



The 2014 AWHONN Annual Convention is right around the corner! Are you going?

*June 14-18, 2014
Disney Coronado
Orlando, Florida*

**Gerald Lowe
Virginia Section Chair**



Greetings,

After this long and cold winter, I think it is safe to say, "Spring is now here!" Spring brings rebirth: trees are blooming, bumble bees are buzzing, and the sun is shining brighter and warmer. For the most part, it is a beautiful time of year. Spring is normally the time Sections and regional areas have conferences, symposiums, and other educational events. I have had the privilege to attend three conferences this Spring to represent Virginia AWHONN. First I joined our Section friends in North Carolina for their conference in early April. Their conference was well attended and had great speakers. Next, I had the pleasure of representing VA AWHONN at the Carilion Perinatal Conference in Roanoke, VA. At this conference, I hosted a vendor table with our Blue Ridge Leader, Lora Davidson, and spoke about VA AWHONN during their luncheon. Lastly, I attended the Riverside Perinatal Symposium in Williamsburg, VA. I was joined by our Public Information Officer, Deanna Daniel, to recruit new members for AWHONN.

Personally I like attending conferences! It is a chance to meet new people, network, and learn new ideas, methods for best practice, and the latest research. Conferences always bring a new perspective of the job you and I do. There are two more conferences I plan to attend this year: the Annual National AWHONN Conference in Orlando, FL and the Virginia Section Conference in Fredericksburg, VA.

The AWHONN National Conference is always an exciting time, offering a wealth of information from presenters, vendors, and special activities. It is a chance to meet nurses and

providers from across the country, to listen to top presenters, and a time for a little fun! Although I am excited about the National Conference, I am even more thrilled about the Virginia Section Conference. The Section Conference will be held in Fredericksburg, VA, at the Fredericksburg Expo and Convention Center. Fredericksburg is my place of birth and a key historical place for the birth of this nation.

The Rappahannock chapter is now busy finalizing events and presentations for all attendees. Registration for the Section Conference will be open June 1st and AWHONN members will be notified by email. The theme this year is "In Pursuit of Excellence". Vince Lombardi is quoted as saying, "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence." Please join me in Fredericksburg as we Pursue Excellence!!

Gerald A. Lowe, MSN, RN
Virginia AWHONN Section Chair

Would you like to win *FREE* registration to the 2014 Virginia Section conference?

Enter the Virginia AWHONN photo contest to replace the image on each of our eight chapter pages on the Virginia AWHONN web site

Photo Submission Rules

- Must be an original photograph taken and submitted by an active AWHONN member (elected and appointed chapter and section leaders are not eligible)
- Must feature subject matter within the boundaries of your chapter
- Only landscape photography will be considered. Any photo that features one or more persons will not be considered
- Photos must be 72 dpi and 4 inches wide or greater to be considered (there is no maximum size limit)
- The winner from each section will be chosen by the officers of the section and their decision will be final
- Submit photos to webmaster@awhonnva.org in jpg, gif or tif format
- Submissions deadline is June 30, 2014

The eight winners will receive free registration to the 2014 Virginia Section conference (a \$140.00 value) and a \$25.00 gift card to Starbucks!

Virginia Chapter Leaders and Updates

Blue Ridge Chapter

Chapter Leader: *Lora Davidson*

Rappahannock Chapter

Chapter Co-Leader: *Laila Arouni*

Chapter Co-Leader: *Tina Jessee*

Jefferson Chapter

Chapter Co-Leader: *Sharon Fickley*

Chapter Co-Leader: *Paula Pippin*

Richmond Chapter

Chapter Co-Leader: *Nina Beaman*

Chapter Co-Leader: *Kristie Patrick-Austin*

2014 Virginia Section Conference!

Join us September 5-6, 2014 at the Fredericksburg Expo!

We are still looking for vendors so let us know if you have any suggestions.

Richmond Chapter Spring Meeting was held May 16-17 at Bryant & Stratton College.

NOVA/DC Chapter

Chapter Leader: *Lisa Klein*

The NoVaDC chapter is back up and running! We had over 20 attendees at a dinner meeting on a snowy March 25th night. Our speaker, Micheline Toussaint, MSW, LCSW, RYT, spoke on "Staying Centered in the Face of Change" and offered many helpful suggestions for good work-life balance. Our next meeting will be on May 27 at the George Mason University, Arlington Campus. Dr. Alessandro Ghidini will talk about new and emerging antenatal diagnostic technologies. We will have a planning meeting before hand and all interested in helping our chapter come back to life are welcome! Further details coming!

South Central Chapter

Chapter Co-Leader: *Denise Doss*

Chapter Co-Leader: *Felicia Morris*

Peninsula Chapter

Chapter Leader: *open*

Tidewater Chapter

Chapter Leader: *Diana Behling*

Virginia Section Leaders and Updates

Section Leader

Gerald Lowe

Secretary/Treasurer

Jessica Fenton

Legislative Chair

Jan Botkin

Public Information Officer

Deanna Daniel

Have you visited the Virginia AWHONN website recently? Kevin has made some amazing changes so check it out! Lots of information and direct links to your AWHONN leaders at <http://www.awhonnva.org/index.html>

Membership Chair

Jeannette Brown

Representative to the March of Dimes and Nominating Chair

Emily Drake

March of Dimes—new national initiative to focus on Timeliness of Newborn Screening

Quality Improvement Programs with Newborn Screenings to reduce sample delays

<http://www.marchofdimes.com/virginia/>

Nominating Chair

Mary Ann Lucia

Webmaster

Kevin Bowser

Your photo could represent your AWHONN chapter on the Virginia AWHONN website. You could also win free registration to the 2014 Virginia AWHONN Conference. Details are in the newsletter or contact any leader with questions.

**Representative to the Virginia
Breastfeeding Advisory Board**

Cindy Curtis

The Virginia Department of Health with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics hosted the first ever Virginia Maternity Care Quality Improvement Collaborative event. This leadership collaborative focused on the implementation of best practices in maternity care and strategies to improve outcomes for mothers and babies. We provided opportunities to learn from national experts and exchange ideas with other leaders in the state.

The state of a community's overall health can be determined by the tender measure of the health and well-being of its infants. Infant mortality is one of the most important indicators of the health of a state, as it is associated with a variety of factors such as maternal health, quality and access to medical care, socioeconomic conditions, and public health practices. The Virginia Department Health is dedicated to further reducing the infant mortality rate by supporting the efforts of maternity care facilities in Virginia and helping to develop programs to increase the continuity of care available.

The Virginia Maternity Care Quality Improvement Collaborative took place on Friday, May 16, 2014 in Glen Allen, VA.

This invitation-only Maternity Care Quality Improvement Collaborative provided a learning environment for all maternity care facilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Topics included The Joint Commission Perinatal Core Measure set, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) score(s), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Breastfeeding Report Card, and the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologist Guidelines for Perinatal care.

Participants:

- Will be equipped with tools and strategies to reduce the distance between current practice and best practice in accordance with The Joint Commission; and
- Had an opportunity to join this on-going statewide quality improvement initiative.

Each facility was asked to select three (3) key stakeholders to represent their facility. Examples of key stakeholders included: administrators, medical and nursing directors, chief executive officers, and chief quality officers. Our goal was to have 100% of maternity care facilities throughout the Commonwealth represented at this event.

Did You Know...

Have an event coming up?

- Send details to any leader and we will include it in our next newsletter as well as on the website

Employment Opportunities

- Looking for one? Check out the VA AWHONN website and see what's available
- Have a position you would like to advertise? Send the information to Webmaster Kevin Bowser and have it posted on the VA AWHONN website for all to see!

You could be the AWHONN representative at your school or facility

- VA AWHONN is looking for volunteers to agree to post newsletters and events at their facilities and share the great things AWHONN is doing.
- Contact Deanna if you are interested in filling this role, it's easy and you could be instrumental in increasing our membership to 1,000 strong!

Kudos!

Bon Secours Maryview Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA

Congratulations to Ermie Cruz, RN, BSN, Clinical Care Lead (right) Jane Payne, RN, BSN (center) & Sonja Bass, RN (left) who presented valuable information on the treatment of post-partum hemorrhage at the Nursing Grand Rounds on March 18, 2014. All participants in attendance received 1 CEU. All three presenters are active members of AWHONN.



Bon Secours Maryview Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA

Congratulations to Lavada Werner, RN, BSN, Clinical Care Lead (center), AWHONN member who was nominated for the Daisy Award in March 2014 along with Robin Wilson, (left) RN-C who was the Daisy Award recipient for the month of February 2012. Submitted by Jacquelyn Claude (pictured right) RN, MSPH, BSN

Mark Your Calendars...



2014 AWHONN Annual Convention

June 14-18, 2014
Disney Coronado
Orlando, Florida

2014 AWHONN Virginia Section Conference registration will open June 1st!



September 5-6, 2014
Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Register at
<http://www.awhonnva.org/2014Conference.htm>

Newsletter submissions and/or suggestions are always welcome; we want to know what's going on in your chapter.

Contact Deanna Daniel at pio@awhonnva.org