

The ABOHN REPORT

Board Certification: Engage Excellence



American Board for
Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.

Spring 2017 - Volume 40—Issue 1

Message from the ABOHN Chair *by Jennylynn Balmenr*



Inside this issue:

Board of Directors	2
Class of 2016 Newly Certified	3
ABOHN Financials 2016	4
2016 Recertification Statistics	5
Someone You Should Know	6
Upcoming Events	7



Accredited by the :
National
Commission for
Certifying Agencies



Welcome to the Spring edition of the ABOHN newsletter! I am saddened that this will be my last newsletter article to you since my term is up in June, but I want to tell you about a few of the exciting things the Board of Directors is working on. In January the Board of Directors held our Winter meeting where we made key decisions including to begin planning for a practice analysis. Performing a practice analysis is costly, but it is key to maintaining our accreditation as a certifying body for occupational health nurses. During a practice analysis, we survey current certified occupational health nurses to see what duties they are performing in order to ensure our exams reflect current practice. We will begin this June by having a select group of volunteers collect background information such as past practice analyses, current educational curricula, and current position descriptions. This group will also draft a survey instrument which will be

piloted before being distributed nationally. If you are selected and receive the survey, please fill it out. You are helping to shape the future of occupational health nurse practice!

Also at the January Board meeting, we elected three new board members and new officers who will begin their terms in June. Melinda Harrison, Pamela Swann, and Daurice Holly are our new Directors and we elected Wanda Smiling to be Chair; Michele Willis to be Secretary; Noreen Olson to be Treasurer; Bev Hagar to be COHN-S Chair; Jean Drevdahl-Orchard to be COHN Chair; and Lucy Carlson to be CM Chair. I have every confidence that the new Board of Directors and officers will do a fantastic job at guiding the organization.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that the AAOHN National Conference and Global Summit is coming up April 23 - 27, 2017 in New Orleans, LA. Denise Knoblauch, ABOHN Exec-

utive Director and I will be presenting on The Value of Board Certification. In addition, Board Member, Lucy Carlson will present a poster on Occupational Health Nurse Board Certification. Different this year, in order to accommodate AAOHN's 75th anniversary celebration, our reception and awards ceremony will be April 24 at the opening of the exhibits. We will celebrate our award winners who have achieved the highest scores on the COHN-S, COHN, and CM exams in 2016 as well as the employer of the year. ABOHN will also have a booth in the vendor hall so please stop by and get your sticker to show your pride in your certification. Also encourage your colleagues who are not certified to stop by the booth as well. I hope to see you in New Orleans and continue to do the good work you do in protecting the health of our workers.



ABOHN 2016-2017 Board of Directors



Chair:	<i>Jennylynn Balmer</i>
Secretary:	<i>Paula Kerns</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Noreen Olson</i>
COHN-S Chair:	<i>Wanda Smiling</i>
COHN Chair:	<i>Paula Clay</i>
CM Chair:	<i>Paula Kerns</i>



Front Row: Left to Right: Denise Knoblauch, BSN, RN, COHN-S/CM (Executive Director); Beverly Hagar, BSN, RN, COHN-S

Middle Row: Left to Right: Noreen Olson, MN, RN, ARM, COHN-S; Michele Willis, BSN, RN, COHN-S; Paula Clay, MPH, RN, COHN/CM/SM; Jean Drevdahl-Orchard, PhD, RN-BS, CCM, CIH, CHMM, COHN-S/CM

Back Row: Left to Right: Wanda Smiling, BSN, CARN, COHN-S; Jennylynn Balmer, MPA, RN, CSP, COHN-S, FAAOHN (Chair); Denise Matthews, BSN, RN, COHN-S; Paula Kerns, BSN, RN, COHN-S/CM; Lucille Carlson, MPA, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN

Not Pictured: Jim Persoon, PhD, (Public Member); Carole Cusack, MBA (Managing Director)

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.

Board of Directors Nominations

As of this printing, our Board of Director positions are filled for 2017-2018. If this situation changes, ABOHN will ask for candidates to apply for the Board. We constantly strive to represent all industries and regions, including Canada, with whom we have a Reciprocity agreement.

THANK YOU!



CONGRATULATIONS ABOHN NEWLY BOARD CERTIFIED

CLASS OF 2016

“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

Certified Occupational Health Nurse (COHN)

Abeyta, Catalina
Boswell, Tammy Lee
Brazeal, Jr., Jerry
Cranmore, Bryan
Crook, Mary Elizabeth
Crutchfield, Kim Marie
Duhaime, Lynn Marie
Dziendziel, James
Eskew, Lendi
Hall, Shannon

Harris, Lauren
Holbrook, ReAnn
Jaeger, Kelli
Jean, Meagan
Kain, Laurie
Kapolka, Megan
King, Lisa
Knittle, Angela
Lassila, Lisa
Lewis, Casie

Lipp, Kimberly
Lovelace, Connie
McCusker, Joanne
McMillan, Janet
Neidhart, Diana
Novosad, Jane
O'Dell, Joan
Peake, Rondoy
Probus, Rhonda
Reimolds, Alisa

Satory, Pamela
Smith, Victoria
Thornhill, Sherri
Tupyckyj, Natalie
Walker, Lisa
Wells, Debra
White, Donnie
White, Rose

Certified Occupational Health Nurse - Specialist (COHN-S)

Abel, Melissa
Batto, Jeanmarie
Beganovic, Edin
Benzie, Francine
Bobbitt-Gray, Tammy
Bowman, Frances
Brown, Beth
Bullock, Nicholas
Byun, Hannah
Cabreria, Suzanne
Campbell, Janet
Carr, Vanessa
Cautilli, Carolyn
Clark, Sonja
Daniels, Stella
Debroux, Sophia
Dela Cruz, Jan Clare
Dembowski, Eileen
DiBiase, Catherine

Dissell, Patricia
Esquibel, Christina
Faidley, Stephanie
Finley-Harrier, M. Constance
Fowler, Steven
France, Kelli
Goodyear, Nancy
Hammonds, Hannah
Hansen, Shirley
Harsch, Joyce
Hegman, Christina
Holland, Jennifer
Jackson, Kevin
Jones, Anna
Kalaf, Karen
Koors, Jill
Langston, Christine
Lightfuss, Susan
Lukashow, Christine

Lykins, Charmian
Martin-Widawsky, Kim
McGarrah, Antonia
Morgan, Marilyn
Mustachia, Rachel
Nickell, Scott
Obney, Angel
Olney, Jane
Ottinger, Helen
Park, Yeonhui
Parker, Lynette
Pegan, Jacqueline
Prescott, Jennifer
Putney, Anthony
Rice, Sherry Lynn
Robinson, Anthony
Sadler, Audrey
Savage, Elizabeth
Savant, Susan

Seufert, Diana
Sharp, Victoria
Shaw, Diane
Shear, Mary Beth
Slate, Lesley Jo
Smith, Angela
Smith, Cindy
Smoak, Tammie
Stauber, Sallye
Stevenson, Holly
Stokes, Nicole
Tupper, Ashley
Vincent, Jeanne
Walden, April
Wicker, Wanda
Wolf, Donna
Woods, Danielle

Case Management - (CM)

Butts, Kathleen
Carlson, Lucille
Chebotar, Kathleen
Dean, Kathleen
Drevdahl-Orchard, Jean

Ellis, Dana
Ferrell, Catherine
Hernandez, Lois
Jackson, Eden
Johnson, Rhonda

Luchini, Tamora
Maguire, Patricia
Mose, Constance
Nika, Denise
Spence, Derleen

Ward, Kevin
Wright, Candy
York, Rosetta

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 12/31/2016. As the base of our credential holders approach retirement age, we see a slight decline in Active credential holders. Table 2 shows a slight decline in our applications in 2016 versus 2015. 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	885	7	37
COHN/CM	199	2	9
COHN/SM	0	0	0
COHN/CM/SM	3	0	0
COHN-S	2172	33	329
COHN-S/CM	553	9	69
COHN-S/SM	5	0	0
COHN-S/CM/SM	0	0	0
CM	0	0	0
Total 12/31/2016*	3819	51	445
Total 12/31/2015	4261	59	362

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.

*These numbers do not include those certificants' whose renewal and/or recertification paperwork was processed after 12/31/2016.

Credentialing Statistics—Pass Rate Percentage

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%
2015	64	48	75%	148	102	69%	22	18	82%
2016	53	34	64.2%	119	70	58.8%	23	18	78.3%

Table 2 (right)

The number of candidates who passed their certification examination decreased slightly in 2016, based on the data from 2015.

Overall applications in 2016 decreased from the previous year and the percentage of those who passed the COHN, COHN-S and CM exams decreased as well.

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
2010	1053	922	87%
2011	1031	728	71%
2012	615	388	64%
2013	1131	783	69%
2014	1096	752	78.6%
2015	962	567	58%
2016	721	452	62.6%

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

Eileen C. Hoyson, BS, RN, COHN-S



With only 8 OSHA compliance officers working in the northeast section of Pennsylvania, Eileen Hoyson is busy! Eileen is an Industrial Hygienist/Compliance Officer with the US Department of Labor, OSHA, and for 30 years has responded to employee complaints as well as accidents and fatalities. Eileen is proud of her capacity in helping to keep the American worker safe and healthy so that they can lead long and productive lives. Eileen tells us “I work out of the Wilkes-Barre Area office of OSHA. We have 3 industrial hygienists and 5 safety inspectors who cover a jurisdiction that includes 20 counties in Pennsylvania. Most inspections I conduct independently but on occasion, I am teamed up with a safety inspector to do a safety and health inspection.”

In her busy job, she conducts on-site inspections of all types of workplaces. The list includes metal fabrication shops, sawmills, auto body shops, nursing homes, methadone construction, and healthcare companies. Along with these industries, Eileen also inspects group homes, plastics manufacturers,

meat processing, warehousing, construction and many others.

Eileen states, “Being an OSHA inspector is like preventative medicine in that we try to maintain the health of the worker by eliminating the hazards that make them sick.” In her position with OSHA, her inspection activities involve evaluating employee exposures to health hazards such as asbestos, lead, solvents, combustible dust, noise, blood borne pathogens and ergonomic hazards. Eileen evaluates an employer’s efforts to minimize employee exposures through the use of engineering controls and preventative programs such as hearing conservation and she conducts air monitoring; collecting samples for analysis. During the inspection process, inspector’s try to determine if there is a correlation between an employee’s health concerns and the workplace chemical exposures. Citations are issued if the employer is not in compliance with OSHA regulations.

Eileen shared a story of an inspection related to overexposure to carbon monoxide when 3 employees of an excavating company collapsed in a trench. They were rescued and taken by ambulance and Life Flight to a facility for hyperbaric treatments. Thankfully, all three survived. The source of the carbon monoxide was gases that resulted from the blasting of the shale to enable the drainage pipes to be laid in the trench. The lab values of carboxyhemoglobin in the workers’ blood were used to calculate the exposure levels. Ei-

leen believes each inspection is a new and interesting event. She always tries to stay open to each new learning experience and build upon her knowledge base. She encourages others to consider a career as an OSHA compliance officer. She admits that each inspection requires not only on-site time but the drafting of an inspection file that includes citation documentation that will stand up in court. “Yes, there is lots of paperwork”, she added!

Eileen has been married for 39 years to Jim Hoyson and has 2 dogs, Tag, an English Setter puppy and Hatch, a 7-year old Golden Retriever. In her spare time, Eileen participates in several dog sports with Hatch, including conformation, nosework, rally and especially canine musical freestyle. Eileen enjoys choreographing the routines, selecting the music and training the various behaviors. Hatch, is truly a ‘Dancing dog’!

That’s why we think Eileen Hoyson is: **SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW!**



In the News...

Recruit a Colleague for Certification

Congratulations to
Phyllis Gaskins, COHN-S

of the Smithsonian Institute located in Maryland, for winning the 2016 *Recruit A Colleague for Certification* program award. Bonnie received a \$100.00 check for encouraging her colleague to sit for the exam. ABOHN credential holders recruited 99 fellow colleagues to sit for the examinations in 2016.

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/COHN-S holder 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.

Upcoming Events

AAOHN 2017 National Conference



History. Passion. Performance.

Together Towards Tomorrow

Global Summit

April 23 -24, 2017

National Conference

April 24-27, 2017

Stop by the ABOHN
Booth #255 in the Exhibit Hall!

THE 45th ANNUAL
ABOHN Awards
Reception

*Honoring
the 2016 Class of
Newly Certified
Occupational Health Nurses!*

Tuesday, April 25, 2017
3:15pm
Empire Foyer

September 6 - 9, 2017
Denver, Colorado

AOHP 2017 National Conference
September 6 - 9, 2017
Denver, CO

March 19, 2017

**CELEBRATE
CERTIFIED
NURSES**

AMERICAN NURSES
CREDENTIALING CENTER

Celebrate OHN Week!

April 17-23, 2017

**PROUD TO BE AN
OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH NURSE**

Showing a Culture of Health and Safety in the Workplace
#OHNWEEK
www.abohn.org

Occupational Health
2017 NURSES WEEK

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 that share ABOHN's mission and values

*American Board for Occupational Health Nursing, Inc.
201 E. Ogden Ave., Suite 114
Hinsdale, IL 60521*



Phone: 630-789-5799 Toll Free: 888-842-2646 Fax: 630-789-8901 Website: www.abohn.org email: info@abohn.org

ABOHN STAFF

Executive Director Denise Knoblauch, BSN, RN, COHN-S/CM

Managing Director Carole M. Cusack, MBA

Administrative Assistant Margaret (Molly) Taylor, BS