The ABOHN REPORT





Spring 2013-Volume 34-Issue 1



by Peggy Manuszak

PROUD MEMBER





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National Commission for Certifying Agencies



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MESSAGE FROM THE ABOHN CHAIR

Spring is here and the ABOHN Board is looking forward to meeting you at the AAOHN 2013 Conference this month at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Las Vegas. We will be in the Exhibit Hall in Booth # 614 ready to welcome certified nurses, as well as all nurses interested in certification in our specialty. ABOHN will again be hosting a reception on Wednesday evening, April 17, 2013 in the Castellana Ballroom at the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas.

Come and meet the ABOHN Award winners: nurses who achieved the highest scores on each examination and our 2013 Employer Recognition Award winner. In addition to stories that will inspire us, we guarantee lots of fun with our Silent Auction. We will look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas.

When the board met in January, we had the opportunity to meet with Mary Partridge and learn more about Strategic Planning. As a group, we identified the higher purpose of our organization, which is to recognize excellence in the practice of the occupational health nursing specialty through board certification examinations.

We also had the opportunity to see the job that Air Traffic Controllers do at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) with a bird's eye view of the tower. You can read more about that later in this ABOHN Report.

As we plan for the June Board of Directors meeting, we will welcome new Directors, Jennylynn Balmer, Denise Knoblauch and Mark Sebastian. A special thank you from all of the board to James Cooley and Jennifer Lim for the work they have done, as they will leave the board in June.

Ann Lachat, ABOHN's CEO, continues to put us on the map! Ann and Pam Hart, former ABOHN Chair, made an impact internationally when they presented ABOHN's Practice Analysis in Spain. Their presentation stimulated discussion among the members of the Federation of Occupational Health Nurses within the European

Union (FOHNEU).

Ann is an active member on the American Board of **Nursing Specialties** (ABNS). This Board is focused on improving patient outcomes and consumer protection by promoting specialty nursing certification. Another way that Ann is marketing our nursing specialty is through a webinar presentation that she developed for nursing students at the University of Washington.

The Board of Directors is dedicated to getting ABOHN's name in lights! We are working the Strategic Plan to enable more businesses, schools and nursing professionals to understand that our focus is on evidence-based practice.

Explore our website, come see us in the AAOHN Exhibit Hall and come to the ABOHN Reception on Wednesday evening! If you haven't registered for the conference, it's not too late. Go directly to the AAOHN website by clicking www.aaohn.org

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Front Row L-R: Eileen Maloney-White, Elizabeth Beaty, Christine Zichello, Barbara McCarthy, Sara Peterson, Paula Kerns, Ann Lachat; Back Row L-R: Jennifer Lim, Margaret Manuszak, Roger Brauer, James Cooley, Carole Cusack.

American Board for Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.

The ABOHN Staff:

Pictured above: Ann Lachat, CEO and Carole Cusack, Managing Director



Molly Taylor—Admin. Assistant



Maureen Robst-Data Entry Operator

Board of Directors 2012-2013

Chair

Margaret A. Manuszak, RN, MS, FAAOHN, COHN-S/CM

Secretary

Paula Kerns, RN, BA, COHN-S

Treasurer

Christine R. Zichello, RN, BS, CSHM, ARM, FAAOHN, COHN-S

COHN-S Examination Committee Chair

Elizabeth S. Beaty, RN, MSN, COHN/CM

COHN Examination Committee Chair

James J. Cooley, RN, BSN, COHN

DIRECTORS

Roger Brauer, Ph.D., PE (Public Member)

Jennifer J. Lim, RN, MSN, FAAOHN, COHN-S/CM

Eileen Maloney-White, RN, BSc, LNC-CSp, COHN(C),

COHN

Barbara L. McCarthy, RN, MSED, COHN Sara M. Peterson, RN, BSN, COHN-S/CM

STAFF

Ann M. Lachat, RN, BSN, FAAOHN, COHN-S/CM
Chief Executive Officer

Carole M. Cusack, MBA

Managing Director

Margaret (Molly) Taylor

Administrative Assistant

Maureen Robst, BA **Data Entry Operator**

THE PUBLIC DIRECTOR PERSPECTIVE

By Rober Brauer, Ph.D

I don't know how often ABOHN certificants get to know the person serving as the Public Director on the ABOHN Board of Directors. The main role of the public director is to help assure that governance considers perspectives beyond the direct interest of occupational health nursing, since the ultimate beneficiary of your practice is the public.

Let me introduce myself. I am not a typical public director. I had 27 years of involvement in certifications, both as a volunteer and as paid staff. That experience was with the Board of Certified Safety Professionals and the Council on Certification of Health, Environmental and Safety Technologists. I retired from those roles in 2010 and ABOHN asked if I would serve as the ABOHN Public Direc-

tor. It is a new role that I am happy to fill. I hope to be able to contribute to improving your certifications.

I have now attended two ABOHN Board meetings. I have studied ABOHN policies and certifications. I am still learning how things are done and where I can contribute. I am not interested in recommending changes just to do things differently. There are a lot of good ways to get things done.

I did make some suggestions to help ensure the financial condition for ABOHN. Some were already under consideration. I know all certificants want to know that ABOHN will be around for a long time. I know that you too want funds to be managed well and not wasted. From my perspective, I can assure you that ABOHN runs a

tight budget and is very efficient with its revenue.

One of the things each of you experienced was a change in the structure of renewal fees for your certifications. That has benefits for you and for ABOHN. The changes make renewal fees annual and smooth out the fee burden for you. The changes to annual renewal fees also help ABOHN stay in touch with you. With the rate at which people in the United States move, contacting you only once every five years creates a lot of follow up work to locate those who moved.

Overall, management of renewal income is simplified for ABOHN. Accrual accounting requires an organization to set aside fees collected for future time periods. The organization cannot take the money into the real revenue stream or use it until the appropriate time. The five year renewal required ABOHN to set aside 4/5 of each person's renewal fee and take into use only 1/5 each year. Collecting renewal fees annually simplifies the process for everyone.

In future articles, I will share some additional insights into what makes ABOHN successful and describe changes that are making your certifications better. If you want to know more about me, you can find my resume on my web page:

www.exceptionalcertification.com or feel free to contact me (r.brauer@mchsi.com) if you have ideas to share.



Above: Dr. Roger Brauer is the first recipient to receive the Board of Certified Safety Professionals' (BCSP) Lifetime Achievement Award.

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ABOHN Board of Director's Meeting—Los Angeles, CA—January 2013

A business must have a plan for the future. At the heart of ABOHN's approach is its vision: "our certification is recognized and valued as the standard to maximize the health and safety of workers worldwide." At the January 2013 meeting, the ABOHN BOD met with Mary Partridge of Impact Consulting to continue evaluating ABOHN's living strategic plan. We spent a full day looking at ABOHN through the eyes of each board member, the staff and a third party facilitator.

ABOHN is in a great position. We are financially sound and equipped with capable Directors and office staff. We are poised to impact the future of occupational health nursing and have determined our goals for this year. Achieving these goals will continue to elevate your ABOHN credential and help to shape the occupational health industry. Our top four goals for 2013 are:

- 1. Reach more people,
- 2. Create strategic partnerships,
- 3. Meet/exceed our financial plan and
- 4. Work across boundaries for global acceptance.

To reach more people and to create strategic partnerships, our intentions include contacting OSHA and NIOSH to establish formal recognition of ABOHN's credentials, target businesses by publishing articles in non-occupational health publications to educate employers on the benefits of the OH industry and highlight the skills of the credentialed OHN, and to pursue recognition of the viable career option that OH presents by working to influence educational institutions to include occupational health courses into their curriculum.

ABOHN continues to be financially sound. Our CEO and Board budgets and manages the financial goals well. As we broaden our scope to meet the future needs of ABOHN and our credential holders, we believe that opportunities exist to approach businesses for possible grant monies to help supplement our research and development. Many of these corporations are international in scope. Working with partners that enjoy a global workforce intensifies the need for recognized standards across the board, helping us to demonstrate the solid business case for employing a certified occupational health nurse.



ABOHN BOD Meeting Los Angeles, CA January 2013









Our Trip to the LAX Tower!

Imagine being locked up in a tower and having the whole world at your finger tips. That's what the members of the ABOHN Board of Directors got to witness when they were guests of the LAX Control Tower at the Los Angeles International Airport after their BOD meeting in January.

It is not often our Board members are dazzled by the view and the actual magnitude of their surroundings. But to say we were truly mesmerized while we were in the LAX Tower is an understatement! Some of our comments were "How can those Air Traffic Controllers work with us hanging over their shoulders?" and "Wow, we never knew there were so many planes in the air at one time. Another thrill for us was seeing the new 787 jet landing on the runway. We did not realize it was so big until it passed another plane preparing to depart.

How was this all possible? Well, it happens that our Chair Peggy Manuszak's sister, Diane Aceves, is an Air Traffic Controller based at the LAX Airport. We were excited from the time Peggy told us there was a possible chance to

meet her sister while we were in Los Angeles. Peggy added the possibility of being able to tour the Control Tower at LAX. Needless to say the whole Board agreed this would be a thrill. Occupational Health Nurses who work in industry are always interested in how things work!

Diane and her partner Steve Ramirez provided a description of the LA Airport and the surrounding area. Realizing the airport sits on only 35 acres is amazing. One of the things that is fascinating to realize is LAX is able to land those huge Boeing 787 Dreamliner Jets while O'Hare and Hartsfield-Jackson are not yet equipped for those planes.

Another thrill of the day was to actually see a 787 Dreamliner from Singapore Airlines land while we were in the tower. The planes are massive compared to the other planes on the taxiway and the existing hangars aren't large enough to house them.

Thanks to Diane, Steve and Peggy for giving us this opportunity to see something special and learn more about the Air Traffic Controller job, the inner workings of the Tower and the "behind the scenes" occupations of the airline industry.



Our hosts: Diane Aceves and Steve Ramirez



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Application, Renewal and Recertification Fees and Guidelines

	COHN/COHN-S	Case Management	Safety Management	Information
Application Fee	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	Good for 90 days from the date of approval from the ABOHN office.
Examination Fee	\$400.00	\$250.00	\$400.00	Must be paid within 90 days of receipt of invoice from the ABOHN office and is good for 120 days.

*If you fail to schedule an appointment and sit for your examination before the expiration date, your examination authorization will be voided and you will have to pay for another application and examination fee.

Exam Authorization (Extension) Fee	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	One-time, 60 day extension to the original 120 day authorization period.
Yearly Renewal Fee	\$150.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	Renewal = payment each year. Recertification = paperwork plus payment every 5 years.

Your Fees at Work

So you ask the question "What do I get for my money by paying my renewal fees?" Maybe you do not realize it, but renewal fees are our primary source of income at ABOHN. You might think we devote our time and assets to getting people through the first certification process and then forget about our customers who have been with us for many years. Not true! These are some of the benefits of certification we offer:

- Develop systems to support online application, recertification and other activities for ease of use.
- Conduct studies of changes in practice and publish the results as a guide for staying current with practice.
- Offer an online database directory with current certified individuals listed.
- Offer information on State salaries for job title and education level for certificants.
- Create procedures to make payments for renewals easier through online or telephone actions.
- Publish the "ABOHN REPORT" with current activities and information about credential holders.
- The ABOHN office offers exceptional customer service for all inquires and customers.
- Develop jewelry and other items to allow you to display your certification.
- Maintain a website with current information for the applicants and currently certified.
- Provide a website listing of positions available through various organizations.
- Maintain a list of websites where free continuing education can be found.

Our commitment to our credential holders is to shine a spotlight on the Occupational Health Nursing industry by showcasing the best and brightest via certification. As a credentialing agency, we cannot endorse any specific course of learning, but we can help to shape the industry as a whole. ABOHN works with other organizations to help bring health and safety to the forefront in businesses everywhere.

Recruit a Colleague for Certification

ABOHN is pleased to CM, announce Ronald J. Hospitals cruit A Colleague For port Certification gram. for the exam.

COHNs recruited 101 tion in 2012. Donahue, COHN-S/ Occupational

recruited from ceived a \$100 check prospective candidates tification.

fellow colleagues to All Certified Occupasit for the examina-tional Health Nurses Terry (COHN) and Certified

the Nurses-Specialist that most nurses this year (COHN-S) can recruit Todaro, at four candidates, and a fellow nurse working COHN-S, of Univer- several others encour- in occupational health. of aged two candidates to Prospective candidates Cleveland, is the win- become certified. En- can indicate on their ner of the 2012 Re- couragement and sup- application a particucertified lar COHN who has repro- nurses is an important cruited them to initi-Ronald re- and beneficial way for ate the process for cerfor encouraging one to gain the confidence ABOHN office keeps of his colleagues to sit to make that first step track of these indiinto gaining certifica- viduals and a random drawing is conducted at the end of the year.





Call for Board of Directors Nominations

The search will begin this year for one Director for the ABOHN Board. When new ABOHN Directors are selected, several characteristics are considered to ensure the demographics of the Board reflect those of the certified occupational health nurse population. Those attributes considered include: diversity, geographical location, type of employment, certification type and educational background.

The ABOHN Nominating Committee is seeking COHN and COHN-S applicants from the health care, military, federal government or manufacturing areas, residing in the North Central and the Mountain Western area of the country. If your demographics match the Board's needs and you are willing to devote your time and talents for this task, please obtain an application from ABOHN's website (www.abohn.org) under the Board of Directors listing or call the ABOHN office (888-842-2646). Please return your completed application before the August 1, 2013 deadline.



"The board of directors are local residents who live and breathe in the territory they cover. They all serve on a volunteer basis. They truly are community leaders that care about their territory and having job creation in their territory.'

Andrew Hamilton

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Intersociety Forum

Managing Director, Carole Cusack, attended the Intersociety Forum meeting in March of this year which was held at the National Safety Council's (NSC) offices in Itasca, Il. The Intersociety Forum on Occupational Health and Safety provides a medium for communication among organizations whose primary concern is with the health and safety of the worker. The objectives of this group are to exchange information and cooperate in activities of mutual interest in areas involving such matters as governmental activities, professional development, manpower, scientific activities and association management.

The following organizations were represented at the March meeting:

American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)

Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)

American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH)

American Board for Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN)

American Conference of Government Industrial Hygiene (ACGIH)

American College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)

American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)

American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE)

Board of Environmental Health & Safety Auditor Certifications (BEAC)

Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP)

International System Safety Society (ISSS)

National Association of EHS & Sustainability Management (NAEM)

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

The meeting kicked off with each organization giving a brief synopsis of their goals, both achieved and not achieved, since the last meeting. After these updates, a few members gave some short presentations regarding topics that are pertinent to the membership as a whole. Some of the items we discussed were "re-shoring" jobs back to the U.S. and the effect it will have on the workforce and employers. We discussed leadership development for voluntary board members, the differences and impacts of the newest generation coming into the workforce and the impacts of MOOCs - (Massive Open Online Credits) - on certification and/or recertification criteria.

Throughout the day's events, several "themes" emerged, (1) safety & health within sustainability reporting, (2) leadership development, (3) salary survey collaboration, (4) global impact of the OH industry, (5) advocacy and lobbying on the Hill, and (6) creating a formal alliance.

As a group, we voted for the top two themes to work on in the upcoming months.

- (1) Safety & Health within Sustainability Reporting, and
- (2) Leadership development

ABOHN is committed to collaborating on these areas with the other member groups, including sending a survey to our credential holders regarding sustainability reporting in your organization. There is an extreme push to update the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the only recognized GLOBAL sustainability reporting system, with content and ratings for Occupational & Environmental Health & Safety within the business community. For anyone interested in this area, please join the ABOHN Group on LinkedIn. This is where we will be discussing and reporting our progress.

Intersociety Forum Attendees





























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ABOHN Recertification Rate by Year

Recertification	Certificants	Certificants	Percentage of
Year	Due	Recertified	Recertification
2007	1043	722	70%
2008	507	373	74%
2009	1373	994	73%
2010	1053	922	87%
2011	1031	728	71%
2012	615	388	64%

ABOHN Certification Examination Statistics

Credentialing Information															
Exam Session	COHN COHN-S							CN	1						
	Candidates	Number Passed	Percentage Passed	Number Not Passing	Percentage Not Passing	Candidates	Number Passed	Percentage Passed	Number Not Passing	Percentage Not Passing	Candidates	Number Passed	Percentage Passed	Number Not Passing	% Not Passing
2007	40	27	68%	13	33%	66	42	64%	24	36%	28	24	86%	4	14%
2008	66	42	63%	24	37%	93	71	76%	22	24%	33	22	67%	11	33%
2009	81	51	63%	30	37%	113	90	80%	23	20%	26	12	46%	14	54%
2010	66	43	65%	23	35%	97	74	76%	23	24%	25	19	76%	6	24%
2011	74	52	70%	22	30%	113	80	71%	33	29%	26	21	81%	5	19%
2012	72	47	69%	21	31%	107	77	73.6%	30	26 %	32	26	81%	6	18%

 $Variance\ in\ \%\ does\ not\ reflect\ absent\ individuals.$

All percentages have been rounded to the nearest decimal point!

Congratulations to the 2012 Class of Newly Board Certified

Please join us in congratulating these occupational health nurses for their accomplishments and for their right to use the Certified Occupational Health Nurse - Specialist (COHN-S), Case Management (CM) and Safety Management (SM) credentials which they gained last year by passing very stringent examinations for certification.

COHN Credential Denise Akert Kimberly Alvis	Sulakshmi Singh Lindsay Sledge David Smith	Beth Jones Catherine Kan Robert Kappler	Kathleen Stevens Sharyn Tondel Ally Vizanko
Wayne Andres Sharon Barley Tramecya Beale Melisa Buchanan Michael Burns	Tamara Spakes Lisa Stern Anne Stewart Andrew Tabussi Karen Thompson	Margaret Krepp Luann Ladwig Donald Lang William Patrick Lark Jennifer Lau	Rebecca Walker Christine West Karol White Kristi Wysong
Donna Bush Kathleen Butts Margaret Carroll April Carter Kathy Cooper Lynn Cunningham Joy Davis Christina Dzuik Paul Evans Jacqueline Fennell Pei Gan Mary Ganz Jennifer Gray Catherine Grunin Karla Hamblin Kimberly Headrick Sue Herbine Leanne Johnson Jean Johnson	Cynthia Vanegas Dawn Wands COHN-S Credential Joanne Baker Lee Bernard Cynthia Betcher Wendy Bowman Annette Britton Cordero Dean Brown AndreaByers Foote Molly Canter Gail Carchietta John Champion Cathleen Connor Lester Cruise Amy Dailey Crystal Dennis-Jordan KaLena Downton	Marla Lerner Shile Liang Lisa Luna Joel Malak Angeli Mancuso Amy May Patricia McAlary-Losee Lisa McIntosh Vincent McKilligan LaShaunda McNeal Karen Miener Kim Moore Cindy Morris Lori Muller Billie Niehoff Eileen O'Donnell Olufemi Ojelade Elizabeth Oliver Lisa Paragano	CM Credential Dina Aherns Terri Baker Dana Bennett Anna Bierling Linda Borromeo Lori Casper Irene Crawford Mary Floyd Candis Freeman-Veal Barbar aGentile Trina Girimont Kathleen Grant Sandra Grau Kimberly Headrick Denise Herron Rebecca Jones Cindy Kempt Jill Larkin
Nina Larkins Irene Lindgren Ana Lopez-Gottlieb Terry Malander Courtney Meyer Beverly Moody Terry Neal Margaret Nielsen Malinda Palmer Emme-King Peterson Sheela Philip Lisa Reynolds Katherine Reynolds Coy Rodgers Judy Schkrioba	Deborah Eriksen Pamela Femling Elizabeth Flower Cathy Floyd Patricia Foster Lynn Gasowski Rebekah Giannakos Mindy Guillory Vanessa Hadley Tamera Haliniewski Lisa Hall Debbie Hess Yolanda Hill Karen Hopcia Rhonda Johnson	Lori Peterson Kathleen Pierce Sandra Ponder Denise Prentiss Barbara Quidone Sandra Reno Melanie Rivet Amy Ruesch Cynthia Schnedeker Eileen Selander Roxana Sherrill Linda Shoener Amanda Sibley Wanda Smiling Heather Stehr	Shari Lyons Kelley Moore Gail Olen Sara Peterson Robin Ramos Martha Rhodes Julie Royzman Aleda Sadowski Judy Schkrioba Lynn Sontag Karen Thompson SM Credential Martha McKay

We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors!

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AAOHN National Conference



The 2013 AAOHN National Conference is almost here! The Pre-conference is scheduled for April 13-15, 2013 at the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas.

Check out the AAOHN website @ www.aaohn.org to find information on registration, classes and CEU's, events and more!

Come visit us at the ABOHN booth in the exhibitor's hall. Meet your Board of Directors and get your ABOHN sticker! This is

our opportunity to meet our established credential holders and the RNs new to Occupational Health Nursing. Come talk to us about your experience in OH or tell us about your testing experience...we love to hear from you!



Association of Occupation Health Professionals

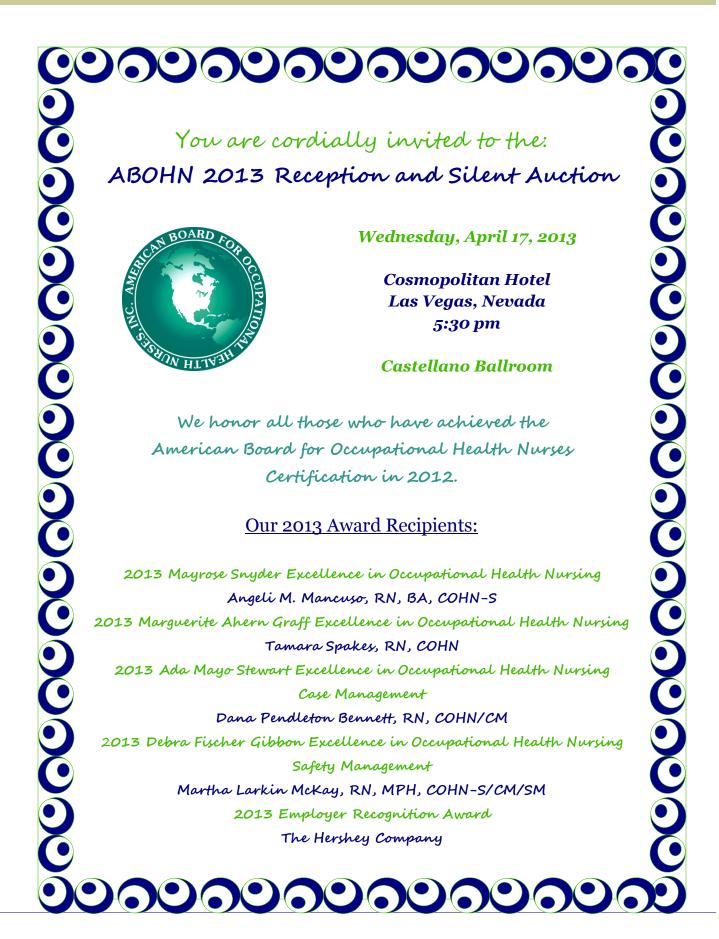
The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare, AOHP, 2013 National Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida on September 11 – 14, at the Hilton Hotel in the Walt Disney World Resort.

Classes will be offered on many different topics appealing to all the different aspects of occupational and employee health nursing. Both speakers and attendees generously share their encounters in the field of employee care.

The conference is extremely well organized and has the information you need for your practice. The conference will allow you to take what you have learned and apply it to your practice of occupational health nursing.

The conference is located in the Downtown Disney® Resort area. The Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista hotel is steps away from exciting theme parks and popular tourist attractions.





2013 Core Credential Benefits Survey



ABOHN continues to survey credential holders when they send in their recertification materials for the first time. We are surveying these candidates regarding the benefits of having gained their COHN or COHN-S credential.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PARTICIPATED SO FAR!

If you are due to recertify this year for the first time, please be on the lookout for our survey request. An email will contain a link to a survey that has ten questions. Please take the time to respond; this information helps us to determine the future of your credential.

The table below shows the results we have received with 64% of COHN and 50% of COHN-S credential holders responding as of 03/31/2013.

Questions	COHN	COHN-S
In your industry, certification is recommended or preferred.	85%	65%
You received a pay raise after obtaining your credential.	50%	38%
You are recognized as an expert in the field of Occupational Health.	84%	69%
Your company pays for recertification fees.	78%	47%
Your certification helps you to produce greater compliance with regulations.	73%	74%
Data from the effectiveness of OHN projects is used for trend analysis.	62%	50%

Missing Certificate Holders



Each year we lose contact with some of our credential holders. The reasons vary from they have moved to they might have left the practice of occupational health. If you know where we can contact any of the individuals listed, please contact ABOHN at 888-842-2646 or at info@abohn.org.

- Terry L. Bragg
- Josephine Callis
- Patricia Evelyn Campbell
- Joy Cahill DesRosier
- Helen Triol Drozd
- Kelvin George Hodel
- Myrtle Altman Howe
- Deloris I. S. Hungerford
- Rosemary E. Klein
- Edna L. Pickens

American Board for Occupational Health Nursing, Inc. 201 E. Ogden Ave., Suite 114 Hinsdale, IL 60521



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