

# Region III Newsletter

Vol 1 ~ No 5 November 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

Linda Pierce, ARN President

Lisa Pervin, Region III Director

[lisa@bbpconsulting.com](mailto: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)

**A**RN in Albuquerque was another good conference and for those of you there, we had a great time...! There was a lot of attendance from this region...some familiar faces and many new ones as well. There were some very good presentations this year covering timely topics such as falls and safety, patient satisfaction, documentation, evidenced-based practice, stroke and ethics, brain injury, use of service dogs, diabetes and so much more. The posters were very good this year covering yet another array of important topics. There was no shortage of learning to be had this year. Jeremy Scott gave a great presentation on Health Care Policy which included ARN's involvement, what can be accessed from the website and what is currently going on for which Jeremy was upfront about...it changes moment to moment. I think if nothing else, he instilled a sense of urgency as to what we as nurses need to take responsibility for in terms of our practice and our future.

The closing speaker was Dr. Cheri Blauwet, "No Brakes..." who talked about her own challenges and triumphs growing up in a wheelchair...very heartwarming and gave us some reminders as healthcare professionals. The RNF Benefit event this year was held at El Pinto a local restaurant and there was a 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Albuquerque Art Museum.

There was a leadership conference which was a first this year and was very well received by those who attended. Virginia Beeson was the guest speaker but several other of our past and veteran leaders presented as well over the two day conference. I expect to see this repeated next year. This was different from the Chapter Leadership conference which was also held and covered CE Applications and

changes as well some other chapter topics. There were many different opportunities this year to gain some much needed information.

Several folks took advantage of some free time and went to Santa Fe for the day. There were approximately 725 participants this year and as you all know, next year, the ARN Conference will be held in Orlando, FL at a fabulous resort...close to home.

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday morning and the new officers were installed. Linda Pierce is our new President, Kathy Doeschot is now President-Elect and Karion Waites is Secretary-Treasurer...congrats to them all as we look forward to a successful year ahead. Thank you Donna Jernigan for all of your hard work and leadership this last year!

Congratulations to the Florida Chapter for winning the 'Chapter of the Year Award'. Kevin Glennon, FSARN President accepted the award for the chapter.

There will be proposed bylaw changes that the membership will be asked to vote on in the very near future and when you receive your ballot, I strongly encourage you to make sure your vote counts. We have discussed before that ARN has been proposing a board/governance restructure and it is believed to be in the best interest of the organization as a whole. The following is an outline of the proposed changes:

- There will be a Board of Directors instead of Regional Directors with the goal to actively support, promote and advance the mission of ARN...advancing rehabilitation nursing practice through education, advocacy, collaboration and research.
- The Board will be skill and knowledge based with a more universal perspective and members will be able to vote on all members of the Board, not just their respective region. It will allow the most qualified regardless of location to be elected and facilitate the success of ARN.
- Reducing the Board from eight to six is an efficient move for ARN...it not only saves ARN money but feel this is a sufficient number to accomplish the work with the help of staff and committees.
- The term of office will be three years instead of two to allow for experience and that Board member to feel as if they have enough time to really make a difference as many of us feel that it takes that first year or so to feel comfortable in the role as we learn what that role entails.
- The question you may be asking is, will the regions go away entirely? I am not sure we know the answer to that right now. It will change how we look at the region from the ARN Board perspective but it does not necessarily mean those relationships just dissolve. That may very well be up to the Region.
- The Chapter Liaison Support Committee is a newly formed committee and is intended to bridge the gap between local chapters and ARN and you will be hearing more about that committee. Ina Fletcher is the member who will cover our area of the country.

#### **Other information from ARN...**

- The PRN Course is now available on CD-ROM and can be purchased at the ARN website. You can purchase the individual or institutional program.
- The Health Care Policy Update page on the ARN website has a wealth of information for you to access and encourage you to do so ([www.rehabnurse.org](http://www.rehabnurse.org)).

#### **More from the Region...**

The Region III meeting was well attended at the conference as always. We were able to give an update on recent ARN news as well as discuss the upcoming conference. The minutes for this meeting have been posted on the Region III page on the website. There has been much done thus far on the conference and thanks to all who volunteered for many of the tasks to be done. As it stands right now, about half of the speakers have been confirmed and hopefully looking to confirm the rest in the next month.

- ALARN will do the brochure for which we will send out few 'paper copies' and will mass email most of them so make sure your email addresses are correct with ARN. This will save a lot of money in printing and postage but also allows us to be a little greener.
- GARN will do the poster sessions so start thinking about putting one together...share best practices with your peers.
- SCARN is handling registrations
- GNCCARN is helping with vendors.

There is still plenty more to do...any help with vendors will be great as we really need to fill those spots. We are hoping for 300 participants, 40 vendors, at least 30 posters, and some table lunch sponsors. Thank you to the Charlotte Chapter for donating/raffling off several scholarships to this conference. We are charging \$195 for the conference which will include breakfast, sit down lunches and breaks for both days as well as an evening reception hosted by FINR on Thursday. Additionally, for those checking in early enough on Wednesday, you will be able to get an additional contact hour as we are offering one of the Florida mandatory relicensing courses, Domestic and Workplace (or lateral) Violence in the early evening. We did Medical Errors and that was a great success so we will do that again. The conference booklet will be on CD again this year, again, decreasing printing costs and allows you to put them on your computer to share and use more readily after the conference. We have sponsors for the conference bags and lanyards...

The dates again are May 5-7, 2010 at the Regal Sun Resort in Orlando and the theme and title is, "2010...A Rehabilitation Odyssey". Anyone wanting to volunteer, contact me at [lisa@bbpconsulting.com](mailto:lisa@bbpconsulting.com). We will need several volunteers to introduce speakers, monitor the room, help with onsite registration, stuff bags, etc...

**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](mailto:lisa@bbpconsulting.com)**

Lisa Pervin RN, CRRN, PhD, Region III Director