

February 2006

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

2005 has been a very busy one for the Virginia Section of AWHONN. I would like to share some of the highlights!

- **AWHONN's Annual Leadership Conference** was held in Fairfax, VA, January 29-31, 2005. Sixteen Virginian leaders attended the program
- The Blue Ridge Chapter hosted a very successful the Section Spring Meeting, "**Reaching for the Peaks of Success**" on **March 4-6, 2005.**
- The Virginia Section of AWHONN has been very successful partners with the March of Dimes teaming up to prevent prematurity. This is a ten year program focusing on investigating and preventing prematurity. All of our chapters have been involved and will continue to develop projects focused on patient and professional education. **Thank you to Dona Dei and Sara Long, MOD Program Directors who are awesome, generous and are both such a positive force! Both were awarded Service Awards at the 2005 Spring conference.**
- **Kaye Winston and Sarah Richardson**, past Virginia Section leaders were recognized at the spring meeting for their years of service. **Lisa Klein**, NOVA Chapter Chair and 2006 spring conference chair was also recognized as the **2005 Virginia Section Outstanding Leader!**
- **The 2005 Convention "The Power of Nursing"** was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 11- 15th. Virginia was well represented by our membership! The convention was an exciting, educational and fun time for all! Check out the pictures on the National website. Speakers from Virginia included: **Holly Blanchard, Karen Bray, Nina Beaman, Carol Curran, Judi Hall, Janet Hooper, Nancy Jallo, Judith A. Lewis, Barbara Moran, Rita Pickler, Candice Sullivan, Barbara Rusynko and Pearl Zhou.** Thank you one and all for a job well done!
- **Kudos to all the Chapter Leaders** for all their time, efforts and "cheerleading" for AWHONN at the grassroots level.

2006 Virginia AWHONN Activities-

- **National Leadership Conference** was held January 28-30th in Crystal City, VA. The Virginia Section welcomed the 300 participants with gift bags (candy, letter, freebies and a bookmark). 19 VA Leaders attended the conference.
- **NOVA Chapter** in partnership with the **March of Dimes** are sponsoring an excellent **Spring Conference** that will be energizing, informative and exciting. **Difficult Decisions: Providing Compassionate Care in a Challenging Environment, March 30, 31**

and April 1, 2006. I know this will be a successful conference. Please encourage your colleagues to attend.

- **The 2006 Convention, Innovate.Lead.Care** will be held June 24-28, 2006 in Baltimore, MD. Virginia AWHONN should be well represented!
- **National and Section elections** will be held this year. **Sherri Simons**, our Nominating Chair has submitted an election ballot for VA Section Chair & Secretary -Treasurer for 2007- 2009. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE** in July when the ballot is placed online!!
- **Please check your CHAPTER site and contact your CHAPTER LEADERS for local activities.**

Great job to one and all! Remember, there are always opportunities to be an AWHONN Leader. **Please get involved! This is your organization** and it would be great for you to become more involved in a leadership role and politically. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Check out the National website for leadership, educational and political information. There is information for your practice and also new career opportunities. Thank you for your commitment and support promoting the health of women and newborns.