

"BOARD CERTIFICATION: Engage Excellence"

THE ABOHN REPORT

The ABOHN Report

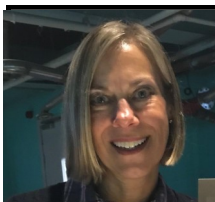
Spring 2023

Volume 46 Issue 1

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A Message from the ABOHN Chair by Beth Dammann, RN, MPH, COHN-S



Welcome to the Spring edition of the 2023 ABOHN newsletter. Spring is often thought of as a time of renewal and new beginnings. As we are starting to see the exiting of COVID protocols and policies in many of our work locations, it is exciting to think about how we can renew, re-invent and re-imagine our practice.

ABOHN has been busy at work and I am excited to share information regarding a few of our new initiatives!

ABOHN is ready to submit our proposal to become an OSHA Alliance member! "OSHA's Alliance Program enables the agency to develop voluntary, collaborative working relationships with organizations that are committed to workplace safety and health. Through the Alliance Program, OSHA works with organizations such as trade and professional associations, labor unions, educational institutions, community and faith-based groups, and government agencies to share information about OSHA's initiatives and compliance assistance resources with workers and employers, and educate workers and employers about their rights and responsibilities" (www.osha.gov). We are very excited to be embarking on this enhanced working relationship with OSHA and will continue to provide pertinent information and updates to our certificate holders regarding OSHA.

Aligned with our strategic goals of increasing research in occupational health, ABOHN is thrilled to announce our first collaborative research grant of \$5000 (max) with Sigma Nursing! The purpose of the grant is to encourage qualified nurses to contribute to the advancement of occupational health through nursing research. The link opened on April 1st and the submission deadline is July 1st! We encourage anyone currently engaging in or considering carrying out research in our specialty to apply for consideration!

ABOHN has launched new FaceBook, LinkedIn and Twitter platforms and will soon be launching YouTube and Instagram. The platforms will be used to share important information, updates, and help connect occupational health nurses across the globe! Please follow and interact with us on our new pages and stay tuned for more exciting changes!

Occupational Health Nurses Week is April 9-15. Please celebrate! Celebrate your dedication to the field of occupational health nursing and celebrate your commitment to enhancing our profession by becoming credentialed. This is also a great opportunity to educate others on the value we, as occupational health nurses, bring to the work environment by improving the health, safety and well-being of our workers.

Finally, please continue to encourage colleagues to join you in becoming board certified. They can be directed to ABOHN.org or contact one of our staff at 630-789-5799.



ABOHN 2022-2023 Board of Directors

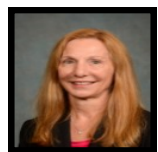
ABOHN is governed by a Board of Directors composed of certified occupational health nurses and one public member that are selected to be representative of the community of certified occupational health nurses. The responsibilities of the Board include establishing criteria for certification and setting policies to maintain a valid certification program.



Kari Kilbride



Beth Dammann



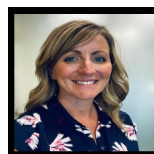
Ginny Carlson



Marilyn Brownlee



Shannon Berryhill



Jennifer Stange

Governing Council

Chair: Beth Dammann, RN, MPH, COHN
Secretary: Karen Jewell, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, COHN-S
Treasurer: Nathan Britt, MSN, APRN, NP-C, COHN-S
COHN-S Chair: Ginny Carlson, MPH, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN
COHN Chair: Jennifer Stange, MSN, RN, COHN
CM Chair: Shannon Berryhill, MS, BSN, RN, COHN-S/CM, CWCP



Nathan Britt



Nancy Cronenwett



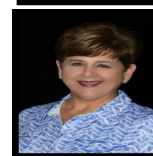
Ron Pearson



Gina Tetsch

Directors

Marilyn Brownlee, NP-PHC, FNP-C, DIH (Toronto), MScN, COHN-S/CM
Nancy Cronenwett, BSN, RN, COHN-S
Kari Kilbride, MPH, RN, BSN, COHN-S
Ron Pearson, (Public Member)
Angela Smith, MBA, BSN, RB, COHN-S
Gina Tetsch, MSN, RN, COHN-CM



Karen Jewell



Angela Smith

ABOHN Board of Director Activities Reported by Betty Sanisidro, Executive Director

The ABOHN Board of Directors (BOD) convened in Tucson, AZ, this January 2023, for the semiannual BOD Meeting! Sitting together in person once again afforded a positively charged energy as we looked into the future of our organization and specialty. We spent an incredibly productive and efficient three days with a backdrop of deserts, mountains, and cacti!

In attendance were, ABOHN BOD Chair, Beth Dammann from Minnesota, Treasurer Nathan Britt from Louisiana, Secretary Karen Jewell from West Virginia, Shannon Berryhill from Indiana, Ginny Carlson from Minnesota, Nancy Cronenwett from Michigan, Kari Kilbride from Minnesota, Angela Smith from Texas, Gina Tetsch from California, and ABOHN's public member, Ron Pearson, from Minnesota! Highlights from the meeting include:

- Reviewed ABOHN's Mission and Vision deciding both remain timeless and applicable to our current goals and objectives.
- Public Relations Committee presented updates of work completed and in progress including our new social media platforms, logo trademark progress, and OHN Week promotions.
- Research Committee reviewed new \$5000 ABOHN & Sigma Nursing collaborative research grant.
- Nominations Committee presented reappointments, Governing Council slate, and BOD applicants for open slots in June 2023.
- Finance Committee presented 2023 budget and assumptions.
- Presentation and approval of OSHA Alliance application.
- Employer Award nominations and winner selection (Savannah River Mission Completion).
- ABOHN's Strategic Plan review and updates.
- Review and updates of ABOHN's Policies & Procedures and Bylaws.
- Review and approval of reciprocity agreement between ABOHN & the Canadian Nurses Association.
- Business Meeting.

Clearly, we made the most of our time together! We are now in full planning mode for our upcoming June 2023 BOD meeting which we expect to be just as fruitful!

Cohort Class of 2022

CONGRATULATIONS

ABOHN NEWLY BOARD CERTIFIED

BOARD CERTIFICATION: ENGAGE EXCELLENCE

Join us in congratulating these occupational health nurses for their accomplishments and for their right to use the COHN, COHN-S, and CM credentials which they gained last year by passing stringent examinations for certification.

We proudly present the ABOHN Class of 2022

Certified Occupational Health Nurse - (COHN)

Arquette Jill
Beck, Robert
Boggs, Tia
Booth, Jean
Butler, Nancy
Dometita, Rizza Marie
Falusi, Damilola
Field, Catherine
Franson, Beth
Garrison, Sandra
Jatzlau, Mason

Keane, Joanne
Kremer, Greyson
Kurtovic, Selma
McManus, Lauren
Meunier, Melissa
Miehe, Julie
Minnerly, John
Moore, Tamara
Mudd, Kristin
Muszynski, Linda

Nobriga, Carolyn
Pouliot, Paula
Ryan, Sheila
Schoner, Sarah
Tuel, Emily
VanderVeen, Heather
Villarreal, Coleen
Visser, Samantha
Wilkinson, Tina
Yochem, Linda

Certified Occupational Health Nurse - Specialist (COHN-S)

Ann. Kerry
Baker, Aimee
Barnwell, Grace
Bertulfo, Joseph
Bethel, Rebecca
Biel, Wyatt
Biles, Adrienne
Bivens, Elizabeth
Brown, Sequoyah
Buckley, Rachael
Cain, Emily
Clancy, Carol
De la Torre, Liliana
Delnoce, Susan

Evans, Nicole
Gehlhausen, Ashlyn
Gendel, Jennifer
Gerber, Marc
Hale, Nicole
Hernandez, Lissette
Johnson, Sidney
Lilly, Kelly
Mojar, Melissa
Newton, Kimberly
Nichols, Erin
Nwagwu, Isidore
Osdieck, Sarah
Pratt, Kelly

Quiroga, Astrid
Reeves, Angela
Robinson, Victoria
Rusch, Steelyjo
Russell, Brooke
Schertz, Lois
Schuster, Marie
Silver, Marie
Steel Cooper, Sherry
Storm, Jayme
Timbs, Mayanith
Tyndall, Sarah
Updike, Meghan
Vasquez, Jorge

Case Management - (CM)

Chase, Melissa

Dunbar, Andrea
Zipp, Bridget

Zimmerman, Jennifer

Credentialing Statistics—Pass Rate Percentage

Exam Year	COHN			COHN-S			CM		
	Candidates	Number Passed	Percentage Passed	Candidates	Number Passed	Percentage Passed	Candidates	Number Passed	Percentage Passed
2017	84	68	80.9%	117	82	70.0%	14	9	64.2%
2018	99	70	71.4%	114	65	58.0%	14	12	85.7%
2019	144	92	63.9%	188	127	67.6%	21	17	81%
2020	61	27	44.3%	77	38	49.3%	16	12	75%
2021	62	28	45.2%	80	38	47.5%	3	2	66.7%
2022	52	25	48.1%	80	39	48.8%	5	4	80.0%

Table 1 (right)

The number of COHN and COHN-S candidates who passed their certification examination in 2022 was consistent with the 2021 candidates and pass rates.

Credentialing Statistics—Year End

The ABOHN Board of Directors are tasked with many challenges in order to sustain a specialty credentialing program. Table 2 shows the official ABOHN Active, Inactive and Retired certification holders that were in our database system as of 12/31/2022. The main factor for declining numbers: the base of our credential holders reaching retirement age. Another significant factor: the pandemic influenced choices to remain in practice.

CREDENTIAL	ACTIVE	INACTIVE	RETIRED
COHN	690	12	97
COHN/CM	124	1	23
COHN-S	1346	19	518
COHN-S/CM	3289	3	140
Total 12/31/2022	2448	35	778
Total 12/31/2021	2628	42	764

ACTIVE:

Credential holders who have met the criteria to hold certification.

INACTIVE:

Credential holders who have not met one or more requirements for active status and have opted to take inactive status until they are compliant with the requirements.

RETIRED:

Credential holders no longer in practice and maintain their retirement status with ABOHN.

Table 2- Year End Statistics

ABOHN at AAOHN National Conference 2023!

ABOHN's Executive Director, Betty Sanisidro, and Managing Director, Carole Cusack, are grateful to have attended AAOHN's 2023 National Conference in beautiful San Antonio, TX! They were absolutely invigorated by meeting so many excited, professional, and passionate OHNs during the Exhibit hours. They were thrilled to provide information regarding the core credential exams as well as answering many inquiries pertaining to the ABOHN Case Management credential and certification exam!

On Monday, March 13th, ABOHN hosted the Awards Reception providing an unparalleled opportunity to, once again in person, honor all OHNs and present the Debra L. Fischer Gibbon, Ann M. Lachat, Ada Mayo Stewart, and ABOHN Employer Recognition awards! The reception provided an invaluable opportunity for OHNs to network and celebrate...the mini chocolate mousse cups were also delightful!

Dr. Sanisidro presented on "Certification: The importance in a post-COVID world" on Tuesday, March 14th, with an overwhelming attendance! The audience was engaged and asked many pertinent and important questions. ABOHN is looking forward to attending the 2024 AAOHN virtual conference!

Congratulations!

Cynthia Hall

recipient 2022 Recruit a Colleague Award!

Cynthia received a \$300.00 check for referring a colleague to sit for an exam.



REMINDER: PLEASE COMPLETE THE 2023 PRACTICE ANALYSIS SURVEY We rely on our Board Certified OHN's expertise to help guide our exam development. Please complete the 2023 Practice Analysis Survey today!

In appreciation for your participation, for completing the survey, you will receive 3 contact hours of continuing education credit applicable toward your ABOHN recertification. Additionally, ABOHN will randomly select one respondent to receive a \$250 Amazon® Gift Card. Only completed survey's that show variability and consideration of response will be eligible for the random drawing.

Completion of the survey will take about 30 minutes. The information you provide in the survey will only be used for the purposes of this practice analysis. All responses will be kept confidential and anonymous. Please complete and submit the survey by May 7, 2023.

To access the online survey, click on the link button below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HFMMFHX>

ABOHN Award Winners

Debra L. Fischer Gibbon Excellence In Occupational Health Nursing Award



Marc Gerber

RN, BSN, MBA, COHC, COHN-S



Pictured L-R:

Betty Sanisidro, ABOHN Executive Director,
Marc Gerber COHN-S Award Winner,
Angela Smith, ABOHN BOD

This prestigious award is presented annually to the occupational health nurse who receives the highest score on the previous year's **Certified Occupational Health Nurse-Specialist (COHN-S)** certification examination.

This award has been established to honor Debra Lynn Fischer Gibbon, a former Certified Occupational Health Nurse-Specialist (COHN-S) and Certified Safety Professional (CSP), who lost her life on the 105th floor of the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, 2001. A senior vice president for AON Risk Services, Ms. Gibbon coordinated services for the company's top clients. Ms. Gibbon worked for 17 years in the area of occupational health and safety.

Marc Gerber, RN, BSN, MBA, COHC, COHN-S, earned his Associates degree in Nursing and became a Registered Nurse in 2002, working in Medical/Surgical, ICU, Emergency Department, and the float pool. He obtained his Bachelors degree in Nursing from the University of Phoenix in 2009, and his Master's degree in Business Administration from Western Governors University in 2014. He spent 12 years in hospital leadership, serving as a House Supervisor for 5 years and leading teams in ICU, Respiratory Therapy, Behavioral Health, and an organizational float pool.

After discovering his affinity for Occupational Health Nursing in 2018, he has worked on a construction site and in a manufacturing plant. As of early 2023, he began his search for his next role in occupational health nursing.

Marc is a lifelong learner who enjoys reading, skydiving, travel, and volunteering. He has served as Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors in his volunteer work.

Congratulations Marc!

ABOHN Award Winners

Ann M. Lachat Excellence In Occupational Health Nursing Award

The ABOHN Ann M. Lachat Excellence in Occupational Health Nursing Award was established to honor Ann M. Lachat, the former CEO of ABOHN, for her 23 years of service. This special award is given to the individual who achieved the highest score on the previous year's COHN examination.

Catherine Field, RN, COHN, became a nurse in 2002 after earning her associate's degree from the Community College of Baltimore County. Later on, in 2015, she earned her BSN from Notre Dame of Maryland University. Her employer at the time had a great partnership with the school and made it easy and affordable to get her degree, even as a single mom of two.

For the first 14 years of Catherine's career, she was an emergency room nurse. Catherine loved the fast pace and unpredictability of her days. After participating in a medical mission trip to Haiti with Notre Dame, she became interested in the operating room and made the switch to the OR but didn't feel like it was where she was meant to be.

Catherine made the jump to Occupational Health nursing in 2017 at Johns Hopkins Hospital and has never regretted it. While this is a totally different type of nursing than she was used to, Catherine loves the work. It lets her tap into many different parts of her personality and further develop her skillset such as critical thinking, problem solving, and working with other teams within the organization.

In December 2021, Catherine helped open the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at Hopkins. She was the lead nurse at the East Baltimore location which vaccinated the employees and students of the Johns Hopkins Health System and University. This, Catherine says, was a wonderful experience, - even though she was no longer at the bedside, she felt like she was making a difference in the pandemic. As a result of this work, the COVID-19 Vaccine Team was recognized by Johns Hopkins Medicine and awarded the Clinical Excellence Award for Clinical Collaboration and Teamwork. Catherine was also one out of one hundred nurses in the Baltimore area recognized by Baltimore Magazine in their 2022 Top Nurse issue.

Catherine is the mother to two amazing young men. Colin, 24, is pursuing his PhD in Planetary Science at Purdue University. Christopher, 18, is a freshman at Towson University and is studying business.

When she's not working, Catherine enjoys running and fitness. Running is her passion and she is currently training for a second 50-mile race. Catherine also sits on the board of her local running club. Living an active and healthy lifestyle is very important to Catherine and helps her to be a better woman, mother, and nurse.

Congratulations Catherine!



Catherine Field

RN, COHN



Pictured L-R:

Betty Sanisidro, ABOHN Executive Director,
Catherine Field COHN-Award Winner,
Gina Tetsch, ABOHN BOD

ABOHN Award Winners

Ada Mayo Stewart Excellence In Occupational Health Case Management Award



Jennifer Zimmerman

RN,BSN, COHN-S/CM

This prestigious award is presented annually by the American Board for Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN) to the individual who achieved the highest score on the previous year's Case Management (CM) certification examination.

This award was established in January 2000 to honor Ada Mayo Stewart. In 1895, Ms. Stewart was one of the first industrial health nurses in the United States. Her practice at the Vermont Marble Company involved many facets of occupational health case management. She worked in the clinic, provided health education for employees and their families and made home visits. She was the first case manager in occupational health nursing as we know it today.

Jennifer Zimmerman, RN, BSN, COHN-S/CM, is an Occupational Health Manager for Mountaire Farms in Selbyville, DE. Prior to working in the occupational health field, she was involved in hospital nursing in the areas of telemetry, maternal-child nursing and psych- mental health. She was also recently a PMH and Maternal-Child Clinical Nursing instructor at Salisbury University.

She received her BSN/MSN from Wesley College in 2017 and received her APRN licensure in the same year as a Clinical Nurse Specialist. She attained her COHN-S in 2020 and her CM certification in 2022. Jennifer's passions are process improvement, achieving better care for patients and streamlining workflow for employees. A few of her proudest accomplishments are establishing translation services for ESL employees, forming a Medical Emergency Team for rapid response and transitioning to electronic health records.

Jennifer lives at the beach with her husband of 25 years, their 3 kids and their dog Coco. She enjoys spending time with her family, watching true crime shows and singing and playing drums with her church band.



Pictured L-R:

Betty Sanisidro, ABOHN Executive Director,
Jennifer Zimmerman CM Award Winner,
Angela Smith ABOHN BOD

Congratulations Jennifer!

ABOHN Award Winners

Employer Recognition Award

The ABOHN Employer Recognition Award is awarded each year to a company that demonstrates support and encouragement for the personal and professional development of the certified Occupational Health Nurses that they employ. The award recipient demonstrated that it recognizes the value certification brings to its organization and acknowledges the OHN's contributions in a variety of ways.

Savannah River Mission Completion is responsible for the safe reduction of curies in aging waste tanks at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site.

Located in Aiken, South Carolina, the SRMC diverse team conducts operations across the Savannah River Site. This includes the Defense Waste Processing Facility, Tank Farm operations and associated production and disposal facilities.

Working together, with safety as a value, SRMC accomplishes their mission through their workforce, in positions that range from:

Over 3,500 employees comprised of Operations and Construction labor. They have 2 nurses that support the workforce for many Safety and Health programs as well as Disability Case Management. The SRMC Management team understands and provides the support needed for their nurses and their professional development as we they an integral part of the health and safety of the SMRC workforce.

SMRC was brought forward for this award by Susan Jordan RN, BSN, COHN. Susan stated that professional development was encouraged almost as soon as she walked through the door! When management was asked if they would support attending a COHN review course and AAOHN conference, SMRC management said "yes" without hesitation. Susan and others are encouraged to attend not only national conferences, but to be active in their state associations as well.

Support and recognition doesn't stop with conferences. After passing the COHN, Susan was recognized in a company wide email. She was tasked by management to research salary ranges for COHN certified OHN's in the US and in their area, and after review, her salary was increased to be equivalent to the national average. Along with the salary increase, all professional expenses are paid, including continuing education and annual renewals fees.

Congratulations and thank you to Savannah River Mission Completion for your support of occupational health nursing!



Pictured L-R:

Betty Sanisidro, ABOHN Executive Director,
Susan Jordan—SRMC Award Recipient



ABOHN Updates!



ABOHN's Social Media Links



LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/92958216/admin/>



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089780753276>



Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/ABOHN72>

ABOHN's New Mailing Address

Beginning June 1, 2023

ABOHN

PO BOX 39

Palos Heights, Il 60463

630-789-5799

888-842-2646

Fax: 630-789-8901

Email: info@abohn.org

Website: www.abohn.org

Looking for CEs? Upcoming Conferences

Gateway to Best Practice

AOHP National Conference

Sep 6-8, 2023 | Savannah, GA

<https://www.aohp.org/aohp/EDUCATION/NationalConference.aspx>

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

MHS23

MEDICAL & HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

May 4-6, 2023

<https://info.bwc.ohio.gov/for-providers/workers-compensation->

2023 ONSITE EMPLOYEE HEALTH CLINICS FORUM

Leading Strategies to Build & Expand Worksite Clinics; Reduce Medical Expenses, Ensure/Maintain a Competitive Benefits Strategy and Achieve a High-Performing & Healthy Workforce.

JUNE 26 - 27, 2023
LOEWS VANDERBILT HOTEL
NASHVILLE, TN

<https://wcforum.com/conferences/onsite-clinics>

Celebrate Occupational Health Nurses Week!

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
Nurses Week 2023

APRIL 9-15, 2023

#OHNWeek



We celebrate all occupational health nurses and salute the **ABOHN Board Certified OHNs!**

Thank You to our Volunteer SMEs!

Practice Analysis Advisory Committee PAAC

Bennett, Elizabeth
Burke, Lori
Cautilli, Carolyn
Cicchetti, Phyllis
Ferri, Brenda
Fox, Mary
Hale, Jennifer
Holodnick, Cherie
Jordan, Susan
Lehr, Toni
Lockhart, Tammy
Luessen, Donna
Morey, Kay
Raizes, Tammy
Rivera, Daniel
Stahl, Lara
Zipp, Bridget

Exam Development Advisory Committee EDAC

Cassens, Kerry
Drevdahl Orchard, Jean
Edge, Becky
Ferri, Breda
George, Deb
Hopcia, Karen
Jones, Michelle
Magnussen, June
Matthews, Denise
Robbins, Anne
Stewart, Nancy
Tuel, Emily
Turley, Shari
Wegener Lisa
Willis, Michele
Wongus, Angela

ABOHN's Vision

"ABOHN Certification is recognized and valued as the standard to maximize the health and safety of workers worldwide.



ABOHN's Mission

to promote a standard of excellence in occupational health nursing through credentialing.

Principles and Values

To accomplish its mission and vision, ABOHN commits its resources to achieving the following principles and values:

- Establish and promote credentialing standards for professional occupational health nurses.
- Publicly recognize individuals who demonstrate they meet these standards.
- Elevate the quality of occupational health nursing practice.
- Stimulate the development of improved educational standards and programs in the field of occupational health nursing.
- Encourage occupational health nurses to continue their professional education.
- Perform the above unrestricted by consideration of national origin, race, creed, disability, color, age and gender.
- Create value for employers, their employees and the occupational health professionals.
- Seek inclusion by partnering with organizations that share ABOHN's mission and values.

Contact:

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Phone :630-789-5799

email : info@abohn.org

website: www.abohn.org

ABOHN STAFF

Executive Director

Betty Sanisidro, DNP, MSN, COHN-S, APHN-BC

Managing Director

Carole M. Cusack, MBA, ICE-CCP

Operations Manager

Molly Taylor, BS