



# FSARN

## Florida State Association of Rehabilitation Nurses' Newsletter

Volume 19, Issue 3

July 2009

Mission Statement: The Florida State Association of Rehabilitation Nurses promotes and advances professional rehabilitation nursing practice through education, advocacy, collaboration and research to enhance the quality of life for those affected by disability and chronic illness.

### President's Message

Kevin Glennon, RN, BSN, CDMS, QRP-FL/WC FSARN President

As the incoming President I would like to take a moment to thank our outgoing President, Ina Fletcher, for her many years of service to our organization. Ina has held almost every position within our organization, culminating with her past four years of service to us all as our President-Elect 2005-2007 and President 2007-2009. Ina has served our organization for over 25 years. At last year's National Conference Ina was presented with and accepted Two Chapter Awards recognizing the accomplishments of FSARN in the areas of communication and membership. This year we have submitted to be recognized by National as The Chapter of the Year. President-Elect Sue Sharman and I will be attending this year's National Conference with Ina. Ina's support and encouragement has lead many of us on our own journey within the Chapter. Ina, it is with sincere thanks and appreciation that I tip my hat to you.

It is hard to believe that we are already more than half way through 2009. As I begin my tenure as President, I am amazed at how far we have come over the past 32 years. FSARN was founded on October 25, 1977. In July 1986 ARN and The Florida Chapter held a phone conference and sixteen local districts were established within our Chapter. Today we continue to have twelve of these original sixteen active throughout the State. Our Mission has continued over the past 32 years promoting the profession of rehabilitation nursing through education and advocacy.

Once again, this year's educational conference was a huge success. Next year we will join with the other Chapters in our Region to host the Region III Conference at The Regal Sun Resort, May 5-7, 2010. The theme for the conference will be "2010.....A Rehabilitation Odyssey". We will be meeting with the other Chapters for our second planning

*continued on page 2*



**2009 - 2011 FSARN Board of Directors (l to r): Kevin Glennon, President; Sue Sharman, President-Elect; Lois Hohl, Treasurer; Karen Dimick, Recording Secretary; Sue Brown, Corresponding Secretary; Barbara Martelli, Nominating Chair**

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meeting at the National Conference in Albuquerque, NM October 21-24. President-Elect Sue Sharman will serve as the Conference Program Chair. Region III Director Lisa Pervin will serve as the Conference Liaison with the other Chapters.

This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ARN. There will be a two-day leadership component at this year's national conference to which I have been invited to participate. I am looking forward to another year of exceptional networking opportunities with chapter leaders from across the country. I encourage all of you to consider attending if you are able. We have scholarship funds set aside for the Conference and applications are available on our website ([www.fsarn.org](http://www.fsarn.org)). If you are not able to attend this year's conference, the 2010 ARN conference will be held in our own backyard at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando.

With all the healthcare bills and reforms undergoing scrutiny by both Democrats and Republicans, it will be interesting to see if both houses are able to meet President Obama's deadlines. We are truly in tumultuous times with Medicare's Post Acute Care Payment Reform, RAC initiative, and the guidelines set forth to recover payments for workers' compensation and liability settlements. Additionally, at least three separate healthcare proposals are brewing in Congress and the closure of three of our Military's Wounded Warrior Units is expected by the end of October.

There is much work to be done and perhaps Senator Edward Kennedy's words may come to be, "Our goal is to strengthen what works and fix what doesn't. Much work remains and the coming days and weeks won't be easy. But we have a unique opportunity to give the American people, at long last, the health care they need and deserve." President Obama has called on Congress to pass legislation this year to overhaul the \$2.5 trillion healthcare system, aiming to cut costs and ensure that millions of Americans now without health insurance get coverage. One plan option includes a proposal for a public insurance program that would compete with private insurers. Panel Democrats and Republicans are still set to meet to try to work out differences over the public plan in addition to working out the details as to whether employers would be required to offer insurance to workers. The House and Senate Bills would establish an exchange, a kind of clearinghouse, where individuals and small businesses could shop for insurance. Lawmakers want the proposed new public plan to be an option offered in that exchange. Democrats say a public plan that competes with private insurers is the only way to contain costs and keep premiums low. Republicans and insurers argue that it would drive insurance companies out of business and lead to an entirely government run U.S. healthcare system.

ANA released a statement in support of the Public Plan Option for Health Reform. "The American Nurses Association believes the best way to achieve its overall health system goal-guaranteed, affordable, high-quality, health care for all is through the inclusion of a public health insurance plan option in any health care reform legislation." They further stated "ANA is deeply disappointed to learn of the American Medical Association's position that private health insurance alone should dictate coverage options for all who don't qualify for existing public plans, such as Medicare." Preserving Access to Primary Care Act of 2009 (H.R.2350/S 1174) is being strongly supported by the ANA because it recognizes the integral role nurses and nurse practitioners play in the delivery of primary care and helps bring the focus of our health care system back where it belongs, on the patient and the community. The ANA was joined by nearly another 100 co-sponsors of the legislation. As our Past-President Ina Fletcher previously stated, "Whatever your views are

towards our national healthcare plans, please investigate and know what you are endorsing before hitting the send button. It may not be something that you or your patients can live with." Wise words we should heed and take seriously. Additional information regarding this and many other proposed legislative changes can be found at [www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org) and [www.rehabnurse.org](http://www.rehabnurse.org).

I look forward to serving you all over the next two years. I will continue where Ina has left off with our "Going Green Campaign". Our newsletter will begin to be sent via Constant Contact e-mails and will be available on our website [www.fsarn.org](http://www.fsarn.org). If you are not an e-mail member, please contact our Membership Chair, Linda Bertino at [rainbeaus@msn.com](mailto:rainbeaus@msn.com). Our conference updates for next year will also be coming to you via Constant Contact. We will once again be providing all of the presentations on CD for the Region III Conference. Save the dates now May 5-7, 2010 for "2010.....A Rehabilitation Odyssey". Any recommendations for speakers, sponsors, or vendors can be forwarded directly to me at [KTGRNNEWTMS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:KTGRNNEWTMS@YAHOO.COM)



**Ina Fletcher presents Linda Bertino (and Gator) with the President's Award**

Linda Bertino was presented the President's Award by President Ina Fletcher at the 2009 FSARN annual educational conference. This award was present in appreciation for Linda's dedication and support to FSARN. There wasn't any project that she declined and she tackled some that had been lingering for years. Some of these projects included: taking over as Bylaws chair and updated the Bylaws, set up and administers the Constant Contact system for mass emailing, compiled and maintains the email list, membership chair, President of the NE District, produced the CD's for the membership directory and conference notebook, and even presented at the ARN national conference.

# 32nd Annual Educational Conference “Rehab Through The Ages”

As the 2009 Conference Chairperson I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help make this year's conference another huge success. Lisa Pervin, Region III Director offered The Medical Errors two hour mandatory course to kick off the conference on Wednesday evening with an overwhelming turnout. Thursday and Friday offered two full days of educational programs. The Thursday evening reception, sponsored by FINR was a huge success. Food and beverage was in abundance as the attendees networked with their peers and the vendors and sponsors that support our organization year after year. Without the ongoing support from our vendors and sponsors we would not be able to offer the range of presentations that allow us to continually strive to meet our mission to promote and advance rehabilitation nursing practice through education, advocacy, collaboration and research that enhances the quality of life for those affected by disability and chronic illness.

In keeping with our theme, Linda Bertino with the Northeast District, spearheaded a display of nursing uniforms, equipment, and various other memorabilia for our Thursday evening reception. Our Historian, Lynda Leibowitz had several albums on display that have captured our past 32 years. Anyone

that has pictures from this year's conference are encouraged to send them to Lynda at [lleibowitz@mail.intracorp.com](mailto:lleibowitz@mail.intracorp.com) or to our web mistress, Lisa Pervin @ [lisa@bbpconsulting.com](mailto:lisa@bbpconsulting.com). Jennifer David and Anabel Velazquez once again headed up our Vendor/Sponsor Committee and did an awesome job. The Silent Auction trio, Mary Ann Hill, Sandy Lohden, and Phyllis Mosley did a bang up job for the chapter and they have already volunteered to head up the silent auction for 2010. Karen Dimick, Cyndy Hernandez, and the rest of our volunteers who managed onsite registration, sign in, room monitoring, and a multitude of other tasks throughout the conference made everything run just as smooth as silk. To everyone else that worked on this year's conference once again a huge thank you to you all for such a successful conference.

Kevin

## Mark Your Calendars Now For Next Year

May 5 - 7, 2010

“2010.....A Rehabilitation Odyssey”

### Florida State Association of Rehabilitation Nurses Newsletter Advertising

The FSARN Newsletter is currently published three times yearly:  
March, July and November.

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 15th day of February, June and October.

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Ad acceptance is subject to the discretion of the Board

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



**Karen Dimick gives the Treasurer's report at the 2009  
Annual Educational Conference**

# Region III Update

Lisa Pervin, RN, CRRN, PhD, Region III Director

**Update from ARN...** There was a chapter leadership call held May 22 to discuss proposed changes to the ARN Board structure. Chapter and ARN leaders were invited as well as the task force that was charged with defining a successful structure for the ARN Board as we move into the future. There were many questions and comments from those who were on the call. Check with your chapter leader for more information.

**ARN 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference.** This year's conference is being held in Albuquerque, NM, October 21-24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The brochures have been mailed out but you can also check the ARN website for more information ([www.rehabnurse.org](http://www.rehabnurse.org)). This year's conference will also include a two day 'essential' leadership conference for \$195 for ARN members only. It is being held on the Monday (10/19) and Tuesday (10/20) of conference week. There will be 11 contact hours and the content is designed to increase or enhance your personal and professional leadership skills so if you know someone who might benefit, invite them and consider signing up for this great opportunity yourself. Consider using chapter scholarship funds for some of your members. The Regional meetings will be Thursday morning at 8am...please plan to attend. The RNF benefit dinner will be a networking and social event at a guaranteed fun place and will take place Thursday evening. Since this is the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, there will be an additional celebratory event Friday night for all conference attendees. It looks like another great conference this year!

**Region III 2010 Conference.** It will be held in Orlando, FL, hosted by FSARN. Those dates will be May 5-7, 2010 at the Regal Sun Resort. If you haven't attended this conference before, this is a great opportunity for the region to get together, have fun and network with each other. The first planning meeting by the host chapter was held during the FSARN annual conference. The vendor letter is already up on the FSARN/Region III website. The timeline is in place and FSARN is looking for volunteers for the following committees:

- Speakers (we will need 10-12 speakers)
- Vendors & sponsors, educational grants (we have space for 40 plus vendors)
- Poster sessions (we have room for at least 25 posters)
- Registration and onsite help/support
- Brochure/Blast emails
- Notebook/CDs & contact hours

If interested in volunteering, contact [lisa@bbpconsulting.com](mailto:lisa@bbpconsulting.com). All chapter leaders will probably hear from Kevin Glennon and/or Sue Sharman in the near future regarding your interest in helping out. Remember, the proceeds from this conference help to fund scholarships for fu-

ture Region III conferences for your chapter. We will be discussing the conference at the Region III meeting in Albuquerque so plan to attend if at the ARN conference.

**Other Important Information...** The following is information that has been posted by ARN but if you missed it, here it is:

- CMS is proposing changes to Medicare benefits that involve IRF's. Comments can be made until June 30<sup>th</sup>. Those changes can be reviewed at the following link: [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/inpatientrehabfacpps/downloads/Revised\\_Section\\_110\\_MBP\\_Manual\\_DRAFT\\_for\\_Comment.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/inpatientrehabfacpps/downloads/Revised_Section_110_MBP_Manual_DRAFT_for_Comment.pdf)
- The ARN Health Policy Committee has reviewed a policy statement submitted by Senator Baucus healthcare quality and costs that recommends bundling of acute and post-acute services and will be responding to the request for comments. Although there are many positive aspects to the policy that addresses increased access to care and services, affordable health care, there has been concern raised regarding access to rehabilitation services, accurate determination of needs and potential financial incentives to limit care. One of ARN's recommendations will be to pilot before implementation.

## FSARN WISHES TO THANK ALL THE OUR SPONSORS WHO ENABLED US TO PUT ON THE 2009 ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EDUCATIONAL GRANT SPONSORS

***Advocate Medical - Convatec/Bristol Myers***

**THANK YOU!**

# Farewell Message:

Ina Fletcher, ARNP, RN-C, MSN, CRRN

Thank you to all of the FSARN members who served on the board during my tenure as President. I appreciate the hard work and dedication that you gave our association and me. Collectively, we were able to complete many projects that moved our chapter in a positive manner. I also would like to thank all of the members, vendors and supporters who make our chapter the best in the country.

Some of our accomplishments included updating the policy and procedures manual, bringing the bylaws in compliance with national, establishing a new strategic plan, expanding and updating the website, the going green campaign that included mass email, and earning the chapter of the year award for membership and communications.

None of our accomplishments could have been possible without each of you. While memberships are declining across the country, we have shown growth in membership and continue to have successful annual educational conferences. I hope that you will join me in supporting our new president, Kevin Glennon. I will continue to stay involved at the local, state and national level of ARN. I look forward to seeing you in Albuquerque in October at the ARN conference and next year at our annual FSARN educational conference.

# Legislative Update

Ina Fletcher, ARNP, RN-C, MSN, CRRN

On June 9, 2009 you should have received an email from ARN regarding the bundling of acute and post acute rehabilitation services. It is vital that you take action and encourage your colleagues to do the same. At issue is a proposal included in President Obama's Budget Blueprint for Fiscal Year 2010 that will sharply limit patient access to rehabilitation. The proposal would pay the acute care hospital for payments to cover the hospitalization and post acute hospital care within 30 days of the hospitalization. ARN believes that this would provide a compelling financial incentive for acute hospitals to turn away appropriate rehab referrals. As an acute care case manager, I can agree with ARN and see no viable reason for this legislation except to try to minimize Medicare costs and that it would be a reduction in benefits for our most vulnerable population.

It is very easy to let your Representative and Senators know that you do not support this legislation. Click the link: <http://www.voterveice.net/link/target/arn34056845.aspx> to show your support for rehabilitation.

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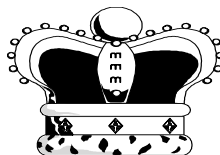
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# District Updates:

## Broward (BARN)

Current membership is 74 of which 21 are trilevel members. BARN continues to meet every month on the third Tuesday at different locations for sponsored programs. We have introduced two evening meetings so far this year and a different group of members attend. July 21<sup>st</sup> will be a dinner meeting at 5.30 pm at Health South Sunrise. August 12th will be our annual summer social, this year the location will be changed, please check our website for further information of this and our other monthly meetings at [www.browardnurses.com](http://www.browardnurses.com) Planning has begun for Rehabilitation Update 2010 SAVE THE DATE 3/05/10

## Central Florida (CFARN)

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CFARN continues to hold monthly meetings in the Sanford/Lake Mary/Heathrow area of Central Florida from 7:30 to 9:30 am on the third Friday of every month. Each meeting offers one contact hour of continuing education. We have been very fortunate to have a wide variety of topics being presented for our members. Our meetings are held in the Second Floor Conference Center at Total Medical Solutions, 1280 Upsala Road, Sanford, FL. We continue to raise money and collect donations for the Children at The Russell House as one of our ongoing Community Service Projects. In December we will host a holiday breakfast. For information regarding our monthly meetings visit us at [www.cfarn.org](http://www.cfarn.org) or contact [frank.fredryk@newtms.com](mailto:frank.fredryk@newtms.com) to be added to our monthly newsletter email list.

## North East (NEFARN)

We had one of the largest groups from our district attending our conference this year partly due to the support from Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital, which paid their employees registration fees. Thank you and welcome to Joanne Hoertz, RN, CRRN, the new VP of Nursing at Brooks. Our district enjoyed being able to present "Nursing Through the Ages" during the Vendor reception. We hope the attendees enjoyed it as much as we did putting it together.

The Wheelchair Clinic was a success and we are looking forward to doing it again. Thanks for support from Wheelchair's Plus and the ILRC in Jax. We worked well together and it was wonderful to see the smiling faces when we were finished and returned nice clean equipment.

Plans are underway for our 2<sup>nd</sup> CRRN Tea which will be held on March 19, 2010, which is nationally known as Certified Nurses Day. We are also working on an all day seminar for sometime in 2010 on Aging & Elder Affairs. We hope to have a date and speakers by August.

Our meetings continue to be successful with triple the number of attendees since last year. Shands Transitional Care Unit recently inquired about our district and meetings and had one of their employees attend our last meeting. Plans are under way to visit their unit to discuss their role as rehabilitation nurses. We will be on hiatus in July and resume regular meetings in August.

Helen Cole has decided to retire from Brooks Rehab and celebrate the birth of her first grandchild, Samantha Leigh, born June 4th.

## Tallahassee Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (TARN)

The Tallahassee Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (TARN) held their June quarterly meeting at Integrated Mechanical Care (IMC) in Tallahassee where 12 members and guests were provided a dinner presentation about the history and application of IMC therapy services. The next TARN meeting is scheduled for Sept. 15 and an educational presentation is being planned. During the business meeting members voted to make a memorial contribution to Big Bend Hospice for Karen Girard, sister of Bonnie Wirth, as well as a donation to the Second Harvest of the Big Bend. Ruth Beck, R.N., C.R.R.N., represented TARN as our choice of Nurse of the Year at this year's annual Capital Regional Medical Center's community nursing awards ceremony held in May. Ruth Beck was the 2009 "Nurse of Excellence," and represented TARN at the Tallahassee Nurse of Excellence Awards Banquet on May 12, 2009.

## Volusia / Flagler District

Effort is being made to reorganize the Volusia/Flagler District. Please contact either Marianne Marzinko at: [marianne.marzinko@halifax.org](mailto:marianne.marzinko@halifax.org) or Patrick Meehan at: [patrick.meehan@fhmd.org](mailto:patrick.meehan@fhmd.org) for additional information about scheduled meetings and events.

## West Coast (WCARN)

We meet the first Tuesday of every month. We rotate meeting places between Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. If you are interested in learning and networkin with rehab nurses, please contact Cindy Hernandez at: [cindyjorge@aol.com](mailto:cindyjorge@aol.com)

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## SAVE THE DATE

### ARN ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

OCT 21-24, 2009  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

## Special Interest Group Survey

Penny Kehoe, RN, BSN, CRRN, NCSN, CLNC

The 2008 conference survey was conducted at the May 2008 conference. Efforts to have all conference participants complete the survey included a brightly colored purple survey, placement of the conference package of handouts, daily reminders and a labeled collection table. Only 4 questions were asked for brevity. A total of 20 responses were received. The FSARN Board then requested an E-mail survey be sent to the entire membership. Due to limited response this spring, it was re-sent just before the annual conference.

**1. Are you interested in belonging to a Special Interest Group?** 2008 responses: 11 – No/Not interested; 1 – Maybe; 8 - Yes

2009 Responses: 40 Responded, 11 not interested

**2. How do you envision the SIG you would be willing to join?** 2008 Summary of comments: Others working in similar environment; To help with legislative changes for the consumer; Nurse Practitioner or Advance Practice Nurses; E-mail networking; To instruct new nurses to be rehab nurses; Sharing of ideas, resources, references, etc.; It is interesting to meet at conference, lets meet.

2009 comments: Case Management; Information on internet; Network via conference/e-mail; SIG groups already established were identified as areas of interest

**3. Would you be willing to develop and/or chair your SIG?** 2008 Responses: 16 – No; 1 – Yes; 2 – Yes (no name/contact information); 1 – Yes with support (unable to read name). 2008 Comments: Not at the present time but in the near future.

2009 Responses: 38 Responded, 29 – No; 4 – Maybe; 3 – Yes. 2009 Comments: Not at the present time but in the near future.

**4. Do you see rehab nurses as a SIG to other nursing specialties?** 2008 Responses: 11- No; 8 – Yes; 1- Yes and No. 2008 Comments: Not useful. ARN visions are not the same as employers; If you develop SIG again, please include pediatrics.

2009 Responses: 36 Responded, 6 – No, 3 – Maybe, 27 – Yes. 2009 Comments: We are very holistic; We can be the foundation/resource (to other specialties).

ARN has a practical solution to the above results. The ARN Membership Web page has 12 Special Interest Groups listed. A member may join up to 2 groups. Several SIGS have e-mail discussion groups. It has become the decision of the FSARN board to encourage FSARN members to become active in the ARN SIGS of their choice.

## Membership Report

Linda Bertino, RN, MSN

Our membership continues to increase slowly. We are now up to 324 members. Last year we had less than 300 members! We will continue to communicate with prospective members and encourage changing status to tri-level. The letters are working so I'll continue.

Please check your EMAILS. Many times when we change our email we forget to change **all** of them. Now that we have gone "Green" it is important that we have valid emails. Many of you had an opportunity to check your EM at the conference and some of you had the chance to add your EM to our list. It is a simple process. First, you need to change it with ARN and this requires a phone call to ARN. Once you change it with ARN then we will automatically get it. If you are not on our mail list or want to be sure we have your new email, just go to our web site [www.FSARN.org](http://www.FSARN.org) and look for the Join Our List box. It is on every page so you cannot miss it. Enter your email, then you will be asked to re-enter it and answer a few questions. If you are an ARN member, check the ARN box. If not, check General Interest and you are done! Thanks for your support and keep recruiting members.

## Scholarships

Lois Hohl, RN, CRRN

FSARN awarded thirteen scholarships for the 2009 Annual Educational Conference. Members who received the scholarship performed many of the tasks necessary to have a successful conference. Scholarships are currently available for the National ARN Conference in Albuquerque, NM in October. Tri-level members who complete the application prior to the deadline are eligible for receiving a scholarship. Please see the FSARN website at [www.fsarn.org](http://www.fsarn.org) for all the information needed to apply. Scholarship is one of the privileges of being a member of this organization. We encourage you to take advantage of this benefit to stay current with the latest information, network with nurses with similar concerns and issues and continue to grow in your career

**FSARN expresses our sincere condolences and sympathy to Linda Bertino for the recent unexpected loss of her brother**



**Florida State Association of Rehabilitation Nurses**  
C/O Sue Brown  
516 SW 72nd Avenue  
North Lauderdale, FL 33068

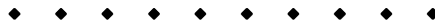
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