Greetings From Your Section Chair

2013 has given the state of Tennessee an especially beautiful fall. The fall foliage colors were glorious and the moderate temperatures provided a perfect transition from summer to the start of winter. This last week as the country celebrated Thanksgiving, I hope you had an opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends.

In this Thanksgiving season, as I reflect on personal and professional blessings, I am thankful for the National and State AWHONN Organizations. I appreciate the tremendous benefits the organization provides nurses and the positive impact of the organization on patient care and outcomes. I am honored and proud to be affiliated with the Tennessee AWHONN Organization. While there are many reasons to be proud of the Tennessee AWHONN team, three specific Tennessee AWHONN assets come to mind this Thanksgiving. This year a most enthusiastic and hardworking team of Tennessee AWHONN members served as the Host Committee for the National AWHONN Conference here in Nashville! The Committee will long be remembered for their gracious hospitality and “Minnie Pearl” hats. Once again this year, formal and informal AWHONN leaders worked very hard to coordinate a variety of educational opportunities to assist nurses to improve health outcomes for women, mothers, and newborns. Finally, I am extremely grateful for the collaborative spirit that has evolved with organizations such as TIPQC, the March of Dimes, the State and Local Health Departments and other groups that partner with us as Tennessee AWHONN Members to achieve a mutual mission.

As we wrap up 2013, local chapter leaders are encouraged to visit with chapter members and non-members to identify needs and establish plans for 2014 chapter AWHONN activities. If you have not been actively previously but are interested in becoming more active or committing to a leadership role, please do reach out to your local AWHONN Chair or one of the Section Officers.

continued...
What will Tennessee AWHONN look like in 2014?

On behalf of the Tennessee AWHONN Section Officers, I wish you a joyous holiday season! As you make your New Year’s resolution contemplate your 2014 professional development and goals. Seriously consider the contribution you can make and the benefit you will gain as an active AWHONN participant or section or chapter leader.

Thank you for all you do every day to mentor and support your colleagues and provide highest quality care for the patients and families you serve!

Looking forward to a prosperous and enriched 2014 Tennessee AWHONN!

Best Regards,
Donna Frye, RN, MN
Tennessee Section Chair

Plans for the 2014 Tennessee Section Conference Program have been in progress since last July. Both maternal and neonatal pre-conferences will be held May 8th. The conference is scheduled for May 9th. Both the preconferences and the conference will be held at St. Thomas Midtown (formerly Baptist Medical Center) in Nashville. The conference will be comprised of three conference tracks including: maternal, newborn, and potpourri. Women’s health, leadership growth and development, legislative engagement, and planning and presenting education activities will be included in the potpourri sessions. National, state, and local speakers will address hot topics and provide the latest evidence regarding contemporary topics. The content planned will be meaningful for staff nurses, nurse managers and educations, community health nurses, and those in academics as well as nursing students. Watch the website for the final agenda! Do mark your calendars now and request time off to participate! Please do plan to bring friends and come!

Membership of additional conference committees will be finalized in January. AWHONN Members interested in serving on a conference committee or serving as a room hostess or moderator are asked to e-mail a state officer to communicate their interest. New features of the 2014 Tennessee AWHONN conference will include a poster exhibit as well as dinner for Tennessee Maternal Newborn and Women’s Health Nursing Educators.

As a Tennessee AWHONN Member you have an opportunity to participate in charting the course for the organization in 2014! What are your expectations of your professional organization? What professional development needs can you meet through Tennessee AWHONN at the chapter or section level? How would you like to be involved? It is not too early to consider running for a 2015 chapter or section office....

Save the Date!
Tennessee Section Preconference May 8th
Tennessee Conference May 9th
St. Thomas Mid Town, Nashville

More to come

Brittney Matthews Baird, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
Courtney V. Burgin
Mary Elizabeth Collier, BSN, RN
Jenna Colleen Dillon, RN
Mrs. Rachel Denise Hobbs, AD, CCRN
Cheryl A. LeBlanc
Kaye Nickell, Ph.D, RN
Andrea Phillips, BSN, RN Student
Amy K. Skerlec, AD, RN
Courtney Stansbury, BSN, RN, WHNP
Candice Summers, RN
Emily Taylor, MN, RN, RNCP
Jocelyn Kay Wires, MN
Liz Yarbro, RN

New 14 Members
August 25 - December 2, 2013
Middle TN Chapter
Melanie H. Morris and Barbara Padovich, Chairs

Save the Date!

Tuesday, December 10, 2013
"Celebrate the Caring Spirit"
is the theme of the Middle Tennessee March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Banquet

Held at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. This annual event recognizes nurses in 16 categories for their tireless work to provide care, comfort and support to their patients. Sumner Regional Medical Center is sponsoring along with the March of Dimes. To purchase a table or tickets call 615-800-7184 or visit www.marchofdimes.com/tennessee

The focus areas for our group this quarter were service and education. The Middle Tennessee Chapter participated in two fundraising events that supported organizations dedicated to the wellbeing of women and newborns. The first was the Nurses for Newborns Walk held at LP Field in Nashville on September 14th. AWHONN volunteers ran a booth focused on future nurses. Kids aged 3-12 had opportunities to “give shots,” “bandage broken arms and legs,” and swaddle babies under the supervision of AWHONN members! "Hello Kitty” and “Spiderman” were among the most popular tattoos requested by the clientele. Students from Lipscomb, Belmont, and Vanderbilt Schools of Nursing also were among the many who made this event a success. Later in the month, the Hope Clinic for Women hosted their Fun for Life Family Fest…. AWHONN members cheered the runners through the racecourse and on to the finish line!

AWHONN Webinars presented at the fall meetings included:

Perinatal Code Management and Amniotic Fluid Embolism

In addition to the continuing education credits, members were able to network and plan future activities and events.

Speaking of the future, check out the 2014 events calendar to be posted soon at www.AWHONN.org. Look for important upcoming dates of interest as well as information for future meetings and events. 

Celebrate the Magic of Nursing

Excellence in Orlando
June 14-18, 2014!

Join us and represent Tennessee at the National Convention held at Disney Coronado Spring Resort in Orlando, Florida.

We would love to have you join us and the other 3000 nurses and healthcare providers committed to promoting the health of women and newborns!