

# Region III Newsletter

Vol 1 ~ No 1 January 2009

Alabama~Florida~Georgia~Kentucky~Mississippi  
North Carolina~South Carolina~Tennessee

## **Current Chapters**

Alabama: ALARN

Florida: FSARN

Georgia: GARN

Kentucky

Mississippi

North Carolina Chapters:

- GNCCARN
- Charlotte
- Central Carolinas

South Carolina: SCARN

Tennessee: Volunteer

Donna Jernigan, ARN President  
ARN08@windstream.net

Lisa Pervin, Region III Director  
lisa@bbpconsulting.com

Region III Website:  
[www.fsarn.org/region3.html](http://www.fsarn.org/region3.html)

ARN Website: [www.rehabnurse.org](http://www.rehabnurse.org)

ARN Chapter Liaison:  
Nicole Wallace  
[Nwallace@Connect2amc.com](mailto:Nwallace@Connect2amc.com)

**W**elcome to the first issue of the Region III newsletter! This newsletter will hopefully accomplish the following objectives:

1. To communicate the ARN strategic plan and ARN activities to the region consistently and on a regular basis
2. To communicate activities and events throughout the region
3. To provide the chapters with information in a useable format to benefit in whatever way the chapters decide works best for them.

**Thanks for all you've done!** I just want to thank Kathy Clark for her hard work and commitment these last two years as our Region III Director. It's not an easy job and we are a tough crowd sometimes! I know that I will look to Kathy as a mentor and a support during my term.

## **From ARN...**

**ARN Strategic Plan.** The overall core purpose is to "advance rehabilitation nursing practice". To accomplish that purpose, the BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal) was developed which states, "To reshape healthcare by integrating rehabilitation nursing concepts to care for all people." That goal is to be accomplished through leadership, research, professionalism development and government relations. See more detail in the January board meeting update.  
**VIP.** ARN is very committed to tapping into and developing the leadership that we know exists in our membership. The VIP (Volunteer Identification Program) is one way to do that. There are several committees that are always looking for members. Think about it...we could use your talent!

**Health Policy & Advocacy.** We now have representation in

Washington, DC and 2008 was a busy year for ARN in support of increasing the workforce, more funds for research and reauthorization of the TBI Act. Details about all of these topics can be found on the ARN website. This next year with the new administration will prove to be another busy and active year on the hill!

**January ARN Board Meeting...**The ARN Board met January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in Chicago. It was very cold indeed! This was the first of three board meetings that will be held this year. It was a productive meeting with lively ongoing dialogue regarding the important issues that affect all of us. The following highlights some of that information and updates...

- **Internal and external trends that could affect the organization.** As an organization we all have a responsibility to ensure that everything we do at all levels creates value and takes advantage of opportunities to keep and hopefully recruit members given the economic climate and concerns. We need to reinforce that sense of belonging and make sure we continually assess what the membership at the national and chapter level wants and needs and to strive to meet those expectations. We need to continually look at creative ways to do things that not only gives value but also ensures respect for personal time and work-life balance.

- We discussed and reviewed the **assumptions we can make as an organization as it relates to the future**. The relevant categories we identified and verified include:
  - Economic factors that affect our practice
  - Demographics of persons served
  - Technology and science
  - Legislation and regulation
  - Structure of rehabilitation nursing
- **Update on the strategic plan 2008-2009**
  - We continue to look at partnerships and collaborative efforts with other organizations that can support ARN in its mission such as CARF, CMS, AMRPA, AAPM&R, and CMSA.
  - Enhancing the perceived value of rehabilitation nursing such as taking advantage of Rehab Awareness Week on a national level as one example
  - Increasing member's awareness of public policy that affects our field through the use of web tools, Health Policy Committee, etc
  - Scheduling more webcasts for 2009. There are two budgeted for this year.
  - Development of a leadership course to increase the number of leaders within the organization
  - Increasing the number of ARN members from diverse settings. Accepting the philosophy that rehab is a "process not a location".
  - Continue to present and develop evidence based practice and research that will translate into practice
- **Strategic Plan Member Survey Results**
  - Overall, members are satisfied with their ARN membership (94%).
  - The journal, the conference, continuing education, quality information were identified as valued
  - Suggestions made included more local chapter opportunities, more continuing education, more support for chapters and increase member involvement
  - Many still unaware of the electronic member based opportunities and that more communication is needed.

### **From the Region...**

The final reconciliation of the **2008 Region III Conference** has been done. Congratulations to the Tennessee Volunteer Chapter and Karen Holland for a very successful conference. If you missed it, it was held in Pigeon Forge, TN. It was a great conference, great speakers...all in all, a great time. There were over 100 participants attending and the evaluations were excellent overall. The total profit for this conference was over \$15, 000! The detail of the fund allocation was sent to all chapter leaders. The chapters that are sharing the profits include: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, GNCCARN and South Carolina with Tennessee. Great job everyone! See below for the upcoming 2010 Region III Conference!

**Puerto Rico...**we may very well begin working with this chapter in Puerto Rico and adopt them into our Region which will be very exciting for all of us. Stay tuned and I will keep you updated.

### **Mark Your Calendars...**

**GNCCARN 2009 Educational Conference.** This two day conference will be held April 23-24, 2009 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Carolina Beach, NC. Join them by the beautiful sea for a two day conference. For more information...contact Cindy Boyd at: [cindy.boyd@ic.nc.gov](mailto:cindy.boyd@ic.nc.gov) or Kathy Fisher at: [flowerchild831@charter.net](mailto:flowerchild831@charter.net).

**FSARN 2009 Educational Conference.** The 32nd Annual Educational Conference will be held May 6-8, 2009 at the Regal Sun Resort in Orlando, FL. Keep an eye on the website for more details ([www.fsarn.org](http://www.fsarn.org))

**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. Check the ARN website for more information ([www.rehabnurse.org](http://www.rehabnurse.org)).

**Region III 2010 Conference.** The planning is underway for the next Region III Conference! It will be held in Orlando, FL, hosted by FSARN. Those dates will be May 6-7, 2010 at the Regal Sun Resort.

We will be combining for the first time the FSARN Annual Educational Conference and Region III Conference. The request for help will be coming soon!

**CHAPTER Highlight...**During the holiday time when everyone is busy and we tend to get consumed with our own lives and our own stuff...something crosses your path that makes you pause and take a breath. I received an email from Stephanie Burnett and the Alabama Chapter regarding their annual Christmas project. They were asking for a monetary donation from their members for a local ministry in their area that also supports their facilities with discharge planning. The chapter would then match the donations made. I thought to myself...what a great idea...and so simple but yet very powerful. It is not always the big lavish gestures that make a difference but sometimes the small quiet ones that can be just as impactful. Thank you for sharing!

I would like to be able to highlight in each newsletter chapter news, ideas, stories...things that we can all benefit from...this is your newsletter. So send those suggestions and anything else you think is newsworthy or interesting. I will make sure it gets in the newsletter. There are some great things going on out there so let's share them.

**Check out the website for more information regarding any of these conferences and general contact information for the region. Any changes in contact information or officers of your chapters, please let me know and will update the website.**

**Expect the next issue to come out in the spring after the March Board Meeting. Email with updates, information you want sent out to the region, etc. to [lisa@bbpconsulting.com](mailto:lisa@bbpconsulting.com)**

**Thank you and let's make this next year a great and memorable one!**

Lisa Pervin RN, CRRN, PhD, Region III Director