

# National Capital Chapter



Where Oncology Nurses Connect

December 2014 Volume 1 No.3

<http://nationalcapital.vc.ons.org/>

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

As we come to the close of 2014, Leslie and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the National Capital Chapter for their service and commitment; to their patients, to their organization, to their families and to their community. It is a joy and an honor to be affiliated with such a wonderful group of people.

We have had our challenges as a chapter this year, including a new chapter membership model, a newly combined chapter, being able to effectively communicate with our members and an increasingly complicated healthcare environment for ourselves and our patients. Through dedication and humor we have come through many of the challenges and possibly made a few new friends along the way.

We wish each of you, and your families, a wonderful holiday season and look forward to what the new year brings us.

Happy Holidays Everyone!

*Leslie and Judith*

“WHAT LIES BEHIND US AND WHAT LIES BEFORE US ARE TINY MATTERS  
COMPARED TO WHAT LIES WITHIN US” *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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

**Newly Elected Secretary:  
Kristin Ferguson, RN, MSN, OCN**

Kristin Ferguson has been an oncology nurse for over 5 years working in breast cancer research and surgical oncology.

Kristin obtained her BSN from Boston College and her MSN from The Catholic University of America. She is a former assistant nursing director for inpatient surgical oncology at the MedStar Washington Hospital Center. She recently started as a clinical nurse coordinator for breast cancer at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital.

Kristin received her OCN certification in June of 2013 and was certified as a clinical nurse specialist in public health in November of 2013.

Kristin has been a member of the Oncology Nursing Society since September 2012. In the past, she raised over \$2,300 for breast cancer research as a participant in the Komen 3 day walk for breast cancer. She has also served as a volunteer nurse in Nicaragua, Haiti, and Belize. Kristin is excited to become more involved in the chapter in a leadership role. 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.

**National Capital Chapter Board of Directors**

**President-Elect**

Allison Burg, RN, MSN, MPH, OCN  
[allisonburg@gmail.com](mailto:allisonburg@gmail.com)

**Past Co-Presidents**

Leslie Smith RN, AOCNS®  
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Judith Lawrence, RN  
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**Co-Treasurers**

Maria de Carvalho, RN, BSN  
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Elizabeth Fagan, RN, BSN  
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**Secretary**

Kristin Ferguson, RN, MSN, OCN  
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**Programs Committee Chair**

Leslie Smith RN, AOCNS®  
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**Membership Chair**

Sandra Schaefer RN, BSN, OCN®  
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**Nominations Committee Co-Chairs**

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Monica Epstein  
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**Newsletter Editor**

Robert Ebeling, RN, BSN, CWOCN  
[odysei@yahoo.com](mailto:odysei@yahoo.com)

## **President-Elect**

**Allison Burg, RN, MSN, MPH, OCN**

Allison works at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) in the education department as the manager of health education at "ASCO University", the premier site for continued medical education. To stay up-to-date on hands-on care, part-time she practices clinically at Johns Hopkins Hospital's Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center as an inpatient medical oncology nurse and at Sibley Memorial Hospital in their outpatient infusion center. She graduated from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with a Masters Degree in Public Health and from the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing with a Masters in Nursing. She is passionate about global nursing educational needs and works with the National Cancer Institute's Center for Global Health to address

oncology nurse needs in low- and middle-income countries; she conducted a thorough educational needs-assessment and is now working as a key stakeholder with an international collaborative group of leaders on the topic. Additionally, she has hands-on experience assessing the educational needs of and training nurses in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia through work with the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR). She has presented her work at the International Society for Nurses in Cancer Care's (ISNCC) International Cancer Conference on Nursing in 2012 and is an active member of ISNCC's Knowledge Development and Dissemination Committee. She is passionate about improving patient care outcomes and improving access to nursing education globally.

## **National Capitol Chapter ONS**

**Treasurer's Report** December 8, 2014

**Liz Fagan**

The merger of the Potomac Area & Washington DC Chapters has been a financial success in 2014. The National Capitol Chapter continues to maintain two SunTrust Bank accounts & one PayPal account. The combined total in all three accounts is \$22,386.02 making the chapter fiscally sound heading into the 2015 calendar year. The Board of Directors elects to continue the use of a certified public accountant (CPA) in

balancing our accounts making the position of treasurer almost painless. The treasurer is still responsible for writing checks, accounting for all original receipts, providing treasurer reports at board meetings, working with the CPA to answer any questions regarding transactions, developing a draft budget & the annual treasurer's report. For any questions related to this treasurer's report please email me at [lizfagan815@gmail.com](mailto:lizfagan815@gmail.com).

**Programs Update**  
**Leslie Smith**

A new year is beginning and the Programs Committee continues its mission of bringing programs to the National Capital Chapter that have been identified by our members as topics of interest.

Towards the end of this month, we will be sending out a Needs Assessment to all our members through your e-mail. We last sent out this assessment in 2011 and based on those results, we were able to plan programs and determine meeting times that worked best for our members. We would like to repeat this survey to plan for future topics. Please watch for this survey and respond!

Our next program is January 28th at Maggiano’s Little Italy in Friendship Heights (Chevy Chase Pavilion, 5333 Wisconsin Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC 20015.) The topic is “Hormone Receptor Positive

Breast Cancer.” Please register through our Virtual Community if you are interested in attending. Registration closes January 25th.

We also have a very exciting program coming up in May: ONS President, Margaret Barton-Burke will be speaking on May 6 at our chapter meeting. Save the date for this awesome opportunity to hear the President of our professional organization!

The Programs Committee will have a conference call on January 13 to discuss the Spring Programs for the 2014-2015 year. If you are interested in being a part of our committee, or learning more about the programs committee, please email Leslie Smith, Programs Chair at josevski@hotmail.com. We always welcome new members!

**National Capitol Chapter ONS Board Meeting**

Wednesday December 3, 2014: Conference Call

**Members Present:** Leslie Smith, Jean Lynn, Judith Lawrence, Allison Burg, Bob Ebeling, Liz Fagan

**Minutes recorded by:** Leslie Smith; **Meeting convened** at 3:20 PM. Ended at 4:15 PM

Topic	Discussion	Action Items
Programs Committee: Leslie	Upcoming conference call in January. Margaret Barton-Burke in town for NIH Nursing Grand Rounds. Looking to see if she will give local chapter presentation. We will invite No. Va. and MD chapters as well. Have an upcoming dinner on Jan 28 on breast cancer at Maggiano's. Plan on clinical trials repeat offering and survivorship in peds offering in the future.	Will send Allison dates for Jan programs conference call.

Topics	Discussion	Action Items
Treasury Report: Liz	Liz sent out recent report via email from Frank Castro, CPA. Two bank accounts: Checking has \$17713.12 and PayPal account has \$4529.94. Frank is paid \$537.57 for services this past year. Need to keep minimum amount in PP account.	
Nominations: Jean	Allison Burg is new President-elect and Kristin Ferguson is new secretary. To begin office Jan 1. Vote opened Nov 4 and ended Nov 18. 27 people responded with 18% return (150 members out of 400 receiving emails). Judith will stay on as Past President (Leslie will remain Programs chair).	Leslie emailed Brian Taylor at National
Newsletter: Virtual Community	Bob will put together newsletter for Jan. Discussion regarding articles - Judith will have nurses at Georgetown write an article on the new transplant unit there. Nothing new regarding VC except National looking at members listed on VC and comparing to active email list.	
Outreach	No report. Judith will do a newsletter article on Lymphoma Research Society and what they are about. Have fundraisers for the LRS in the future we can participate in.	
Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kristin and Allison to go to Leadership weekend in July.</li> <li>• No update on scholarships</li> </ul>	
Ideas: for the Chapter Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have standing items such as a member biography, showcasing a hospital, possibly a page dedicated to past programs (so members could see what they missed if they did not attend monthly program.</li> <li>• Discussion on whether to physically mail the newsletter to members' home address</li> <li>• Ask in the newsletter to check and make sure they are also receiving it electronically.</li> <li>• Discussion on asking members in next newsletter if they have presented any research/articles/education in the past year and would be interested in participating in a dinner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish newsletter quarterly and add specific columns.</li> <li>• Possibly send out next newsletter both electronically AND physically through snail mail.</li> <li>• Asking in next newsletter to notify a specific member (Nonniekaye?) if still not receiving newsletter electronically.</li> <li>• Asking in next newsletter if any members are</li> </ul>

	<p>program or writing for the newsletter. Also could ask about the “Best of ONS” program idea.</p>	<p>interested in writing articles for newsletter or presenting research or initiatives they are involved in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell members to look out for upcoming communications about needs assessment, election, etc.</li> <li>• Possibly hang up newsletter in work facilities to generate more member interest.</li> <li>• Become proactive in generating new members and member interest.</li> </ul>
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**ONS Health Policy Update December 2014**  
**Alec Stone, Director** [astone@ons.org](mailto:astone@ons.org)

Another election - and another hard swing to one political side. It seems that the last six election cycles have generated shifts that have become extreme, rather than gradual. What we learned from the post-election analysis is that Americans are tired of both parties and want to see some bi-partisanship that moves legislation forward, rather than what appears to be a permanent state of politics with no real resolution to the problems facing this country. And for about a week, every elected official publically stated that they “got it” and that things would get better. Hard to believe, but that did not last either.

Immediately after Thanksgiving, the US Congress returned to Washington to complete work on 11 federal appropriations bills. There were some serious discussions about President Obama’s Executive Order on immigration, and

with that, threats to wait until 2015 to complete these bills. Essentially, Congress was going to kick the can down the road by extending the Continuing Resolution (CR) that was set to expire on December 11, until sometime in March. This would allow the new members of the 114th Congress, with Republican control of both the US House and Senate, to enact their policy agenda on the previous legislative slate of federal spending bills. Ultimately, and as Christmas was rapidly approaching, the House sent what is now being called a “CRomnibus” bill for the Senate to consider. CRomnibus—from CR and Omnibus Resolution—would allow today’s appropriations bills to be rolled together in a single piece of legislation and completed through FY2015 without having to shut the government down for a week before the end of the year. A win-win, or maybe a lose-lose, but either way, a resolution was found.

How does this impact ONS? - In many ways. First, it allows some breathing room until next year with levels for nursing education (HRSA), research (NCI, NINR), and workforce (FDA, CMS) to be fully funded and uninterrupted until the FY2016 discussion begin. Second, this process gives us some insight into how difficult the next legislative session will be. Things are changing. Oncology nurses, well respected as they are on Capitol Hill, still have to work hard to raise awareness for cancer, nursing, and overall healthcare issues. Third, with so many new members of Congress, this can be an opportunity to educate decision-makers on the role of the nurse in cancer care.

There are a lot of moving parts, but the one constant is the need for ONS members to continue to be activists in educating elected officials—and there are newly elected members from Northern Virginia and Maryland at the

state and federal levels—on healthcare issues such as:

- Oral parity
- Disposal of hazardous materials
- Access to opioids
- Screenings and early detection.

These all seem like obvious and easy choices to support, but know that members of Congress need to hear from you as an Oncology Nurse. Your voice makes a difference. Stay connected. The National Capitol Chapter has a unique ability and perspective to raise awareness for your peers, the profession, and our patients.

**Together, ONS continues to make a difference! Join us in advocating!**



# Today . . . You Have the Power!

ONS Board Election is open through Friday February 13, 2015 11:59 PM EST

Emails with login information have been sent out. If you have not received an email from ONS:

Call 412-859-6256 or Email [election@ons.org](mailto:election@ons.org) with questions.

# SAVE THE DATE

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual ONS Congress**  
**Orlando, FL**  
**April 23-26, 2015**



***Learn*** about the latest developments in oncology nursing

***Earn*** up to 30 contact hours

***Celebrate*** being an oncology nurse with hundreds of other

***Share*** what you learn with co-workers and patients

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