



**Welcome to the 2013 Virginia Section
AWHONN Leadership Team**



**Gerald Lowe
Virginia Section Chair**

From the Section Leader

“Hi, my name is Gerald, and I am one of the nurses here.” Over the years, this has been my standard introduction to a patient. It comes in handy because it gives my name and explains the role I will be providing. So to the membership of Virginia AWHONN I would like to say, “Hi, my name is Gerald Lowe, and I am your new Virginia Section Leader.”

For those I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, I have been a member of AWHONN since 2004. I became an RN in 2004 and via the internet discovered the professional organization for obstetric nursing. I did not actually become a member until a few months later after successfully completing the NCLEX exam. As a “new kid” on the block, I was asked to assist with the leadership of the newest chapter in Virginia, the Rappahannock Chapter. Shortly after that I attended my first AWHONN meeting and found it to be a wealth of knowledge for a new nurse. I also found AWHONN to be a chance to meet nurses from across the state and the nation. I have many new friends because of AWHONN. It is exciting to me to learn new things and be exposed to different perspectives of women’s health, obstetrics and neonatal nursing from all facets of the profession.

More about me - I am married. My wife, Nicole, has been very supportive of my nursing career and she is one of the reasons I am a labor and delivery nurse. We have two children, a 14 year old daughter and an 11 year old son. We reside in rural King George, VA.

As Section Leader, I would like to lead the section in the accomplishment of three goals:

- Increase our membership by 20%. This would put us at 1000 members strong to promote the issues of women and children throughout Virginia.
- Establish partnership within the communities from schools of nursing, retailers, financial institutions, and community services to draw on their resources and to promote our mission.
- The third goal is to increase the public’s awareness of AWHONN.

All of these goals I believe we can accomplish in the next two years with your help and assistance. There will be more to come on these goals at the Section Conference.

The Virginia Section Conference will be meeting in Blacksburg, VA on the campus of Virginia Tech. Dates are April 12-13, 2013. The Blue Ridge Chapter will be hosting the event. If you are able, I would strongly encourage you to attend and invite others, especially non-members.

Now that I have become the Section Leader, Mary Hancock has assumed the role of Secretary/Treasurer for the Virginia Section. Mary has been involved with AWHONN for several years and brings a wealth of knowledge to her leadership position. I eagerly look forward to working with Mary and all the leaders of VA AWHONN that give much of their personal time to our organization.

Lastly, if you are involved with Virginia AWHONN, thank you, stay involved and get others involved! If you are not involved, get involved, and then stay involved and involve others.

G. Lowe



Virginia Chapter Leaders and Updates

Blue Ridge Chapter

Chapter Co-Leader: Jessica Fenton
Chapter Co-Leader: Rhonda Lindamood

"We are working diligently in preparation for the upcoming Virginia Section Conference on April 12th and 13th in Blacksburg, VA. We are very excited about this conference and believe it is going to be a fun and educational opportunity for our Virginia Chapter! We hope to see everyone there! Here is the online registration link for the conference: www.123signup.com/event?id=bmsbt if you need to sign up!"
Jessica Fenton

Jefferson Chapter

Chapter Co-Leader: Sharon Fickley
Chapter Co-Leader: Paula Pippin

Northern Virginia Chapter

Chapter Leader: Sarah Baxter

Rappahannock Chapter

Chapter Leader: Hishani Perera

"The Rappahannock Chapter is planning an AWHONN meeting with a presentation on common genetic issues in OB. The speaker will be Spencer Wood, MS, and Certified Genetics Counselor who works with the high risk patient population. We hope to be able to offer it on April 30th at Olde Silk Mill in Fredericksburg, VA as a dinner meeting. Details will be posted on the AWHONN website once they are confirmed."
Hishani Perera

South Central Chapter

Chapter Co-Leader: Denise Doss
Chapter Co-Leader: Sharon Elkins

Tidewater Chapter

Chapter Leader: Diana Behling

Richmond Chapter

Chapter Co-Leader: Nina Beaman
Chapter Co-Leader: Kristie Patrick-Austin

The Richmond Chapter Spring Meeting, "Solving Diverse Dilemmas", will be held on May 31st and June 1st. Topics include "How Do We Empower Women to Birth Creatively in an Age of Protocols", "How Do We Interact to Interdict Incivility" and more! The meeting will be held at Bryant and Stratton College.

Peninsula Chapter

Chapter Co-Leader: Sharon Easter
Chapter Co-Leader: Nancy Jallor
Secretary/Treasurer: Christina Wray

Upcoming Events

2013 AWHONN CONVENTION



Nurses from around the globe will be heading to Nashville on June 15-19 for the 2013 AWHONN Convention which is developed by and for nurses who specialize in caring for women and newborns. Join us in Nashville to tackle the issues and challenges that keep us up at night, the moments of joy that keep us going, and the determination we share to improve ourselves, our profession and the lives of our patients. Go to www.awhonn.org for registration. Up to 35 CNE hours, register now and save.

AWHONN Virginia Section ~ 2013 Conference

Embracing the Changes around Us

April 12~13, 2013

Inn at Virginia Tech

& Skelton Conference Center

Blacksburg, VA

Register online at www.123signup.com/event?id=bmsbt



We need your help...

- The AWHONN Virginia Section Newsletter will be distributed quarterly, and we need a name...please send me your suggestions or see me at the Virginia Conference!
- 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