

The ABOHN REPORT

Board Certification: Engage Excellence



American Board for Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.



Spring 2015—Volume 36—Issue 1

ABOHN seeking Executive Director

After 21 years of service



Ann Lachat,
RN, BSN, FAAOHN, COHN-S/CM,
CEO

To retire on June 30, 2015

ABOHN Chief Executive Officer Announces Retirement

It is with regret that the American Board for Occupational Health Nurses announces that Chief Executive Officer, Ann M. Lachat, RN, BN, COHN-S/CM, FAAOHN plans to retire on June 30, 2015. We are extremely grateful to Ann for her outstanding leadership of our organization and for her guidance in enhancing our credentialing programs.

ABOHN is seeking a dynamic and innovative occupational health nurse leader to serve as their full time Executive Director. This exciting position affords outstanding opportunities for an individual who is interested in actively contributing to the advancement of occupational health nursing professionalism through credentialing. The successful candidate will provide leadership and vision in enhancing and documenting the value and recognition of certification for occupational health nurses, employers, workers, and peers in related safety and health disciplines.

The position requires a Master's level degree or the intent to achieve a Master's level degree within five years. Candidates must meet the eligibility requirements for ABOHN certification. Approximately 25% travel is required. For additional information and a complete job description, please go to our website www.abohn.org. If you would like to be considered for this position, please submit your resume at your earliest convenience to the ABOHN office at 201 East Ogden, Suite 114, Hinsdale, IL 60521.

Inside this issue:

Letter from Ann Lachat, CEO	3
2014 Credential Pass Rate	4
ABOHN Fee Schedule	5
Someone You Should Know	6
2014 Class of Newly Certified	7
Upcoming Events	10



Message from the ABOHN Chair by Christine Zichello

The Winter of 2015 is one for the history books with record breaking snow fall in many regions and temperatures in the subzero range. I think it is safe to say that we all are looking forward to Spring. As we move from season to season we need to take time to look inward on our profession.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Employment Projections 2012-2022 released in December 2013, Registered Nursing (RN) is listed among the top occupations in terms of job growth through 2022. With job growth comes opportunities. Holding a board certification as an Occupational Health Nurse (OHN) is a mark of prestige and can assist in your career advancement. Board certified OHN's earn significantly higher salaries and employ-

ers regard this certification as a mark of quality. A board certified OHN also makes a positive impact on the employer's financial bottom line. The board certified OHN can reduce the employer's legal exposure through management of regulatory requirements such as OSHA, FMLA, ADA, DOT, HIPAA, etc. and certification enhances disease management and health promotion skills.

For those considering board certification, now is the time to commit to your career goals. For those already board certified, commit to maintaining your certification and consider serving on the Board of Directors. The deadline for applying is August 1, 2015. Application information may be found at www.abohn.org.

I have valued my time on the



Board and the various offices that I held. It is a great learning experience and you will have a lifetime of professional resources and friendships.

At the June 2015 meeting of the Board of Directors we will be welcoming three new members: Wanda Smiling from Dillon, SC, Pamela Dee Thomsen from Sun City, AZ and Noreen

Continued on page 8

ABOHN 2014-2015 Board of Directors



Chair:	Christine Zichello
Secretary:	Sara Peterson
Treasurer:	Jennylynn Balmer
COHN -S Chair:	Elizabeth Beaty
COHN Chair:	Eileen Maloney-White
CM Chair:	Denise Knoblauch



Front Row: Left to Right

Denise Knoblauch, RN, BSN, COHN-S/CM
 Barbara McCarthy, RN, MSED, BSN, COHN
 Eileen Maloney-White, BSsRN, LNC-CSp, COHN (C), COHN
 Cindy Fearn, APN, MSN, COHN-S/CM
 Jennylynn Balmer, RN, BSN, MPA, FAAOHN, COHN-S/SM
 Carole Cusack, MBA, Managing Director

Back Row: Left to Right

Elizabeth Beaty, RN, MSN, COHN/CM
 Christine Zichello, RN, BS, CSHM, ARM, FAAOHN, COHN-S
 Sara Peterson, RN, BSN, COHN-S/CM
 Ann Lachat, RN, BSN, FAAOHN, COHN-S/CM, CEO
 Margaret Manuszak, RN, MS, FAAOHN, COHN-S/CM
 Mark Sebastian, RN, BSN, MPH, COHN-S

Not Pictured

Roger Brauer, Ph.D., Public Member

Call for Board of Directors Nominations

Sadly, every year we must say farewell to one or several members of our board. It is hard to say goodbye to any of these selfless volunteers who take pride in the occupational health nursing industry and by their commitment to our Board, are recognized as leaders in the OHN field. Each member brings their own unique perspective to our Board and becomes a subject matter expert (SME) for the region and industry in which they practice.

For 2016 - 2017, we will require five Directors for the ABOHN Board,
 representing all industries and regions, including Canada.

If you are interested in serving on ABOHN's Board of Directors, please call the ABOHN office at 1-888-842-2646.

THANK YOU!

Board Qualifications (abridged)

The Board of Directors will represent the interests of occupational health nurses seeking certification, set the criteria for certification and recertification, continually assess the certification process, set policies, and plan for the future.

- Directors shall have a minimum of one year as COHN or a COHN-S and are in "Active Status" with the Corporation at the time of selection.
- Directors shall be currently employed in occupational health nursing.
- Board members may not serve on a national board of any other professional nursing association during their term on the Board of Directors, without prior approval of the Governing Council.
- The term of office for Directors shall be two years. The maximum number of consecutive terms any director may serve shall be two.

WILL YOU SERVE?

Letter from ABOHN CEO Ann Lachat, RN, BSN, FAOHN, COHN-S/CM

Retirement is a word that has always made me wonder what it would be like. Well, I am glad I have spent some time thinking about it. This is the time when I can get serious about my bucket list. I can only imagine being able to sleep past the 5 a.m. alarm that rings every day both in my head and on my night stand. My husband John and I will be moving to Scottsdale, Arizona where we have a condo in a small community with a lake on the property. I love the water and my husband wants the warmth of Arizona after living in Chicago for such a long time.

But, before I start to dream let me tell you how wonderful my life has been working in occupational health nursing. After a few years of working in a hospital I decided to spread my wings. I began working at General Foods Kool Aid Division in August 1965. I was a young nurse and General Foods hired me without experience in industry because I said I would have empathy rather than sympathy for my clients.

Part of my orientation was to pack on the line. If you can picture "Lucy and Ethel" packing candy on a line then you have a very accurate picture of me packing Kool Aid® and Shake n' Bake®. The nurses I worked with were the best resource for knowledge in health, workers compensation and wellness. Yes, even in 1965, we had a Working on Wellness (WOW) program. After 5 years, I left General Foods to give birth to our third son and care for our growing family.

After our youngest child started school, I headed back to work in Industry. This is what it was called in those days. I spent a few years working in a steel mill in Chicago. There were burns and crush injuries. The mill had many issues of safety and management was not particularly interested in correcting the problems.

I left the steel industry for a position at Columbia Broadcasting Systems (CBS) Television and Radio. I spent nine plus years at the station where many broadcast personalities worked. The TV broadcast area housed the "Siskel and Ebert Show", "Phil Donahue Show" and all the daily TV news broadcasts for the Chicago areas. There were many "Stars" that resided in the broadcast center and

others who came to perform on the shows. A few of the favorite characters I met were Big Bird and Morris the Cat. Others that I encountered were Julia Child, Boy George, Meredith Vieira, Lester Holt, Jim Avila, Bill Kurtis, Elizabeth Vargas and too many others to name. In 1988, 2,000 CBS employees throughout the United States were terminated as a part of a downsizing program.

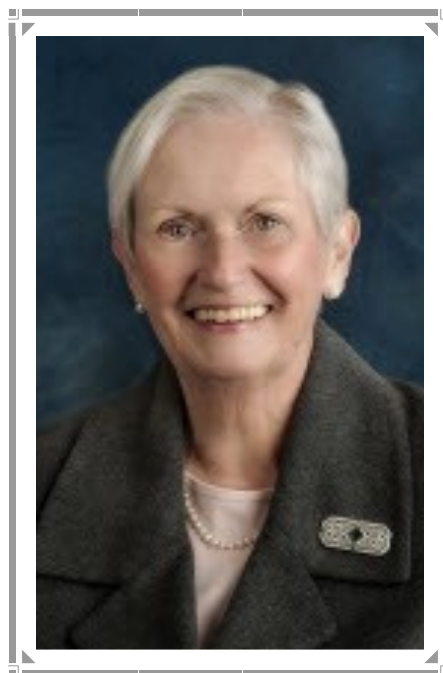
I then started working for Washington National Insurance Company. At Washington National I worked in the Employee Health area and after eight years the company was sold to a group in Wisconsin. I turned down the transfer and went to work for AEGON Insurance to develop a full staff in-house Case Management Department. I learned to negotiate the cost of transplants and encounter what it was like to develop a complete program for utilization review, case managers, EAP's and claim representatives. After five years, the company decided to move to the Kansas City and since I did not have any red shoes, I began to look for a new position in occupational health. I heard the American Board for Occupational Health Nurses needed someone to review applications for certification on a part time basis, so I applied and was hired for the position. I forgot to tell you the position was in Wisconsin and I lived 100 miles away. I negotiated and was given the ability to work from home and only return to the ABOHN office once a week. The ABOHN Director position was eventually vacated. I happened to be at the right place at the right time to be hired. The ABOHN Chair Emily Wallace and other members of the Board of Directors came to Chicago to interview me for the position. I was hired and part of my new job description involved finding real estate to move the ABOHN office to Chicago.

Sharon Kemerer was eventually hired as the Executive Director and we worked together for several years. Sharon had the opportunity to work at Baxter and left ABOHN. Other Executive Directors walked through the hallowed halls of ABOHN. In 2007, I challenged the Board of Directors and asked if they would consider hiring me because of my experience at ABOHN. The rest is history and I learned how to walk in one of the

greatest positions in occupational health. Currently, I have two wonderful associates who work and guide me on a daily basis, Carole Cusack and Molly Taylor. They work extremely hard to help our customers achieve certification and meet their goals.

Working at ABOHN has provided great joy and sometimes sadness. The sadness comes from counseling individuals who fail the examinations. My heart aches talking to the individuals when I hear the stories of how they have prepared and yet failed. After some counseling on how to study and some test taking strategies, many have gone on to pass the certification examination. This is when I receive the greatest high points in my position.

I have also worked with hundreds of wonderful women and men who comprise the occupational work force of ABOHN. They are the Board of Directors who have given their time unselfishly and without reward. I thank you for allowing me to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the American Board for Occupational Health Nurses. The rewards from occupational health have been superb. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.



Credentialing Statistics—Year End

The ABOHN Board of Directors are tasked with many challenges in order to sustain a specialty credentialing program. Table 1 shows the official ABOHN Active, Inactive and Retired certification holders that were in our database system as of 12/31/2014. As the base of our credential holders approach retirement age, we see a slight decline in Active credential holders. Table 2 shows a slight uptick in our applications in 2014 versus 2013. Each year, we find that many nurses who did not recertify were unable to be reached, in part because of incorrect or outdated contact information. The change in our recertification process to include yearly renewal, will help us keep up to date with our credential holders.

CREDENTIAL	ACTIVE	INACTIVE	RETIRED
COHN	968	19	25
COHN/CM	237	3	6
COHN/SM	0	0	0
COHN/CM/SM	4	0	0
COHN-S	2661	38	253
COHN-S/CM	647	16	47
COHN-S/SM	5	0	0
COHN-S/CM/SM	7	0	0
CM	3	0	0
Total 12/31/2014	4532	76	331
Total 12/31/2013	4814	63	320

Table 1 (left)

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.

Credentialing Statistics—Pass Rate Percentage

Table 2 (right)

The number of candidates who passed their certification examination increased in 2014, based on the data from 2013.

COHN and CM candidate applications remained consistent with the numbers from 2013 and we saw an increase in the COHN-S candidates from the previous year.

Exam Session	COHN			COHN-S			CM		
	Candidates	Number Passed	Percentage Passed	Candidates	Number Passed	Percentage Passed	Candidates	Number Passed	Percentage Passed
2010	66	43	65%	97	74	76%	25	19	76%
2011	74	52	70%	113	80	71%	26	21	81%
2012	72	47	69%	107	77	73.6%	32	26	81%
2013	84	49	59%	102	61	59%	17	11	64%
2014	86	70	77%	150	121	74.2%	17	19	88%

Credentialing Statistics—Recertification

Recertification is required to maintain your credential. Every year there are nurses who retire, change jobs into non-occupational health fields and/or ABOHN has lost contact. All of these areas impact the percent of ABOHN credential holders that recertify each year. Table 3, shows ABOHN's recertification data for the past few years. The current fees associated with all ABOHN's tests; application, exam, renewal and recertification can be found in Table 4.

Recertification Year	Certificants Due for Recertification	Certificants Achieved Recertified	Percent of Recertification
2009	1373	994	73%
2010	1053	922	87%
2011	1031	728	71%
2012	615	388	64%
2013	1131	783	69%
2014	1096	752	78.6%

Table 3—Recertification Statistics

Application, Renewal and Recertification Fees and Guidelines

	COHN/COHN-S	Case Management	Information
Application Fee	\$150.00	\$150.00	Good for 90 days from the date of approval from the ABOHN office.
Examination Fee	\$400.00	\$250.00	Must be paid within 90 days from the date of the invoice from the ABOHN office and is good for 120 days.*

* If you fail to schedule an appointment and sit for your examination before the expiration date, your examination authorization will be voided and you will have to pay for another application and examination fee.

Exam Authorization (Extension Fee)	\$50.00	\$50.00	One time, 60 day extension to the original 120 day authorization period.
Yearly Renewal Fee	\$150.00	\$50.00	Renewal payments are required every year before the credential holders' expiration date.
Recertification Fee**	\$150.00	\$50.00	Recertification occurs every 5 years. Paperwork and the yearly renewal fee is required before the credential holders' expiration date.

Table 4—Application, Renewal and Recertification Fees and Guidelines

Someone You Should Know

Deborah Absher Keene, RN, BS, COHN-S

Married to her high school sweetheart, coal miner, and best friend for 39 years and blessed with a son, Austin, who is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and is co-owner of an Aquaculture Farm in the agriculture and coal fields of Southern Illinois, Deborah Keene talked with ABOHN about her passion for occupational health nursing.

Born and raised in the coal fields of Southwest Virginia, Deborah always had a strong interest in coal mining as her grandfathers, father, and uncles, all working coal miners, shared stories about their coal mining jobs and work life around the kitchen table. Through these discussions, she became acquainted with the coal mining industry, and greatly appreciated their job sacrifices and embraced their unique culture.

In 1975, she graduated from Southwest Virginia Community College with an Associate Degree in Nursing. After graduation, she worked as an RN for three years at a local hospital in several different modalities. She took a position of Instructor of EMT at a local community college where she taught EMT/First Aid/BLS and Health and Safety courses to employees of the coal mining industry. Deborah understood early on that her skills in nursing and teaching could make a difference in the coal miners' work lives and industry and it became her passion.

She was hired at S&S Corporation/Ingersoll Rand/Long-Airdox Company, a local manufacturer of Underground Mining Equipment as an Industrial Nurse and provided occupational health and safety services for employees of the business. During her years of employment at S&S, she transitioned into Safety, Health, and Human Resources.

Deborah became ABOHN certified in 1996. In her own words, "...I was passionate about the occupational health profession, and understood

the need to learn, grow, and develop professionally. It was a personal and professional accomplishment for me as I wanted to know what others knew so I could make contributions to the employees and company. Fortunately, at that time in my career, I worked for a company that recognized my contributions as a nurse, and supported my career growth and development. They allowed and encouraged me to move into management and pursue my credentials as a Certified Occupational Health Nurse-Specialist and continue my education. Of course, I was a driver in that as well, as I was passionate about expanding my career in occupational health and safety in business and industry. Industry was where I found my "professional place". In 1998, I received my B.S. in Health Science Management from Old Dominion University while working full-time in Occupational Health Nursing. "

Deborah strongly believes that, "Certified Occupational Health Nurse Specialists can define their place and make significant contributions in a variety of employment settings. However, our profession is not always recognized unless we educate others to our value. Becoming ABOHN certified allows you to present yourself as a professional nurse who specializes in the practice of Occupational Health Nursing just like all other nursing areas. Occupational Health and Safety is your choice of practice. We are practicing nurses who have chosen a different path, one that others do not understand unless we educate them about the value we can add to their business. "

Since 2006, Deborah has been employed as the Human Resource Manager of Lone Mountain Processing, Inc. Mining Complex located in Southeastern Kentucky, a subsidiary of the U.S. based Arch Coal, Inc., which is one of the world's top coal producers for the global steel and power generation industries, serving



customers on five continents. She delivers human resource services and programs for approximately 420 employees at an underground mining complex. These responsibilities include hiring, training and development, health and welfare, employee discipline, safety, health and wellness initiatives, emergency preparedness, benefit administration, site security, employment law compliance, management of work related injuries/illness, and return to work programs. Deborah is an active member of the Arch Coal Wellness Team which helps to maintain a productive and active workforce.

Deborah feels blessed to work with very professional, respectful, and ethical Management Teams who share her work goals and values especially understanding that employees are their most valuable asset and Management has a responsibility to recognize their needs and promote their success. She states "Employees who are engaged, trained, and balanced, understand the importance of mental and physical health, and support the mission and goals of the company are more productive."

Deborah is truly a testament to occupational health nursing and that's why we feel she is "Someone You Should Know."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 CLASS OF NEWLY BOARD CERTIFIED

"BOARD CERTIFICATION: ENGAGE EXCELLENCE"

Please 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 stringent examinations for certification.

Certified Occupational Health Nurse (COHN)

Karen Avella	Rex Griffiths	Alicia Keith	Rachel Pendergast
Thelma Bishop	Linda Guenther	Toni Kerney	Laura Petrillo
Betty Brown	Christie Harrell	Jacquelyn Killings	Lee Ann Santee
Olive Buckley	Debbie Hawks	Sulin Low	Kathleen Schweitzer
Mary Conover-Walker	Horacio Hernandez	Gabino Manzanares	Raymond Shanahan
Darla Dickerman	Georgia Himel	Amy McClure	Sheri Spencer
Katrina Dinan	Amie Hindman	Claudia Miller	Julie Steeby
Veronica Dobbins	Jessica Howell	Allen Miller	Csara Strong
Bonnie Dunton	Oh Sook Im	Nancy Moore	Pamela Swann
Cynthia Eisenstein	Changhong Jiang	Jennifer Morris	Connie Taylor
Catherine Ferrell	Cynthia Johnson	Virginia Mulderrig	Jason Troxell
Carol Gavwiner	Janice Johnson	Kellie Murphy	Ilene Turner
Amy Glowniak	Lisa Jones	Roger Parker	Irene Williams
	Alison Keegan	Lorie Patzak	Rosetta York

Certified Occupational Health Nurse - Specialist (COHN-S)

Barbara Abbott	John Dyer	Michelle Jones	Deborah Sampson
Loretta Adams	Robin Ellis	Karen Kelly	Christopher Savarese
Laura Arena	Jessica Ericson	Mona Knight	Allison Schuelke
Mary Armao	Renee Figurski	Nancy Krey	Patricia Shriner
Amelia Atalig-Smith	Lori Fishburn	Paula Lloyd	Joanne Spino
Connie Atchison	Ann Flowers	Maria Lanzi	Carla Stevens
Bambi Bailey	Myla Francia	Karen Mahoney	Suzanne Stone
Angeles Ballou	Simon Freyou	Jodie Mallette	Corey Stout
Judith Bartolo	Cheryl Gillen	Janet McHale	Stacy Stromgren
Mary Bell	Susan Godell	Lynn Metrow	Kathryn Swain
Lisa Benson	Susan Goldberg-McMenamin	Dawne Michael	Suzanne Tambasco
Carol Castelli	Mary Grecco	Carol Mikulay	Dinah Tichenor
Kathryn Charlton	Natalia Hammond	Barbara Moehlman	Jamie Traylor
Robert Clark	Kristi Harden	Helen Marie Mozuch	Shari Turley
Susan Cordesman	Nicole Heine	Stacy Nelson	Randall Van Stone
Lara Crouch	Lois Hernandez	Christy Nicholson	Leticia Vance
Teresa Cummins	Dale Hilliard	Mary Noel	Shelly Warrick
Bethany Cutler	Hazel Hirschmann	Nancy Oliver	Maria Whitney
Shannon Darket	Denise Hord	Betsy Pless	Cathy Wiegand
Sherri Davidson	Susan Howell	Ashley Polucci	Allena Wilson
Michael Dolliver	Christine Jacob	Sophia Quang	Patricia Zammit
Paula Dowding	Denise Janowiak	David Reeves	Steven Zimmerman
John Dyer	Leonora Johnson	Olivia Rogers	

Case Management (CM)

Zayra Bowman	Ramona Delzer	Cheryl Mello	Pamela Sims
Janice Carter	Cellie Dunn	Laureen O'Rourke	Dorothy Storm
Barbara Cassano	Jennifer Gates	Helen-Mae Reisner	Lea Wilkinson
Melinda Check	Colleen Hasler	Donna Robichaud	
Carmella Cola	Angeli Mancuso	Jeanette Schrimsher	

January 2015 BOD Meeting—Scottsdale, Arizona

The January 2015 BOD meeting was held in Scottsdale, Arizona from January 14—27, 2015. The Board worked diligently on developing questions for the exam banks and for the new volume of the CM CSAT. The board also reviewed the five year strategic plan. The Board identified specific goals to tackle in 2015. These include:

The Top 4 Bold Goals

- Reach more people
- Create strategic partnerships
- Meet/exceed financial plan
- Work across boundaries for global acceptance

The Top 4 Working Steps

- Contact OSHA & NIOSH to establish formal recognition program
- PR & Marketing Brand identification
- Publish articles in non-occupational health magazines
- Obtain admission for occupational health general course at universities

Message from the ABOHN Chair (continued from page 1)

Olson from Seattle, WA. At the same time I will be saying goodbye to the Board along with Mark Sebastian and Peggy Manuszak. It has been an honor to chair the American Board of Occupational Health Nurses and work together with the dedicated members of the Board of Directors and the staff. Mark has provided the Board with great insight into occupational health and is a dedicated professional. Peggy served two terms as Chair of ABOHN and was instrumental in assuring that ABOHN remains a premiere certification body. I want to offer my personal thanks to all of the Board members and welcome the new members. The Board will be in the capable hands of the new chair Jenlynn Balmer.

Lastly we need to say good bye to a member of ABOHN staff for the past 20 years. Ann Lachat will be stepping down as the CEO and joining her husband in a well deserved retirement. Ann has been the life and blood of ABOHN. Her knowledge of occupational health nursing and experience in the field has contributed to the growth of the organization and occupational health. She is the face and name of ABOHN's credential holders everywhere. Ann's contributions to the occupational health are endless. She has been an author of many articles in various professional journals on occupational health, a presenter at local, state, national and international organizations on issues related to occupational health and certifica-

tion and most recently a member of the task force that developed for the AAOHN Academy the Respiratory Protection Education & Resources Web kit.

Ann was hired in 1994 as the Director of Support Services and worked on the establishment of a two-credential program designed to meet the needs of the non-degreed population. As a result the COHN and COHN-Specialist (COHN-S) credentials were established. She was part of the accreditation process when The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) accredited the COHN-S examination. In January of 1998, she assisted in moving ABOHN into the information age, creating the ABOHN website (www.abohn.org) and worked to develop the Case Management specialty credential.

In 2001 Ann represented ABOHN at the Royal College of Nursing Occupational Health Conference in Nottingham, England presenting the results of the National Job Analysis/Role Delineation Study. In 2003, Ann was instrumental in the development of the Certification Self-Assessment Tests (CSATs) for both the COHN and COHN-S examinations and NOCA acknowledged accreditation of the COHN, COHN-S and Case Management examinations by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). In 2004 she worked to develop the new Safety Management credential SM for certified occupational health nurses in conjunction with BCSP and in

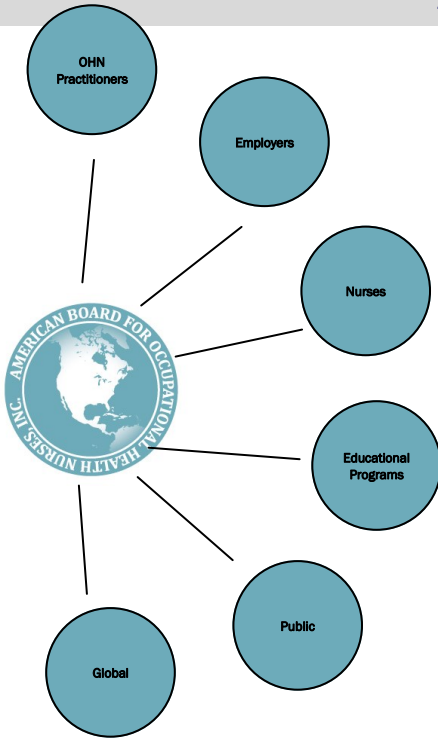
2007 Ann was selected as the new Executive Director of ABOHN at the Board of Directors meeting. Ann was named a Fellow by the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses in 2008 and attended the Federal Occupational Health Conference in 2009. That same year ABOHN joined with the Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense program of "Let's Get Certified Campaign." By 2012 Ann was working to revise the exams, blueprints and handbooks based on the results from the 2011 Practice Analysis and she delivered the 2011 Practice Analysis results at the Foreign Occupational Health Nurses European Union (FOHNEU) conference in Tarragona, Spain.

In 2014 Ann celebrated her 20th anniversary with ABOHN. She will be missed as the CEO of ABOHN but her spirit will live on in each and every certified occupational health nurse.

Please plan on stopping by the ABOHN Booth at the AAOHN National Conference in Boston to wish Ann the best in her retirement and we hope to see you at the ABOHN reception for all Occupational Health Nurses who are certified and those who are interested in certification on Wednesday March 25, 2015.

Regards,
Christine

PR & Marketing Focus for 2015—2016



The PR and Marketing Committee have identified several areas for our marketing campaign during 2015.

OHN Practitioners: Continue our efforts to reach those OHN's who do not carry an ABOHN certification.

Employers: Marketing focus for the Certified OHN will center around showcasing the value of Certified OHN's to business leaders, creating interest and jobs.

Nurses: Our survey's have indicated that many nurses don't know about or understand the specialty of occupational health and ABOHN's goal is to create interest in our specialty.

Educational Programs: The marketing committee is in the initial development stages of reaching out to nursing institutions where we will market our Career Guide and work with the nursing instructors to included introduction to occupational health nursing classes into their curriculums.

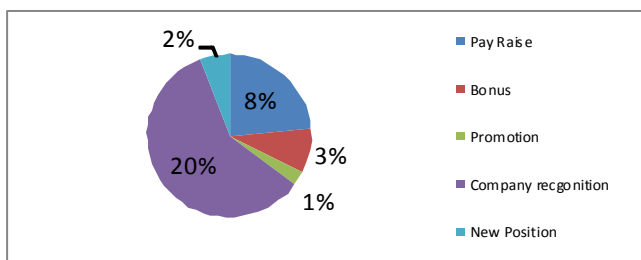
Public: As we look at our survey findings, we also reached the conclusion that a very small percentage of the general public understands the role of occupational health nursing. ABOHN is in the initial stages of creating an advertising campaign directed at educating the public on the occupational health nursing profession.

Global: More and more OHN's preparing for an ABOHN credential work outside of the U.S. Some work for U.S. global companies and others work for foreign businesses. These nurses believe that the U.S. standards, including certification, can benefit employers and their employees. ABOHN has been contacted by foreign nursing students for permission to access our Practice Analysis results and survey questions. These nurses are on the cutting edge of helping to bring the field of occupational health nursing into the global arena.

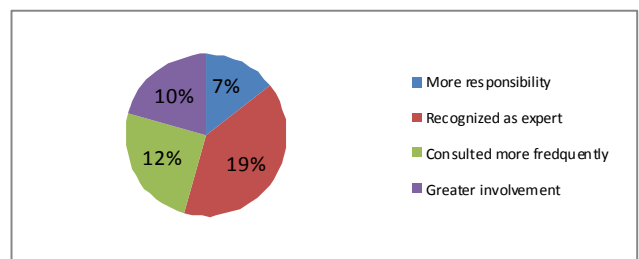
The Power of Your Credential

ABOHN sends a survey to each newly certified occupational health nurse after they hold the certification for one year. For marketing purposes, we ask our newly certified questions about how they heard of the OH field and how/where there employer advertised for an occupational health nurse. We also ask for information about what happens to the OHN after earning certification. Below are several charts depicting the overall percentage of benefits received within the 1st year of holding an ABOHN COHN or COHN-S credential.

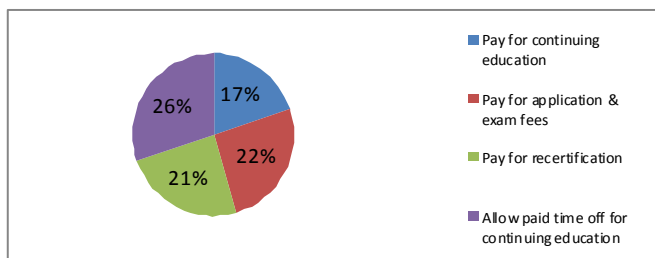
1. After certification, what benefits did you receive?



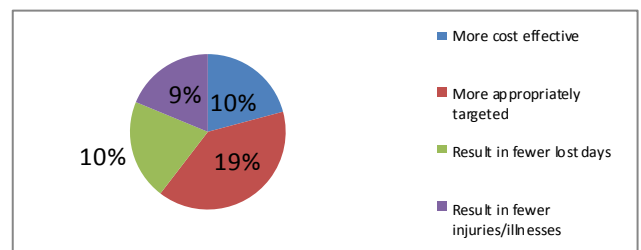
2. After certification, what changes in your practice have you experienced?



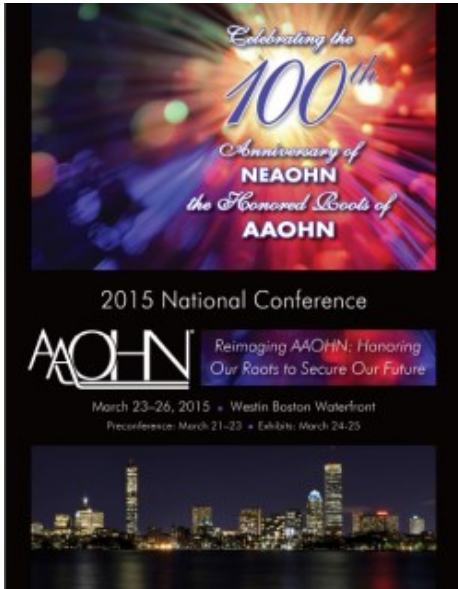
3. In what way(s) does your management support your certification?



4. After certification, do you feel that the programs you manage are:



Upcoming Events



AAOHN 2015 National Conference

Reimagining AAOHN: Honoring Our Roots to Secure Our Future

The goals of the 2015 AAOHN National Conference are to:

- Feature current and leading-edge best practices in the field of domestic, international occupational, and environmental health nursing and safety.
- Explore the latest technology and resources to improve the management of your occupational and environmental health and safety practice.
- Stimulate dialogue to advance the specialty of occupational, and environmental health nursing and safety.

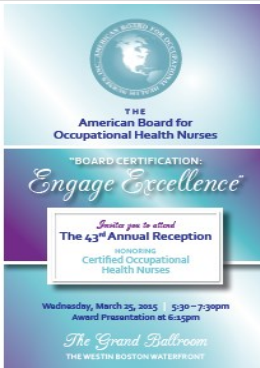
Preconference
March 21-23, 2015

Westin Boston Waterfront
Boston, MA

National Conference
March 23-26 2015

Visit ABOHN at AAOHN- Booth # 504

AAOHN 2015 Conference



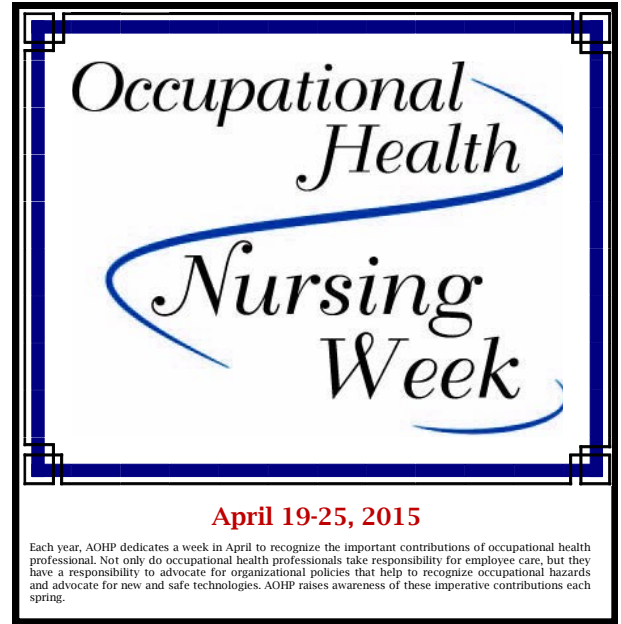
Stop by our booth to say hello and get your ABOHN "Digiclean" - the microfiber cleaner for your phone or tablet!

Don't forget...

The ABOHN reception
Wednesday, March 25, 2015

5:30—7:30pm
Grand Ballroom

Westin Boston Waterfront.



ABOHN Casting CALL!

ABOHN is working to showcase our credential holders. Why are YOU proud to be Board Certified? Let's tell people! We need participants to share their stories. It's easy...just take a video of yourself on your smart phone and send it to us at info@abohn.org. We will upload your video to our You Tube Channel. Look for additional information from us soon or stop by our booth at the AAOHN conference for more information.



LinkedIn

ABOHN has a thriving LinkedIn group. Currently we have 1206 connections with more professionals joining every day!

Are you LinkedIn?

LinkedIn is a great way to keep connected with other OH professionals, get current news and best practice advice and find others that share your passion for the OH field. Find us at www.linkedin.com and search

In the News...

Congratulations to

Ms. Kathleen Edwards, RN, COHN-S

on receiving the first

Military Health System's Senior Civilian Nursing Excellence Award!

Ms. Edwards, on being notified that she was selected to receive this award, penned the below email.

To my Occupational Health Nurse colleagues,

I received a very unexpected surprise last week that I want to share with all of you.....

I was selected to receive the first Military Health System's Senior Civilian Nursing Excellence Award!

I was humbled to be nominated for the award by my supervisor, Ms. Jane Hourigan (DCOS Healthcare Operations) and our NMW Nurse Executive, CAPT Jay Chambers.

I was indeed greatly surprised when informed that I had been selected as the awardee! There are four award categories, a senior and junior active duty nurse and senior and junior civilian nurse. The nominees were from all services including Public Health Service. The awards are sponsored from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Dr. Jonathon Woodson.

It is important to me to share this with all of you, not to bring recognition to myself, but because I am so very proud to receive this on behalf of all of us. We are in a specialty of nursing that usually flies under the radar in the military health system as we are not part of the mainstream beneficiary care mission. This award brings a moment of light to shine on our value and vital role in the readiness mission. I want you all to know that I will be accepting this award not just for me but for all of the past, present and future OHNs who provide their professional expertise to promote the health and safety of the DOD workforce. So... please take a moment to toast yourself, as I will be toasting you! You too have earned the recognition for a job well done!

I am so very appreciative to be the recipient of this award and to work with such dedicated nursing professionals.

Most sincerely,
Kathy

Kathleen A. Edwards, COHN-S
Occupational Medicine Program Manager
Navy Medicine West
San Diego, CA

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Recruit a Colleague for Certification

Congratulations to

Rebecca Mims, COHN-S

of Dow Chemical, located in Freeport, TX, for winning the 2014 *Recruit A Colleague for Certification* program award. Rebecca received a \$100.00 check for encouraging her colleague to sit for the exam. Fellow COHNs recruited 71 fellow colleagues to sit for the examinations in 2014.

All Certified Occupational Health Nurses (COHN) and Certified Occupational Health Nurse—Specialists (COHN-S) can recruit a fellow nurse working in occupational health. Prospective candidates can indicate on their application a particular COHN who has recruited them to initiate the process for certification. The ABOHN office keeps track of these individuals and a random drawing is conducted to pick the winner.

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 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 nation, 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 the share ABOHN's mission and values

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