



# THE ABOHN REPORT Fall 2019



### THE ABOHN REPORT

Volume 42 Issue 2

Now accepting applications for the ABOHN Executive Director Postion

Look inside on Page 4 for more information!

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ABOHN's examinations are accredited by the National Commission of Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the certifying body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE). ABOHN is a proud member of the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS).





### A Message from the ABOHN Chair by Michele Willis, BSN, RN, COHN-S



While Fall may not be in the air where you live, the calendar tells us it is here and all that goes with the change of seasons. One constant is the mission of ABOHN which is to promote a standard of excellence in occupational health nursing through credentialing. I am very much honored to not only serve as a member of the ABOHN Board, but also to serve as its Chair as we carry out this mission.

In June we said goodbye to two Board members, Wanda Smiling and Noreen Olson. We appreciate all they have done for ABOHN to promote occupational health nursing, most especially certification during their 4 years as members of the Board. At the same time, we welcomed two new members to the Board, Marilyn Brownlee and Kari Kilbride and we look forward to working them.

ABOHN has been busy over the past several months presenting on the value of certification at the AAOHN conference in Tampa Fl in April and presenting posters and exhibiting at both the AAOHN conference and at the AOHP Conference which was recently held in Baltimore MD. It is always nice to share the

message of ABOHN and to meet our certification holders at these conferences and to meet new nurses interested in obtaining their occupational health nursing certification. To celebrate National Occupational Health Nurse's week in April a phone card pocket was sent to all our credential holders as a small token recognition of your hard work to gain and maintain your certification. Please consider recruiting colleagues to obtain COHN, COHN-S and CM certification.

The ABOHN Board and office staff continue to work to promote the message of board certification and its value as recognition of excellence in the field of occupational health nursing. You, our certification holders, are important to us and we are happy to hear from you. Please know that you can contact us through our website <u>www.abohn.org</u> or by phone (630) 789-5799.

### Examination Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)

Our Examination Development Committee (EDAC) have committed to volunteer their time to write and review questions for the new ABOHN exams that are to be launched in March 2020. This group of Board Certified OHNs from across the country came together in Olathe, Kansas in March 2019 and met with Chris Traynor of PSI Services, our testing vendor, where they learned how to write and vet test questions.

This three day intense training led to *over 300 new exam questions* written and now in the final review!

Our thanks to this great team who volunteer their time and talents which helps support ABOHN, strengthen our exams, and keep us focused on our:

<u>Vision</u>: ABOHN Certification is recognized and valued as the standard to maximize the health and safety of workers worldwide.

<u>Mission</u> ABOHN's mission is to promote a standard of excellence in occupational health nursing through cre-



Front: Row: Jean Drevdahl-Orchard, Lisa Wolf, Shelly Warrick, Pat Paquin, Michelle Edwards, Shari Turley

Back Row: Nathan Britt, Debbie George, Paula Kerns, Anne Robbins, June Magnussen, Peter Mott, Derlene Spence-Ogilvie

ABOHN will be soliciting for Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for a variety of projects in the future. Information on our new Standard Setting Committee formation can be found on page 13. Please consider sharing your talents and expertise with us!

### ABOHN 2019–2020 Board of Directors

ABOHN is governed by a Board of Directors composed of certified occupational health nurses and one public member that are selected to be representative of the community of certified occupational health nurses. The responsibilities of the Board include establishing criteria for certification and setting policies to maintain a valid certification program.



### **Governing Council**

### Chair: Michele Willis, BSN, RN, COHN-S Secretary: Melinda Cordova, BSN, RN, COHN/CM Treasurer: Lucille Carlson, MSN, MPH, RN, COHN-S/CM COHN-S Chair: Denise Matthews, BSN, RN, COHN-S COHN Chair: Pam Swann. RN. COHN CM Chair: Jean Orchard, Ph.D., RN-BC CCM, CIH, CSP, CHMM, COHN-S/CM

**Directors** 

Marilyn Brownlee, NP-PHC, FNP-C, DIH (Toronto), MScN, COHN-S/CM (Canada) Daurice Holly, RN, COHN, CCM, FAAOHN Kari Kilbride, MPH, RN, BSN, COHN-S Jim Persoon, Ph.D. (Public Member)

### Welcome to our New Directors





Marilyn Brownlee is а Nurse Practitioner at Anne Johnston Health Station and a Lecturer at Queen's University School of Nursing in Toronto, Canada. Marilyn's vast experience in occupational and public health is a great gift to the ABOHN Board of Directors.

Kari Kilbride is the Senior Manager for the Occupational Medicine Division of Healthpartners, in Bloomington, MN. Kari brings a strong background in strategic planning, quality assurance and management practices to the ABOHN

### **Call for Board of Director Applications**

ABOHN is currently accepting applications for Board of Directors to serve from June 2020-June 2022.

Please consider using your talents and experience to help guide the vision and mission of ABOHN's work. We are currently recruiting six (6) new Directors and need representation for all credential types—COHN, COHN-S, COHN/CM, and COHN-S/CM—as well as diverse industry and time/experience.

You can find the application on our website under the ABOUT ABOHN Tab. **Board of Directors.** 

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Jean Orchard.

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latthews, Pam Swann,

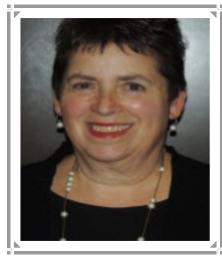
Back Row L-R: Jim Persoon (Public Middle Row: L-R: Denise

Inda

### Volume 42 Issue 2

### Thank you to our retiring Board Members

Every year we have to say good-bye to some amazing people who dedicate their time and talents to serve as Directors on the ABOHN Board. Each individual brings their own unique skill set to ABOHN and works tirelessly to ensure that the credentials continue to be true to the mission of ABOHN: *"To promote a standard of excellence in occupational health nursing through credentialing."* ABOHN was very fortunate to have received the wealth of information, dedication to the profession, and work ethic that each board member brought to the table each month.





**Beverly Hagar** 

L-R Noreen Olson, Wanda Smiling

### **Beverly Hagar** Board Service: 2016–2018

Beverly Hagar served on the ABOHN Board of Directors from 2016-2018. During her tenure, Bev served in a variety of committee work and Chaired the Nominations Committee from 2017-2018. Bev was instrumental in the development of the ABOHN Examination Development Advisory Committee (EDAC). Along with the EDAC development, Bev worked tirelessly in recruiting, interviewing and selecting new board members.

THANK YOU BEV !

Noreen Olson Board Service: 2015—2019

Noreen Olson served on the ABOHN Board of Directors from 2015-2019 and learned the business by working on the COHN-S, CM, Public Relations, and Finance Committees. Noreen served as the ABOHN Treasurer from 2016-2018 and guided ABOHN's finances through the final leg of the fiscal changes to the yearly renewal scheme. Wanda Smiling Board Service: 2015—2019

Wanda Smiling served on the ABOHN Board of Directors from 2015-2019. Wanda's board work revolved around the COHN-S, Public Relations and Nominating Committees. Wanda served as the ABOHN Chair from 2017—2019. She brought her expertise and wisdom to the Board during the Practice Analysis development. As Chair, Wanda worked tirelessly to oversee, guide, and shape the Board of Director's strategic planning.

THANK YOU WANDA!



**THANK YOU NOREEN !** 

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### **Executive Director Search**

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# ABOHN Executive Director Position

The American Board for Occupational Health Nurses, Inc. (ABOHN) is seeking a board certified, dynamic, innovative leader to assume the full-time position of Executive Director.

### This position requires:

- An Active ABOHN certification (COHN/COHN-S)
- A Master's Degree in nursing or a related health field or equivalent experience

The ideal candidate will also have executive level experience in:

- Organizational planning
- General knowledge of credentialing, testing and evaluation methodology
- Professional writing
- Public speaking. - Training

Research

- Financial and guality management
  - This exciting position affords outstanding career opportunities for an individual who can provide leadership and vision to the nationally recognized and accredited ABOHN credentialing program. Full text of the Executive Director Position Description is available at www.abohn.org.

Please submit a CV/Resume along with a cover letter to

# info@abohn.org

Board Certification: Engage Excellence

The full job description is posted on the ABOHN website. Please follow this link for more information.

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### **ABOHN At-A-Glance**

### American Board for Occupational Health Nurses Statement of Financial Position December 2017 and 2018

Current Assets	2017	2018
Cash & Equivalents	\$436,592	\$230,310
Investment Securities	\$287,531	\$617,004
Deposits	\$1,403	\$1403
Prepaid Expenses	\$14,215	\$18,650
Property and Equipment	\$3,816	\$1,067
Total Current Assets	\$743,557	\$868,434
Liabilities and Net Assets	2017	2018
Accounts Payable	\$1,385	\$3,272
Net Assets	\$742,172	\$865,162
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$743,557	\$868,434

# Certificant Status by Credential - 12/31/2018

Credential	Active	Inactive	Retired
COHN	893	7	37
COHN/CM	199	2	9
COHN/SM	0	0	0
COHN/CM/SM	3	0	0
COHN-S	2179	33	331
COHN-S/CM	553	9	70
COHN-S/SM	2	0	1
COHN-S/CM/SM	5	0	0
СМ	0	0	0
Total Jan. 2018	3834	51	448
Total Jan. 2017	3560	33	509

ABOHN Financial Health

BOHN at AOHN 2019

# ABOHN at AAOHN 2019

The AAOHN National Conference was held in Jacksonville, Fl and our booth was consistently buzzing with old friends and new acquaintances! It came as no surprise that the most questions we received were on the Testing Black-Out period. ABOHN will not be testing in December 2019, January 2020, or February 2020. Our 2018 Practice Analysis identified changes and updates in the OHN industry and we are currently updating our exams to reflect these findings.

Our annual ABOHN reception was a great success and we enjoyed a lovely evening together as we congratulated all of the ABOHN Board Certified nurses and welcomed the Class of 2018 Newly Certified OHNs!

The highlight of the evening came as we acknowledge the nurses who received the highest scores on the COHN, COHN-S and CM exams in the 2018 cohort of newly certified OHNs and the special recognition of an organization that supports their workforce and the OHNs that care for them.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Reception and Awards ceremony. Your support of ABOHN and your board certification not only keeps ABOHN strong, but helps to shine a spotlight on the unique role of the OHN in every industry that you touch.



Memories from the ABOHN 2019 Reception!

### March 2020 Testing Information—ONE TIME ONLY REBATE!

Are you, or do you know an OHN who is thinking of becoming ABOHN Board Certified?

# ABOHN is offering a <u>one-time partial rebate</u> on the examination fee for those that take an exam during the month of March 2020!

ABOHN examinations are consistently monitored for industry relevance and our 2018 Practice Analysis determined that many tasks that OHNs do have changed enough to warrant exam redevelopment. Over the past nine months, the Exam Development Advisory Committee (EDAC), made up of current ABOHN credential holders, have written and reviewed new exams for the Certified Occupational Health Nurse (COHN), Certified Occupational Health Nurse - Specialist (COHN-S), and Case Management (CM) credentials. Building on the EDACs achievements, ABOHN now needs a cohort of applicants to take the new exams during the month of March 2020.

### Why the one time offer to rebate ½ of the examination fee?

ABOHN needs a significant number of applicants to take the exams during the month of March so the final vetting and cut scores can be determined. Those that take an exam during the month of March will not receive their exam results until mid-May. While we realize that this is an inconvenience, it is necessary for our exam development.

The application process and fees are:

- Submit an application and required documentation to the AB-OHN office for the COHN, COHN-S and CM with the nonrefundable \$150.00 application fee. (Online or by mail)
- After acceptance into Candidate status, an invoice will be sent for the exam fee which must be paid in full. \$400.00 for the COHN and COHN-S. \$250.00 for the CM.

Those who schedule and take the exam in March 2020 will receive a rebate check with their official scores.

COHN Rebate	= \$200.00
<b>COHN-S Rebate</b>	= \$200.00
CM Rebate	= \$125.00

If you have any questions, please contact the ABOHN office at 630-789-5799 or <u>info@abohn.org</u>.

# March 2020 Testing Informatic

This prestigious award is presented annually to the occupational health nurse who receives the highest score on the previous year's Certified Occupational Health Nurse-Specialist (COHN-S) certification examination.

This award has been established to honor Debra Lynn Físher Gíbbon, a former Certified Occupational Health Nurse-Specialist (COHN-S) and Certified Safety Professional (CSP), who lost her life on the 105th floor of the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, 2001. A senior vice president for AON Risk Services, Ms. Gibbon coordinated services for the company's top clients. Ms. Gibbon worked for 17 years in the area of occupational health and safety.

### Award Winner—Debra L. Fischer Gibbon Excellence in OHN

Cecile M Pohl, BSN, RN, COHN-S



Cecile always knew she wanted to be a nurse, inspired by contacts with a Public Health Nurse in her childhood. She graduated from Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and began working as a Pediatric nurse for Milwaukee Children's Hospital, now Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. A passion for serving communities then led to nearly 10 years working as a Public Health Nurse in Waukesha County, Wisconsin with a focus on children and families at risk. Returning to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, she took a position as an Occupational Health Nurse and has been privileged to serve that community of wonderful employees for 20 years in the Employee Health and Wellness depart-Cecile's role has expanded from a generalist Employee Health Nurse, rement. sponsible for pre-employment evaluations, workers compensation case management, medical surveillance, return to work and OSHA reporting and has expanded to include policy development, regulatory compliance, program management and infectious condition management in the healthcare setting. She serves on several hospital-wide committees and chairs the Sharps Safety Committee. She was instrumental in developing and managing the flu vaccination program that requires participation of all employees and staff, ultimately vaccinating over 8,000 staff each year. In addition, Cecile has worked a second part-time position for the past 23 years as a private duty nurse for a medically challenged, ventilator dependent individual who requires skilled nursing care, and holds Private Duty Nursing for Ventilator-Dependent Members Certification with the State of Wisconsin Medicaid program. Cecile has served as a board member for her local and State of Wisconsin AAOHN chapters since 2015.

Cecile and her husband Randy have three young adult daughters who live in the Milwaukee area. She enjoys any time spent together with family, especially traveling. She is also active in her parish, and enjoys pastimes of singing, sewing, reading, gardening, old movies and riding motorcycles.

Congratulations Cecile on your outstanding achievement!

Certified Occupational Health Nurses-Specialist (COHN-S)

### Volume 42 Issue 2

### Award Winner-Ann M. Lachat Excellence in OHN

### Jennifer L Boggs, RN, COHN



Jennifer Boggs is a native of southern Ohio, living nearly her entire life in Lawrence County. She has one son who is a senior in high school. Jennifer earned an Associate's Degree in Nursing from Eastern Kentucky University in December 2006 with high honors. Jennifer is an active member of the Ohio Association of Occupational Health Nurses, and is currently president of the Southwest Ohio Chapter.

In 1995, Jennifer began her career at Adena Health Systems in Chillicothe, OH as a phlebotomist. She then obtained a nursing assistant certification as well as EMT-B and worked as an emergency room tech and medical assistant. With the assistance of Adena's Talent Investment program, Jennifer obtained her RN license in 2007. She then worked inpatient units as a float pool staff nurse, house supervisor, and manager before joining Adena Occupational Health in 2012. Jennifer provided direct care to employees in many different industries and managed three occupational health clinics for Adena. Her work experience and focus on occupational health led her to Marathon Petroleum Corporation in 2017, where she worked with both Marine and Refinery components located in Catlettsburg, KY. Jennifer has recently accepted a transfer to Marathon Petroleum Corporate Health Services in Findlay, OH and will be providing occupational nursing care and program support to employees across the company.

Congratulations Jennifer, you are an inspiration to our community!

The ABOHN Ann M. Lachat Excellence in Occupational Health Nursing Award is named to honor Ann M. Lachat, the former CEO of ABOHN, for her 23 years of service. This special award is given to the individual who achieved the highest score on the previous year's COHN examination.

Certified Occupational Health Nurses (COHN)

Fall 2019

### Award Winner—Ada Mayo Stewart Excellence in OHN Case Management

### This prestigious award is presented annually by the Board Amerícan Occupational for Health Nurses (ABOHN) to the indívídual who achieved the highest score on the previous year's Case Management (CM) certification examínatíon.

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This award was established in January 2000 to honor Ada Mayo Stewart. In 1895, Ms. Stewart was one of the first industrial health nurses in the United States. Her practice at the Vermont Marble Company involved many facets of occupational health case management. She worked in the clinic, provided health education for employees and their families and made home visits. She was the first case manager in occupational health nursing as we know ít today.

### Donna C. Ferreira ANP, MS, COHN-S/CM, FAAOHN



Donna C. Ferreira is a Case Manager for Premise Health serving a large defense company for 12 years. She was a Business Operations Manager overseeing twelve on-site Health Centers. She has over 30 years of experience in occupational health nursing which includes 18 years as Nurse Practitioner and Manager of the Medical Department at a large electric utility.

Donna is board certified in occupational health nursing, case management, hearing conservation and as an adult nurse practitioner. She is a Fellow of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses. Donna serves on the Board of Directors and was past Vice President of the Massachusetts Association of Occupational Health Nurses (MaAOHN). She was a past President and Vice President of the Central Massachusetts Association of Occupational Health Nurses. Donna was the recipient of the MaAOHN state Nurse Excellence Award in 2014. She was the National Chairperson for Nurses of the Edison Electric Institute. She received her Master's Degree from the University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Nursing where she was the President of the Honor Society. Her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing was from Fitchburg State College.

Donna has been published in The Nurse Practitioner and Occupational Health Management journals. She has been a presenter at over fifty national and international conferences on various topics in occupational health.

She lives in Shirley, Massachusetts with her husband Michael. They are very proud of their two daughters, Jennifer and Katie. Donna enjoys her horses, kayaking, swimming, guitar, competitive volleyball, and water color painting.

Congratulations Donna, your commitment to your profession is remarkable!

Case Management (CM)

### Volume 42 Issue 2

## Award Winner—Employer Award

**Perdue Farms** 



L-R Denise Knoblauch, Former ABOHN ED, Wanda Smiling ABOHN Chair, Perdue Employees; Dawn Carey, Director, , Janice Langley Regional Nurse Manager, Rhonda Probus, Regional Nurse Manager and Joan O'Dell, Regional Nurse Manager

Perdue Farms is a recognized and trusted name in the food and agriculture industries. Perdue's values were established decades ago on Arthur and Pearl Perdue's family farm, and they continue to guide the company's actions today. These values of Quality, Integrity, Teamwork and Stewardship are reflected in Perdue's internal culture. Perdue Farms prides itself in the highly educated nursing staff it employs and believes in investing in their associates growth, safety and well-being. Perdue believes that investment in their employees' education, including certification, reflects the high standards and qualities that the company holds dear.

Perdue is one of the few businesses in the country to offer associates and dependents access to affordable primary care through fully equipped on-site Wellness Centers. These Wellness Center services include ongoing treatment for chronic issues, OB/GYN services, prenatal care, pediatric care and physical therapy. Associates can see a doctor during their shifts and get paid for their time. Perdue Health Improvement Program (HIP) provides free annual wellness screenings and supports associates in their efforts to eliminate lifestyle risk factors and manage controllable diseases through one-on-one counseling, health education and workplace programs. This innovative program received a Secretary's Innovation in Prevention Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and a C. Everett Koop Health Award.

An important way Perdue Farms demonstrates their commitment to its workforce is by supporting and encouraging the advanced certification of the nursing staff that serves its employees. All OHNs are strongly encouraged to obtain their COHN/COHN-S certification. Perdue supports all financial aspects of the certification including exam preparation, application, exam fees and renewal/recertification maintenance.

Perdue Farms believes its employees are its most valuable resource and acknowledge the hard work and extraordinary efforts put forward by team member. By acknowledging COHN/COHN-S certified nurses with continuing education opportunities and attendance at national conferences, the organization hopes to encourage all team members to be inspired, dedicated, innovative, and committed to deliver superior service and care to its patients, employees, and communities.

Congratulations Perdue Farms, Inc. and thank you for your support of OHNs and your entire worker population!

The ABOHN Emplover Recognition Award is awarded each year to a company that demonstrates support and encouragement for the personal and professional development of the certified Occupational Health Nurses that they employ. This award recipient demonstrated that it recognizes the value that certification brings to its organization and acknowledges the OHN's contributions in a variety of ways.

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Employer Award

### **Call for Employer Award Nominations**

ABOHN is currently accepting nomination applications for our annual Employer Award. Applications are accepted through December 1st. You can find more information on this award on the <u>ABOHN website</u> or please contact our office at 630-789-5799 or download the application from the link below.

ABOHN Employer Award Application

Be a part of these elite businesses that support their employees through

EMPLOYER RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS			
YEAR	CITY VENUE	WINNER	
2018	Jacksonville	Perdue Farms	
2017	New Orleans	Northwell Health	
2016	Jacksonville	Tesoro Companies, Inc.	
2015	Boston	No award given	
2014	Dallas	The TSA/OLE/FAM	
2013	Las Vegas	The Hershey Company	
2012	Nashville	Johnson & Johnson	
2011	Atlanta	Comprehensive Healthcare	
2010	Anaheim	No award given	
2009	Orlando	IBM	
2008	Salt Lake City	No award given	

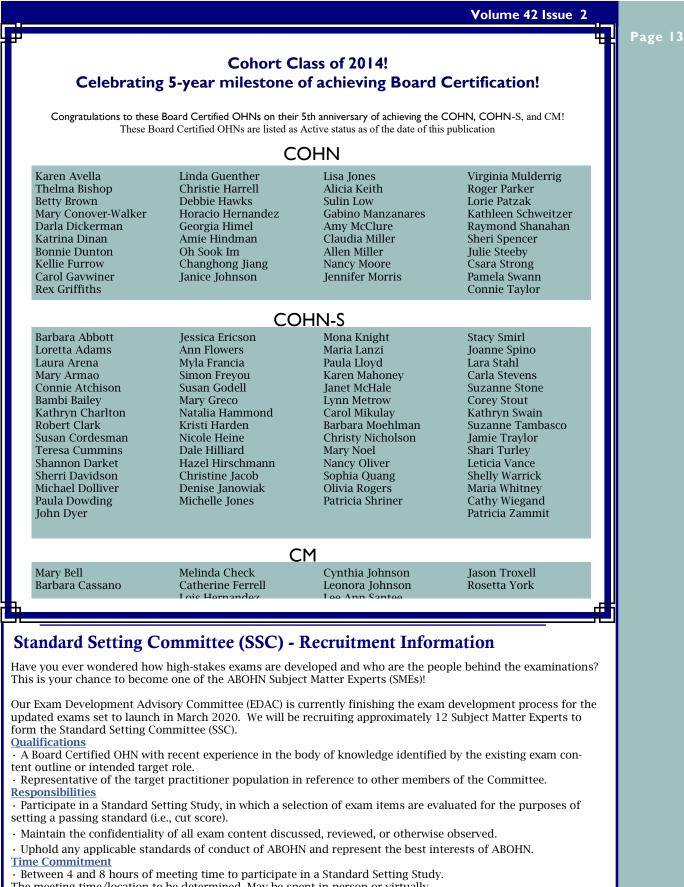
### Recruit a Colleague!

Do you want to encourage another Occupational Health Nurse through the process of certification and at the same time have a **chance to win \$300** and recognition in our ABOHN Spring Newsletter? Did you know that ABOHN relies on our credential holders to encourage certification and on average they are responsible for referring approximately 1/3 of ABOHN's yearly applicants?

Any ABOHN Board Certified OHN can recruit another RN working in occupational health through the certification process.

Instruct the new applicant to note that you are the recruiting nurse in the appropriate area on the application form. Only one recruiting nurse can be noted per application. At the end of the year, there will be a random drawing to select a winner from those nurses who have recruited a colleague. Your credential(s) must be in good standing at the time of the drawing.

*Thanks to all our Board Certified OHNs who encourage and mentor new applicants!* 



The meeting time/location to be determined. May be spent in-person or virtually.

For more information, please keep an eye out for the application process that will be sent via our weekly emails in late October/early November.



# www.abohn.org

7250 W College Dr. Suite 2SW Palos Heights, IL 60463 630-789-5799 (P) 630-789-8901 (F) info@abohn.org

### **ABOHN Vision Statement**

ABOHN Certification is recognized and valued as the standard to maximize the health and safety of workers worldwide.

### **ABOHN Mission Statement**

ABOHN's mission is to promote a standard of excellence in occupational health nursing through credentialing

# **Principles and Values**

To accomplish its mission and vision, ABOHN commits its resources to achieving the following principles and values:

- Establish and promote credentialing standards for professional occupational health nurses.
- Publicly recognize individuals who demonstrate that they meet these standards.
- Elevate the quality of occupational health nursing practice.
- Stimulate the development of improved educational standards and programs in the field of occupational health nursing.
- *Encourage occupational health nurses to continue their professional education.*
- Perform the above unrestricted by consideration of national origin, race, creed, disability, color, age, and gender.
- *Create value for employers, their employees, and the occupational health profession-al.*
- Seek inclusively by partnering with organizations that share ABOHN's mission and values.

### **Upcoming Events**

Are you looking for CEU's, refresher courser, or conference? You can find valuable information on our website under the <u>Upcoming Events</u> tab.

Does your state association has a conference or other event offerings you would like to promote? Send your information to info@abohn.org and if approved, we will be pleased to include it on our website.

# **ABOHN Staff**

Carole Cusack, MBA Managing Director Margaret (Molly) Taylor, BS Administrative Assistant