FALL 2015 REPORTS AND AWARDS WINNERS

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Maggie Smith, DNP, MSN/Ed, RN, OCN®

Hello CCONS members! It is so hard to believe that my first-term as your President is nearing the end. This has been a very exciting and busy year for our organization and I am extremely proud of the many accomplishments that we have achieved as a team.

This year we were innovative with programs offered to our members. Holding over 8 programs this year alone, we were able to collaborate with the Chicago Chapter of the Society of Urological Nursing Association for a joint program in the Western suburbs on prostate cancer. We exercised diversity by hosting a program on PTCL in the outskirts of Chicago, targeting the South suburbs to reach our chapter members in this area. We participated in several community outreach events, provided funds for members pursuing higher education, certification/recertification and those exemplifying the core values of ONS. We provided key updates in oncology via social media, conducted research and composed manuscripts for submission, tracked our members and were creative in our efforts with reaching out to you, sending e-blasts of the current happenings of the chapter including job alerts. We accomplished all of this while maintaining a balanced budget!! There is no “I” in team so I give credit to the great leadership which is the glue that keeps our organization together. We all have worked hard to make 2015 successful as we celebrated 35 years of the CCONS as an organization.

As we close out the year, I want to say thank you for being part of a terrific organization and encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities that we have and share with us any new ideas, ventures and areas that we have not explored. Your input and support is critical to the sustainability of our organization.

Last but not least, I would like to welcome our newly elected board members: Joseph Tariman, President-Elect; Carol Knop, Director-at-Large Scholarships/Awards; Lisa Hartle, Director-at-Large, Research; Denise Friesema, Treasurer-Elect and Kurt Kausch, Secretary. I am extremely excited to have them all on board.
As your President, my mission is to serve and represent you, so I encourage you to continue to let your voices be heard.

“The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.”
– Lao Tzu

Sincerely,
Maggie A. Smith
Smith.maggie@comcast.net

DIRECTOR AT LARGE REPORTS

RESEARCH COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR AT LARGE
Joseph D. Tariman, PhD, ANP-BC
Members: Katharine Szubski, RN, BSN, Co-chair; Heather Biskner, RN; Ima Garcia, APN, MSN, AOCNP, ACNP®-BC; Lisa Hartle Pape, RN, MSN

The manuscript entitled, "Barriers and promoters to nurses participation during cancer treatment decision making" is under review by ONF peer reviewers.

The manuscript entitled, "A study on the contemporary role of the nurse during cancer treatment decision making" is now on final copy editing. Abstract of this paper has been submitted to MNRS conference with CCONS in the acknowledgment section of the abstract.

The plan for 2016 is to develop and validate a new scale to measure nurse’s competence in their roles during cancer treatment decision making.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Gina Menyah, BSN, RN, OCN®

Once more I would like to thank everyone who volunteered and brought volunteers to the events this year!!

I continue to get nothing but great feedback from each event we have participated in and we are sought out for these events! This is a testament to your generosity of time and passion and we are appreciated for it!

Events as of November 2015:

- Chicago Lymphoma 4th Annual Derby Day with the Lymphoma Research Foundation
- Chicago Lymphoma Walk with the Lymphoma Research Foundation
- Sea Blue Prostate Cancer Walk/Run September 13, 2015
- Light The Night Walk with the Leukemia Lymphoma Society October 24, 2015

Because of the time you give as VOLUNTEERS nothing would be as successful as CCONS is today!

There are going to be a lot of opportunities to volunteer next year and get involved not only in the oncology community but the nursing community!! We need to work together to create a greater impact.
As nurses we can pull together to make things better for our patients and OURSELVES!

Please join in the volunteer effort. Not only do we support GREAT causes but we have a GREAT time doing them together as a chapter! VOLUNTEER TODAY!!

Contact email: gina.menyah@gmail.com

Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve... You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. ~Martin Luther King, Jr.

AWARDS
Bev Caraher, MSN, AORN-BC, AOCN®

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2015 CCONS MEMBERSHIP AWARD WINNERS!

ONCC Certification Scholarship Winners - $300 Scholarships for initial or renewing Oncology Nursing certification at the basic or advanced level

Ann Cuvala – OCN Renewal
Janice Lott-Hopgood – OCN Certification
Lauren Piraino – OCN Renewal
Corrinna Sedor – OCN Renewal
Mary Ellyn Witt - AOCN Renewal

Professional Development Award Winners - $250 Awards to provide financial assistance to members seeking educational opportunities.

Carol Flanagan – plans to use the funds to attend continuing education related to survivorship and purchase educational resources.

Barbara Kinast – plans to use the funds for resources to support her knowledge of biology of cancer, symptom management, and pharmacology.

Joseph Tariman – plans to use the funds to attend an international nursing conference where he will be presenting his research.
**Nursing Education Scholarship Winners** - $750 scholarships to provide assistance for those enrolled in BSN completion or graduate nursing programs.

Gina Menyah (pictured above) – MSN Program at Chamberlain College of Nursing

Kathryn Vitale – MSN Program at Loyola University

Wensheng (Tracy) Wu – MSN Program at North Park University

**Sandy Purl Spirit of CCONS Award Winner** - $500 to honor and recognize a member who has contributed to CCONS by sharing time and expertise.

Jacqueline Lippe

Jackie’s nomination by Mary Phelan Lappe states that “Jackie is a bedside nurse and a nurse’s nurse. Jackie works on a stem cell transplant unit full time and is close to finishing her Master’s degree in nursing, but with all of this going on in her life, she has encouraged fellow nurses to attend CCONS meetings, stuffed mailboxes at work with flyers about upcoming CCONS events, and talks at her unit meetings about the value and importance of CCONS involvement. Jackie is not only the spirit of CCONS, she is the future of CCONS. Jackie is committed to oncology nursing, is a never-ending patient advocate, and is always encouraging nurses to join and participate in CCONS.”
**CCONS Mentorship Award Winner** - $500 Award to a member who has demonstrated excellence in the mentorship of colleagues in the practice of oncology nursing in the academic, clinical, or research setting.

**Carol Blendowski**

Carol’s nomination by Joseph Tariman states “Carol has been a strong mentor to so many CCONS members in various CCONS committee roles for the past decades. I have personally seen her loyalty and commitment to mentor CCONS new members since I became a member of CCONS in June 2001. When one of my students at DePaul learned of my plan to nominate Carol, she (Elie Rivkin, MENP ’16) immediately emailed me to say that Carol has been a very important figure in her life since her days as an undergraduate student at DePaul, and she continues to encourage her as she progresses through the MENP program. Clearly, Carol has provided Elie with clear and useful academic guidance in order to achieve academic success."

Bev Caraher states “Carol has been a driving force in recruiting student nurses (the future of oncology nursing) to attend CCONS meetings, and infusing them with her enthusiasm about the choice of oncology nursing as a career.”

**ONS Conference Scholarship Winners** - $2000 Scholarship Drawings for a member to attend ONS Annual Congress. One award is for Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members only. The other award is for general membership.

**Beth Hurter** (right) – General Membership drawing

**Mary Phelan Lappe** (left) – Board/Committee Chair/Committee Member drawing (Mary is Chair of Membership Committee)
Don’t forget to check out the ONS website for several other awards including OCN/AOCN of the year, Congress Scholarships, Career Development awards, and excellence awards. Many have application deadlines in early December. You can find all the information about these awards at www.ons.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY
Bev Caraher and Carol Knop, Co-Chairs
Janet Golick, Kurt Kausch, Mary Ellyn Witt

Check out our Virtual Community at http://ccons.vc.ons.org for upcoming CCONS events, job postings, and member news. Please share your professional accomplishments and educational and employment opportunities with us. We can’t do this without your input!

Email Janet with job postings at janetgolick@comcast.net after filling out the job posting form that can be found on the Virtual Community under the Job Posting tab.

Email member news (personal and professional) to Mary Ellyn at maryellynwitt@gmail.com

Email program announcements/email blast information to Bev at bcaraher@msn.com

Email Board/Committee reports to Carol at csknop@comcast.net

PROGRAM
Chair: Katharine Szubski
Members: Carol Blendowski, Carol Flanagan, Barb Kinast, Lynn MacMillan, Marge Pierce, Lauren Schultz, and Teresa Yang.

2015 is slowly coming to a close. Our Holiday Celebrations will soon begin with our friends and family. Our year was filled with many changes and many choices of meetings to attend. Here is a review of our programming for the year.

February meeting was held at Rush Amour Academic Center with Carol Southard RN, MSN speaking on Smoking Cessation. Carol provided a wealth of information on available programs to support individuals who smoke to quit. The evaluation of the meeting was overwhelmingly positive on the speaker, topic, and the location.

March provided CCONS with a joint program with CWSCONS and a Urology nursing group on Prostate Cancer supported by ONS. The meeting was so popular that the venue changed to Le Meridien to accommodate additional attendees. This meeting highlighted not only a disease state but allowed us to network with another chapter of ONS and another nursing specialty.

May meeting was hosted by Loyola with Teresa Knoop MSN, RN, AOCN who made her lecture on New Drug Update interactive. This allowed the audience to immediately use the skills learned to break down the generic drug name to determine mechanism of action and categorize side effects based on class of drug. Teresa stated that these skills are important for the future for nurses to use to support and instruct patients on side effects.
June was a month for Celebrating Certification. Maggie, our current CCONS president, coordinated this meeting at Bar Takito for membership to come together for a night of fun and networking. This was a great night to catch up and chat with friends and also meet and learn about other members. The night was filled with great fun, food and conversation.

September was our Vendor fair, held at Morretti’s. Membership was able to meet and speak with vendors we may not be able to speak with at our work sites. The vendors and members enjoyed the time to network. Our speaker for the night was Louise Dimicelli-Mitran, LCPC whose topic was “Can We Talk? The Not-So Simple Art of Effective Communication”. Louise spoke on a very important topic that we may not typically receive a lot of information on. She highlighted that how we communicate with our peers, patients, management, team members and even our family has an impact on how we are perceived. I think the biggest point driven home for me was how we need to increase our awareness of messages we send and how they may be received, not only our verbal communication but the non-verbal messages we send as well.

November we gathered at Nacional 27 for a very informative presentation on “Cardio-Oncology” by Dr. Nausheen Akhter of Northwestern Medicine. Experts in her field can be very instrumental in helping oncology healthcare providers prevent, minimize and treat cardiac problems caused by cancer or cancer treatment. The program was followed by the presentation of the CCONS awards to our members, also reported in this edition of CCONS Update. Awards were presented by the Director At Large for Awards and Scholarships, Bev Caraher.

We encourage everyone to provide constructive comments, ideas, or suggestions to the Program Committee via program evaluations, e-mailing, or in person. Please keep the ideas coming throughout the year. We take the information from evaluations and membership surveys into account as we plan meetings so the programs will be valuable and enjoyable to our members. The needs survey was sent out in November and we will be using the results to help us plan the 2016 program year.

Please check for future program announcements through e-mail and on the calendar that is found on the CCONS virtual community www.ccons.vc.ons.org 

As a reminder please RSVP by the deadline date if you plan to attend a meeting. The best way to RSVP is via the cconspc@gmail.com address on each program flyer. This will ensure we have adequate amounts of food and handouts.

We welcome anyone who is interested in joining the program committee to contact any of our program members.

MEMBERSHIP
Chair: Mary Lappe
Members: Jo Lisowski & Catherine Moran

Membership Committee has had a successful year promoting all the wonderful educational programs as well as outreach opportunities that our chapter offers. All programs this year were very well attended and the October meeting reaching out to our south side members was well received by a full house. But this trend would not continue without excellent CCONS leadership and the very hard work of our Program Committee who consistently provides our chapter with excellent program topics, speakers, and venues. So a sincere thank you to everyone.
As most of you probably know, membership to your local ONS chapter is handled through the main ONS headquarters. What we encourage EVERYONE to do is log into the ONS website and check out your profile. Be sure CCONS is your chapter of choice. This is one way to be proactive in your membership. Make it a New Year’s resolution!!  If you have done this and still feel as though you are not receiving eblasts from CCONS, please feel free to contact us.

We have continued to invite junior and senior Chicagoland university nursing schools to our chapter meetings and community outreach. This is an effort to introduce nursing students to the field of oncology early in their education. This has met with great success from not only the students but the university Deans as well. Attendance by students has increased this year over our past years. ONS has offered free membership for one year to nursing students; all universities were given this information.

Should you have any questions about your membership, or have a friend that wishes to join, please feel free to contact me at mphelanlappe@gmail.com

Your membership committee wishes everyone a healthy and peaceful 2016.

SOCIAL NETWORKING
Tara Gehring and Carol Blendowski, Co-Chairs
Members: Pamela Carter

We welcome our new member Pamela Carter. The committee will be planning a meeting soon.

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

ARCHIVES
Maryjo Osowski

No new updates to report at this time.