

## The Chapter President Speaks

*Lisa Pervin, RN, CRRN, PhD  
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The last two plus years have come and gone and gone by very quickly at least for me. As President-Elect, I had the opportunity to watch and learn as Sylvia Marshall-Nolt seemed to dance gracefully and effortlessly through her tenure as President. She provided the leadership we needed over the last two plus years that has allowed us to grow as a chapter. I will do my best to follow successfully in her shoes. I look forward to her continued mentorship these next two years. We all thank her for the leadership she has given to our Chapter, our districts and the representation she has provided with ARN.

The new officers were installed at the conference in May. As many of you know, ARN has changed the term of office to begin in July from January so the conference seemed the perfect venue to hold the installation. The ceremony was led by Donna Jernigan, our Region III Director. Linda Bertino did a great job with Barbara Martelli coordinating this special event even if the biggest challenge they faced was getting all of us to remember our places. The 2003-2004

Board has some familiar faces and new as well. I would like to welcome Karyn Scully as President-Elect and Carol Mangan as Recording Secretary. Coleen Bronson is now Corresponding Secretary. Barbara Martelli was reelected as Nominating Chair and Ina Fletcher faithfully continues as Treasurer. I look forward to all of us working together to encourage the growth and continued success of FSARN. We would all like to thank Helen Cole for all the great work and support she has given over the years as Corresponding Secretary. Sherry Watson finally gets to retire from the Board as immediate Past President after all her hard work and dedication she has given FSARN for many years.

If you missed this year's conference, we celebrated yet another in May at the Hyatt Regency in Orlando. The title, "Rehabilitation Restores the Future in Body, Mind and Spirit" represented the theme well as evidenced by the speakers and topics. Susan Greco, who has been very active with ARN for many years, talked about spirituality and intimacy. Donna Jernigan was a speaker as well as Anne Gunderson who



## The Chapter President Speaks



Continued from page 1

was the Region 4 Director and has since relocated to our state. We are very glad to have her here. Other topics included pain management, cancer, diabetes and many others often taking the holistic approach. The conference was enjoyed by those who attended and the evaluations were very complimentary towards the topics and speakers, vendors, and the food. As always, it is the networking and socializing that continues to be one the highlights at this conference. This is the one event even if only once a year that many of us get to see each other to catch up, swap stories, and just have a good time. This year's conference was hosted by the Southwest and Suncoast districts who worked

*Region III Director, Donna Jernigan,  
BSN, RN, CRRN, ABQAURP  
Diplomate speaking at the May 2003  
FSARN conference in Orlando.*

hard to put this conference together. We thank them for the time and effort that had to be put in for the conference.

Planning is already underway for the 2004 conference which will take place at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Orlando. That conference will be hosted by the Broward and Tallahassee districts. The Board made the decision to move the conference to a different location for several reasons. It was not an easy decision as we have always been treated very well by the Hyatt for several years now. First, it

seemed the right time to try a different location that was located outside of the airport. Second, was the availability of free parking and free shuttle from the airport. Third, there are many restaurants within walking distance from the hotel and the opportunity to walk and enjoy the outside. The conference will be on Thursday and Friday, May 13 & 14<sup>th</sup> in response to the surveys we did last year. Mark your calendars because from what I have heard, the committee is planning an exciting slate of topics. The theme for this conference has been titled, "New Technology, New Trends in Rehabilitation". Your contacts for that conference are Karyn Scully (954-242-0515) and Patsy Hammitt (850-539-8286). There will more information available on the FSARN website [www.bbpconsulting.com/FSARN.html](http://www.bbpconsulting.com/FSARN.html) as it is available.

As we continue to always try to meet the needs of the greater membership, I encourage you to let us know what you want and need in a professional organization. I welcome your ideas and suggestions and along with the rest of the Board we will always try to meet them to the best of our ability. Our membership is

Continued on page 3



*Continued from page 2*

made up of a diverse group of nurses which is one of the reasons we are as strong as we are but that also poses the ongoing challenge of doing the right thing at the right moment all the time. We need to know what you are thinking so let us know. A few of the areas we continue to work on include, maintaining and building membership, supporting the districts, and ensuring sufficient communication via the districts, board meetings, the newsletter, the annual conference, and the website. We are considering moving the website to a different host, obtaining its own domain and giving it a new look is my challenge this next year. Providing support for the membership includes not only communication but educational opportunities, mentoring and networking. We are all busy and time is critical, we want to make sure that you feel your membership and involvement is worth that time.



*Top: Induction ceremony for the 2003 FSARN Board of Directors.*

*Middle: Sandy and Mary enjoying a minute together at the May conference.*

*Bottom: FSARN Conference attendees enjoying themselves!*



## From the Editor

*by Marie Povey*

First off, my apologies for the late newsletter. Between our trip (mentioned below) and a computer hardware failure, things got out of control.

My husband and I recently completed a great two month trip to Australia and New Zealand. The folks 'down under' really do say, "No Worries" and "G-day", but they don't put 'shrimps on the barbie', as they

call them prawns. We meet virtually all of my husbands relatives, and plenty of just friendly folks. I was able to network with some fellow nurses and other Rehabilitation people. While some of their facilities are dated by US standards, I found out that we are experiencing similar problems and we have the same passion for helping people achieve their highest ability to function. Here are a

few people who would be interested in networking, so send them an E-mail.

Sandra Lever, CNC Rehabilitation (E-mail: [levers@doh.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:levers@doh.health.nsw.gov.au)) works at the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney. The is a free standing facility and has a spinal injury unit, a brain injury unit, a adult general rehabilitation program, an aged care general rehabilitation program, and a home-based rehabilitation program.

Dene Oliver (E-mail: [deneoliver@headwest.asn.au](mailto:deneoliver@headwest.asn.au)) is the manager of **headwest**, a community based program for the brain injured population in Western Australia. She is interested in our outpatient facilities and any current research being done to help the brain injured population.

Kaye Neylon (E-mail: [kaye.neylon@bigpond.com](mailto:kaye.neylon@bigpond.com)) is President of the Diabetic Educators of South Australia. She is interested in the payment systems that we have for our Diabetic education services.

Jennifer von der Borch (E-mail: [jvonderb@mail.rah.sa.gov.au](mailto:jvonderb@mail.rah.sa.gov.au)) is a Diabetic Nurse Educator from Adelaide and is interested in how we handle our diabetic population that has swallowing difficulties.

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*by Lisa Pervin*  
**ARN and New Orleans**

There were over 40 nurses from Florida attending the conference in New Orleans this year! What an impressive showing from our state. The conference was full of well known speakers, great topics, paper and poster presentations, awards, ARN updates, and too much to list all of it here but at least a few highlights and updates.

First, congratulations to Theresa Nachtsheim for being the Grand Prize Winner in the 2003 ARN "Member-Get-A-Member" Campaign! Second, congratulations to Linda Bertino for presenting not just one but two papers at the conference, titled, "Caring For Our Loved Ones: Now And In The Future" and "Spirituality in Healthcare: The Correlation of Spiritual Perspective and Spiritual Care by Rehabilitation Nurses". Kudos to both!

Several of us attended the **Annual Leadership Conference** that is held at the annual conference. As in the past, much information was shared regarding the success of other chapters and the ongoing challenges of keeping a chapter alive, growing and maintaining membership and ARN updates involving the website. In many ways, we are on the right track and very progressive with how we run our chapter. The ARN website has

been revamped and now includes a member's only section which allows us to download the member directory and to also submit abstracts at this time. There are more educational resources available online and again a strong encouragement to participate on the list-serve if you are not already. Instructions to sign up are on the website, [www.rehabnurse.org](http://www.rehabnurse.org). The CRRN-A exam will be given for the last time this next June. It was a decision by ARN to discontinue this certification as there seems to be so few who participate and take this certification exam.

Installation of the new officers occurred at the **Annual Meeting**. Terry Black is our new President and Joann Ebert was voted in as President-Elect. There will be a need for a membership vote on three amendments to the ARN Bylaws that was discussed at this meeting. This will be mailed out soon and I

encourage you to make your vote count as a member. The one that generated the most discussion was proposed change in the requirements for the Secretary-Treasurer's position. Read the pro's and con's carefully.

The keynote speaker, Tim Porter-O'Grady, was a perfect opening to the conference. He talked about the need to have a sense of humor, not taking ourselves too seriously and to consider the "nursing we are becoming" rather than spending our time with "our backs to the future". The conference was

*Continued on page 8*



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## ARN Communique

September 2003

The 2003 handbook will be mailed to chapter presidents so be sure to submit your chapter's current mailing address to ARN. Questions? Call Gayle Elliott at ARN at 800/229-7530.

### ARN's Patient Advocacy Toolkits

If your chapter is interested in providing rehab-focused education in your community or at rehab facilities, get involved with ARN's Patient Advocacy program. Two 30-minute programs, *Osteoporosis – Prevention and Management* and *Navigating the Health Care System*, are available. ARN will provide a complimentary educator "toolkit" that contains everything needed to

put on a quality program. Each toolkit contains 20-30 minutes of topic content, a power point presentation, handouts, marketing and speaking tips, and is available at *no charge* to chapters.

The Patient Advocacy program is designed for individuals undergoing rehabilitation and the general public and can be offered at service clubs, church groups, homeowners' associations, and senior centers. The program promotes rehabilitation nursing and explains the nurse's role in preventing disabilities and minimizing the effects of an existing disability. Encourage your members to get involved in community outreach, influence health-related behavior changes, and develop their presentation skills.

To request a complimentary toolkit, call ARN at 800/229-7530.

### CRRN and CRRN-A Exams

Reservations for certification testing are now being accepted by phone. To register, call Promissor at 800/470-8756 and select a test date and time.

To obtain the application handbook, encourage members to call the Rehabilitation Nursing Certification Board at 800/229-7530 or visit the web site at [www.rehabnurse.org](http://www.rehabnurse.org).

### ARN Recognizes CRRNs

Encourage all CRRN members to attend the conference in New Orleans to receive a special recognition item.

### ARN Website's New Look

Have you visited ARN's website at [www.rehabnurse.org](http://www.rehabnurse.org) lately? If not, be sure to log on today. The new site is easy to navigate.

The Members' Only section of the website contains valuable information that is updated on a regular basis. Key features include:

### Online Membership Directory

Use the directory to search for other members by name, city/state/zip, present position held, and current clinical practice interest.

**HEALTHSOUTH Hospitals**

For information on exciting career opportunities in Florida with a HEALTHSOUTH Rehabilitation Hospital, contact your nearest hospital location below:

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HEALTHSOUTH Largo Largo, Florida 33770 727-586-2999	HEALTHSOUTH Sarasota Sarasota, FL 34231 941-921-8600
HEALTHSOUTH Treasure Coast Vero Beach, Florida 32960 561-563-4002	



HEALTHSOUTH Nursing... United in making a Difference

*Continued on page 7*



*Continued from page 6*

If you have a new mailing address, phone number, or E-mail address, be sure to update your information in the *ARN Online Membership Directory!*

To log on to the Members' Only section of the website, enter your membership number in Web ID field and your last name in the password field.

### **ARN Network and Health Policy Digest**

Visit this section for up-to-date news about ARN, rehabilitation nursing, and health policy. Read current issues of *ARN Network* or the health policy

e-newsletter or look through the archives for previous issues.

The Career Development Center assists members in reaching their career goals. It includes a list of websites with searchable databases that have specific areas devoted to healthcare. Explore job openings, read company profiles, and learn tips on developing your resume.

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## **NEFSARN**

Our transition to quarterly meetings with 2 annual extended program presentations seems to be meeting the needs of our members. The development of a

"Booster Member" category has helped to boost our membership and has been well received.

Plans for a program on Post Polio had to be rescheduled due to a date conflict. We hope to present the program as an evening dinner meeting in early spring 2004. Other program ideas pending include: Pediatric emergencies; Pediatric rehabilitation; UF/Brooks joint research venture and Parish Nursing.

Congratulations to:

Valerie Armstrong, RN on the birth of her 1<sup>st</sup> child Robert "Bert" on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mom, Dad and Bert all doing well!

Rose Butler, MS, RNC, CRRN, CCM was honored as one of "The Great 100 Nurses" in Northeast Florida on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ken Mango, RN, CRRN, & Bonnie Mylar, RN finally "tied the knot" on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Linda Bertino, RN, MSN, NEFSARN President was accepted to present 2 papers at the ARN Conference in New Orleans in October (Spirituality in Health Care & Caring for a Loved One). She was also awarded a scholarship from "The Great 100 Nurses" for the ARN Conference.

## **PCARN**

PCARN Karen Dimick, President

We continue with quarterly meetings for "dinner and a CEU." Our next meeting is Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in Delray Beach. Our CEU topic will be "Carpal Tunnel Syndrome". For directions, to make a reservation or be added to our mailing list, call Jill Luhrsen: 561-638-1653.

### **To all District Presidents**

Please send your reports to the new Recording Secretary, Carol Mangan RN, CRRN

4809 NE 1st Terrace

Pompano Beach, Florida 33064

Updated contact information for Theresa Nachtsheim

(h)407-656-2084, (fax)928-396-2570

email:

tnachtsheim@hotmail.com.

The mailing address remains the same.



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*Continued from page 5*

closed with Claudia Osborn, a physician who spoke to her personal experiences after a traumatic head injury 15 years ago. It was an insightful, touching and humorous presentation about acceptance and growth. In between these two presentations were three and a half days of learning, networking, catching up with old friends and colleagues, lots of great food and music! The planning is already underway for next year's ARN conference in Atlanta October 6-9, 2004.

It is hard to have a bad time in New Orleans but a better time was had when it was spent with friend and colleagues!

### **Region III Meeting**

Donna Jernigan, our Region III Director held our annual meeting at the conference for which many of us attended. Donna reinforced the online resources of ARN, encouraging chapters to take advantage of the Region Directors to attend meetings, support the chapters, etc. She also encouraged the group to consider nominations for upcoming and current vacant positions at the National level.

### **Region III Conference Meeting**

We met and got down to business of the upcoming conference. Sherril Porterfield is the conference chair and doing a great job getting all of us organized. The

Region III conference will be held March 19 & 20, 2004 in Greenville, SC at the downtown Hyatt Regency. So mark your calendars! As a chapter we will be creating, printing, and mailing the brochure as well as taking care of the CE Application for this conference. The title and theme for the conference is, "Celebrating Rehabilitation Nursing". The keynote speaker will be Suzanne White, VP of Nursing for the Greenville Hospital System. She is a Past President of the National Critical Care Nursing Association. She is an excellent speaker, known to be a visionary when it comes to trends as well as very motivational and inspiring, a perfect compliment to the overall theme of celebration. She is also well published and has participated in much research in her career. It also looks like there will be a poster presentation at this conference and the request for abstracts has been mailed out with deadline of November 15th. Because of our participation, FSARN receives monies from the

profits that provide scholarships for this particular conference. For contacts and questions, conference information and updates, you can check out the SCARN website at [www.SCARN.org](http://www.SCARN.org).

### **A sad passing**

One of our own passed away recently. Lorraine Thoman passed away July 5, 2003. Lorraine has been a longstanding member and participant of FSARN. She spent many years working for the State of Florida Workers Comp System providing the needed leadership as a rehabilitation nurse. She was very instrumental in building the North Central District of FSARN in the Leesburg and Gainesville area. Despite her own limitations, she always participated in our annual educational conference. Many of us did not realize that she had been sick this last year but she was notably missed at this year's conference. She had no living family and considered us her family. She will be missed.

## 2004 FSARN Conference

Next Year's Conference; "New Technology, New Trends in Rehabilitation" is scheduled for May 13-14, 2004.

The location has changed. Our new host will be the Orlando

Airport Marriott. (General hotel information and location can be found at [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)).

You can book your hotel rooms anytime before April 22, 2004.



*Continued from page 8*

The cost will be \$119.00 per night plus taxes. The hotel can be reached directly at 407-851-9000 or Marriott Reservations at 800-766-6752. When making your reservations be sure to indicate that this is for the FSARN conference. I know that some of you like to get an early start, so mark your calendars!

Broward and Tallahassee are this year's districts in charge of putting on our conference. Sue Brown and Patsy Hammitt are

this year's conference cochairs. We have several ideas in the works to help make this year's conference a success. The Marriott will offer us some different options that were not available at the Hyatt. Although, we were treated very nice by the staff at the Hyatt, we are looking forward to implementing these ideas at the Marriott.

We are utilizing the suggestions made at last year's conference to provide our members with a variety of educational topics and networking opportunities. Be

sure to check the website for details and also to apply for a scholarship to the conference. If you have any questions or need information in regards to the conference, please contact me at 954-242-0515.

The conference is being organized for our members and I hope that many of you will be able to attend. Pass the word around the work place and try to bring another Rehabilitation Nurse to attend with you!

Look forward to seeing everyone in May 2004!



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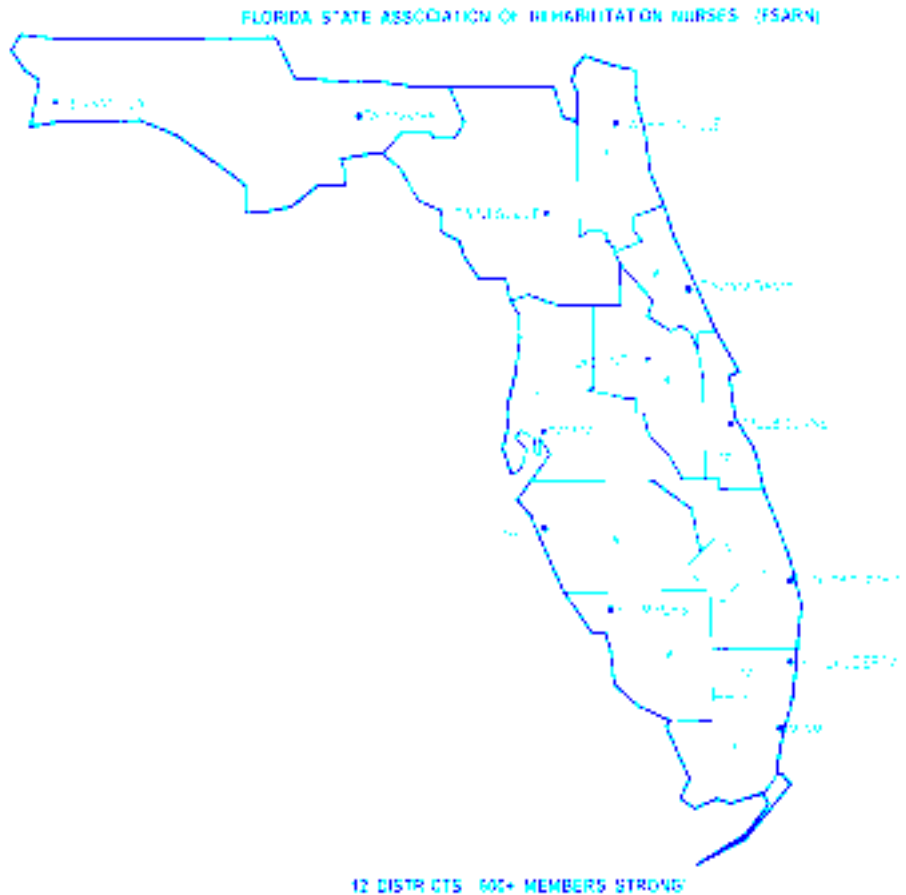
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Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehabilitation, Inc.  
PO Box 1348 / Wauchula, FL 33873  
800-697-5390 / Fax: 863-773-2638 / Email: [info@finr.net](mailto:info@finr.net)



## FSARN District Presidents

FSARN is divided into 12 districts covering all corners of the state. Each district operates under the guidance and bylaws of FSARN. Listed below are the districts and the president of each district.

1. Tallahassee District:	Patsy Hammitt	(850) 539-8286	phammitt@msn.com
2. North Central District:	Carol Markland	(352) 330-219	cmcrn@aol.com
3. West Coast District:	Lisa Pervin	(727) 596-4738	bbpconsulting@aol.com
4. Central District:	Cathy Geibel	(407) 876-8196	cathgeib@aol.com
5. Sun Coast District:	Marie Poole	(941) 925-2021	mlspoole@aol.com
6. Southwest District:	Carol Shepard	(239) 694-5631	shepardcm@aol.com
7. Dade District:	Jane Dacks	(305) 386-1745	madsj@aol.com
8. Northeast District:	Linda Bertino	(904) 288-0906	rainbeaus@rn.com
9. Volusia/Flagler District:	Darlene Fatula	(386) 345-3156	dsf4505@aol.com
10. Space Coast District:	Antoinetta Parato	(407) 952-5071	
11. Palm Coast District:	Jill Luhrson	(561) 495-6769	ablincorporated@earthlink.net
12. Broward District:	Karen Scully	(954) 242-0515	karyn1123@aol.com





*SIG Contact Information*

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**FSARN Continuing Education**

To receive a FSARN Continuing Education packet or if you have a question, contact Karyn Scully at: 11075 NW 37th Street, Coral Springs, FL 33065, (954) 752-8541

Or visit the FSARN Website at: [www.bbpconsulting.com/FSARN.html](http://www.bbpconsulting.com/FSARN.html)

Florida State Association of Rehabilitation Nurses Provider Number is: FBN-3107

**The Provider Number must be on your advertisements of offerings if awarding continuing education hours. The Provider Number can only be used with the FSARN Board approval.**

The Florida State Board of Nursing has approved FSARN as a provider for both traditional and nontraditional programming. The Board stresses that all referenced bibliography must have a currency period of five (5) years unless it is a classic.

Florida State Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Marie Povey, FSARN Newsletter Editor  
2961 Longbrooke Way  
Clearwater, FL 33760-1720



### **Florida State Association of Rehabilitation Nurses Newsletter Advertising**

The FSARN Newsletter is published three times yearly: March, June, and October. It is distributed to members and rehabilitation professionals throughout the state. The newsletter and association is a not-for-profit organization with the purpose of providing educational information, professional events, updates, and resource information. The closing date for submitting articles, advertisements, and other professional information is the last day of February, May, and September.

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For more information, please contact: Marie Povey, FSARN Newsletter Editor  
2961 Longbrooke Way, Clearwater, FL 33760  
Phone: (727) 536-0189    E-Mail: [marie@povey.org](mailto:marie@povey.org)

Board members maintain throughout the year a process of disseminating new information and decision-making via telecommunications.

[www.bbpc consulting.com/FSARN.html](http://www.bbpc consulting.com/FSARN.html)