

August 2008

The SCR fall conference is right around the corner. Hope everyone is planning to attend. I attended a teleconference for the regions and affiliates last night and wanted to share some of the information with you.

The presenters on this call were:

*Mary Wolff, Public Policy Chair

*Lee Ann Krapfl, Past Public Policy Chair,

*Chris Rorick (http://www.bryancavestrategies.com/bios_PDF/RorickC-Gen.pdf) from Bryan Cave Strategies

*Bill Applegate (http://www.bryancavestrategies.com/bios_PDF/ApplegateW-Gen.pdf) from Bryan Cave Strategies.

Discussion included:

- Political environment in Washington (why people should be paying attention)
 - Upcoming Presidential, Congressional and Senate elections and implications for WOCN.
 - Grassroots advocacy - why is it important? Be sure to check out the "Promotion of the Advocacy and Grassroots Politics Toolkit" available on the website free of charge. It is very concise tool that everyone should read.

http://www.wocn.org/pdfs/About_Us/advocacy_and_policy/advocacy_and_grassroots_toolkit.pdf

You can earn approved contact hours for your PGP points by logging on to the Global Learning center and complete the post test <http://www.amedcouniversity.com/wocn/>

- Recent legislative activity of interest to WOCN
 - Title VII Nursing Workforce Development Reauthorization (and WOCN's impact)
 - Delay of Competitive bidding (current status and anticipated direction with a change in administration)
- Regulatory Update—the hot CMS topic
 - Final rules for Inpatient Prospective Payment Changes: A Guide for the WOC Nurse. More information can be found on the WOCN website or by clicking on the following link: http://www.wocn.org/About_Us/advocacy_and_policy/ipps_guidance/
- New legislation of interest:
 - Prosthetic parity (as possible method to obtain unbundling of ostomy supplies from home health PPS?)
- Local issues - how the regions/affiliates can impact the fiscal intermediaries. Write or call your local government officials regarding proposed bills.
- NIWI: **March 29-31, 2009 Nurse in Washington Internship**. WOCN will have partial scholarships available (it covers the registration fee of \$725). SCR has a scholarship as well. Any interested parties need to apply for the scholarship from National first, notify the SCR Scholarship Chair that they are applying to National office and once they hear from National whether or not they were awarded the partial scholarship then SCR will pay the remainder or the costs. WOCN will coordinate a Day on the Hill around the NIWI experience.

It has been a good year for WOCN visibility in Washington. Senator Dick Durbin is working on the Nursing Reauthorization Act regarding education and funding. Usually each nursing organization submits separate documents of need. Durbin requested that WOCN take the lead and organize all nursing groups to come up with a consensus of needs.