While the first day of fall is close at hand signaling changes in the season, one constant is the mission of ABOHN, which is to promote a standard of excellence in occupational health nursing through credentialing. Serving on the ABOHN Board, as well as serving as Chair, has been one of the best experiences of my professional career.

We’ve had some interesting times lately, COVID-19, wildfires in the West and Hurricanes in the South. I hope that everyone is safe and well! All of these challenges have made for interesting times; but, as occupational health nurses we are flexible and can handle any challenge in a caring, efficient way, with our mission being the health, safety, and wellbeing of our patients. Thank you to all of you for your unwavering dedication and commitment to your patients in the face of adversity, as well as to those you call your ‘team.’

In June, we held our annual Board of Directors meeting; however, 2020 got in the way again and we were only able to meet via Zoom but even so, it was very successful. This meeting was bittersweet as we said good-bye to several outstanding board members and friends: Michele Willis, Denise Matthews, Jean Drevdahl-Orchard and Jim Persoon. Their contributions and service to the ABOHN board will be missed. During the June meeting we also welcomed new members to the board: Nathan Britt, Ginny Carlson, Beth Dammann, Shelly Warrick, and David Martin. These new members are already hard at work looking for new ways to improve ABOHN. I know they will work tirelessly to promote Occupational Health Certification.

The ABOHN Board of Directors and staff places great value on our certificate holders. We know how hard you worked to get your certification and we work hard to uphold and demonstrate the value of certification by meeting all national standards and requirements. ABOHN staff are always available to answer your certification questions. You can find up-to-date information on our website at www.abohn.org and contact us through our email at info@abohn.org or by phone at 630-789-5799.

A Message from the ABOHN Chair by Pam Swann, RN, COHN

Pamela Swann, RN, COHN

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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).
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.

**ABOHN 2020—2021 Board of Directors**

Pam Swann  Kari Kilbridge  Melinda Cordova  Daurice Holly  Nathan Britt  Marilyn Brownlee  Beth Dammann  David Martin  Shelly Warrick  Ginny Carlson

**Governing Council**

Chair: **Pam Swann**, RN, COHN  
Secretary: **Melinda Cordova**, BSN, RN, COHN/CM  
Treasurer: **Kari Kilbridge**, MPH, RN, BSN, COHN-S  
COHN-S Chair: **Kari Kilbridge**, MPH, RN, BSN, COHN-S  
COHN Chair: **Daurice Holly**, RN, COHN, CCM, FAAOHN  
CM Chair: **Melinda Cordova**, BSN, RN, COHN/CM

**Directors**

Nathan Britt, MSN, APRN, NP-C, COHN-S  
Ginny Carlson, MPH, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN  
Beth Dammann, BAN, MPH, COHN-S  
Shelly Warrick, MSN, COHN-S, CRC-Csp  
Marilyn Brownlee, NP-PhC, FNP-C, DH (Toronto), MScN, COHN-S/CM (ABOHN BOD Member—At-Large)  
David Martin, (ABOHN BOD Public Member)

**Call for Board of Director Applications**

ABOHN is currently accepting applications for Board of Directors to serve from June 2021—June 2023. Please consider using your talents and experience to help guide the vision and mission of ABOHN’s work.

We are currently recruiting **three (3)** new Directors and **need representation for COHN and COHN/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**.
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.

Thank you to our retiring Board Members

Michele Willis
BSN, RN, COHN-S

Michele Willis served on the ABOHN BOD from June 2016—June 2020 in many capacities. Michele was the ABOHN Board Chair from 2019-2020 and undertook the Executive Director search and the launch of the new exams. We cannot give enough credit to Michele for her leadership during ABOHN transitions. Thank you Michele for sharing your strengths and talents with the ABOHN community.

Jim Persoon
Ph.D.

Jim Persoon served as ABOHN’s Public Member from 2016-2020. His business experience in safety management brought additional needed skills to ABOHN and Jim was a great advocate for certification and best business practices. Thank you Jim for your help and guidance.

Jean Drevdahl-Orchard
Ph.D., RN-BC, CCM, CH, CSP, CHMM, COHN-S/CM

Jean Drevdahl-Orchard held many hats during her tenure on the ABOHN BOD. Among the many tasks Jean completed for ABOHN, her contribution to leading our new EDAC group in item writing was a labor of love for our organization! We thank Jean for her outstanding efforts on behalf of ABOHN during her 4 year (2016-2020) BOD service.

Denise Matthews
BSN, RN, COHN-S

Denise Matthews furthered ABOHN’s strategic plans and goals during her tenure on the 2016-2020 BOD. Denise was instrumental on many committees, using her OHN expertise to guide ABOHN, especially through the examination development process. Denise’s contributions were many and ABOHN is grateful for all the enthusiasm she put into all of her projects. Thank you!
Welcome to our New Directors

Nathan Britt, MSN, APRN, NP-C, COHN-S currently works as an ANP at both Dow Chemical and Pinnacle Hospital in LA. Nathan earned his MSN from the University of South Alabama in 2006 and achieved his COHN-S in 2017. Nathan has served on the ABOHN Examination Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) from 2018 through 2020 which has been instrumental in shaping the updated COHN-S exam launched in March. Welcome Nathan and thank you for your commitment to OHN and ABOHN Board Certification!

Beth Dammann, BAN, MPH, COHN-S has worked for the 3M Company since 2004 and is the current Occupational Health Analyst at the St Paul, MN location. Beth earned an MPH in Environmental and Occupational Nursing at the University of Minnesota in 2009 and achieved her COHN-S in 2015. Welcome Beth and thank you for sharing your passion for Board Certification!

Shelley Warrick, RN, MSN, COHN-S, CIC-Csp is the Occupational Nurse Specialist at Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company located in Des Moines, IA. In 2010 Shelly received her MSN, with a primary focus on occupational health, from the University of Iowa and her COHN-S in 2014. Shelly volunteered for the ABOHN EDAC COHN-S committee from 2018 –2020. Thank you for your continued dedication to occupational health nursing and welcome to the Board!

David Martin, is ABOHN’s Public Member and has extensive experience in occupational safety from his career at OSHA from 2003-2010. In this career he has completed 1100 OSHA inspections at industrial facilities, construction sites and other business venues. After his OSHA experience, David opened his own business—David Martin Safety Training—offering safety training and occupational safety and health consulting to all business types. David served as Captain in the U.S. Army from 1968-1973. Welcome David! Thank you for your service to our country and also to the safety and health of employees everywhere!

Ginny Carlson, MPH, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN. Ginny is the current Manager, Occupational Health at Fairview Health Services located in St. Paul, MN where she has worked since 2015. Ginny earned her MPH from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis in 1999, her COHN-S in 2001, and the International Certification in Occupational Safety, Health & Hygiene from the University of Illinois—Chicago in 2014. Welcome Ginny and thank you for sharing your expertise in OH with your fellow occupational health nurses!
# ABOHN At-A-Glance

**American Board for Occupational Health Nurses**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**December 2018 and 2019**

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<tr>
<th>Current Assets</th>
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<th>2019</th>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$1,189,337</strong></td>
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<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>$865,162</td>
<td>$1,179,212</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$868,434</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,189,337</strong></td>
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**Certificant Status by Credential - 12/31/2019**

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<th>Inactive</th>
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<td>9</td>
<td>67</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>COHN-S/CM</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Dec 2019</strong></td>
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<td><strong>33</strong></td>
<td><strong>617</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Dec 2018</strong></td>
<td><strong>3213</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td><strong>539</strong></td>
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**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!*
ABOHN BOD Activities

In the face of the challenges posed by the pandemic, the ABOHN Board of Directors has had a very productive six months in support of the mission and goals of ABOHN, certified OHNs and applicants.

Semi-annual Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
Due to the travel restrictions related to the pandemic, the ABOHN BOD met virtually on June 24-27 for the semi-annual board meeting. This is the first time ever, the semi-annual meeting needed to be conducted virtually and it went extremely well due to the time commitment and attention by every BOD member. Every item on the full agenda was accomplished including the orientation of new board members and farewell to outgoing board members!

Other important agenda items included:

- Reviewed financial reports from the ABOHN accountant on the Annual Audit and from the ABOHN financial advisor with recommendations for investment changes;
- Important policy & procedure updates including a change in application eligibility of the work credit for formal education. This change makes the core examination more available to those completing an education program related to occupational/ environmental health;
- Review of the PSI Post Examinations Survey Results to assure a good experience by candidates taking the examinations;
- Re-energizing of the Past Directors Council (PDC) and invitations to those who are eligible to join;
- Completed DRAFTS of new Officer & Committee Handbooks for smoother transition between terms;
- Announcement of new committee chairs and committee membership assignments;
- In addition, the ABOHN BOD reviewed the Strategic Plan. The Board reviews the Strategic Plan throughout the year to make sure that the business is on track.

BOD Committees - Directors participate on core committees that contribute to ABOHN operations. Highlights of committee activities include:

Research Committee: Submitted the 2018 Practice Analysis poster abstract for publication in the AAOHN Workplace Health & Safety Journal. Watch for the poster at future conferences, too! The committee has begun working with a NIOSH ERC to design a survey to demonstrate the value OHNs are providing during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Public Relations Committee: Continued to promote and communicate the Examination Fee Rebate in order to have an adequate number of exam candidates. The committee worked with a college marketing intern for recommendations on increasing awareness of the OHN field and value of certification.

Finance Committee: Presented the ABOHN Annual Audit Report at the June board meeting and received approval. The committee is working on the DRAFT 2021 Budget and recently presented it to the BOD.

Exam Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) – The testing of the new examinations ended on 8/31/20. Our EDAC committees for the COHN, COHN-S and CM examinations met during the week of September 14th to conduct the final Exam Reviews. The BOD will meet on September 23rd to determine the passing scores. We are very excited that those who took the examinations this year will receive their results soon! Best Wishes on your results!!
Where did all the conferences go…?

We missed seeing everyone at the AAOHN conference! As COVID-19 changed our normal meetings and conferences during 2020, we are participating in many upcoming virtual exhibiting opportunities. Please see the list of upcoming events benefitting our Board Certified OHN.

September 2020
- Federal Workers’ Compensation Webinar Series
- 2020 National TeleMedicine Summit
- AAOHN Education Week

October 2020
- APHA 2020 Annual Meeting and Expo

December 2020
- AOHP 2020 National Conference

January 2021
- 2021 Onsite Employee Health Clinics Summit

February 2021
- Sigma Nursing—Creating Health Work Environments

2020 Examination Release Updates

We are in the final stretch of the examination updates which were based on the findings of the 2018 Practice Analysis. Out target date for “back-to-normal” exam offerings is on track for October 5, 2020.

Completed and Pending Tasks:

- **Practice Analysis—2018**
  The Practice Analysis devised the Test Specifications/Blueprints which are used to form the examinations.

- **Recruit Exam Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) - 2019**
  The ECAC was responsible for item writing and test development/form assembly.

- **Candidate Testing—March—August 2020**

- **Validation Studies—September 2020**
  The EDAC is currently performing the final review of the examinations in conjunction with Psychometric evaluation of the items by PSI, our testing vendor.

- **Final Cut Score—September 2020**
  The ABOHN BOD will perform the final cut score after the EDAC review is completed.

- **Resume Instant Scoring—10/5/2020**
  Our examination protocols will be “Back-to-normal”.

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Cheryl Allison, BSN, RN, COHN-S

Cheryl Allison has been a nurse for 36 years, graduating from the Bryn Mawr Hospital School of Nursing in 1984. Cheryl worked in various hospital settings in 4 different states and found her passion in Emergency Nursing. Cheryl returned to college and obtained her BSN from the University of Phoenix in 2009 and served as an Emergency Department Assistant Director from 2009 through 2014.

Cheryl joined the Occupational Health Nursing specialty in 2015 and has worked for Proctor & Gamble for 5 years. Cheryl learned much about OHN at the Greensboro PHC Plant, where among other things, they produce liquid Dayquil, Nyquil, Zzzquil, and Pepto-Bismol for everyone in North America. In 2018, she transferred to the Greensboro/Browns Summit Plant. More than 4 times the size, this plant produces toothpaste, deodorant, and Skin Care products. Cheryl and fellow OHN Candy Wright, care for over 1000 employees in all things from Hearing Conservation to Ergonomics.

Cheryl has been married to her husband John for 29 years and has 3 daughters and 1 granddaughter. She cares for her mother and mother-in-law who currently live with Cheryl and her husband, their dog Moses and cat Stormy. Cheryl is involved in her church, teaching Sunday School to 12 kids ages 5-8, and plays the flute in her worship band. Whenever they can, Cheryl and her husband love to travel and visit historical places.

Congratulations Cheryl on your outstanding achievement!

Pamela Edstrom, RN, COHN

Pamela Edstrom, RN, COHN graduated from Wright State University with a BSN in 1987, and has been a nurse for over 30 years. She started her nursing career in surgical head and neck oncology. She accepted a commission to join the Air Force Nurse Corp., and was deployed to 1500 bed tertiary care hospital as part of Desert Storm.

After completion of her commitment to the Air Force, Pamela moved to Seattle where she pursued a position in staff development and education; one of her most rewarding responsibilities in this nursing education position was oversight for a nursing assistant training program for refugees from Eritrea.

After a few years off to stay home with her daughter, Pamela returned to nursing as the nurse manager of a heart attack and stroke prevention clinic. In 2015, she moved to Florida and accepted a position as the occupational health nurse for a Level II trauma hospital. Pamela now manages the occupational health of approximately 1700 employees at Bayfront Health St. Petersburg for the Western Division of Orlando Health.

Congratulations Pamela, you are an inspiration to our community!

Margaret “Peg” Hauschildt, COHN-S/CM

Margaret “Peg” Hauschildt has over twenty years’ experience as an Occupational Health Nurse in leadership and clinical positions. In addition she has specialized in Emergency nursing and has been Board Certified in College Health. She graduated from Castleton State College, Castleton, VT with an Associate’s Degree in Nursing and a Bachelor Degree in Biology. She completed a Community Health Care Management Certificate Program at Antioch New England Graduate School, Keene, NH. She is an ABOHN Certified Occupational Health Nurse - Specialist and Case Manager (COHN-S/CM) and a Certified Occupational Hearing Conservationist. She is a member of AAOHN, NHOHN, and the Northeast Occupational Health Association.

While working as the Employee Health and Wellness Program Manager for a community-based non-profit agency in Keene, NH, she was active in All Hazard Emergency Planning, Medical Reserve Corp Advisory Board and the Infection Prevention Network. Over the past 5 years Peg has worked for Premise Health as the Health Center Manager at a prominent Corporate Headquarters in Waltham, MA. In January 2020 she transitioned to working with the Premise Health Virtual Team supporting Absence Management.

Peg lives with her husband Karl on a lake in Deering, NH. She enjoys kayaking, swimming, hiking and snowshoeing. She is the proud mother of Christopher, 2014 West Point graduate and Iraq war veteran.

Congratulations Peg, your commitment to your profession is remarkable!
Someone You Should Know...

David Cerniski, COHN-S

ABOHN is proud to introduce you to David Cerniski, this issue’s contributor for Someone You Should Know.

Since 2008, David Cerniski has been the Corporate Health Services Manager for Michelin North America, Inc. in Greenville, SC. He is the go-to person for all OH programs, including drug & alcohol, wellness, EMR management, policy & procedure development and is in direct contact with the production facility OHNs at 3 Canada sites, 16 US sites and an occasional consult with Mexico.

Michelin is very supportive of continued learning and education and Dave has been a COHN-S since 2010. Although he did not have experience in OH when coming into the position at Michelin, by studying for the exam and going to AAOHN conferences, he was able to have a foundation for his practice and pass the exam. Being a COHN-S provides credibility for a level of expertise and can have a positive impact on the careers of occupational health professionals.

Dave reports that the culture at Michelin is open minded and collaborative. There is an open door to listen to ideas about Total Worker Health and wellness. The Michelin OHNs are knowledgeable about the benefits and programs like EAP, MSD health, onsite primary care and chronic condition management which assists them to reinforce the programs for workers.

Dave has had an amazing career in and outside of occupational health nursing. He began his career in the medical field as a hospital corpsman in 1987 at the Naval School of Health Sciences- San Diego, California. He became a Fitness Specialist in 1992 and a Licensed Practical Nursing in 1994. He worked as a Staff Nurse in Bridgewater, New Jersey from 1994-1996 and attained an Associate in Nursing in 1997. Next, he worked as a Resource Nurse, then Nurse Manager on an Eating Disorder Unit 1996-2006. In 2000, he attained a Bachelor of Science - Public Health from Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey.

He worked as Nurse Manager at AnMed Health Behavioral Health Services 2006-2010 while attaining a BSN in 2008 from University of South Carolina Upstate. To complete his education, he received a Master of Science-Nursing in 2017 from USC and is an adjunct clinical Instructor at Mary Black School of Nursing USC.

We asked Dave how he found occupational health nursing. He reports that he was looking for something different and saw the Michelin opening. He has used every degree to expand his learning and his career and evolved to where he is now. Even the background in health and fitness has assisted with wellness.

Dave lives in South Carolina with his wife of 16 years and their 3 children, ages 15, 12, 9. In addition to his many educational pursuits, he is very active in fitness, sports and his children’s activities. He has been active in his state AOHN and is the chapter VP and President Elect.

When we asked Dave for any words of wisdom for newer OHNs he responded, “Know your legitimate resources and follow evidence-based practice. Always have access to current resources and utilize organizations like ABOHN and AAOHN. There is a difference between "information" and credible resources. Be very diligent with reviewing for credibility. This practice assists OHNs to be confident about the information they are sharing.”

Dave reports his biggest accomplishment is an ability to be agile. He is willing to respond to the current climate, take on new challenges, change courses when necessary and add value to organizations.

Thank you, Dave, for sharing your inspiring story with us.
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 ABOHN website or please contact our office at 630-789-5799 or info2abohn.org

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

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<th>YEAR</th>
<th>CITY VENUE</th>
<th>WINNER</th>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Reno</td>
<td>Perdue Farms</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
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<td>Boston</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dallas</td>
<td>The TSA/OLE/FAM</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>Comprehensive Healthcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Anaheim</td>
<td>No award given</td>
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Thank you EDAC and SSC Committees!

All ABOHN examinations are in the process of final review and new cut score will be determined by the BOD after the EDAC review is complete. We cannot thank the EDAC and SSC committees enough! Thank you for your time, dedication, and professionalism in reviewing, rewriting, and updating all forms of each examination! ABOHN's examinations are stronger for your invaluable work!

EDAC
Examination Development Advisory Committee

We are recruiting for new EDAC members to serve a two year term 2021-2023. If you are interested in learning more about this unique volunteer opportunity, please send an email to info@abohn.org and you will be contacted by an ABOHN staff member with additional information.
Cohort Class of 2015!
Celebrating 5-year milestone of achieving Board Certification!

Congratulations to these Board Certified OHNs on their 5th anniversary of achieving the COHN, COHN-S, and CM! These Board Certified OHNs are listed as Active status as of the date of this publication.

### COHN

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**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

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**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 professional.*
- *Seek inclusively by partnering with organizations that share ABOHN's mission and values.*

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**ABOHN Staff**

**Lucy Carlson,** RN, MPH/MS, COHN-S/CM  
Executive Director

**Carole Cusack,** MBA  
Managing Director

**Molly Taylor,** BS  
Operations Manager