

Region III Newsletter

Vol 1 ~ No 3 June 2009

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

Current States & Chapters

Alabama: ALARN

Florida: FSARN

Georgia: GARN

Kentucky

Mississippi

North Carolina Chapters:

- GNCCARN
- Charlotte
- Central Carolinas

South Carolina: SCARN

Tennessee: Volunteer

Puerto Rico

Donna Jernigan, ARN

PresidentARN08@windstream.net

Lisa Pervin, Region III Director

lisa@bbpconsulting.com

Region III Website:

www.fsarn.org/region3.html

ARN Website: www.rehabnurse.org

ARN Chapter Liaison:

Nicole Wallace

Summer is here and hopefully this finds many of you are making some fun plans or vacations...and finding the time to spend with family and friends!

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 35th Annual Educational Conference. This year's conference is being held in Albuquerque, NM, October 21-24th, 2009. The brochures have been mailed out but you can also check the ARN website for more information (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 35th anniversary, there will be an additional celebratory event Friday night for all conference attendees. It looks like another great conference this year!

From the Region...

Puerto Rico has been working hard at establishing their chapter and we certainly give them our support in their efforts. Most of us can relate to the challenges at starting and sustaining a chapter! We applaud your efforts and welcome!

ALARN Bi-Annual Educational Conference. The Alabama Association of Rehabilitation Nurses hosted its bi-annual educational conference on April 17, 2009 at the Homewood Library. The conference title and theme was, "Ages and Stages thru the Rehabilitation Continuum". Attendance was supported locally and across the state. The speakers and vendors were a hit at this event; they covered topics of pediatric CI therapy, health issues facing women with disabilities, weight management with SCI, hospice and rehabilitation, skin care and the transition of youth with special health care needs to adult health. Attendees parted the conference with new knowledge in the care of the patient requiring rehabilitation. Also, they got a sneak peak of innovations in research related to rehabilitation. This conference was a success despite the economic battles we are all facing. A special thanks to the planning committee, attendees, vendors, and chapter support.

GNCCARN 2009 Educational Conference. This two day conference was held April 23-24, 2009 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Carolina Beach, NC by the beautiful sea.

FSARN 2009 Educational Conference. The 32nd Annual Educational Conference, "Rehab Through the Ages", was held May 6-8, 2009 at the Regal Sun Resort in Orlando, FL. For the first time, one of the mandatory relicensing courses was held as a preconference offering. Medical Errors was done and very well received and attended. Thursday and Friday was filled with great speakers on a variety of topics such as wound care, burn rehabilitation, stroke update, RSD, bowel programs and SCI, ways to decrease stress and much more was presented over the two days. The vendors and sponsors really helped to make this conference successful and as always, never disappoint. The Thursday evening event was sponsored by FINR and many folks took advantage of Downtown Disney that is walking distance from the hotel.

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. 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 future 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 30th. 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
- 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.

Question...

What are you doing as a chapter to grow and retain your members? What strategies have you implemented that have created more value for your members? Please send to me and will put them in the next newsletter. Anything you might be doing could and will be of value to others!

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.

Email with updates, information you want sent out to the region, etc. to lisa@bbpconsulting.com

Lisa Pervin RN, CRRN, PhD, Region III Director