

ONS Leadership Weekend 2016

July 29-31

Pittsburgh, PA

This year I was the board member representing our CCONS at the Annual ONS Leadership Weekend held in Pittsburgh, PA July 29 – 31. Hanging out with ONS Chapter leaders from across the country was really a hoot!

The first night was an opportunity for networking and fun! Brenda Nevidjon, ONS CEO and Susan Schneider, current ONS President, kicked off the event with thanks and recognition of all the volunteer hours contributed by the ONS Chapter leaders gathered for the weekend.

Dinner was followed by the Parade of Chapters. Chapter leaders dressed up in themes fitting their home towns and presented their chapter's donation to the ONS Foundation. Barb Gobel and I walked together to present the check for the Chicago Chapter. Donations from the parade along with donations made throughout the weekend by individuals added up to the highest amount donated at this event to date: \$55,258 from 137 chapters! The evening ended with entertainment by RK Comedy, an award winning local Pittsburgh troupe.



Saturday started with a 4 hour workshop on “The New Face of Membership”, presented by Mark Levin, President of B.A.I., Inc. Mark provided insight into the character of different generations and through workshop activities helped us develop ideas and strategies to include all generations in our organization and help them be involved. One of the key points was that in order to successfully attract newer members we must meet them where they are in their career and professional development. The slogan that came to my mind was “Ask not what the member can do for the organization but what the organization can do for the member.” Assessing a potential member’s interests and motivation to consider joining is essential and being inclusive of people when they come to a meeting or event is important.

The afternoon was filled with updates from various ONS board and staff members. We heard from ONS President Sue Schneider, who shared the 2016-2018 Strategic Plan with 3 strategic directions set towards achieving 2 goals

Strategic Directions

Innovation in Knowledge and Learning
Excellence in Oncology Nursing and Patient Care
Advocacy for Patients and the Profession.

Goals

To advance the quality of cancer care and patient/staff safety
To grow the society by recruiting, engaging, and retaining a diverse mix of nurses caring for patients with cancer.

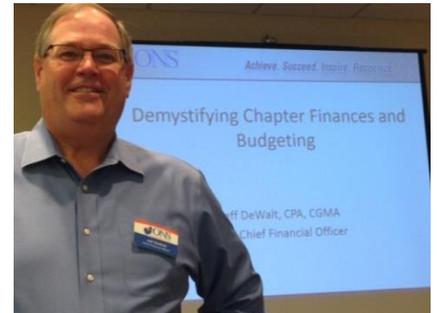
ONS Foundation President Debbie Walker and Leadership Development Committee Chair Jan Sirilla gave updates. I learned of tools ONS has for members to grow into leadership roles, including an assessment tool and course on the ONS website. ONCC Board of Directors President Marybeth Singer gave a certification update and this stimulated a lot of questions and discussion around the ILNA assessment and current certification process. Brian Taylor, Brian Theil, and Patrick Flynn gave updates around the website changes, the VC, and member engagement.

Alec Stone, the voice of ONS on the Hill, moderated a panel consisting of 3 ONS members who were chosen to attend a Cancer Moonshot conference in Washington DC. Each of the panelists described their experience providing the nursing perspective on patient and practice priorities important to consider in choosing projects for the Cancer Moonshot Initiative to fund. Each of the nurses stressed the value oncology nurses bring to the political arena and encouraged every oncology nurse to get involved, even in a small way. I walked away from the afternoon with a much better sense of who represents each of us in our Oncology Nursing Society: oncology nurses just like us!



Saturday night I had dinner with Lisa Crabtree from the Northwest Indiana ONS Chapter (in picture, right), Kristine Thomas from the Northwest Illinois Chapter, and another conference attendee. We had a relaxing evening enjoying dinner al fresco and sharing stories of oncology nursing and our experiences in ONS.

On Sunday, 6 breakout sessions were offered. I attended the session on “Chapter Virtual Communities and Social Media Strategies”. ONS Staff members Shannon Holzer and Jessica Thompson presented this session. It was insightful to have these staff present as it gave a face and a personality to the names we see or communicate with virtually. The second breakout I attended was titled “Demystifying Chapter Finances and Budgeting”. Jeff DeWalt, ONS CFO, (pictured right) presented this session. It was fun to meet him because I sent a question to him a month or so before the leadership event. He was very thorough with his answers to my email and I could see that part of his personality. I plan to share what I learned with our treasurer/ treasurer elect and to incorporate best practices into the awards application and distribution process. The last breakout I attended was on member engagement, recruitment and retention. Every chapter is struggling with this and the topic tied in nicely with the keynote presentation.



I left the conference filled with new ideas and inspiration AND a new network! I am proud to say that CCONS IS my volunteer organization and I am renewed in my commitment to this organization of which I have been a part for almost 30 years. I am filled with hope that our ONS is moving in the right direction and that with a little patience and time our virtual issues will become background and we will have a web platform that will be second to none and will serve as a great tool for communication within our chapter and larger organization.

If you want to learn more about the Chapter Leadership Weekend, give me a call or see me at a meeting. I'd love to share my experience!!

Carol Knop
csknop@comcast.net
773-339-2798



View of Pittsburgh from Sheraton at Station Square