

# National Capital Chapter



Where Oncology Nurses Connect

January 2014 Volume 1 No.1

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

2013 has been a year of transition and change. This summer ONS instituted a universal chapter membership. At Leadership Weekend in Pittsburgh this summer, the new membership model was clarified by National. ONS dues will now include dues for your local chapter membership. The particular chapter you are a member of is determined by the mailing address you have listed with the ONS. The majority of chapters across the country have found their membership roster swelling as a result of this change.

The new online Chemotherapy/Biotherapy course was also dialogued and is currently enrolling participants. The online course has many advantages including a course that is designed to be paced at the participant's timeline, accessibility to members not geographically close to a live course, and updated material on current cancer treatments and the future of cancer care. The link to National Capital Chapter is [nationalcapital.vc.ons.org](http://nationalcapital.vc.ons.org).

Virtual Community is now an effective means of communicating with ONS members, be it surveys, newsletters, meeting notices or news. Easy to navigate, it can be personalized by each chapter with pictures and content to easily reflect the unique "personality" of the chapter.

Efforts have been underway for the past year to merge PAON with the Washington DC chapter. At the October board meeting of ONS, the merger was approved, and effective January 2014 the PAON and DC chapters became the National Capital Chapter. This merger makes sense in regards to recruitment, which has overlapped in some areas, due to the geography of where we live and work and in the potential number of people who may choose to serve in various positions available within the chapter.

In preparation for the new chapter, the boards of both PAON and DC chapters will merge to insure a smooth transition. Judith Lawrence, current president of PAON and Leslie Smith, president-elect of DC chapter, will serve as incoming presidents. Maria de Carvalho and Liz Fagan will serve as treasurers. Leslie Greenberg (and an open position) is the current Programs Committee Chair; Bob Ebeling will be in charge of the newsletter. Nonniekaye Shelburne will continue to oversee the virtual community; Jean Lynn and Monica Epstein will be Nominations Committee Chairs and Kimberly Scott and Sandy Schaefer will oversee Membership Committee.

We look forward to the year ahead and a vibrant, exciting future for the National Capital Chapter!

Judith Lawrence, RN; Leslie Smith, RN, MSN, AOCNS®

Co-Presidents, National Capital Chapter

## 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:

- Current and active member of the chapter
- Willing to make a three-year commitment to the chapter
- Participate in quarterly board meetings, one of which is the chapter annual retreat
- Participate in annual retreat held on a Saturday in late Spring- Date TBD.
- Attend the ONS Leadership Weekend meeting in Pittsburgh

The Secretary position is a two year commitment. This position is responsible for transcription of the minutes of all board meetings; correspondence on behalf of the chapter as needed, and prepares official documents such as the final version of the strategic plan developed at the annual board retreat.

Eligibility criteria include:

- Current and active member of the chapter
- Willing to make a two-year commitment to the chapter
- Participate in quarterly board meetings, one of which is the chapter annual retreat
- Participate in annual retreat held on a Saturday in late Spring- Date TBD
- Opportunity to attend the ONS Leadership weekend meeting in Pittsburgh

We have so many gifted and talented nurses in our chapter; I encourage you to consider running for either of these positions. If you would like to talk to a board member

about their experience in either of these roles please contact me. As a past president of the DC ONS chapter, I assure you the board and experienced chapter members will mentor and support you in either of these positions.

Even though our election does not take place until the fall, now is the time to start thinking about opportunities for professional growth and networking. Please send me an email if you are interested at [JeanLynn1@gmail.com](mailto:JeanLynn1@gmail.com)  
Thank you.

Jean M. Lynn, MPH, RN, OCN®

## National Capital Chapter Board of Directors

### Co-Presidents

Leslie Smith RN, AOCNS®

[josevski@hotmail.com](mailto:josevski@hotmail.com)

Judith Lawrence, RN

[j.lawrence@dodmarrow.org](mailto:j.lawrence@dodmarrow.org)

### Co-Treasurers

Maria de Carvalho, RN, MSN, AOCN®

[Decarvalho.maria@gene.com](mailto:Decarvalho.maria@gene.com)

Elizabeth Fagan, RN, BSN

[Lizfagan815@gmail.com](mailto:Lizfagan815@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Alice M. Beers BSN, OCN®, RN-BC

[Alice.M.Beers@medstar.net](mailto:Alice.M.Beers@medstar.net)

### Programs Committee Chairs

Open Position

Leslie Greenberg, RN, MSN, OCN®

[lgreen909@hotmail.com](mailto:lgreen909@hotmail.com)

### Membership Co-Chairs

Sandra Schaefer RN, MSN, OCN®

[Sschaef5@jhmi.edu](mailto:Sschaef5@jhmi.edu)

### Nominations Committee Co-Chairs

Jean Lynn, MPH, RN, OCN®

[Jeanlynn1@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanlynn1@gmail.com)

Monica Epstein, RN, BSN, OCN®

[Moni.epstein@gmail.com](mailto:Moni.epstein@gmail.com)

### Director at Large

Megan Mikula, RN, BSN OCN®

[MMikula@cc.nih.gov](mailto:MMikula@cc.nih.gov)

## What's In It for Me?

By Liz Fagan, RN

Why should I be active in my local chapter? There are many reasons why an individual is involved in a local or national organization. For me it's professional responsibility. I also believe in continuing education for nurses, pushing other nurses ahead & helping provide opportunities for talented or inquisitive nurses. But those are my reasons.

Here are some reasons why you may want to become more involved. Your local ONS chapter is a non-profit organization. There are some business rules that go along with that, so learning about how non-profits function is educational. I have served in various capacities on the chapter board for about ten years now but this past year as president I continued to sharpen & **learn new skill sets**. I learned a lot about what is required for the roles of president & treasurer. I was able to **demonstrate leadership skills** in moving the WDC ONS chapter forward to the merger with the Potomac

Area Oncology Nurses' Chapter. I discovered that the role of treasurer is not quite as daunting as I thought it would be. I even developed a budget for the chapter; this was much simpler than I ever imagined. During my years serving on the board I've had the opportunity to **network with colleagues** from many different areas & institutions. But the networking I value the most is with those who also serve on the board. These are the nurses who pushed me to stretch & the team that keeps me going.

As an added bonus to all I've gained serving on the board, I can use the skills I've learned as **resume builders**. In today's economic environment employers are looking to hire individuals with demonstrated leadership skills, those willing to learn new skills & with a sense of **professional responsibility**. I have always believed that "you get back what you put in" to something, but in this case I'm wrong. I've received far more than I ever put out.

## Oncology Nursing Society Resources Contributes to MOSH

On September 11, 2013 a meeting of the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) Advisory Board was held in Baltimore Maryland.

The MOSH Board's responsibility is to advise, consult with, propose, and recommend to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry reasonable regulations to prevent conditions that are detrimental to safety and health in each employment or place of employment in the state of Maryland.

The purpose of this meeting was to elicit stakeholder input in the drafting of regulations on Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Drugs. The Oncology Nursing Society was one of the stakeholders invited to participate.

Judith Lawrence, RN, President of the Potomac Area chapter and Alec Stone, Director of Health Policy for the Oncology Nursing Society participated in this meeting and offered testimony which included considerations related to the handling of hazardous drugs by nurses as well as the potential impact on those not directly involved with hazardous drug administration but may be exposed through care of the patient. Resources from the Oncology Nursing Society were supplied to the MOSH Board for reference. Due to the complexity of some of the issues the MOSH Board created sub-committees to maximize efforts to draft the new regulations. Judith Lawrence is involved with the sub-committee for Medical Surveillance.

## Concerning the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013

From Alec Stone, MA, MPA  
Health Policy Director  
Oncology Nursing Society

Dear Greater DC Chapter Members,

Sometimes I take for granted your exposure to the news because, like me, you live so close to our nation's capital. In our "local papers", we are privy to deeper insights and stronger reporting on the political, economic, and policy issues facing the country. However, at ONS we attempt to filter some of that information and redirect the aspects that are most prevalent to our members, distributing those points that most prominently impact oncology nursing.

To be honest, the included links are a bit wonkish, providing details in which few would ever be interested, but in hopes of appearing bi-partisan, I offer these sites for review. Here is the summary of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013:

On Tuesday, December 10, 2013, the bipartisan, bicameral Budget Conference Committee announced a two-year budget agreement to fund the federal government. The deal broke three days before the congressionally self-imposed December

13, 2013, deadline. The negotiations, led by House Budget Committee Chairman Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), resulted in a deal that would set discretionary spending for FY 2014 at \$1.012 trillion. This is a compromise between the Senate budget level of \$1.058 trillion and the House budget level of \$967 billion. In total, the deal provides \$85 billion in savings and \$23 billion in deficit reduction.

Non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs would be allocated \$491.8 billion in FY 2014 and \$492.5 billion in FY 2015. The budget deal will partially remove the impact of sequestration through offsets in the budget and provides "\$63 billion in sequester relief" over two-years (split equally between the defense and NDD programs).

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions or comments, at [astone@ons.org](mailto:astone@ons.org)

Thanks,  
Alec Stone, MA, MPA  
Health Policy Director  
Oncology Nursing Society

For more information on the budget deal, see the following links: Senate Budget Committee Press Release

[http://www.budget.senate.gov/democratic/index.cfm/files/serve?File\\_id=60511](http://www.budget.senate.gov/democratic/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=60511)

<http://www.budget.senate.gov/democratic/index.cfm/pressreleases---statement> House Budget Committee Press Release

<http://budget.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=364030>>

Summary of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013

[http://www.budget.senate.gov/democratic/index.cfm/files/serve?File\\_id=104ba](http://www.budget.senate.gov/democratic/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=104ba)

Section by Section Analysis of the Bipartisan Budget Act

[http://www.budget.senate.gov/democratic/index.cfm/files/serve?File\\_id=1f149](http://www.budget.senate.gov/democratic/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=1f149)

House Budget Charts [http://budget.house.gov/uploadedfiles/bba\\_charts.pdf](http://budget.house.gov/uploadedfiles/bba_charts.pdf)

House Q&A

<http://budget.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=364051>

# New National Capital Chapter Virtual Community

By Nonniekaye Shelburne

The new National Capital Chapter (NCC) Virtual Community, fondly referred to as the VC, is your primary source for chapter news, events and resources. In an effort to be environmental friendly, the chapter is paperless and all communications (events, newsletters, and Board minutes), event registration and payments are online via the VC at <http://nationalcapital.vc.ons.org>.

The Chapter utilizes 2 main VC functions to communicate with its members, the Chapter

Announcements and Chapter Calendar, both found in the menu on the left side of the page. Emails are automatically sent to those subscribed to each function when something is posted. The chapter board takes great care to minimize the number of emails received by members while ensuring they have all the information they need. Emails are usually 3 or less per month. Information on how to subscribe to these postings is below:

**Announcements:** ONS has automatically added all NCC ONS members to the VC Announcement list serve and will update it monthly. Members will automatically receive these emails unless you manually ‘unsubscribe’ using the VC Announcement link or the links at the bottom of an announcement email you have received. We use the announcement function to send electronic newsletters and important information to members.

**Chapter Calendar:** Each member must login using your ONS username/password, select Chapter Calendar and subscribe themselves to receive chapter events. Due to privacy policies, NCC does not have members’ individual emails and cannot add members automatically as was done in the past. The Calendar list is used to post upcoming chapter events, educational offerings and other local events that the Board would like members to know.

If you have any questions about the use of the VC, please contact Nonniekaye Shelburne at [nshelburne@nih.gov](mailto:nshelburne@nih.gov)

## Programs

Welcome everyone to the new National Capital Chapter! We are excited about the merging of the PAON and DC chapters Programs Committee and look forward to bringing you topics of interest and contact hour opportunities.

Since we have new members and a merged chapter, we will be sending out a survey in the near future to determine what the chapter members are looking for in programs. We are always looking for new members! In addition, we are soliciting a volunteer to be our new Programs chair. Our current Programs Committee consists of

the following volunteers: Leslie Greenberg, Leslie Smith, Nonniekaye Shelburne, Kate Castro, and Liz Ness.

Please contact Leslie Smith at [leslie.d.smith@medstar.net](mailto:leslie.d.smith@medstar.net) if you are interested in joining the committee or being mentored for the chair of this exciting committee! Our first program will be in March which will be a social function in celebration of the merger. Details will be forthcoming!