

National Capital Chapter



Where Oncology Nurses Connect

July 2014 Volume 1 No.2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Summer is finally here and with the summer, the National Capital Chapter traditionally slows down. However, we have three upcoming meetings over the summer: a program on Metastatic Colorectal Cancer on August 20, the board retreat on August 9th, and a Programs Committee meeting sometime in August. All members are welcome to attend the board retreat. Brunch will be served and all committees will give their reports. The budget will also be discussed and voted on as well as the chapter's strategic plan for the upcoming year. The board will also be reviewing officer job descriptions and chapter policies. Please look for details of all meetings on the virtual community.

The board realizes that not all chapter members are receiving automatic email updates from the chapter's virtual community. Thank you to Nonniekaye Shelburne who has worked hard to insure that all members receive emails on chapter activities and that we have an accurate membership roster. If you are not receiving email communication from the VC, please contact ONS National to correct the issue.

Hopefully some of you were able to attend the 39th ONS Congress in Anaheim this year. Please join us in congratulating Nonniekaye Shelburne, chair of the Congress Committee, for making it a great experience for all attendees.

We are very excited to have awarded scholarships to two of our members this year. Jean Logan was awarded \$1000 to attend this year's ONS Congress in Anaheim and Kristin Ferguson was awarded \$150 to attend a conference on managed care. Congratulations to both! The chapter also participated, along with other chapters, in helping to sponsor two nurses from Tanzania to attend Congress for the first time.

As chapter activities wind down for the summer, and we take time to spend with our friends and family, please ponder this:

"If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves"

Thomas A. Edison

Have a GREAT SUMMER!

Leslie & Judith

The National Capital Chapter is looking for members who may be interested in the office of President-elect. Please contact Jean Lynn at lynnje@mail.nih.gov if you are interested in being the chapter's next president.

Judith Lawrence, RN, BSN; Leslie Smith, RN, MSN, AOCNS®
Co-Presidents, National Capital Chapter

January 2014 National Capital Chapter Call for Nominations

We are soliciting for 2 positions for the National Capital Chapter 2014 fall elections- President Elect and Secretary.

The President Elect position is a three- year commitment – one year as President Elect, one year as President and one year as immediate past president. The President Elect position assists the current president with the strategic plan for the chapter, participates in quarterly board meetings and also represents the chapter at the ONS Leadership meeting in Pittsburgh. Eligibility criteria include:

- Must be a current and active member of the chapter
- Must be willing to make a three-year commitment to the chapter
- Participate in quarterly board meetings
- Participate in annual retreat in late Spring- Date TBD.
- Attend the ONS Leadership Weekend meeting in Pittsburgh

The Secretary position is a two year commitment. The position is responsible for posting the minutes of all board meetings; sending correspondence on behalf of the chapter as needed, and also puts together the final version of the strategic plan that is developed at the annual board retreat.

Eligibility criteria include:

- Must be a current and active member of the chapter
- Must be willing to make a two-year commitment to the chapter
- Participate in quarterly board meetings
- Participate in the annual retreat held on a Saturday in late Spring - Date TBD

We have so many gifted and talented nurses in our chapter and I encourage you to consider running for either of these positions. As a past president of the DC ONS chapter, I assure you the board and ‘senior’ members of the chapter are here to support you in either this role.

We hope to have a ballot ready by **July 30, 2014** to fill these positions. Please send me an email if you are interested in running for these positions at JeanLynn1@gmail.com Thank you.
Jean M. Lynn, MPH, RN, OCN®

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Treasurer's Report Jun 18, 2014

Accounts	12/31/13 Balance	05/31/14 Balance
2370 Sun Trust	5,600.00	3,076.00
2388 Sun Trust	10,520.00	19,634.15
PayPal	34.80	288.87
PAON	9,567.44	0.00
Total	25,722.35	22,999.02

A brief report on the chapter finances. The major financial event that occurred this year was the combination of the PAON and WDC chapter treasuries. The Board elected to continue banking with Sun Trust and the accounts were consolidated. As many of you know, the chapter money is used predominantly to finance educational programs for chapter members. However, there are other chapter expenses. The Board will develop a proposed chapter budget that will be submitted to the membership for voting and approval on the VC <http://nationalcapital.vc.ons.org/>. This should be ready by the end of summer so please be on the lookout for that announcement. The Board strongly encourages all members to vote on the budget and be knowledgeable regarding how your money is spent.

Programs Update

Thank you to all who attended the March mixer at Lia's. We received excellent feedback about the event and ideas for additional programs. We are also excited to add two new members to the Programs Committee: Elaine Adrakor and Jean Logan.

The Programs Committee met on May 15 to plan another year of chapter meetings. Some ideas from the mixer included surgical topics, adolescent/young adults' topics, nurse burnout and retention, ONS pathways to leadership, hairy cell leukemia (presented in June), genetics, survivorship, and quality improvement. The programs committee will be sending out a survey in the fall to determine other learning needs or topics of interest. In addition, the committee will begin to provide Individual Learning Needs Assessment (ILNA) criteria on each program flyer to assist certified nurses in meeting their requirements for recertification. The Programs Committee's goals are to provide CNE for each of our programs, deliver interesting topics to our members, and allow a forum for networking with other area oncology nurses. Our next program meeting is August 20 on Metastatic Colorectal Cancer. Venue is still being determined; please check the virtual community for details.

In addition to chapter meetings, the committee is planning on full and half day courses for CNE. There have been requests to repeat the popular Clinical Trials course as well offer a program on late Bone Marrow Transplant side effects. We also continue to work with pharmaceutical representatives to provide learning opportunities on what is happening in cancer treatment.

Finally, we would like to welcome Alyssia Lanfranchi, our incoming programs committee chair. Alyssia is a graduate of Georgetown University and an registered nurse on the hematology/medical oncology unit at Washington Hospital Center. She has been an oncology nurse for two years. Thank you to Alyssia for volunteering to chair this committee!

We always welcome members to the National Capital Chapter Programs Committee. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Alyssia.Lanfranchi@medstar.net or Leslie.Smith@medstar.net.

Attending the Nurse Managed Health Centers Conference

By Kristin M. Ferguson

On Monday, July 9th, 2014, I attended a conference hosted by the National Nursing Centers Consortium entitled: *Nurse Managed Health Centers: Turning the Affordable Care Act into Action*. I received a scholarship from the National Capital Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society to fund the registration costs. Currently I work as an assistant nursing director for a surgical oncology inpatient unit at the MedStar Washington Hospital Center. In the future, however, I would like to move into outpatient oncology and have an interest in possibly managing a clinic. By attending this conference, I was able to learn a lot about what is needed in order to manage an outpatient center.

The one-day conference was held at The Westin Alexandria in Alexandria, Virginia and consisted of several speakers from different arenas of nursing such as the *Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA)*, the *National Center for Medical Legal Partnership* and many different university health systems. In addition to the four plenary sessions where all attendees were present, there were three different breakout sessions where attendees had different choices on which to attend. I attended one about Emerging Research in which a system in Michigan presented how having after-hours staff on call for patients with questions outside of regular clinic hours helped triage patient problems, preventing some patients from unnecessarily going to the emergency room while helping

others to go to the emergency room faster than they would have without calling.

Another breakout session focused on Promoting Care for an Aging Population. One speaker remarked how although in the United States we are ranked 1st in treatment after diagnosis of cancer, the United States is ranked 7th in mortality statistics from cancer because we are not focused enough on preventative care and early detection. One speaker from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York discussed her experiences in starting a homebound stem cell transplant (SCT) system. While this has been successfully implemented in Barcelona, Spain and Stockholm, Sweden showing absolutely no difference in outcomes vs. a hospital stem cell transplant, in New York, the speaker explained, this has been very hard to implement due to restrictions on hospitals practicing in home settings and other various legal constraints. The only other system in the United States currently delivering homebound SCT is Duke Medical Center. The speaker explained that this is a needed transition that must occur in the future (especially in NYC) due to a limited number of inpatient beds and extended living facilities where patients are currently required to stay for a period after SCT. Overall, this conference made the point that novel strategies are needed in care delivery for all patients. Nurse managed clinics are going to play an increasingly important role in caring for patients and promoting healthy lifestyles in the future.

Nurses from Tanzania Visit With Washington NCC

by Judith Lawrence



Recently members of the National Capital Chapter (NCC) had the opportunity to play host to two nurses from the Ocean Road Cancer Institute in Dar es Salaam Tanzania during their layover before traveling to Anaheim for the ONS Congress. Anastasia Giles Mitema, the recipient of the ONS International Award for Contributions in Cancer Care for 2014 and Habiba Mahuna were able to attend due to the efforts of the Maine 5 Counties ONS chapter and Dr. Sue Miesfeldt, a local oncologist, who has had a longstanding relationship with Ocean Road.

Early this spring the Maine chapter sent out a call, looking for other chapters who might be interested in volunteering time and/or money towards the effort of bringing Anna and Habiba to the US for the ONS Congress. In the Washington D.C. area they found a friend in Linda Scuito, a Radiation Oncology nurse at the National Institutes of Health, whose daughter had spent time in Tanzania. Linda and her family had visited Tanzania during her daughters stay there. Linda graciously offered to house Anna and Habiba during their time in Washington. In response to 5 Counties the

NCC voted to contribute funds towards covering expenses. Several of our members also wrote suggesting that perhaps the two nurses might like to tour facilities in our area.

Nurses from Johns Hopkins, NIH, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, and MedStar Washington Hospital Center volunteered their time to set up visits, and to recruit others in their institution. Anna and Habiba spend a full day at Johns Hopkins and NIH, rounding and spending time with the Palliative Care Teams in both institutions. Their half day at MedStar Georgetown involved touring the Outpatient Oncology clinic as well as the Infusion clinic. At the end of their time here they flew to California to attend Congress.

According to Kate Shaughnessy Hankle, Manager of International Relations for the Oncology Nursing Society, “ONS is pursuing the opportunity for outreach to and education of nurses and interdisciplinary audiences in a more proactive way, engaging the global oncology nursing community through the delivery of education and training, both electronically and live”. Regarding their experience, Anna says, “..thanks to all nurses and chapters in different places for their collaboration and organizing tour in three big hospital”.

Special thanks to Sandy Schaefer, Linda Scuito and her family and Janice Oppenheim to help facilitate the site visits. I have been in contact with Anna since her return home and she told me that she and Habiba enjoyed their stay in Washington and at Congress very much and came away with more than a few ideas to help in facilitating care to their patients at Ocean Road. Ocean Road is the only facility in Tanzania that specializes in cancer care. The 257 bed facility not only serves the needs of their own country, but those of neighboring countries as well. The facility sees approximately 4500 new cases per year. Anna and Habiba’s area of focus is in Palliative care and nursing education/training.

Meet a NCC-ONS Member!

Alyssia Lanfranchi, BSN, BA, Psychology

The NCC-ONS chapter welcomes Alyssia as the new Programs Chair for the chapter. She made the decision to become more involved in ONS to further integrate herself into the oncology nursing community and to learn more about research. She is eager to learn more not only about oncology but also to learn from the experiences of her peers and colleagues who are members of the NCC.

Alyssia was born in Manhattan, NY and was raised in New Jersey with her two younger sisters and mother. She attended a medical high school, and always wanted to go on to medical school, even through college. While attending American University, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and believes the nurses saved her life. She finished college with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and in 2012, graduated from Georgetown University's second degree program with a degree in nursing. She feels that a career in nursing suited her much better than being a physician. She hopes to go back to school to become a family nurse practitioner and possibly obtain a doctorate in the next few years.

For the past 1 ½ years, Alyssia has been working at MedStar Washington Hospital Center on the medical oncology unit as a staff nurse. She describes a typical day as caring for 4-5 patients and performing tasks such as medication/chemotherapy administration, management of oncology related complications, and education of patients and their families about their conditions and treatments.

In her spare time, Alyssia enjoys doing crafts, reading, and walking around the city when the weather is nice. Now that it's summertime, she especially enjoys attending outdoor live music events.

Welcome Alyssia to our chapter and we look forward to knowing you better!