



"BOARD CERTIFICATION: Engage Excellence"

THE ABOHN REPORT Fall 2017



THE ABOHN REPORT

Volume 37 Issue 2

Special points of interest:

- ABOHN @ AAOHN Reception Memories
- ABOHN Award Winners
- Call for Employer Award Nominations
- Board Certified OHN's celebrating 5th year of holding an ABOHN COHN or COHN'S!

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A personal touch from the ABOHN Chair by Wanda Smiling, BSN, RN, CARN, COHN-S



First and foremost, I have a consuming need to thank God for giving me the desire to praise him for all the many blessings that he has continually bestowed upon me. It is truly an honor and a great privilege to step into the role of Chair of ABOHN.

To be at the helm of such a dynamic, inspirational, and innovative Organization might leave one speechless and unsure of what to do. So I will simply rely on my immeasurable faith and the guideposts left for me by so many great leaders that passed this way before me. Maya Angelou said, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel." So that is the catalyst for every decision I will make and every action that I support as Chair. To facilitate a paradigm shift of positivity and an overwhelming commitment that irradiates from a place of feeling: The heart!

To my mentor and past Chair, Margaret Manuszak, thanks for seeing something

in me that only God could have shown you. Your support has been life changing and has allowed me to journey to places that I never even imagined I would. To Jennylynn Balmer, my most recent predecessor, your guidance has proven to be a candle in the darkness that still burns bright.

When I think of the two of you I am reminded of Ecclesiastes 3:2 "So I perceive that nothing is better than that a man (woman) should rejoice in his own **works**, for that is his heritage. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him? So I began my **works**!

To everything there is a season and as Autumn/Fall approaches, we witness a phenomenal transformation of the environment, for all around us the world changes its outer garments and prepares to be renewed (positively speaking).

The ABOHN Board of Directors experienced this state of quietness and then a sudden re-birth. We welcomed three new Board of Directors:

- Melinda Harrison BSN, RN, COHN/CM (South Central/Southwest Region)
- Daurice Holly, RN, COHN, CCM, FAAOHN (Northeast Region) and,
- Pamela Swann, RN, COHN (Southeast Region)

whom I am convinced will hold fast to the irrevocable mission of ABOHN and serve with humility.

The ABOHN executive staff members remain loyal and committed in performing their duties to support the mission and vision of our great Organization.

(continued on page 16)



ABOHN's examinations are accredited by the National Commission of Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the certifying body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE). ABOHN is a proud member of the American Board of Nursing Specialties



ABOHN 2017—2018 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.



Back row l-r: Bev Hagar, Michele Willis, Daurice Holly, Melinda Harrison, Jim Persoon, Denise Matthews. Front row l-r: Jean Drevdahl-Orchard, Denise Knoblauch, Lucy Carlson, Wanda Smiling, Noreen Olson, Pam Swann.

Governing Council

Chair: Wanda Smiling, BSN, RN, CARN, COHN-S

Secretary: Michele Willis, BSN, RN, COHN-S

Treasurer: Noreen Olson, MN, RN, ARM, COHN-S

COHN-S Chair: Beverly Hagar, BSN, RN, COHN-S

COHN Chair: Jean Drevdahl-Orchard, Ph.D., RN-BC CCM, CIH, CSP, CHMM, COHN-S/CM

CM Chair: Lucille Carlson, MSN, MPH, RN, COHN-S/CM

Directors

Melinda Harrison, BSN, RN, COHN/CM

Daurice Holly, RN, COHN, CCM, FAAOHN

Denise Matthews, BSN, RN, COHN-S

Jim Persoon, Ph.D. (Public Member)

Pamela Swann, RN, COHN

Thank you to our retiring Board Members

Every year we have to say good-bye to some amazing people who dedicate their time and talents on the ABOHN Board of Directors. Each individual brings their own unique skill set to ABOHN and works tirelessly to ensure that your credentials continue to be true to the mission of ABOHN:

“To promote a standard of excellence in occupational health nursing through credentialing.”

ABOHN was very fortunate to have received the wealth of information, dedication to the profession, and work ethic that each board member brought to the table each month.

Jennylynn Balmer
Board Service: 2013—2017

Jennylynn brought her wealth of talents to the board and used them to help ABOHN through the last four years.

Jennylynn served on many committees and rose to the challenge of steering ABOHN as Chair from 2015-2017.

THANK YOU JENNYLYNN!

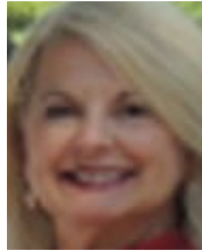


Paula Clay
Board Service: 2016-2017

Paula responded to our call when ABOHN needed to suddenly replace a Director. ABOHN not only gained an experience BOD, but a professional truly committed to the mission and vision of ABOHN.

Paula headed our COHN Advisory and Research Committees as Chair and served on the Finance and CM Committees during her second time on the board.

THANK YOU PAULA !



Paula Kerns
Board Service: 2015—2017

Paula returned to the board for a 2nd time, helping ABOHN as it navigated transitioning. Paula brought back her superior understanding of the BOD and inspired all who worked with her.

Paula's support of ABOHN is evident in her committee work including Chair of the PR and CM Committees, as well as stepping in as Secretary for the corporation.

THANK YOU PAULA !



Outgoing Board of Directors.



ABOHN Welcomes Newly Elected 2017-2018 Directors

Melinda Harrison

BSN, RN, COHN/CM

Melinda Harrison is the Occupational Health Nurse Consultant for XTO Energy and Exxon Mobil subsidiary located in Fort Worth, TX. Melinda is no stranger to Board service, having served as committee member, board member, and President of the Texas State Association of Occupational Health Nurses (TSAOHN). Melinda brings subject matter expertise to the ABOHN Board.

Welcome Melinda!



Daurice Holly

RN, COHN, CCM, FAAOHN

Daurice Holly resides in PA and is currently employed by Premise Health as the Director of Client Operations. In her position, Daurice oversees and directs the operations management of multiple employer worksites across all lines of health related services within the East Region. Along with her knowledge of occupational health, Daurice talents include budget development, strategic planning, and marketing skills to the Board.

Welcome Daurice!



Pamela Swann

RN, COHN

Pamela Swann is the Employee Health and Injury Coordinator at Fort Walton Beach Medical Center, in Fort Walton Beach, FL. Among her many duties, Pamela provides nursing care, health education and guidance for all hospital employees. Pamela brings her expertise in office policy and procedure and program management to the Board. Pamela past volunteer experience as an ABOHN COHN examination item writer reflects her commitment to ABOHN and the occupational health nursing industry.

Welcome Pamela!



Welcome New Board members!

ABOHN At-A-Glance

American Board for Occupational Health Nurses Statement of Financial Position December 2015 and 2016

Current Assets	2016	2015
Cash	\$286,542	\$203,508
Investment Securities	\$256,195	\$229,921
Accounts Receivable	\$0	\$0
Prepaid Expenses	\$18,327	\$10,592
Property and Equipment	\$9,396	\$16,442
Total Current Assets	\$570,460	\$460,463

Liabilities and Net Assets	2016	2014
Accounts Payable	\$31,472	\$15,401
Current portion of deferred fees	\$0	\$38,820
Deferred Fees	\$0	\$0
Net Assets	\$538,988	\$406,242
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$570,460	\$460,463

Recruit a Colleague!

Do you want to encourage another Occupational Health Nurse through the process of certification and at the same time have a **chance to win \$300** and recognition in our ABOHN Spring Newsletter? Did you know that ABOHN relies on our credential holders to encourage certification and on average they are responsible for referring approximately 1/3 of ABOHN's yearly applicants?

Any ABOHN Board Certified OHN can recruit another RN working in occupational health through the certification process.

Instruct the new applicant to note that you are the recruiting nurse in the appropriate area on the application form. Only one recruiting nurse can be noted per application. At the end of the year, there will be a random drawing to select a winner from those nurses who have recruited a colleague. Your credential(s) must be in good standing at the time of the drawing.

Thanks to all our Board Certified OHNs who encourage and mentor new applicants!

Upcoming Events

Are you looking for CEU's, refresher courser, or conference? You can find valuable information on our website under the [Upcoming Events](#) tab.

Does your state association has a conference or other event offerings you would like to promote? Send your information to info@abohn.org and if approved we will be pleased to include it on our website.

HISTORY, PASSION, PERFORMANCE

Together Towards Tomorrow

APRIL 24-27, 2017 ★ HYATT REGENCY NEW ORLEANS, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



AAOHN

2017 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

ABOHN at AAOHN 2017

The AAOHN National Conference was held in New Orleans, LA during the week of April 24-27, 2017 and marked the 75th Anniversary of AAOHN! The conference was well attended and the atmosphere was filled with New Orleans' style buzz and enthusiasm. ABOHN was featured prominently in the exhibit hall and always had a line of potential candidates eager to learn about the ABOHN credentials. Due to all the 75th anniversary celebrations, ABOHN's reception was held earlier than usual. We hosted our event before the doors to the exhibit hall opened and were excited to see so many OHNs join us in honoring the ABOHN Class of 2016 Board Certified OHNs as well as our award winners.

Executive Director Denise Knoblauch and 2016-2017 Chair Jennylynn Balmer presented to a full house "Engaging Excellence Through Certification" which examined the value and benefits of Board Certification for new and seasoned ABOHN credential holders. In addition to the presentation, Denise Knoblauch communicated the ABOHN message to a room full of first time attendees.

The Research Committee presented a poster for the Global Summit and general conference attendees regarding ABOHN Certification. BOD Lucy Carlson took charge of entering ABOHN's poster presentation which included basic information on ABOHN's credentials as well as benefits and additional value that certification can bring to an OHN's career.

American Board for Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.
Board Certification: *Engage Excellence*

What are the benefits of certification?

- Demonstrate knowledge & expertise
- Increase job quality & safety
- Identify strengths & areas of knowledge
- Personal & professional accomplishment
- Career advancement – required by some employers
- Provide credibility to employers, financial sector & insurance to pay – third-party reimbursement and benefits clearly stated that certain criteria have been achieved but not met

What additional value does ABOHN provide certificate holders?

Job Features – specific to our membership

- **Leadership Opportunities**
- Practice and Career
- **Continuing Education**
- Online resources directory of current certified units
- Career Alerts
- ABOHN Region – Spring and Fall Issues
- Specialty alerts and updates and information
- Continuing Education Units

Study Library – Current information about your field, treatment, evidence-based, legislative rules

References

AAOHN National Association of Occupational Health Nurses
ABOHN 2017 Board Certified Single-Step Report – Part of Research “Evidence-Based Practice”
2017 Fall, 2017, Vol. 37(2), p. 1-10
2017 Occupational Health Nurses Association American Board for Occupational Health Nurses, Fall, 2017, Vol. 37(2), p. 1-10
The impact of certification on health professionals: a systematic review, 2008, Journal of Professional Nursing, 23(3)

How does ABOHN ensure the examinations reflect current practice of OHNs?

- Administrative updates & trends changes to assure exam reflect current practice
- Thorough analysis of certifications is conducted, coming to conclusions. All updated knowledge and professional (NP) is added to the examination on a regular basis

Both Core Certifications are Valuable. Which Exam is Right for You?

Do you have a Bachelor's Degree or Higher?

- Yes** → **Board Certified in Occupational Health Nursing (BC-OHN)**
- No** → **Board Certified in Occupational Health Nursing (BC-OHN)**

What is your strength or area of expertise?

- Public Health** → **Board Certified in Occupational Health Nursing (BC-OHN)**
- Practice** → **Board Certified in Occupational Health Nursing (BC-OHN)**
- Research** → **Board Certified in Occupational Health Nursing (BC-OHN)**

Both certifications are recognized as evidence in the field.
Both will allow you to provide the best occupational health services.

What are the eligibility requirements to take the exams?

- **BC-OHN**
 - You must have a Bachelor's degree in occupational health nursing within the past five years.
- **BC-OHN**
 - You must have a Bachelor's degree in occupational health nursing within the past five years and a higher degree.
- **International Board Certified in Occupational Health Nursing (IBCOHN)**
 - You must have a Bachelor's or higher degree in occupational health nursing.

Information and alternatives to work experience can be found on our website at www.abohn.org

Information is available to International OHN's

Register for an examination?
also, go to www.abohn.org

ABOHN Reception Memories



Award Winner—Debra L. Fischer Gibbon Excellence in OHN

Donna Wolf, BSN, RN, COHN-S



Donna Wolf

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 Fisher 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.

Donna graduated from Drury College in Springfield, Missouri with a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology and later received a BSN from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. She began her working career in Labor and Delivery and Medical Intensive Care at the University Hospital in Little Rock and then moved to Springfield Missouri where she worked in Surgical Intensive Care and later in Infection Control and Employee Health at Cox Health Systems.

The Cox Occupational Medicine Clinic needed a nurse to place at the 3M Springfield plant, and Donna's experience and education made her a perfect fit. With the training and support of 3M's Corporate Occupational Health Department, Donna came to be an Occupational Health Nurse.

When 3M decided to hire their own occupational health nurse, Donna joined their team and has worked at the 3M plant for the past nine years. Among the many things she does in her busy schedule, Donna conducts medical surveillance program training, treats minor injuries, manages disability and workers compensation claims and promotes wellness and healthy living each and every day for an employee population of over three hundred and fifty individuals.

Donna and her husband Larry have four sons. Three of whom are grown with the youngest in college. Larry and Donna live on a small acreage with two dogs and two cats. They garden and keep a house cow along with other cattle, horses, hogs, chickens and bees.

When Donna isn't working at 3M or around the house, she enjoys studying history; particularly that of the nineteenth and twentieth century, quilting, crocheting, knitting, and sewing when she can.

Congratulations Donna on your outstanding achievement!

Certified Occupational Health Nurses- Specialist (COHN-S)

Award Winner—Ann M. Lachat Excellence in OHN

Lauren Harris, BSN, RN, COHN



L-R Paula Clay ABOHN BOD, Lauren Harris, Denise Knoblauch ABOHN ED

Lauren Harris knew she wanted to be a nurse in her mid-teens, growing up in North Carolina. By age 20, she had completed her Diploma in Nursing at Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in Charlotte, NC. She worked for 3 years in an acute care setting, but knew there was something more that she wanted for her career. She continued her education, obtaining a BA in Psychology and then a BSN from Medical University of South Carolina. A friend encouraged her to apply for a Community Health Nurse position in 1979, and Lauren found that “something more”... the preventive health focus of a Community Health Nurse.

The next 10 years of her career were spent learning everything she could about Community Health. When she and her husband Jim decided to start a family, she moved back to the acute care setting at Aiken Regional Medical Centers, providing “preventive” services to patients and the community. In 1999, a hospital Employee Health Nurse opportunity presented itself, and she happily moved in to the role. It was like being a Community Health Nurse again- with the “community” being the hospital employees!

In 2007, Aiken Regional Medical Centers launched a “Business and Industry” program, and Lauren was the first nurse to be contracted to a local entity (City of Aiken) for Occupational Health Nursing. She continued to learn from other South Carolina Occupational Health Nurses in industrial roles while building and designing the City of Aiken program from “the ground, up”. As the program grew, Lauren had the privilege of mentoring other nurses that were new to the Occupational Health role, who in turn began other Business and Industry clinics in the Aiken area. During these 15 or so years, Lauren downloaded the application for the COHN certification exam several times, but didn’t follow through with it until late 2015. At that point she knew that it was time to validate all that she had learned from mentors, textbooks, publications, conferences and from life experiences, and to proudly claim the title of Certified Occupational Health Nurse.

Congratulations Lauren, you are an inspiration to our community!

Lauren’s Life Lessons:

- When you think God has called you to do something, do it with all of your heart, and He will take care of the details.
- Surround yourself with like-minded people that have a passion for what they do, and always be ready to learn from them.
- Use ABOHN recommended materials and resources to help you study for the exam, and apply what you learn in your workplace. You will be amazed at what happens... especially if you also try to teach others what you have learned. Then, take the test. (You don’t need to wait 15 years!)
- Be an active part of professional organizations dedicated to Occupational Health, like AOHP and AAOHN. Go to the meetings and conferences, and don’t be afraid to reveal what you don’t know... there will always be someone else who didn’t know but figured it out, and is willing to help you.
- Proudly wear the COHN credentials when you get them. Never tire of explaining to others what “COHN” means, because work is important to everyone, and worker health keeps the work-er working, and we can be honored that we have a role in making that WORK!

The ABOHN Ann M. Lachat Excellence in Occupational Health Nursing Award was originally established in 1997 to honor ABOHN’s first chair, Marguerite Ahern Graff.

The ABOHN Board of Directors changed the name of this award in 2015, 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.

Certified Occupational Health Nurses (COHN)

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.

Award Winner—Ada Mayo Stewart Excellence in OHN Case Management

Candy Wright, BSN, RN, COHN-S/CM



L-R Paula Kerns ABOHN BOD, Candy Wright, Denise Knoblauch ABOHN ED

In 1987, Candy graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan with a BSN and began work at the Detroit Medical Center in Oncology. That work evolved into a position with the University on a Federal Cancer Research Grant funded through the NIH/CDC. As the funding dissipated she realized that staff nursing would be difficult as she now was a wife and mother so she turned to homecare. Working in homecare in both Detroit and the surrounding suburbs for 12 years opened more doors and she was then approached by a friend about Occupational Health. She tried out that path at Visteon/ACH-LLC/Ford Motor Company as a staff nurse. She eventually worked her way into the Senior Nurse position there and credits her "real training" to some phenomenal mentors in the field that took her under their wings and taught her everything. While there, she managed a full staff of nurses, had a full-time physician, an Occupational Therapist and a Physical Therapist to care for the 750 employees. Eventually her mentors encouraged her to take the COHN-S exam, and she attended a review course in Captiva Island, Florida in January of 2007 taught by some wonderful pillars of occupational health from North Carolina. She sat for the exam in October and passed!

Unfortunately the business climate in Michigan was changing and her building was slated for closure. A new opportunity for her husband arose in North Carolina. As she began to search which led to relocation of her family to North Carolina and her job as Occupational Health Manager at Miller Brew-

ing. There she was a team of 1 nurse and 1 technical assistant, a physician at a local hospital and 600+ employees. She managed all of the FMLA, OSHA recordkeeping, Wellness programming, surveillance testing, and workers compensation with the adjustor and field case manager. She worked with the Safety manager and changed the safety culture of the building to render it the winningest brewery in the company and was recognized in the industry for the work with the UL Sustainability Safety Stewardship Award in 2016.

The business decision to close the brewery in North Carolina caused Candy to search for new opportunities. As she had a year's notice, she chose to take the CM certification exam "in case" she needed the credentials. With the help of some of those same ladies that taught her that review course so long ago and with networking in the NCTAOHN/NCAOHN she was able to obtain some study tips to take the exam and pass it.

Today Candy has started her new job at Procter and Gamble in Browns Summit, NC. She is the newest Occupational Health Services Manager and works with the Wellness Programs, workers compensation, FMLA programs and surveillance. With over 1000 employees and one other nurse there is much to learn with this newest opportunity!

Congratulations Candy and Best of Luck in your new job!

Case Management (CM)

Award Winner—Employer Award

Northwell Health



L-R: ABOHN ED Denise Knoblauch, Karen Kalaf and Tracy Andriano from Northwell Health, Jennylynn Balmer ABOHN Chair

Northwell Health is the largest private employer and the largest integrated health system in New York State, and, one of the largest health systems in the country. Northwell Health has 61,000 employees, 21 hospitals and more than 450 ambulatory locations. Certified Occupational health nurses are staffed in two departments; the “Workforce Safety” department and the “Employee Health” department.

Workforce Safety is the department responsible for Workers’ Compensation, Injury Management, OSHA, Return to Work, Employee Safety and Prevention and all appropriate Industrial Hygiene compliance. The mission of Northwell Health’s Workforce Safety department is to create a culture of safety and employee advocacy, and to realize the long-term cost savings in Workers’ Compensation and Workforce Safety and Prevention.

Employee Health is at the core of Northwell Health’s mission to deliver exceptional care and service to its employees. The organization prides itself on offering a full suite of health programs and services to ensure the total health of its people. There are a wide variety of health and wellness programs and educational resources conveniently available to employees.

Additionally, because Northwell Health cares about the health and wellness of all employees, a year-round wellness program is now offered. “My Wellness” is an online portal which gives employees the opportunity to record, track, and find success at individual wellness, all while earning points for redeemable gifts.

An important way Northwell Health demonstrates commitment to its workforce is by supporting and encouraging the advanced certification of the nursing staff that serves its employees. Nurses working in both Workforce Safety and Employee Health Services are strongly encouraged to obtain their COHN/COHN-S certification. Northwell Health supports all financial aspects of the certification including exam preparation, application, exam fees, and recertification maintenance.

Those newly certified are recognized through interdepartmental acknowledgment and system approved financial incentives – the senior executives place the health and welfare of its employees in the hands of the most knowledgeable professional. Registered Nurses who achieve the COHN/COHN-S certification receive an annual bonus.

Northwell Health believes its employees are its most valuable resource and is always in search of ways to acknowledge the hard work and extraordinary efforts put forward by team member. By acknowledging COHN/COHN-S certified nurses with special events, continuing education opportunities, attendance at national conferences, and awards, the organization hopes to encourage all team members to be inspired, dedicated, innovative, and committed to deliver superior service and care to its patients, employees, customers and communities.

Congratulations Northwell Health and thank you for your support of OHNs and your entire worker population!

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. This award recipient demonstrated that it recognizes the value that certification brings to its organization and acknowledges the OHN’s contributions in a variety of ways.

Employer Award

Navigating the ABOHN Website.

Just like our old website, some areas and forms are only accessible to our ACTIVE credential holders.

- The LOGIN is powered by your **PREFERRED EMAIL**.
- Your password is your **Credential Number**.

If you are unsure of your preferred email or credential number, please contact the ABOHN office before logging on for the first time.

[Go to ABOHN's website](#)



Digital Badging!

ABOHN and the Board of Directors have decided to utilize a technology called Digital Badging. In September 2016, ABOHN began using this technology to replace paper wallet cards.

Badges offer a portable, secure way to share your certification via social networking sites, (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter), email signatures, websites, online resumes, and more. You will be able to share with your employer, colleagues, and licensing boards. New certificants will continue to receive the wall certificate in addition to the digital badge.

For additional information, please see the links below or you can find information on the ABOHN website under the Maintenance Tab.

[Digital Badging Video](#)



Denise Knoblauch selected as AAOHN Fellow!

AAOHN Fellows are leaders in the field of occupational and environmental health nursing (OHN), who have made significant contributions in the areas of clinical practice, education, research, management, or policy. Fellows provide vision to advance skills, knowledge and abilities of occupational and environmental health nurses, influence formation of policy, contribute to research, and exemplify highly effective management and clinical practices.



Fellows are nominated and qualify to a strict set of criteria. They are selected by a Review Panel, based demonstrated leadership, professional development, the potential for future contribution to the profession and future goals.

Congratulations to the AAOHN Class of Fellows 2017!

Call for Employer Award Nominations

ABOHN is currently accepting nomination applications for our annual Employer Award. Applications are accepted through December 1st. You can find more information on this award on the [ABOHN website](#) or please contact our office at 630-789-5799 or download the application from the link below.

[ABOHN Employer Award Application](#)

Be a part of these elite businesses that support their employees through credentialing!

EMPLOYER RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS		
YEAR	CITY VENUE	WINNER
2017	New Orleans	Northwell Health
2016	Jacksonville	Tesoro Companies, Inc.
2015	Boston	No award given
2014	Dallas	The TSA/OLE/FAM
2013	Las Vegas	The Hershey Company
2012	Nashville	Johnson & Johnson
2011	Atlanta	Comprehensive Healthcare
2010	Anaheim	No award given
2009	Orlando	IBM
2008	Salt Lake City	No award given
2007	Orlando	Tyson Foods

Call For Nominations!

Cohort Class of 2012!
Celebrating 5 year milestone of achieving Board Certification!

*Congratulations to these Board Certified OHNs on their
 5th anniversary of achieving the COHN or COHN-S!*

These Board Certified OHNs are listed as Active status as of the date of this publication.

COHN

Denise Akert	Kimberly Headrick	Lisa Reynolds
Kimberly Alvis	Sue Herbine	Katherine Reynolds
Wayne Andres	Jean Johnson	Coy Rodgers
Kathleen Butts	Leanne Johnson	Judy Schkrioba
Margaret Carroll	Nina Larkins	Sulakshmi Singh
April Carter	Irene Lindgren	Lindsay Sledge
Lynn Cunningham	Ana Lopez-Gottlieb	David Smith
Joy Davis	Terry Malander	Tamara Spakes
Christina Dziuk	Courtney Meyer	Andrew Tabussi
Paul Evans	Beverly Moody	Karen Thompson
Pei Gan	Terry Neal	Cynthia Vanegas
Mary Ganz	Margaret Nielsen	
Catherine Grunin	Malinda Palmer	
Karla Hamblin	Sheela Philip	

COHN -S

Lee Bernard	Karen Hopcia	Elizabeth Oliver
Cynthia Betcher	Rhonda Johnson	Lori Peterson
Wendy Bowman	Beth Jones	Sandra Ponder
Dean Brown	Luann Ladwig	Denise Prentiss
Andrea Byers-Foote	Donald Lang	Sandra Reno
Molly Canter	William Lark	Melanie Rivet
Gail Carchietta	Jennifer Lau	Amy Ruesch
John Champion	Marla Lerner	Roxana Sherrill
Lester Cruise	Shile Liang	Linda Shoener
Amy Dailey	Lisa Luna	Amanda Sibley
Crystal Dennis-Jordan	Joel Malak	Wanda Smiling
KaLena Downton	Angeli Mancuso	Heather Stehr
Pamela Femling	Amy May	Kathleen Stevens
Cathy Floyd	Patricia McAlary-Losee	Sharyn Tondel
Patricia Foster	Lisa McIntosh	Ally Vizanko
Rebekah Giannakos	Vincent McKilligan	Rebecca Walker
Mindy Guillory	LaShaunda McNeal	Karol White
Vanessa Hadley	Kim Moore	
Lisa Hall	Cindy Morris	
Debbie Hess	Lori Muller	
Yolanda Hill	Billie Niehoff	
Kristi Hinton	Eileen O'Donnell	

Congratulations

ABOHN June BOD Meeting—Oak Brook, IL

At the June 2017 board meeting, the ABOHN Board of Directors reviewed and approved an updated revision of the strategic plan. The Board reviews the strategic plan monthly with updates provided by the Executive Director. For 2017 the Board will focus on the following initiatives:

Strategy 1 Customers	Provide Support to Applicants and Candidates	
	1.	The Research Committee instituted an ongoing survey of successful exam candidates which began in March. 133 candidates from 2014 to current have completed the survey to identify examination practice tips. This information is shared and reviewed by the Board. Information from the survey has been placed on the website to identify study habits and practices candidates have used to successfully complete the certification exam. The Research committee plans to identify other ways to share the results with potential certificants and stakeholders.
	2.	Develop survey for unsuccessful candidates. The Research committee will be reviewing survey development for those who have not been successful in obtaining certification to identify potential exam support needs for exam applicants and candidates. It is planned to launch a survey late in the fall of 2017
	3.	Focus group formation (Finance committee) to determine viability of financial incentive for those reapplying after failing the exam. Due 1/18
	Recognize currently certified	
	1.	Those certificants celebrating a 5 year certification milestone will be recognized in the Fall Newsletter.
Strategy 2 Quality	Compliance with regulatory guidelines	
	1.	Practice analysis. The Board has committed to developing and launching a practice analysis for occupational health nurses. The goal is to identify pertinent job tasks and responsibilities of occupational health nurses in the U.S. and internationally. The Board will work in conjunction with the ABOHN staff and testing consultant, PSI, for this project.
	2.	NCCA Accreditation – ABOHN's credentials, COHN, COHN-S, and CM, are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). ABOHN is required to re-accredit the credentials every 5 years. The application was submitted in May 2017 and is awaiting review by NCCA.
	3	Expectation of pass rate. The Board is closely monitoring exam results monthly. Each exam advisory board completes an in-depth review of exam pass rates at the semi-annual board meeting. Each exam committee participates in annual exam review and revision in conjunction with the test consultant PSI.
Strategy 3 Sustainability	ABOHN remains financially viable	
	1.	The Board completes monthly financial reviews with a balanced budget projected at end of 2017.
	2.	Determine viability of working with AAOHN Foundation for scholarship support for exam takers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Executive Director discussed the logistics of scholarship support via the AAOHN foundation. • The research committee is reviewing the previous ABOHN research award and is considering a stipend to promote certification with the request for the awardee to develop a poster presentation for ABOHN.

ABOHN June 2017 BOD Meeting

ABOHN June BOD Meeting—Oak Brook, IL

Continued from page 15

Strategy 3 Sustainability

B. New item bank maintained in continued state of readiness

- Recruit non-board members for exam advisory committees and develop training
- I.
 - Board members are requested to submit questions for exam inclusion. The COHN and CM advisory board chairs have identified areas of need to maintain exam bank with vetted exam questions.
 - The Nominations committee vetted the 58 candidates who applied as subject matter experts for support of the exam advisory committees. 32 candidates were selected based upon credential status, business category, job title and geographic location which is felt to represent the diversity of certified occupational health nurses.

A personal touch from the ABOHN Chair—continued from page 1

Thank you for your continued service in advancing the certification process of ABOHN. After assuming my position as Chair in June of this year, the Board has made great strides to uphold our dedication to certificate holders and to prove the value of certification.

The office staff has completed our five-year reaccreditation process with NCCA. The NCCA reaccreditation process is based on 24 Industry Standards and all three ABOHN credentials, COHN, COHN-S, and CM, are subject to individual recertification applications. We are currently waiting for our applications to be approved and accepted. More to come in the Spring 2018 Newsletter.

The PR Committee is busy contacting Universities with occupational health nursing programs to spread the word about the specialty of Occupational Health Nursing and Board Certification. This strategy relates to several of ABOHN's Principles and Values which drive our mission.

ABOHN held our annual Awards Reception at AAOHN's National Conference in April 2017. We welcomed all conference attendees to join us in congratulating the newly certified class of 2016, including those who achieved the highest scores on the exams, and our Employer of the Year. You can read more about "ABOHN at AAOHN" inside this ABOHN Newsletter.

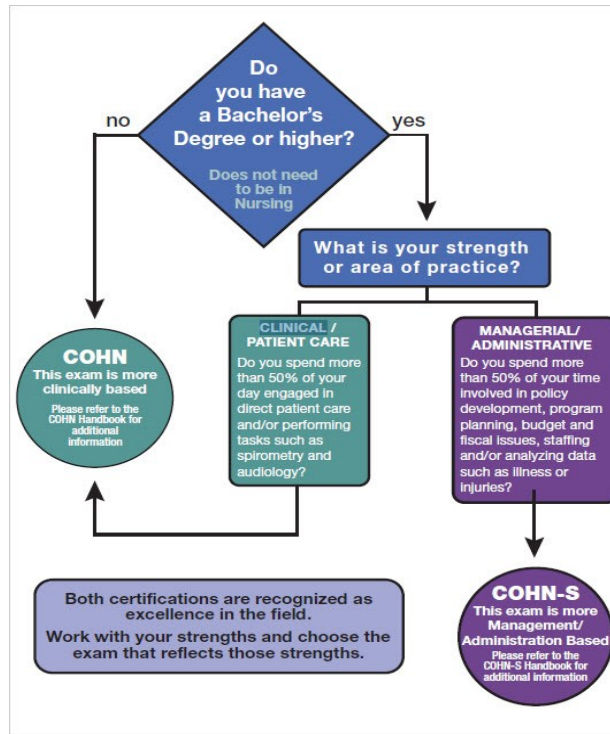
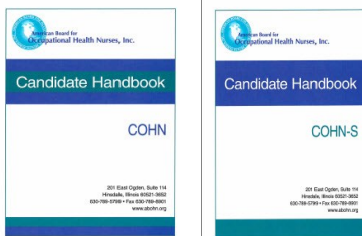
So, as we embark on this remarkable journey together, I encourage and admonish every Occupational Nurse professional to set goals of positivity for yourselves and all those working alongside you, caring for our nation, to engage excellence and get certified. Advice; "Start spending time with the right people. These are the people you enjoy, who love you and appreciate you, and who encourage you to improve in healthy and exciting ways. They are the ones who make you feel more alive, and not only embrace who you are now, but also embrace and embody who you want to be, unconditionally." Author unknown but wise!

The executive staff, Board of Directors, and of course myself are always available to assist you with any questions you may have so don't hesitate to reach out to us. We remain your Servant Leaders!

How to choose between the COHN and COHN-S

Do you know an occupational health nurse who is considering sitting for one of our examinations?

Share this diagram to help them choose the right credential!



Renewal and Recertification Cycle

Once certified, credential holders must continue upkeep of their credential(s). ABOHN currently has a yearly Renewal cycle with Recertification paperwork due every five years. Recertification includes the fee, documentation of continuing education hours and time in industry.

Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five
RENEWAL Fee due by expiration date.	RENEWAL Fee due by expiration date.	RENEWAL Fee due by expiration date.	RENEWAL Fee due by expiration date.	RECERTIFICATION Fee and paperwork due by expiration date.

- This cycle continues for the duration that you hold your certification.
- ABOHN changed to this model in January 2013.
- Those credential holders who received their certification prior to 2013 will be changed to this Renewal and Recertification schedule as they reach their next Recertification deadline.

All Renewal and Recertification notices are emailed to the preferred email address on file with ABOHN 6 weeks before an expiration date. Please contact the ABOHN office to update your preferred email address as needed.

For additional information or questions, please download the Recertification Application and Handbook found on our website at www.abohn.org or call our office at 1-630-789-5799 or 1-800-842-2646.



www.abohn.org

The Home of the American Board for Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.



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ABOHN Vision Statement

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

ABOHN Mission Statement

ABOHN's mission is 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 that 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 professional.*
- *Seek inclusively by partnering with organizations that share ABOHN's mission and values.*

Certificant Status by Credential - 1/31/2017

Credential	Active	Inactive	Retired
COHN	893	7	37
COHN/CM	199	2	9
COHN/SM	0	0	0
COHN/CM/SM	3	0	0
COHN-S	2179	33	331
COHN-S/CM	553	9	70
COHN-S/SM	2	0	1
COHN-S/CM/	5	0	0
CM	0	0	0
Total Jan. 2017	3834	51	448
Total Jan 2016	3947	45	381