



# Five Alive

South Central Region

July, 2008

The Newsletter of the South Central WOCN Region WOCN

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## *President's Message July 2008*

Jill Conwill

From what I hear our 40<sup>th</sup> national conference celebration was a hit. I wish I could have been there but Ken Clark did a fabulous job filling in for me. If you were unable to make it you missed a "standing room only" regional dinner meeting. We had over 60 members attend... largest group I can remember. The hotel was huge and was good exercise (lots of walking from the hotel rooms to the conference center) justifying eating desserts.

At the January transitional meeting we had discussed ways that we could recognize our members. We have had the SCR of the Year award but this left out many of our members because they are the only WOCN in their area. Cindy Barefield reviewed the awards at the regional dinner meeting in Orlando: the new SCR Awards for Educator and Rookie of the Year and Manufacturer/Vendor of the Year. The educator or rookie can nominate themselves. It's time to blow your own horn! Please refer to the link to our website for more information

<http://www.scrwocn.org/awards/awards.htm>

If you are a member of the Wound Forum you have seen the header "**WOCN Immediate Action Needed to Delay Competitive Bidding**". Please read the articles under Government Affairs section of this *Five Alive*. WOCN thinks it is appropriate to delay the implementation of

*Alive*. WOCN thinks it is appropriate to delay the implementation of competitive bidding so more time can be given to studying such things as clinical outcomes and access

We are only as strong as our membership...we need and welcome your participation. There are committees that can use your help, submit 5 *Alive* articles on clinical situations, helpful hints and news from the WOCN groups in our region...all of which can be used for PGP points. If you would like to become more active in your organization this is the way to do it. By the way, the WOCNCB announced that they have a new booklet out. WOCNCB is trying to make it easier for active members to take credit for the things we do everyday.

Coming up soon is the fall conference in Oklahoma City. The committee has been working hard to bring us outstanding topics and speakers. The conference center is in the heart of Bricktown which offers a variety of venues to meet everyone's interests. There are the Botanical Gardens, the Art Center, the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, restaurants and shops. Watch for additional conference information coming soon to the website. Hope to see you all there.

## Pearls & Tid Bits

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By: Jill Conwill

The UOAA has a new program to assist ostomates attend their national conference. It is called the CARES program. As the program was presented to the UOAA Managing Board of Directors, it was designed to only help those who are attending their FIRST National Conference. It is also designed, but not bound, to help the new ostomates first and foremost. Below, you will find some bullet points for the basic outlay of the program.

- \* New ostomates will take precedence in the consideration process.
- \* First time National Conference Attendee.
- \* Member of an affiliated support group (this can be part of the YODAA, 30+, or a local support group). If there is not one near them, an application can be submitted and taken into consideration.
- \* They need to subscribe to the Phoenix (if not before, then after the conference)
- \* Up to \$650.00 will be given to help counter some of the travel and hotel costs, to be used only for those aspects of the expenses. The funds are not to be used to finance family members, or additional days of stay, shopping, or food. If their travel and room expenses are not \$650.00, the excess will remain in the CARES account for the next year's recipients.
- \* The attendee will need to pay for the airfare/travel initially then will be reimbursed. Same requirement for the room reimbursement.



## Government Affairs

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### WOCN Action Successful in Delaying Competitive Bidding Program

Thanks to all of the WOCN members the competitive bidding has been delayed, possibly dead.

The House of Representatives and the Senate voted late yesterday to override the president's veto of a Medicare bill that would delay national competitive bidding for 18 to 24 months.

The House voted 383-41 and the Senate voted 70-26 to override the veto. The bill delays competitive bidding in exchange for a 9.5% nationwide cut for all products included in Round 1 of the program. It also exempts certain high-end rehab items from competitive bidding.

- Competitive bid program delay (18-24 month delay of Rounds 1 and 2 of the bid program). Terminates contracts awarded under Round 1 and restart the contracting process in those areas in 2009. Round 2 contracting process will begin in 2011. CMS cannot apply bid rates in non-bid areas until Round 2 is completed.

- Offset to pay for delay. In January 2009, the product categories included in Round 1 will be reduced by 9.5% nationwide. This policy does not affect diabetic supplies furnished by retail suppliers because they were not covered by the bidding program. Items that had been subject to the reduction will receive a 2% payment increase in 2014, except in any area where a competitive bidding contract is in effect or CMS has otherwise adjusted payment rates. Items that are not in a bid area will receive the full CPI update in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. In 2014, these items will receive the CPI update plus 2%.

- Other changes. Excludes negative pressure wound therapy from Round 1 and requires CMS to evaluate how these items are coded and paid.

## SpotLight

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### Spotlight on Janet M. Davis and Coni Ellis

Janet M. Davis is a Nurse Consultant for 3M, providing skin and wound education to healthcare providers. Janet's transition into the market place came as a result of two diverging events. The first event was a long-term career goal of working as an educator in the skin & wound care industry. The second event was the timing of an opportunity that presented itself in May 2008. Janet now enjoys working for Accredo Clinical Business Solutions, a Medco company. Accredo employees WOC nurses who become Nurse Consultants for 3M.

As a Nurse Consultant, Janet covers a 5-state territory in the South Central US (New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, & Louisiana) and supports 8 sales representatives. Her primary duties are to deliver CE presentations, product in-services, and educate the sales force on patient and staff's needs from the manufacturer. Janet gets paid to practice her passion of educating others about skin and wound care.

Coni Ellis has also made a recent change and now works as a Nurse Consultant for Convatec Company. Presently she is scheduled west of the Mississippi to conduct presentations focusing on ostomy wound care for WOCN's.

She is scheduled to attend WOCN regional meetings in Des Moines, IA October, Portland and Seattle in November 2008. She has not forgotten to circulate in Texas. Coni has plans to be in Houston for the Harris County Hospital District "Wound Care Update" June 2008 and at the Select Specialty "Wound Care Seminar" in October 2008. In February 2009 she will be in the Austin area for the Seton WOCN Seminar.

Seminars and dinner meetings are a great opportunity for her to network with former graduates of the UT MD Anderson WOCNEP where she taught so many. She says that she really enjoys seeing how happy these nurses are and hearing them express how it was the "best career choice ever to become a WOCN!"

Between these engagements she works on the WOCN NCPC for the 2009 conference

Between these engagements she works on the WOCN NCPC for the 2009 conference in St. Louis and the SCR WOCN CPC for the 2009 cruise. She will be presenting on her favorite subject – yes that would be SEX at the Oncology Nursing Society Institutes of Learning in Seattle in November.

Coni also stays busy with my three grand kids Bentleigh (7) Jacob (3) and Ethan (20 months). You may find her being a Girl Scout Unit Leader at day camp with Bentleigh. Three days a week the grandchildren spend the morning at her home having fun making crafts, playing games, singing songs and getting each other wet.

## Clinical Corner

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### *Grief and the Ostomy Patient*

How many times have you had a new Ostomy patient that refuses to look at their Ostomy? Have you also observed some patients with a good pouching surface may be having more trouble than they should keeping a pouch on over 2 days? Have you considered your patient's progression through the grief process?

In my years of working with patients with Ostomies in home health I have observed patients struggling with progression through the grief process. This may be related to their new diagnosis or with acceptance of their Ostomy.

We all are aware that Ostomy patients do go through a sort of grief process, just as anyone who may be dealing with the loss of a loved one. We are all busy at work and too often we rush through our assessment and do not assess where our patients are in the grief process.

The stages of the grief as identified by Kubler-Ross are

Denial

Anger

Bargaining

Depression

Acceptance

Denial, anger, bargaining, or depression will impair our patients from learning self-care. I feel it is our responsibility as Ostomy nurses to stop and talk to our patients.

I have found that I have to put down my clipboard and just sit down and ask, "so... how are you doing". Many times this is all it takes to help patients open up and talk about their concerns. The sooner patients move into the acceptance stage of grieving, the sooner they will have success with managing their Ostomy.

Ken Clark RN, CWON

Gilbert's Home Health

a Gentiva Company



## Sharing nETWork

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### Ostomy Pouch Covers

*Jill Conwill*

- Pouch covers help to promote confidence and self-assurance as well as to detract from any potential discomfort that may be associated with an ostomy.
- The pouch cover helps to diminish any noise that may be associated with the plastic collection bag movement.
- The pouch cover conceals the appearance of the collection bag and also assists in avoiding skin irritations.
- The pouch covers lessen any uneasiness or worry that may be associated with intimacy while increasing confidence

Visit these web sites to check out cover options:

[www.bagit.biz](http://www.bagit.biz)

[www.designerpouchcover.com/ostomyclub.html](http://www.designerpouchcover.com/ostomyclub.html)

[www.cmostomysupply.com/cm\\_html/p\\_pouch1.html](http://www.cmostomysupply.com/cm_html/p_pouch1.html)

<https://www.shop.cov-r-shield.com>

[www.myheartties.com/coverlet.php](http://www.myheartties.com/coverlet.php)

[www.ostomysolutions.com](http://www.ostomysolutions.com)

[www.kmedpro.com/special/ostomy.htm](http://www.kmedpro.com/special/ostomy.htm)

[www.cov-r-shield.com](http://www.cov-r-shield.com)

[www.pouchpals.com](http://www.pouchpals.com)

Also visit our Ostomy manufacturers, several make pouch covers (Hollister, Convatec, Nu-Hope...)

## Scholarship Information

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### How do I apply for a SCR WOCN Poster Scholarship?

**Step 1** – Submit an Abstract describing a research study, case study or practice innovation in the areas of professional practice, wound, ostomy or continence to the WOCN. Abstracts are accepted through Monday, November 19, 2007. Go to [www.wocn.org](http://www.wocn.org) website for complete instructions for submission of Abstracts.

**Step 2** – Once you have been notified that your Abstract is accepted by WOCN, you may apply for a scholarship from SCR WOCN to help defray the costs of poster development.

**Step 3** – Access the SCR website at [www.scrwocn.org](http://www.scrwocn.org). The criteria to determine eligibility for the Poster Presentation Scholarship is located under the Scholarships tab on the left side of the homepage. When the Scholarship page is accessed, scroll down to the Poster Presentation Scholarship where a link to the application is located.

**Step 4** – Complete the application and send the application along with verification of acceptance of Abstract for presentation at WOCN to [dfulmer@uafortsmith.edu](mailto:dfulmer@uafortsmith.edu) or mail the completed information to:

Debbie Fulmer, SCR Scholarship Chair  
7219 South T Street  
Fort Smith, AR 72903

The **SCR Youth Rally/YODDA Scholarship Fund** is available to youth or young adults who have bowel or bladder dysfunction, who live within the SCR region, and are attending one of the available summer camps. Complete instructions and the application forms are available on the respective organization's websites: [www.rally4youth.org](http://www.rally4youth.org) or [yodaa@uoaa.org](mailto:yodaa@uoaa.org)

A copy of the completed application form is also submitted to the SCR-WOCN Scholarship Committee Chair for review and determination of eligibility by the SCR Scholarship Committee. These scholarships are also available to any SCR WOC nurse who will be attending the summer camps as counselors or camp nurses. Scholarships cover the cost of registration and other expenses which facilitate the youth, young adults, or WOC nurses' ability to attend the camp.

**Summer 2008 camp dates currently available are:**

Youth Rally (July 12-17) \$425 registration

Fort Smith, AR 72903

## WOCNs in Action (where your local group meets)

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Please send any updates about your local WOCN group to [Joan M. Flynn](mailto:Joan.M.Flynn@wocn.org) RN,CWOCN,CWS

# SALE

Store items are now up to 50% off...act soon.

SCR WOCN STORE

**Austin, TX**—Meets 2nd Wed. at 6:00 PM. Contact Karen Hollis @ (512)-324-1053.

**Arkla-Tex**—Meets 2nd Fri. of each quarter at 6:30 PM in Bossier City, LA. Contact Margaret Davis @ (318)-675-6924.

**Baton Rouge**—Meet at 7pm on the third Thursday in Jan, Apr, July, and Oct.

Location varies. Please call Laurie Hood at 225-381-6355 for further information.

**Jackson, MS**—Contact Julie Turner, Work 601-200-6060, cell 601-668-8116

**Dallas, TX**—Meets 2nd Thurs. of each month at 11:30 AM at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital

2222 Welborn  
Dallas TX 75219  
Pickard Conference Room, 3rd floor, Building C  
Contact Nikki House 214-559-7855

**Northeast Texas WOCN**—Meets quarterly at various locations in the

Longview-Tyler area. Contact Tammi Short@ (903) 297-2560.

**Fort Worth, TX**—Meets 1st Thurs. at 11:30 AM at the Klabzuba Tower. Contact Valerie Pemberton @ (817) 820-4970 (W).

**Houston, TX**—Houston Area WOC nurses meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Contact Cynthia Worley at 713-792-3092 for more details on meeting times/locations.

**Houston Northwest**—Meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 6PM. Contact: Pat Thompson, (W) 281-397-2799; (H) 832-484-8656; pat.thompson@tenethealth.com

**Lafayette, LA**—Meets 3rd Thurs. of each quarter at 6:30 PM. Contact Rita Hernandez @ (337) 981-4935.

**Oklahoma City, OK**—Meets 3rd Wed.

of every other month on “on-call” basis in the American Cancer Society office. Members will receive mailing notice of when meeting will be held. Contact Sharon Williams @ (405) 949-3770.

**San Antonio, TX**—Meets 3rd Wed. at the American Cancer Society at 4:00 PM. Contact

**Are you Up to Date?**

Have you checked out your member information lately? Go to [www.wocn.org](http://www.wocn.org) and log on under the member section and check or update your member contact information, demographics, communication and directory information.

The only way the South Central Region can contact you is if we have up to date records from the national office. The national office needs YOU to update the information.

Office. The national office needs FCC to update the information.

For regional membership questions or information, contact:

[Joan M. Flynn](#) RN,CWOCN,CWS

phone:512-694-9359 CST

Wed. at the American Cancer Society at 4:30 PM. Contact Diane Rudolph @ (830) 336-3565.

**The Lake Charles Area CWOCN**  
Third Thursday of each quarter

Please email Erica Roach for any questions

[erica.roach@christushealth.org](mailto:erica.roach@christushealth.org)