the local level.

SPECIAL AWARDS / EVENTS:
- This was Rhode Island's "50th Association" Anniversary year.
- First Medique (NEAOHN) Award nomination/designee provided.
- Initiated semi-annual newsletter publication.
- Association participated in the Providence Business Expo, a local business marketing convention.
- RIAOHN was well represented at a coalition of nursing specialty organizations.

Vermont

Eileen Girling, President
802-654-1287

PROFILE
Membership: 18

VAOHN has enjoyed a busy and rewarding year. Our meeting schedule has been reduced to two meetings yearly due to our small constituency size and our wide geographic distribution. Despite these restrictive issues, our activities have been significant statewide, including cosponsoring (with the Vermont Independent Safety & Health Association) two educational sessions resulting in 4.8 CEUs. Many thanks to members, Board of Directors and Committees for their time, energy and dedication.

SPECIAL AWARDS / EVENTS:
- Assisted in development of "Work Health Vermont" — a comprehensive guide to worksite health/safety programs coordinated by the Vermont Department of Health.
- Represented on the Planning Committee for the annual Vermont State Conference, "Wellness in the Workplace: Healthy Worksite 2000". An occupational safety and health management tract was developed as a result of VAOHN input. Nursing CEU’s were awarded.
- Development of VAOHN position paper to the state Health Care Authority in response to their "Health Resource Management Plan" for Vermont residents. (The Vermont Health Care Authority is charged with developing a universal access plan for Vermonters by 1994.)
- Active in the Coalition of Vermont Nursing Organizations (COVNO), summit on "Nurses, Nursing and Health Care Reform in Vermont", an all-day educational and strategic planning session to outline the role of nurse and special practice groups. A "white paper" is being drafted, and a grass roots effort is underway for nursing education as well as a plan for nurses to "adopt" a legislator to educate on nursing issues.
- Development of criteria and subsequent awarding of our first Medique Leadership Grant: Karen Fondry of National Life of Vermont and past VP of VAOHN is the 1993 winner. Congratulations to Karen!

A big
THANK YOU

to the Bay State for hosting our
1993 Annual Conference.

Good job Massachusetts. Salem was spellbinding!!