A Message from the ABOHN Chair by Kari Kilbride, MPH, RN, BSN, COHN-S

Welcome to the spring edition of the ABOHN newsletter! I think it is safe to say that we are all looking forward to new beginnings in addition to a chance to celebrate the upcoming 50th anniversary of ABOHN!

Nursing continues to be one of the most in-demand jobs of the decade, and occupational health nurses are a highly sought-after subset. Holding a board certification as an occupational health nurse demonstrates your commitment to worker health and safety along with being a significant personal and professional accomplishment. If you know someone who is interested in pursuing certification, please encourage them to look at the new resources available on the home page of ABOHN.org, and to reach out if they have any questions. In addition, we want you to know that one of the sessions at the upcoming virtual AAHON conference, “Quantifying the Value of Occupational Health Nursing to Worker Health & Safety and the Business Bottom-line”, will be co-presented by Lisa Hunwardsen (ABOHN research grant recipient) and me. In addition, Board Member, Ginny Carlson will present a poster on Occupational Health Nurse Board Certification.

As a board, we were able to gather in person for the Board of Directors meeting in January 2022. We are excited to welcome three new board members who will begin their terms in June 2022, Nancy Croenwert COHN-S, Angela Smith COHN-S, and Gina Tetsch COHN/CM. Please join us in welcoming them to their new roles.

On behalf of the ABOHN board and staff members, we also want thank Lucy Carlson for her wonderful leadership of ABOHN over the past two years! Lucy came out of retirement to lead our organization, and throughout her tenure she has been able to bring us to new heights, despite the pandemic! A few of her amazing contributions include elevating the role of the research committee and mentoring the ABOHN research study recipient on their work with the University of Minnesota to conduct a nationwide survey of certificants and employers regarding the role and value of the OHN during the COVID-19 pandemic. She has also worked to streamline and align the strategic plan to create effective goals which will improve the organization’s visibility and explore ways to expand certification. Moreover, she has been a very visible extension of ABOHN to our many collaborating organizations and has helped to expand and solidify these partnerships. We are grateful for all her work and dedication to ABOHN both as a board member as well as the executive director!

While we will continue to see circumstances that are unprecedented and life changing, we should challenge ourselves to not dwell on these disruptions and instead, focus on possibilities and hope. According to The Mayo Clinic, we can expect many of our strong feelings to fade as the pandemic wanes, but we can’t expect them to magically disappear. We need to continue daily self-care practices to take care of our own mental health and increase our ability to cope as we care for others.

Thank you for all you do as an occupational health nurse!
ABOHN 2021-2022 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: Kari Kilbide, MPH, RN, BSN, COHN-S
Secretary: Beth Dammann, BAN, MPH, COHN-S
Treasurer: Nathan Britt, MSN, APRN, NP-C, COHN-S
COHN-S Chair: Ginny Carlson, MPH, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN
COHN Chair: Ginny Carlson, MPH, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN
CM Chair: Marilyn Brownlee, NP-PHC, FNP-C, DIH (Toronto), MScN, COHN-S/CM

Directors

David Martin, (ABOHN BOD Pubic Member)
Shannon Berryhill, MS, BSN, RN, COHN-S/CM, CWCP
Jennifer Morris, MSN, RN, COHN
Karen Jewell, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, COHN-S

ABOHN Board of Director Activities Reported by Lucy Carlson, Executive Director

Our Mission
ABOHN’s mission is to promote a standard of excellence in occupational health nursing through credentialing.

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

Semi-annual Board of Directors Meeting
ABOHN BOD met on January 19-21, 2022, for the semi-annual board meeting.

Important agenda items included:
- Presentation of nominees for BOD positions and Governing Council
- Updates by Bylaws/Policy & Procedures
- Review of examination passing rates; preparations for the annual exam development process
- Annual budget review and approval
- Identification of potential collaborations with OSHA as an Alliance Group
- ABOHN 50th anniversary and proclamation of Certified OHN Day on May 26, 2022.

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

Research Committee supported a research study to demonstrate the value OHNs are providing during the COVID 19 pandemic. Report of survey results presented at the board meeting. Met with OSHA as part of application as an Alliance Group. Developed and distributed 2022 Research Grant.

Public Relations Committee updated employer page and front page of website including power points on OHNs, board certification and exam preparation. Selected ABOHN 50th Anniversary Logo and options for updating ABOHN logo, assessed feasibility of utilizing Search Engine Optimization (SEO) for ABOHN.

Nominations Committee recruited a slate of excellent candidates for the 2022-2024 BOD term, returning BOD members for 2nd term, and governing council officers & chairs. A full slate was recruited for the Standard Setting committees. We value the ABOHN volunteer!

Finance Committee prepared and presented the ABOHN Annual Budget for approval. Reviewed ABOHN’s internal controls of financial activity to assure ABOHN follows industry standards and fiscally responsible.

Strategic Planning Committee updated the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan to reflect new initiatives in the past six months. The focus of the goals and initiatives are to keep ABOHN a vital and sustainable organization; continue providing customer value, compliance with regulatory requirements, and outreach & growth.
Cohort Class of 2021

CONGRATULATIONS
ABOHN NEWLY BOARD CERTIFIED

BOARD CERTIFICATION: ENGAGE EXCELLENCE

Join us in congratulating these occupational health nurses for their accomplishments and for their right to use the COHN, COHN-S, and CM credentials which they gained last year by passing stringent examinations for certification.

We proudly present the ABOHN Class of 2021

Certified Occupational Health Nurse – (COHN)

Barlow, Mary  Ferguson, Bethany  Moore, Tasha
Becker, Susan  Folwell, Sarina  Ondec, Marian
Bergkvist, Mary Beth  Fontenot, Anna  Skrzyminarcz, Breanne
Brew, Michela  Hamlin, Heidi  Straight, Rhonda
Campbell, Cassie  Hansen, Jordan  Tanner, Cassie
Caniff, Jessica  Hoelzeman, Amanda  Taylor, Shirley
Cleveland, Lisa  Houghton, Heather  Vazquez, Marcy
Coccia, Holly  Kelly, Trudy  Wink, Amy
Cole, Shannon  Mack, Michele  Wood, Shannon

Certified Occupational Health Nurse – Specialist (COHN-S)

Beebe, Angel  Eichenberger, Cristin  Rodriguez, Marisol
Capell, Jennifer  Gunter, Tiffany  Scott, Sherri
Carll, Janice  Hess, Amy  Skaalrud, Janet
Carroz, Minnerva  Koh, Jungsup  Stanton, Jennifer
Chaffins, Amanda  Kohler, Christine  Turner, Tiffanny
Chase, Melissa  Laloge, Vanda  Velaquez, Elisabeth
Cole, Jennifer  Meservy, David  Vergara, Del
Craig, Rayna  O’Dowd, Barbara  Voswinkel, Nikoaus
Davidson, Timothy  Parker, Valerie  Walker, Laura
Deal, Annie  Peffley-Firer, Linda  Weiss, Naomi
Dellutri, Kim  Post, Corissa  Wendt, Kelsey
Dunbar, Andrea  Rivera, Daniel  Wilkinson, Patricia
Edwards, Sasha

Case Management – (CM)

Ferrara, Laura  Kilpatrick, Tina  Lockhart, Trishia

Wendt, Kelsey

Wilkinson, Patricia

Zampella, Maureen
Credentialing Statistics—Pass Rate Percentage

The number of COHN and COHN-S candidates who passed their certification examination in 2021 was down again with the pandemic still disrupting business as usual.

ABOHN had a “perfect storm” of outside influences that affected our exam takers and our testing agent.

Please see below for additional information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Year</th>
<th>COHN</th>
<th>COHN-S</th>
<th>CM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Candidates</td>
<td>Number Passed</td>
<td>Percentage Passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>64.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>80.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>45.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credentialing Statistics—Year End

The ABOHN Board of Directors are tasked with many challenges in order to sustain a specialty credentialing program. Table 2 shows the official ABOHN Active, Inactive and Retired certification holders that were in our database system as of 12/31/2021. The main factor for declining numbers: the base of our credential holders reaching retirement age. Another significant factor: the pandemic influenced choices to remain in practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREDENTIAL</th>
<th>ACTIVE</th>
<th>INACTIVE</th>
<th>RETIRED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COHN</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COHN/CM</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COHN-S</td>
<td>1569</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COHN-S/CM</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 12/31/2021</td>
<td>2628</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 12/31/2020</td>
<td>2842</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACTIVE:**
Credential holders who have met the criteria to hold certification.

**INACTIVE:**
Credential holders who have not met one or more requirements for active status and have opted to take inactive status until they are compliant with the requirements.

**RETIRED:**
Credential holders no longer in practice and maintain their retirement status with ABOHN.

*Table 2: Year End Statistics*
Join us in a trip down memory lane highlighting the first 50 years of ABOHN as we honor the contributions and vision of many, to promote and advance the field of Occupational Health Nursing.

- The possibility of certification of occupational health nurses had been investigated for several years. In 1969, the American Association of Industrial Nurses formed a committee called the Inter Organization Committee for the Certification of Occupational Health Nurses to investigate and recommend a course of action regarding certification.

- ABOHN was established on May 21, 1971.

1971 Founders Board

From left: Directors: Dorothy Benning, Jane A. Lee, Made M. Carrell, Edna May Khtas, Jeanne T. Healey, Rosemary Huffman, Sara P. Wagner, and Anita M. Harris—Secretary: Marjorie D. Schmidt, - Chair: Maguerite S. Ahern. Not Pictured: Iva E. Pleasants, Vice Chairman and Anne J. Murphy, Director.

- March 1, 1972—1st applications for certification were received under the Founders’ clause.
- April 17, 1972—1st meeting of the Corporation.
- The 1st pretest examination held November 17, 1973. Exams were given in California, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, and Ohio.
- 983 applicants certified as Founders of the organization.

1974
- The 1st certification examination was given on April 29, 1974 in Bal Harbour Florida.

1975
- Examination sites were expanded to Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Detroit, San Francisco, Philadelphia and Chicago.

1978
- Standards Committee develops polices for recertification criteria.

1979
- The 1st ABOHN Directory was published in July 1979.

1980
- Previously, the Executive Secretary position was deemed part-time. In 1980 the role changed to a full-time position.

1981
- The 1st bi-yearly ABOHN Newsletter was published.
- The examination was held for the first time in Canada.

1982
- The 1st wallet cards were distributed.
- The 1st gold-colored circular peel and stick paper emblem bearing the initial COHN was distributed.

1983
- New ABOHN logo was copyrighted.
• The 1st ABOHN reciprocity certifications were granted to 7 Canadian nurses.

1989

• The 1st Mayrose Snyder Excellence in Occupational Health Nursing Award was developed and awarded.

1994

• New logo designed to depict the global perspective.
• 1st Research Award presented.

1995

• New COHN-S credential designated.
• 1st Employer Recognition Award was presented.

1997

• ABOHN celebrated 25 years.
• The 1st Marguerite Ahern Graff Excellence in Occupational Health Nursing award (COHN-S) was developed and awarded.

1998

• ABOHN’s website—www.abohn.org was established.

1999

• 1st Case Management examination given.

2001

• 1st Ada Mayo Stewart Excellence in Occupational Health Nursing award (CM) was developed and awarded.

2005

• 1st Safety Examination given.

2006

• Final paper and pencil examinations given in October 1996.
• The Debra L. Fischer Gibbon Excellence in Occupational Health Nursing Award (SM) established.

2001 ABOHN Conference
Mary Amarn & Deb Benedetto welcome OSHA Leader from Korea.

2009 1st Case Management Advisory Board

ABOHN celebrates 30th Anniversary—2002

1986 AHC Conference
AHC conference

1998 Research Committee

2004 Practice Analysis Committee

2006 PhD 2016 Image of AHC
Helen Miller & Kristin Haddock
2007
- Computer Based Testing (CBT) began March 1, 2007.

2008
- Recruit a Colleague for Certification program established.

2013
- Last day to take the SM test June 30, 2013.

2015
- Digital Badges released replacing paper Wallet Cards.
- Constant Contact initiated for weekly contact with credential holders.

2018
- Created an EDAC for each credential.
  (Exam Development Advisory Committee)

2019
- Major Exam upgrades.
- Testing Black Out.
- Last day to take tests November 30, 2019.

2020
- New tests begin March 1.
- World shut down due to COVID-19.
- Created an SSC for each credential.
  (Standard Setting Committee)

2021
- Review of the examinations, focusing on low pass rates, low candidate volume and job duties and tasks affected by the new work world of COVID-19.

2022
- ABOHN celebrates 50 years!
- Updated logo—keeping the globe to honor and recognize the past while creating a border with more modern appeal.

These are just some of the major highlights of ABOHN's 1st 50 years!

You can find more detailed information on the website about the work of the Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers and projects that support the ABOHN vision, mission, principles and values:

History
Newsletters
Past Award Winners

Mayrose Snyder
Excellence in Occupational Health Nursing Award (COHNS)

1989 Georgia Knuth
1990 Jane Erick
1991 Sharon Kemerer
1992 Mary Jane Kramer
1993 Heather McMaster
1994 Cecile March
1995 Lisa Marie Arens
1996 Deborah Boeck & Carol Steele
1997 Carolyn Haskell
1998 Maureen Lyschini
1999 Tam Smaistig
2000 Robert Ibbetson & Jennyllyn Pickett
2001 Janice Arble
2002 Cynthia Burrow
2003 Dacia Lehman & Margaret Siewert
2004 Robin Dockery
2005 Marty Arthur & Noran Olson
2006 Mary Jean Pensi
2007 Victoria Kocher
2008 Nancy S Johnson
2009 Sandra K Elliott
2010 Donna M Baugher
2011 Amy Catron
2012 Brian Topp
2013 Angeli Mancuso
2014 Lisa M. Wegener
2015 Deborah Sampson

Marguerite Ahern Graff
Excellence in Occupational Health Nursing Award (COH)

1997 Marilyn A. Maxwell
1998 Kay Haar
1999 Patricia Crissman
2000 Susan Solomon
2001 Barbara Ann Saxon
2002 Patricia O’Sullivan
2003 Robin Robarge
2004 Elaine Shoening
2005 Marian Crawford & Helen Mullah
2006 Joan O’Brien & Janet Threadgill
2007 Jean Edwards
2008 Cynthia A Dust
2009 Sharon D Taylor
2010 Dana P Bennett
2011 Karen Ransom
2012 Julie Hewey
2013 Tamara Spakes
2014 Natalie A. Hammond
2015 Raymond Shanahan

Ada Mayo Steward
Excellence in Occupational Health Nursing Award (CM)

2000 Bradley Koehl
2001 Eileen M. Stowe
2002 Diane Arndt & Leslie Lundeen
2003 Teri Wright
2004 Carol Conranguen
2005 Joyce Casey-Petrochak
2006 Kathleen Schmidt
2007 Theresa Clark
2008 Bliss Lynn Dickerson
2009 Sandra A. Zastrow
2010 Susanne F. Krout
2011 Paula Kerns
2012 Mary Agnes Kelly & Martha Rhodes
2013 Dana Pendleton Bennett
2014 Joanne E. Ebert & Cheryl Marie Bracht
2015 Angelina Mancuso & Laureen O'Rourke
2016 Lisa Worden
2017 Candy Wright
2018 Rita Wicks & Sandra Wampler
2019 Donna Ferreira
2020 Angela Day
2021 Laura Ferrara

Name Change:
Debra L. Fischer Gibbon
Excellence in Occupational Health Nursing Award (COH-S)

2016 Jessica Bedwell
2017 Donna Wolf
2018 Peter Mott
2019 Cecil M. Pohl
2020 Mary Ziegensuss
2021 Daniel Rivera

Name Change: Ann M. Lachat
Excellence in Occupational Health Nursing Award

2016 Terry Boyce
2017 Lauren Harris
2018 Maureen Feltie
2019 Jennifer Boggs
2020 Jenee Frantz & Christina Wirth
2021 Micheline Brew & Heidi Hamlin

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Employer Award

1995 Mobil Oil
1996 Hummer & Associates
1997 No Award Given
1998 Moorland Hospital
1999 United Parcel Services
2000 SmithKline Beecham
2001 Huntsman Petrochemicals Corp.
2002 Conoco, Inc.
2003 Dow Chemical
2004 Kelly Health Care Resources
2005 Baxter Health Care Group
2006 William J. Wrigley Co.
2007 Tyson Foods, Inc.
2008 Edwards Medical Supply
2009 IBM
2010 No Award Given
2011 Comprehensive Health Services
2012 Johnson and Johnson
2013 The Hershey Company
2014 TSA/OLE: Transportation Security Administration/Office of Law Enforcement/Federal Air Marshal Services
2015 No Award Given
2016 Tesoro
2017 Northwell Health
2018 Perdue Farms
2019 No Award Given
2020 WorkCare
2021 S&C Electric & Boston Scientific

Research Award

1994 Joanne Deutsche
1995 No Award Given
1996 Mary Stumpf Pesch
1997 Terry A. Moore
1998 No Award Given
1999 Virginia Lepping
2000 Barbara Burnel
2001 Diane C. Anderson
2002 No Award Given
2003 No Award Given
2004 Chantanta Chantawong
2005 No Award Given
2006 Maria H. Palucci Marziale
2007—2020 No Award Given
2021 Lisa Hunwardsen
ABOHN is a 503c-6 non-profit and could not function without the incredible volunteers, especially those who serve on the Board of Directors. Thank you to the previous and current Directors for their service to ABOHN and the field of Occupational Health Nursing.

### Board of Directors 1972—2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Directors</th>
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Past Board of Directors

1985—1986 BOD
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2011-2012 BOD